



*A Union of Professionals*

## How the American Rescue Plan Helps Montana

The American Rescue Plan will provide immediate aid to protect the jobs of frontline workers like nurses and EMTs; get our schools reopened safely and quickly; help those hit hardest by the pandemic feed their families, pay their bills and keep a roof over their heads; and ramp up testing and vaccine production and distribution.

### Aid to States, Cities, Towns and Tribes

- The rescue plan will provide more than **\$1.4 billion in state and local aid for Montana.**

### Help for Schools and Colleges

- **Montana will receive \$382 million** in K-12 funding.<sup>1</sup>
- **Montana's** colleges and universities will receive **\$94 million** to make higher education safe.

### Child Care Relief

- **Montana** gets \$111 million in desperately needed child care relief funding.<sup>2</sup>

### Help for Montana Families<sup>3</sup>

- **\$1,400 cash payments to 731,000 adults and 238,000 children in Montana.**
- **Child tax credit expansion.** Increases the maximum credit from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for each child age 6 and older, and \$3,600 for each child under age 6. **This would help 451,300 people in Montana.**
- **Earned income tax credit expansion.** The American Rescue Plan triples the maximum EITC amount. **This will help 64,900 workers in Montana.**<sup>4</sup>
- **Paid sick and family leave** through credits to employers that offer emergency paid sick and family leave.
- **Enhanced unemployment insurance benefits.** The plan provides \$300 per week in unemployment insurance through Sept. 6, coupled with tax relief for most beneficiaries.

### Help for our Workers, Especially Healthcare and Essential Workers, Recover from COVID-19

- Lowers or eliminates premiums for millions who buy insurance through Affordable Care Act marketplaces.
- **100 percent subsidies** for continuation of job-based health coverage (COBRA) for workers who have lost jobs.
- **\$80 billion for COVID-19** testing and tracing, manufacturing and procurement of personal protective equipment, and vaccine distribution.
- **\$8.5 billion for rural healthcare.**
- **\$4 billion for mental health** and substance use disorder services, treatment and prevention.
- **\$140 million to support the mental health of healthcare professionals** and public safety officers.
- **Hazard pay:** State and local aid can be used to provide "premium pay" to essential workers.

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<sup>1</sup> Congressional Research Service, memorandum, "Estimated FY2021 Grants to States and Institutions of Higher Education Under the Education Stabilization Fund Based on the Senate-Passed Substitute to H.R. 1319," March 8, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Center for Law and Social Policy, "Child Care Relief Funding in House-passed ARP," Feb. 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, "Details of House Democrats' Cash Payments and Tax Credit Expansions," Feb. 9, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, "Senate vs House Cash Payments," March 2021.

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The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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