**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

**ECOS Summary – March 2021**

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“The Act”) was passed by the 117th U.S. Congress and signed by President Biden on March 11th. The Act provides $1.88 trillion in federal investments for COVID-19 pandemic relief and economic stimulus, bringing the total of federal resources made available in COVID response legislation to $4.6T.[[1]](#footnote-1) Three prominent features of the Act include an extension of expanded unemployment benefits, $1,400 direct payments to individuals, and $350B in aid to state and local governments. ECOS has compiled the below summary of provisions related to environmental protection and state government agencies:

**Title VI: Committee on Environment and Public Works**

* **Air Quality Monitoring and Pollution Clean-up:** $100M to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in funding to update our national air quality monitoring system and reduce the air and toxic pollution that is linked with contributing to COVID-19 deaths.
	+ Half of which is for grants, contracts, etc. addressing disproportionate impacts in minority or low income populations under: CAA§103(B), SDWA§1442, CERCLA§104(k)(7)(A), or Energy Policy Act§791-797.
	+ Half of which is for grants authorized under CAA§103(a-c) or CAA§105.
* **Economic Adjustment Assistance:** The Act provides $750M to the Department of Commerce for assistance to States and communities that have suffered economic injury as a result of job and gross domestic product losses in the travel, tourism, or outdoor recreation sectors.
* **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Funding:** $30M for the care of captive species protected under the Endangered Species Act or rescued, confiscated or other federal trust species in facilities experiencing lost revenues due to COVID-19

**Title IX: Committee on Finance**

* **State and Local Fiscal Aid:** The Act provides $195B in aid to state governments to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the COVID-19 public health emergency.
* **Critical Infrastructure Projects:** Under the same section, the Act establishes a new $10 billion Critical Infrastructure Projects program to help States, territories, and Tribal governments carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to COVID-19. State and local fiscal relief funds can be used for local economic recovery purposes, including assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits, assistance to hard-hit industries like tourism, travel, and hospitality, and infrastructure investment.

**Title II: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

* **Public Health Workforce:** The Act provides $7,660,000,000, to sustain a public health workforce, including by making awards to State, local, and territorial public health departments.
* **LIHEAP and Water Utility Bill Assistance:** $4.5 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and $500 million for low-income water assistance.
1. Not all of this amount has been obligated as of this writing. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)