



## **Original Version of the American Rescue Plan Act and Disability Priorities**

Last updated: March 11, 2021

\*\*\*Please note that this is a non-exhaustive list of the disability priorities found in the [version](#) of the American Rescue Plan Act that was passed by the House on February 27. We will continue updating as we review the legislation.

More on the disability priorities that were included in the [final version](#) of the American Rescue Plan Act passed by Congress on March 10 is available [here](#). A comparison of the two versions is also available [here](#). You can find additional information on the American Rescue Plan Act and other coronavirus relief legislation on our [legislation page](#).

### **What's in the bill?**

- Dedicated funding for home and community based services (HCBS)
  - Federal funding for HCBS will increase by 7.35% until March 31, 2022.
- Additional federal Medicaid funding for mobile crisis intervention services
- Additional federal Medicaid funding for states that have not yet expanded Medicaid that choose to do so
- Medicaid coverage of COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and treatment
- Increase of the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2025
  - Importantly, this includes a phase out of the payment of subminimum wages to people with disabilities by 2025 as well
- Funding for infection control in nursing facilities, including funding for strike teams
- Additional nutrition assistance
- Additional education funding
- Emergency rental assistance and aid to help homeowners avoid foreclosure
- Funding for substance use prevention and treatment, suicide prevention, and community mental health services, and homelessness services
- \$1400 “recovery rebate” payments, which are direct payments meant to provide financial assistance to people during the crisis
  - Adults with disabilities who are claimed as dependents are eligible to receive these recovery rebates. However, they were not eligible for recovery rebate payments included in prior coronavirus relief packages and will not receive retroactive eligibility for those payments.
- Expansion of income-based subsidies to purchase qualifying health insurance through Affordable Care Act marketplaces
- Extension of supplemental unemployment compensation

- This bill provides an additional \$400 per week in unemployment compensation until August 29, 2021, as opposed to the \$300 per week provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which Congress passed in December
- Funding for state and local governments to help with crisis response

### **What's not in the bill?**

- Additional general federal funding for states' Medicaid programs
- Inclusive paid sick and family and medical leave
  - Instead, the bill extends tax credits to employers who voluntarily provide leave
- Increased funding for Social Security and SSI
- Hazard pay for direct care workers
- Data collection on demographics for testing, infections, and death from both federal agencies and states that includes disability status
- 90-day refills of prescriptions and medical supplies
  - NOTE: The CARES Act did include this for Medicare, but not for Medicaid, CHIP, or private insurance or people with disabilities who rely on controlled substances and this bill does not expand on that coverage
- Disaster relief that is responsive to the needs of the disability community, which will be disproportionately impacted by additional disaster events that occur during the COVID-19 pandemic, as in the [Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion \(READI\) for Disasters Act](#) (S. 1755) and the [Disaster Relief Medicaid Act \(DRMA\)](#) (HR. 3215/S. 1754)