



Timeline of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency has put a spotlight on the critical role that child care plays in supporting children, families, businesses, and the economy as a whole. It has also highlighted the fragility of the child care market. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 included nearly \$39 billion in new funding to (1) **stabilize** the child care sector and (2) **rebuild** toward a stronger system that better serves children, families, and providers. Below is a timeline of some key dates to keep in mind with the ARP Act funding. For additional guidance on the ARP Act, please see the Office of Child Care (OCC) Information Memoranda on the ARP Act [Stabilization Funds](#) and [Discretionary Supplemental Funds](#). For additional guidance on obligation and liquidation dates, please see the [ACF-696 and ACF-696T Form and Instructions](#).

March 11, 2021: Date of Enactment for the ARP Act,

including Stabilization Grant Funds and Supplemental Discretionary Funds (Total amount: \$39 billion)

Stabilizing the Child Care Sector

Stabilization grant funding represents an important opportunity for states, territories, and Tribes to **stabilize** the child care sector, providing the resources and opportunity to address the financial burdens faced by child care providers during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency and the instability of the child care market as a whole.

Note: Lead Agencies must notify the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services if they are unable to obligate at least 50% of these funds within 9 months of the date of enactment (**December 11, 2021**).

Jan. 31, 2020
Declaration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Reimbursement through Stabilization Grants: Providers may use stabilization subgrant funds to reimburse themselves for allowable COVID-19-related expenses obligated or expended after **January 31, 2020**, and before **March 11, 2021**.

ARP Act Stabilization Grant Funds
(\$24 billion)

Sept. 30, 2022
Date by which funds must be *obligated*

Sept. 30, 2023
Date by which funds must be *liquidated*

ARP Act CCDF Supplemental Discretionary Funds
(\$15 billion)

Sept. 30, 2023
Date by which funds must be *obligated*

Sept. 30, 2024
Date by which funds must be *liquidated*

Rebuilding a Better Child Care System

Supplemental discretionary funding represents an important opportunity for states, territories, and Tribes to address the child care crisis and to **rebuild** toward a stronger child care system. These funds may be used for any allowable use of Child Care and Development Fund program funds. OCC strongly recommends that Lead Agencies focus resources to invest in child care in ways that strengthen the child care system and ensure that families have equal access to quality, affordable child care to support them during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.