

# ACF

Administration  
for Children  
and Families

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration on Children, Youth and Families

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**4. Key Words:** American Rescue Plan of 2021; Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Program Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grants.

## INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Offices of the Governors; State Agencies or Organizations Designated by the Governor to Apply for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment Programs State Grant Funds; Agencies Administering the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grant; and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Program Grant Recipients.

**SUBJECT:** Supplemental funding under the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* for the CBCAP and CAPTA State Grant programs; Accompaniment to Dear Colleague Letter XX-XX

**LEGAL AND RELATED REFERENCES:** Public Law (P.L.) 117-2, The *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*; Title I, sections 106 and 108 of CAPTA (42 U.S.C. 5106a and 5106d); Title II of CAPTA (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.).

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Information Memorandum (IM) is to remind agencies administering CBCAP and the CAPTA State Grant of guidance on use of the supplemental funding provided under the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (American Rescue Plan). The IM provides information on the allowable use of the funding to ensure use within the expenditure period. The Children's Bureau (CB) strongly encourages CBCAP and CAPTA State Grant recipients to use the additional funding under these programs in ways that advance racial equity and support for those who have been historically underserved or marginalized by child welfare systems, while ensuring the safety and well-being of all family members.

### BACKGROUND:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan. This law provides additional relief to address the continued impact of COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses. Among its provisions, section 2205 of the law included supplemental fiscal year (FY) 2021 funding for two of the grant programs authorized by CAPTA. P.L. 117-2 included \$250 million in supplemental funding for the CBCAP grant program and \$100 million in supplemental funding for the CAPTA State Grant. The fiscal year (FY) 2021 supplemental grant has a five-year project and expenditure period from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2025. The funding must be obligated by September 30, 2025 and liquidated by December 30, 2025.

On May 5, 2021, the CB released a Program Instruction (ACYF-CB-PI-21-07) that provided guidance on the allowable use of the supplemental funding and actions states and territories must take to report on planned and actual use of the funds.<sup>1</sup> However, as of the date of release of this Information Memorandum, the drawdown of supplemental CBCAP and CAPTA State Grant funds has been limited (i.e., less than 20 percent supplemental CBCAP funds and less than 5 percent of supplemental CAPTA State Grant funds). Therefore, this IM serves as a resource to remind grant recipients of the allowable use of funds and resources available to support them, to encourage timely and effective use of the supplemental CAPTA funds within the expenditure period.

### ***The Children's Bureau's Priorities for Creating an Equitable Child Welfare System***

This additional funding provides an opportunity to make investments promoting the safety and well-being of children and families. When expending the supplemental awards, it is important for grant recipients to use funds to help address the complex structural issues that often contribute to families becoming involved in the child welfare system. Child welfare agencies and child abuse prevention partners have an important role to play in advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity. By advancing equity, we create opportunities for the improvement of communities that have been historically underserved, which benefits all. CB urges all agencies administering CBCAP and the CAPTA State Grants to use annual and supplemental funding under these programs in ways that align with the following priority areas identified by CB to create a more equitable child welfare system.

While addressing equity concerns cuts across all our work, CB has also identified four priority goals where we will be focusing efforts.

#### ***Prevent Children from Coming into Foster Care***

Child and family poverty represents a key source of family vulnerability. However, too often, poverty and neglect are conflated leading to unnecessary child welfare involvement and separation of children from their families. As a field, we must examine legal definitions and frontline practice to disentangle poverty from neglect and, so that we can provide meaningful support to strengthen families, keep children safe and prevent unnecessary entries into foster care.

CB is committed to expanding resources for legal representation to ensure that families have access to legal services to help them advocate for needed services and resolve issues that leave them vulnerable to potential child welfare involvement or impede permanency for children once in care. Another key strategy for preventing unnecessary foster care entries is

#### ***Support Kinship Caregivers***

Kinship caregivers provide essential support to children, but often do not receive adequate support. CB is committed to working with states to ensure equitable access to licensure for relative foster care providers and to support all kinship caregivers in learning about and gaining access to financial support, legal assistance and support groups.

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<sup>1</sup> Program Instruction ACYF-CB-21-07 can be viewed here:  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/pi2107.pdf>.

