

How the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Helps Criminal Justice Stakeholders Respond to Behavioral Health Crises

Virtual Discussion Handout

ARP funding can help communities support collaborative crisis and early diversion responses to reduce criminal justice contact for people with behavioral health needs. The following opportunities can be leveraged to support the development of essential components (such as mobile crisis services) and infrastructure to help states and communities move beyond discrete crisis services to comprehensive, coordinated systems that include a continuum of crisis responses with connections to broader systems of care and supports.

Components

1. Crisis response and early diversion

Crisis system components



24/7 Crisis Call Center



24/7 Mobile Crisis



24/7 Crisis Receiving & Stabilization Services

Early diversion

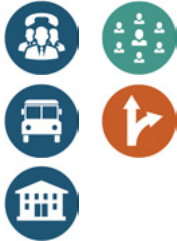
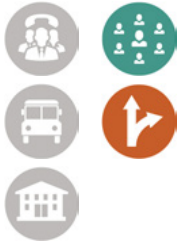




Early Criminal Justice Diversion Opportunities

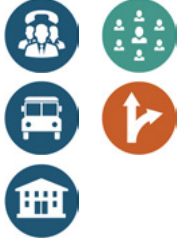

2. Capacity of and Connections to Community Care

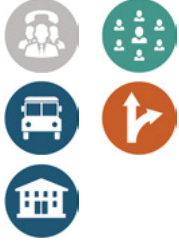
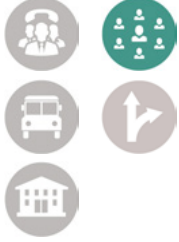


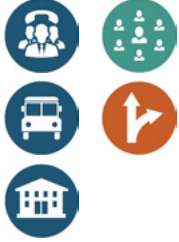
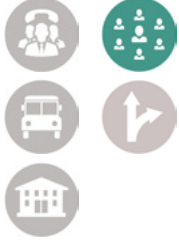
Funding Breakdown

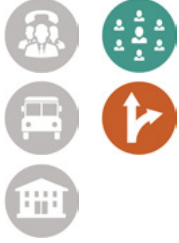
Description		Administering Agencies and Latest Guidance	Eligible Entities and Potential Partners	Distribution Mechanisms and End Date	Considerations
<p>1. <u>State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds</u></p> <p>Sec. 9901</p> <p>To respond to emergency needs associated with the pandemic. Eligible uses include providing behavioral health services, hotlines, and crisis intervention, as well as supplement pay for essential workers including social services workers.</p>	<p>\$350 billion</p> 	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Interim final rule</p> <p>FAQs</p> <p>Fact sheet</p>	<p>State, local, and tribal governments.</p> <p>Eligible recipients are encouraged to apply as soon as possible here.</p>	<p>Primarily direct disbursement. For local governments, 50% as of May 2021 and balance 12 months later; U.S. territories receive one payment. Allocation amounts can be found here.</p> <p><i>End date: May 2022</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to local government to make the case for supporting crisis services and early diversion activities. • Explore how all allowable uses could
<p>2. <u>Funding for COVID-19 Testing, Contact Tracing, and Mitigation Activities</u></p> <p>Sec. 2401</p> <p>Conduct activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID-19 infections and related strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.</p>	<p>\$47.8 billion</p> 	<p>Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</p>	<p>State, local, and territorial public health departments</p>	<p>Grants awarded through existing cooperative agreements and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agreements, including the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Cooperative Agreement</p> <p><i>End Date: Available until expended</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to your local public health department. • Explore whether funds can be leveraged to sustain or expand local efforts to divert people with behavioral health needs from incarceration as part of efforts to “mitigate the spread of COVID-19.”

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<p>3. <u>State Option to Provide Qualifying Community-Based Mobile Crisis Intervention Services</u></p> <p>Sec. 9813</p> <p>Implement and expand mobile crisis intervention teams to connect people to behavioral health services.</p>	<p>85% federal matching under federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP)</p> 	<p>Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) specifically</p> <p>CMS guidance not yet available. Consult how services are defined in ARP (Section 1947(b)).</p>	<p>State Medicaid agency (contacts listed here)</p>	<p>Federal match (15% state share). Requires submission of state plan amendment, or new waiver, or amendment to an existing waiver) subject to federal approval.</p> <p><i>End date: 2027</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact state Medicaid agency directly (or indirectly) to advocate for your community to be part of this effort. • A “multidisciplinary mobile crisis team” could include law enforcement as needed and could support efforts to formalize collaborations and data collection approaches to effectively provide the services described in Section 9813.
<p>4. <u>Funding for State Planning Grants</u></p> <p>Sec. 9813 (additional funding)</p> <p>Plan for and submit state plan amendments or applications to pursue waiver authorities to expand coverage of mobile crisis intervention services.</p>	<p>15 million</p> 	<p>HHS</p> <p>More information not yet available publicly.</p>	<p>State Medicaid agency</p>	<p>States will need to submit proposals.</p> <p><i>End Date: Available until expended</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be leveraged for larger efforts to strategically help comprehensive crisis response systems, including implementation of 988.

