



Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds will deliver nearly \$1 billion to Nebraska for COVID-19 relief, with broad flexibility of how it may be expended. Potential uses include opportunities to restabilize and strengthen Nebraska's early childhood infrastructure.

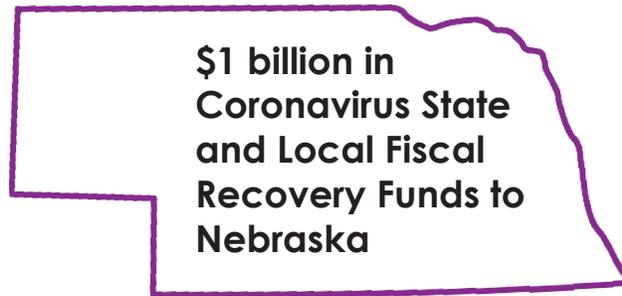
First Five Nebraska offers information and insight to help policymakers make sound decisions on how best to use these resources to create educational, social and economic opportunity for our youngest children and families.

# Key Provisions of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for ECE

## POLICY BRIEF | JULY 2021

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The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, signed into law in March, will deliver \$350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds across the country to states, localities and territorial and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency, address its economic fallout and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery. Nebraska entities will receive approximately \$1 billion.



### Eligible Jurisdictions

- State of Nebraska
- Counties
- Metropolitan cities (> 50,000 residents)
- Tribal governments
- Non-entitlement units, Cities and Villages

### Funding Objectives



#### Support Public Health Response

Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral health care and certain public health and safety staff.



#### Address Negative Economic Impacts

Respond to economic harm to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries and the public sector.



#### Premium Pay for Essential Workers

Offer additional support to those who have and will bear health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors.



#### Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.



#### Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.



#### Broadband Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access.

Recipients have broad flexibility on how to use relief funding to meet community needs. The following examples highlight how it may be used to support Nebraska's young children, families and early childhood workforce.

### ■ Support Public Health Response

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 continues to require an unprecedented public health response from state, local, territorial and Tribal governments. For early childhood programs, example of how these funds could be used to support public health include:

- Prevention, mitigation or other services in educational or business settings, including PPE purchases.
- Services to address behavioral health care needs exacerbated by the pandemic, such as mental health treatment.

### ■ Address Negative Economic Impacts

The COVID-19 public health emergency resulted in significant economic hardship for Nebraska children, families and businesses as workplaces closed and schools shifted to remote learning. Relief funds may be used to provide assistance to families, small businesses and impacted industries, including:

- Delivering assistance to workers and families, including aid for unemployed workers or families facing food, housing or child care insecurity.
- Programs to help small businesses recover and rebound from financial challenges caused by the pandemic through loans, grants, in-kind assistance or other programs.

### ■ Equity-Focused Services for the Hardest-Hit Communities

While the pandemic has impacted all Nebraskans, it has disproportionately impacted rural, low-income families, women and communities of color, and exacerbated health and economic inequities. Relief funds may be used for a wide range of initiatives that address public health and economic impacts on the hardest-hit communities, including:

- Addressing educational disparities through new and expanded early learning services.
- Promoting healthy childhood environments through high-quality child care or home-visiting programs.

### ■ Premium Pay for Essential Workers

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources for eligible recipients to recognize the contributions of essential workers. These workers have put their physical well-being at risk since the start of the pandemic to meet the daily needs of their communities and provide care for others.

- Provide premium pay directly or through grants to private employers to a broad range of essential workers, including child care workers, educators and school staff.
- Employers are encouraged to offer retrospective premium pay, recognizing that many essential workers have not received additional compensation.

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For more information, including funding allocations and how funds may be used, visit [home.treasury.gov](https://home.treasury.gov).



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