### *Ensure Youth Leave Care with Strengthened Relationships, Holistic Supports and Opportunities*

Entry into foster care is a traumatic event, and youth often experience continued trauma while in the foster care system and after exiting care. It is critical to provide youth in foster care with safe, healthy, and normative experiences, including activities that are a typical part of the transition to adulthood (e.g., activities at school and in their communities), as well as supports to promote legal and relational permanency that help young adults successfully transition to adulthood.

### *Develop and Enhance the Child Welfare Workforce*

CB is committed to supporting strategies for retaining current child welfare staff and exploring new and innovative non-traditional pathways to expand agency recruitment pools. This includes prioritizing the hiring of a diverse, stable, and well-trained workforce essential to providing culturally sensitive services to children and families from a wide variety of backgrounds. Enhancing and expanding stipends, traineeships, or other incentive programs, as well as increasing access to Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work degree programs will help to stabilize, expand, and support the child welfare workforce.

CB looks forward to engaging with state agencies to address the above priorities as we jointly seek to make meaningful progress in advancing equity and improving the lives of the children, youth, and families that we serve.

## **INFORMATION:**

This IM is organized into three sections.

- Section A: Allowable Uses of CBCAP Supplemental Funding
- Section B: Allowable Uses of CAPTA State Grant Supplemental Funding
- Section C: Additional Resources

## **SECTION A: Allowable Uses of CBCAP Supplemental Funding**

### *Use of Funds*

The FY 2021 American Rescue Plan supplemental appropriation may be used to enhance community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect in a manner consistent with any of the program purposes of CBCAP.

The purposes of the CBCAP program are: (1) to support community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, enhance, and coordinate initiatives, programs, and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect and to support the coordination of resources and activities to better strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect; and (2) to foster understanding, appreciation, and knowledge of diverse populations in order to effectively prevent and treat child abuse and neglect (Section 201(a)).

Section 201(b) of CAPTA provides that funds made available to states under the CBCAP program must be used for the following purposes—

1. developing, operating, expanding, and enhancing community-based, and prevention focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect that are accessible, effective, and culturally appropriate, and build upon existing strengths that:

- A. offer assistance to families;
  - B. provide early, comprehensive support for parents;
  - C. promote the development of parenting skills, especially in young parents and parents with very young children;
  - D. increase family stability;
  - E. improve family access to other formal and informal resources and opportunities for assistance available within communities, including access to such resources and opportunities for unaccompanied homeless youth;
  - F. support the additional needs of families with children with disabilities through respite care and other services;
  - G. demonstrate a commitment to involving parents in the planning and program implementation of the lead agency and entities carrying out local programs funded under this Title, including meaningful involvement of parents of children with disabilities, parents with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, and members of underrepresented and underserved groups; and
  - H. provide referrals to early health and developmental services.
2. fostering the development of a continuum of preventive services for children and families, including unaccompanied homeless youth, through state and community-based collaborations and partnerships, both public and private;
  3. financing the start-up, maintenance, expansion, or redesign of specific family resource and support program community-based child abuse and neglect prevention program services (such as respite care services, child abuse and neglect prevention activities, disability services, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, domestic violence services, housing services, transportation, adult education, home visiting and other similar services) identified by the inventory and description of current services required under Section 205(a)(3) as an unmet need, and integrated with the network of community-based family resource and support child abuse and neglect prevention program to the extent practicable given funding levels and community priorities;
  4. maximizing funding through leveraging of funds for the financing, planning, community mobilization, collaboration, assessment, information and referral, startup, training and technical assistance, information management and reporting, reporting and evaluation costs for establishing, operating, or expanding community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect; and
  5. financing public information activities that focus on the healthy and positive development of parents and children and promotion of child abuse and neglect prevention activities.

In addition to supplementing funding for CBCAP, the American Rescue Plan provided supplemental funding for other services to families, such as child care, Head Start, home visiting and others to address the stressors and challenges faced by families that have intensified during the current health crisis. CBCAP lead agencies are specifically authorized to foster the development of a continuum of comprehensive child and family support and preventive services, and thus are in a unique position to establish new partnerships and build upon existing collaborative efforts with other federal, state, or locally funded public and private organizations to coordinate state and community-based collaborations and public-private partnerships. CB also strongly encourages lead agencies to reach out to families and community-based agencies to plan for the use of these funds, so that they may be used to increase

supports especially children and families from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or other diverse identity (LGBTQ+), and American Indian/Alaskan Native populations, as well as other communities who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty.