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<p>5. <u>Community Mental Health Services Block Grant</u></p> <p>Sec. 2701</p> <p>Expand comprehensive community mental health services for adults and children with serious mental illness or emotional disturbances, such as screenings, outpatient services, emergency mental health treatment and day treatment programs. Includes a new provision for a required 5 percent crisis services set-aside starting in 2021.</p>	<p>\$1.5 billion</p> 	<p>HHS; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) specifically</p> <p><u>Guidance</u></p> <p><u>Funding Allocations by State</u></p>	<p>States, territories</p>	<p>Block grant</p> <p>Award amounts by state/ territory can be found here.</p> <p><i>End Date:</i> September 30, 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with the administering agency in your state/territory to determine how funds will reach local level; list here. • Determine how to best access and leverage these funds, making the case for supporting crisis services and early diversion activities.
<p>6. <u>Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant</u></p> <p>Sec. 2702</p> <p>Plan and implement programs and activities to prevent and treat substance use disorders.</p>	<p>\$1.5 billion</p> 	<p>HHS; SAMHSA specifically</p> <p><u>Guidance</u></p> <p><u>Funding Allocations by State</u></p>	<p>States, territories</p>	<p>Block grant</p> <p>Award amounts by state/territory can be found here.</p> <p><i>End Date:</i> September 30, 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with the administering agency in your state/territory to determine how funds will reach local level; list here. • Determine how to best access and leverage these funds, making the case for supporting crisis services and early diversion activities.

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<p>7. <u>Funding for Expansion Grants for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)</u></p> <p>Sec. 2713</p> <p>Expand access to behavioral health services—including those related to crisis response—through Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs).</p>	<p>\$420 million</p> 	<p>HHS; SAMHSA specifically</p> <p><u>Funding Opportunity Announcement</u></p>	<p>Community organizations that meet the criteria to be CCBHCs</p>	<p>Grants</p> <p><i>End Date:</i> Available until expended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to work with CCBHCs, especially given requirement that they provide mobile crisis services. • Identify providers that already qualify as CCBHCs or those that could be eligible to explore partnership opportunities; see map of existing CCBHCs here.
<p>8. <u>Funding for Community Health Centers and Community Care</u></p> <p>Sec. 2601</p> <p>Expand COVID-19 testing and treatment, deliver preventive and primary health care services, and increase operational capacity for community health centers.</p>	<p>\$7.6 billion</p> 	<p>HHS; Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) specifically</p> <p><u>List of Awardees Landing Page</u></p>	<p>Community health centers</p>	<p>Grants and contracts</p> <p><i>End Date:</i> Available until expended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to awardees and identify ways to incorporate into a continuum of services.

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<p>9. <u>Funding for Community-Based Local Behavioral Health Needs</u></p> <p>Sec. 2707</p> <p>Provide mental and behavioral health training, increase telehealth services, and expand mental and behavioral health preventive and crisis intervention services.</p>	<p>\$50 million</p> 	<p>HHS; SAMHSA specifically</p>	<p>State and local governments, community nonprofits, and health organizations</p>	<p>Grants</p> <p><i>End Date:</i> Available until expended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with behavioral health crisis response partners to ensure they apply.
<p>10. <u>Funding for Community-Based Funding for Local Substance Use Disorder Services</u></p> <p>Sec. 2706</p> <p>Support community-based overdose prevention programs, syringe services, and other harm-reduction services.</p>	<p>\$30 million</p> 	<p>HHS; SAMHSA specifically</p>	<p>State, local, tribal, and territorial governments as well as tribal organizations; nonprofit community-based organizations; and health organizations</p>	<p>Grants</p> <p><i>End Date:</i> Available until expended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with local organizations on applying for harm-reduction funding.

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<p>11. Funding for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Training for Health Care Professionals and Public Safety Officers</p> <p>Sec. 2703</p> <p>Plan, develop, and operate training activities to reduce and address suicide, burnout, mental health conditions, and substance use disorders among health care professionals and public safety officers.</p>	<p>\$80 million</p> 	<p>HHS</p>	<p>Health professions schools, academic health centers, state or local governments, Native American tribes and tribal organizations, or other appropriate public or private nonprofit entities</p>	<p>Grants or contracts</p> <p><i>End Date:</i> Available until expended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to eligible entities to plan, develop, and deliver these trainings to staff.

Key Resources

[American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Guide to Advancing Justice-Related Goals](#)

National Association of Counties
 FAQs: [Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund](#)

[A Matter of Public Health and Safety: How States Can Support Local Crisis Systems](#)

[Find a Federal Funding Opportunity database](#)

Brief: [Financially Sustaining Behavioral Health-Criminal Justice Programs](#)

Brief: [Building a Comprehensive and Coordinated Crisis System](#)

[Police and Mental Health Collaboration \(PMHC\)](#) programs support law enforcement agencies around the country in planning and implementing effective public safety responses to people who have mental illnesses

Alliance for Safety and Justice brief: [The Promise of the American Rescue Plan: Funding Opportunities to Reduce Violence, Meet the Needs of Underserved Communities, and Promote a Vision for Shared Safety](#)

[Grants.gov](#)

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