



Administration for Children & Families' Learning Exchange

Optimizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Tuesday, August 3, 2021 | 1:00 – 3:30 P.M. EDT | Zoom Registration

Meeting Details

1:00-1:10 PM	Welcome Remarks
1:10-1:20 PM	Lightning Round Equity Spotlights Brief presentations from state and county colleagues on equity-related initiatives in their communities.
1:20-1:50 PM	Plenary Session: Promising Models & Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financing Models• Information Systems• Staffing/Human Capital Moderated panel discussion with states and counties that have used or plan to use pandemic recovery funds to better meet operational needs in innovative ways.
1:50-1:55 PM	Break

1:55-2:35 PM	Roundtable Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity • Economic Mobility • Strengthening Crisis Response • Cross-System Collaboration See Descriptions Below
2:35-2:40 PM	Transition
2:40-3:20 PM	Roundtable Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity • Economic Mobility • Strengthening Crisis Response • Cross-System Collaboration See Descriptions Below
3:20-3:30 PM	Closing Remarks

Roundtable Session Topics

Equity

With the large infusion of American Rescue Plan funds, states and counties have the ability to prioritize investments in historically underserved communities and assist families with low incomes in a way that would not lead to a reduction or loss of existing benefits. In line with Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government, states and counties are assessing whether, and to what extent, their programs, policies, and processes perpetuate systemic barriers to opportunities and benefits for people of color and other underserved groups, and are developing new ways to deliver resources and benefits equitably to all. In this session, participants will explore how they can use American Rescue Plan funding to bridge from recovery to equity in their communities.

Economic Mobility

Large-scale unemployment especially near the start of the pandemic had a detrimental effect on opportunities for upward economic mobility among millions of U.S. workers and their families. At the same time, with many companies beginning to re-hire and with the allocation of American Rescue Plan funds, there is an

opportunity for state and local governments to support economic mobility for ACF program beneficiaries. Session participants will discuss how they can target American Rescue Plan funding to foster upward economic mobility and increase financial security among ACF populations, including through whole-family approaches.

Strengthening Crisis Response

Continuity of operations during a disaster can challenge even well-developed plans. COVID-19 revealed vulnerabilities to sustaining basic services and essential functions to the public, employees, and their families. Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic offers an opportunity to build greater capacity to respond to future crises. In this session, participants will share how they converted barriers into best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendees will discuss how newly adopted, post-pandemic practices improved operations and strengthened overall continuity of operations planning, as well as how American Rescue Plan funds can be used to further bolster crisis response systems.

Cross-System Collaboration

Funding from the American Rescue Plan is routed through several different agencies and programs. Therefore, it is essential for states and counties to collaborate across systems when planning how to use their recovery funds to ensure that members of their communities receive services they need to stay safe and healthy in the short-term and are able to thrive in the long-term. In this session, participants will share their ideas and strategies for coordinating across systems to make the most of American Rescue Plan funds within their jurisdictions.