Examples of how states are using the funding include the following:

- Some states are using supplemental funds to create a “warmline” to prevent families from unnecessary involvement with the child protective services (CPS) system. The warmline is an alternative resource to the CPS hotline when a family is in need of supports that may not rise to the level of warranting CPS intervention. For example, one state added a new prompt that allows the caller to be directed to a different system if they would like to access information on resources that can help them or a family that they know access assistance with food, housing, utilities, children’s behavior, mental health, or other support resources.
- States also report using funds to establish new or expand existing family resource centers (FRC) to provide multiple services to both children and families and help stabilize families before a crisis reaches a level requiring formal CPS intervention. Many states report prioritizing the award of CBCAP funding to providers developing or enhancing FRCs in communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and other stressors, including children and families from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and who identify as LGBTQ+, American Indian/Alaskan Native populations, and rural communities.
- States have also reported using funds to address immediate, concrete needs of families that have intensified during the ongoing public health crisis. This has included food, housing assistance, child care, transportation, and others.

#### *CBCAP Funding for Tribes, Tribal Organizations and Migrant Programs*

Section 203(a) of CAPTA reserves one percent of the total CBCAP appropriation “to make allotments to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations and Migrant programs”, which is awarded through a competitive discretionary grant process.<sup>2</sup> CB also encourages states to engage with Tribes and Migrant populations to consider how CBCAP formula grant funds can be used to support Tribal and Migrant families. For example, one state engaged in a series of listening sessions with Tribes throughout their state and decided to reserve 10 percent of supplemental formula grant funds for primary prevention initiatives in Tribal Communities.

### **SECTION B: CAPTA State Grant Supplemental Funding Instructions and Requirements**

#### *Use of Funds*

The FY 2021 American Rescue Plan supplemental appropriation may be used to improve the child protective services system of the state in a manner consistent with any of the 14 program purposes of CAPTA State Grants. Section 106 of CAPTA provides that the CAPTA State Grants are to be awarded for purposes of assisting the States in improving the child protective services system of each such State in—

1. the intake, assessment, screening, and investigation of reports of child abuse or neglect;

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<sup>2</sup> More information on CBCAP Tribal and Migrant grant recipients can be found here: <https://friendsnrc.org/cbcap/tribal-and-migrant-grantees/>.

2.
  - A. creating and improving the use of multidisciplinary teams and interagency, intra-agency, interstate, and intrastate protocols to enhance investigations; and
  - B. improving legal preparation and representation, including—
    - i. procedures for appealing and responding to appeals of substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect; and
    - ii. provisions for the appointment of an individual appointed to represent a child in judicial proceedings;
3. case management, including ongoing case monitoring, and delivery of services and treatment provided to children and their families;
4. enhancing the general child protective system by developing, improving, and implementing risk and safety assessment tools and protocols, including the use of differential response;
5. developing and updating systems of technology that support the program and track reports of child abuse and neglect from intake through final disposition and allow interstate and intrastate information exchange;
6. developing, strengthening, and facilitating training including—
  - A. training regarding research-based strategies, including the use of differential response, to promote collaboration with the families;
  - B. training regarding the legal duties of such individuals;
  - C. personal safety training for case workers; and
  - D. training in early childhood, child, and adolescent development;
7. improving the skills, qualifications, and availability of individuals providing services to children and families, and the supervisors of such individuals, through the child protection system, including improvements in the recruitment and retention of caseworkers;
8. developing, facilitating the use of, and implementing research-based strategies and training protocols for individuals mandated to report child abuse and neglect;
9. developing, implementing, or operating programs to assist in obtaining or coordinating necessary services for families of disabled infants with life-threatening conditions, including—
  - A. existing social and health services;
  - B. financial assistance;
  - C. services necessary to facilitate adoptive placement of any such infants who have been relinquished for adoption; and
  - D. the use of differential response in preventing child abuse and neglect;
10. developing and delivering information to improve public education relating to the role and responsibilities of the child protection system and the nature and basis for reporting suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect, including the use of differential response;
11. developing and enhancing the capacity of community-based programs to integrate shared leadership strategies between parents and professionals to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect at the neighborhood level;
12. supporting and enhancing interagency collaboration between the child protection system and the juvenile justice system for improved delivery of services and treatment, including

methods for continuity of treatment plan and services as children transition between systems;

