



American Rescue Plan Supports Native American Communities

As with past public health emergencies, the COVID-19 pandemic is having uniquely dire impacts on Native American communities. Specifically:

- American Indians and Alaska Natives who contract COVID-19 are hospitalized at [nearly four times the rate](#) of their non-Hispanic white peers and are dying at [nearly twice the rate](#) of their non-Hispanic white peers.
- The [loss of Native elders](#) threatens the continued survival of Native languages, traditions, and cultures.
- As in other communities, families in Indian Country facing extreme hardships caused by the pandemic [increasingly depend on the critical services](#) provided by their Tribal government, but this increased demand comes at a time when Tribal governments are reporting increased operating costs and unprecedented budget shortfalls.
- Native American families and small businesses also [face systemic economic challenges](#) exacerbated by the pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan Act would provide over \$31 billion to Native communities – the single largest infusion of dedicated resources to Native communities in U.S. history. It would deliver immediate relief for hard-hit Native American families and Tribal businesses, and build a bridge toward economic recovery and resilience for Tribal Nations.

This \$31.2 billion investment in Indian Country includes:

- \$20 billion for Tribal governments to combat COVID-19 and stabilize Tribal community safety-net programs
- \$6 billion for the Indian Health Service
- \$900 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs programs
- More than \$1.1 billion for Native education programs, including the Bureau

of Indian Education schools, Tribal education agencies, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Native Hawaiian education programs, and Alaska Native education programs

- \$1.248 billion for HUD Tribal & Native Hawaiian housing programs
- \$20 million to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Native languages

Additionally, the American Rescue Plan Act ensures Tribal access to billions of additional dollars to provide relief to Native American families, businesses, and communities.

The American Rescue Plan Act will:

Provide Tribal governments with \$20 billion in emergency funding to combat the COVID-19 crisis. The American Rescue Plan Act will provide historic emergency funding to Tribal Nations. This funding will support efforts to obtain sufficient personal protective equipment, increase access to clean water and electricity, and expand internet access so that children can learn remotely and more families can obtain basic health care through telemedicine. These resources will help to reduce stark and persistent inequities in COVID-19 transmission, hospitalization, and death, while improving economic conditions and opportunity.

Mount a national program to vaccinate and contain COVID-19 that equitably includes Native communities. The legislation will directly invest \$2.34 billion to support Native health systems implement critical measures to contain the virus, including dedicated funding for Tribes, urban Indian health programs, and the Indian Health Service to participate in the national vaccination program and other health efforts.

- This will ensure COVID-19 vaccines are efficiently and equitably administered and provide the supplies, testing, and public health workforce to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- These emergency measures will help combat the heavy toll this virus is taking on Native American families and will deliver community-based and culturally competent care.

Deliver immediate relief to working Native families and communities bearing the brunt of this crisis by devoting nearly \$1 trillion to help working families. This will:

- Give working families \$1,400-per-person checks, bringing their total relief payment from this bill and the December down payment to \$2,000. These checks will help Native American families who have been hardest hit financially by this crisis.
- Extends all enhanced unemployment benefits including the \$300 supplement, supporting Native Americans who are out of work.
- Provide an additional \$35 billion in rental, mortgage, and homelessness assistance, helping Native American families who are more likely to be rent-burdened and living in overcrowded housing.
- Increase the value of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- Invest \$4 billion to expand access to mental health services to address the disproportionate burden of trauma and mental health barriers for Native communities.
- Allocate \$800 million for federal programs that protect survivors of gender-based violence.
- Provide emergency grants, lending, and investment to hard-hit small businesses, including Native American-owned businesses.
- Invest \$30 billion to help hard-hit public transit agencies avoid layoffs and service reductions, including \$35 million for Tribal public transit programs.
- Provide millions in critical infrastructure project funding in a new Critical Infrastructure Projects program for Tribal governments and Native communities.