13. supporting and enhancing interagency collaboration among public health agencies, agencies in the child protective service system, and agencies carrying out private community-based programs—
  - A. to provide child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment services (including linkages with education systems), and the use of differential response; and
  - B. to address the health needs, including mental health needs, of children identified as victims of child abuse or neglect, including supporting prompt, comprehensive health and developmental evaluations for children who are the subject of substantiated child maltreatment reports; or
14. developing and implementing procedures for collaboration among child protective services, domestic violence services, and other agencies in—
  - A. investigations, interventions, and the delivery of services and treatment provided to children and families, including the use of differential response, where appropriate; and
  - B. the provision of services that assist children exposed to domestic violence, and that also support the caregiving role of their non-abusing parents.

Several of the purposes detailed above highlight the importance of interagency collaboration and community-based partnerships to support families and ensure the safety of children. CB encourages grant recipients to reach out to families and community-based agencies to plan for the use of these funds, so that they may be used to increase supports especially for children and families from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and who identify LGBTQ+, and American Indian/Alaskan Native populations, as well as other communities who have been historically underserved to mitigate risks and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Examples of how states are using the supplemental funding include:

- Support for a state initiative focused on the well-being of Black children by working to reduce or eliminate disparities and disproportionality of Black children/youth in the state's child welfare system. This initiative includes efforts to deconstruct traditional child protection policies and practices contributing to disproportionality and disparities and working to reimagine and rebuild an equitable child welfare system designed to meet the unique experiential and cultural needs of Black communities. The project is being informed by an advisory committee comprised of Black community members and includes the establishment of contracts for culturally based, in-home services.
- Efforts to meaningfully engage people with lived experience in child welfare. This includes efforts to build capacity of CPS staff and service providers to better understand and serve underserved and overrepresented populations (e.g., rural counties). Efforts further include training and technical assistance for the workforce to build the capacity of the workforce to better understand racial inequity and how to effectively partner with underserved populations.

## Section C: Additional Resources

Below is a list of resources that grant recipients are encouraged to explore to support planning and implementation efforts of services and resources with supplemental funding for CAPTA State Grant and CBCAP programs.

- Program Instruction (ACYF-CB-PI-21-07) on *Supplemental funding under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the CBCAP and CAPTA State Grant programs*: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/pi2107.pdf>
- Program Instruction (ACYF-CB-PI-22-01) on *Actions Required for 2022 State Submissions of APSR Updates; CAPTA State Plan Updates; and Parts I, II, and III of the CFS-101*: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/policy-guidance/pi-22-01>
- Program Instruction (ACYF-CB-PI-22-05) on *Availability of fiscal year (FY) 2022 funds under the Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect program created by Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) as amended by Public Law (P.L.) 115-271*: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/policy-guidance/pi-22-05>
- FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention: [www.friendsnrc.org](http://www.friendsnrc.org)
- Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative: <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states>
- ACF American Rescue Plan Webpage: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/american-rescue-plan>
- Dear Colleague Letter: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/american-rescue-plan>

### For Inquiries:

Please reach out to Children's Bureau's Regional Program Managers:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/training-technical-assistance/childrens-bureau-regional-program-managers>.

*Cheri Hoffman*

Cheri Hoffman  
Acting Commissioner  
Administration on Children, Youth  
and Families

### Attachments

Attachment A: FY 2021 Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Supplemental Allotments to States and Territories

Attachment B: FY 2021 CAPTA State Grants Supplemental Allotments to States and Territories



**Disclaimer:** Information Memoranda (IMs) provide information or recommendations to states, Indian Tribes, grant recipients, and others on a variety of child welfare issues. IMs do not establish requirements or supersede existing laws or official guidance.

**Attachment A: FY 2021 Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)  
Supplemental Allotments to States and Territories**  
Authorized by American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

<b>State</b>	<b>2021 Allotment</b>
Alabama	\$ 3,629,935
Alaska	\$ 600,315
Arizona	\$ 5,470,842
Arkansas	\$ 2,335,296
California	\$ 29,667,177
Colorado	\$ 4,200,999
Connecticut	\$ 2,426,303
Delaware	\$ 678,994
District of Columbia	\$ 427,491
Florida	\$ 14,108,501
Georgia	\$ 8,351,442
Hawaii	\$ 1,000,179
Idaho	\$ 1,494,929
Illinois	\$ 9,398,738
Indiana	\$ 5,229,819
Iowa	\$ 2,424,305
Kansas	\$ 2,335,613
Kentucky	\$ 3,344,975
Louisiana	\$ 3,627,680
Maine	\$ 829,987
Maryland	\$ 4,451,714
Massachusetts	\$ 4,512,128
Michigan	\$ 7,150,872
Minnesota	\$ 4,346,549
Mississippi	\$ 2,330,053
Missouri	\$ 4,571,448
Montana	\$ 762,432
Nebraska	\$ 1,587,897
Nevada	\$ 2,310,228
New Hampshire	\$ 851,371
New Jersey	\$ 6,465,931
New Mexico	\$ 1,587,110
New York	\$ 13,435,985
North Carolina	\$ 7,673,803
North Dakota	\$ 600,942
Ohio	\$ 8,598,722
Oklahoma	\$ 3,176,094

<b>State</b>	<b>2021 Allotment</b>
Oregon	\$ 2,890,330
Pennsylvania	\$ 8,787,486
Rhode Island	\$ 682,072
South Carolina	\$ 3,706,239
South Dakota	\$ 724,118
Tennessee	\$ 5,036,623
Texas	\$ 24,681,320
Utah	\$ 3,105,870
Vermont	\$ 380,252
Virginia	\$ 6,206,671
Washington	\$ 5,546,972
West Virginia	\$ 1,199,299
Wisconsin	\$ 4,224,607
Wyoming	\$ 446,056
<b>State Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 243,614,714</b>

<b>Territory</b>	<b>2021 Allotment</b>
American Samoa	\$ 175,000
Guam	\$ 175,000
Northern Mariana Islands	\$ 175,000
Puerto Rico	\$ 1,910,286
Virgin Islands	\$ 175,000
<b>Territory Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 2,610,286</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 246,225,000</b>
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**Attachment B: FY 2021 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)  
State Grant Supplemental Allotments to States and Territories**  
Authorized by American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

<b>State</b>	<b>2021 Allotment</b>
Alabama	\$ 1,476,032
Alaska	\$ 244,105
Arizona	\$ 2,224,597
Arkansas	\$ 949,597
California	\$ 12,063,503
Colorado	\$ 1,708,243
Connecticut	\$ 986,602
Delaware	\$ 276,098
District of Columbia	\$ 173,830
Florida	\$ 5,736,910
Georgia	\$ 3,395,929
Hawaii	\$ 406,701
Idaho	\$ 607,880
Illinois	\$ 3,821,789
Indiana	\$ 2,126,590
Iowa	\$ 985,790
Kansas	\$ 949,725
Kentucky	\$ 1,360,160
Louisiana	\$ 1,475,116
Maine	\$ 337,496
Maryland	\$ 1,810,191
Massachusetts	\$ 1,834,757
Michigan	\$ 2,907,744
Minnesota	\$ 1,767,428
Mississippi	\$ 947,465
Missouri	\$ 1,858,878
Montana	\$ 310,026
Nebraska	\$ 645,683
Nevada	\$ 939,403
New Hampshire	\$ 346,191
New Jersey	\$ 2,629,228
New Mexico	\$ 645,363
New York	\$ 5,463,446
North Carolina	\$ 3,120,382
North Dakota	\$ 244,360
Ohio	\$ 3,496,480
Oklahoma	\$ 1,291,488

<b>State</b>	<b>2021 Allotment</b>
Oregon	\$ 1,175,289
Pennsylvania	\$ 3,573,237
Rhode Island	\$ 277,350
South Carolina	\$ 1,507,060
South Dakota	\$ 294,447
Tennessee	\$ 2,048,031
Texas	\$ 10,036,113
Utah	\$ 1,262,933
Vermont	\$ 154,621
Virginia	\$ 2,523,805
Washington	\$ 2,255,554
West Virginia	\$ 487,669
Wisconsin	\$ 1,717,843
Wyoming	\$ 181,379
<b>State Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 99,060,537</b>

<b>Territory</b>	<b>2021 Allotment</b>
American Samoa	\$ 31,825
Guam	\$ 70,949
Northern Mariana Islands	\$ 23,259
Puerto Rico	\$ 776,776
Virgin Islands	\$ 36,654
<b>Territory Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 939,463</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 100,000,000</b>
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