

NACo LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS FOR COUNTIES: COVID-19 RELIEF & OMNIBUS SPENDING PACKAGE

DECEMBER 22, 2020



SUMMARY: SOME RELIEF FOR COUNTIES, BUT NO DIRECT & FLEXIBLE COVID-19 AID

After months of stalled negotiations over the next round of federal coronavirus aid, on December 21, Congress passed a [massive \\$2.3 trillion legislative package](#) containing *both* appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 and additional COVID-19 relief.

A big package like this had eluded Congress since they passed the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([P.L. 116-136](#)) in March with negotiations stopping and starting throughout the summer of 2020.

Although NACo was deeply involved in the negotiations, and was able to [secure numerous victories](#) for counties, counties are extremely disappointed that this legislative package does not contain additional direct and flexible funding for state and local governments. Despite the fact that more than 1 million local government employees have lost their jobs, and counties face a daily onslaught of fatalities and economic hardships in our communities, local governments did not get the direct relief they asked from our federal partners.

This legislation does however include another round of Payment Protection Program (PPP) funding for small businesses, unemployment benefits, and funding for vaccine distribution and testing. The bill also includes funding for nutrition assistance, child care and rental assistance to support households impacted by COVID-19. Importantly, after advocacy from NACo and others, the bill also **extends the deadline for counties to spend money allocated through the [Coronavirus Relief Fund \(CRF\)](#) until **December 31, 2021****. This extension is no substitute for additional flexibility in that program, or additional aid.

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, America's counties have taken the lead in both responding to the public health crisis and promoting our economic recovery from this national disaster. As strong allies in the federal-state-local partnership, we have called for direct and flexible federal funding to allow us to best serve our residents. **The new COVID-19 legislation falls short of providing counties with the resources needed to best keep our communities safe and healthy.** We will continue to press the 117th Congress and the Biden Administration to honor the work of our frontline county employees who are carrying America through this pandemic.

Note: This document provides an in-depth analysis of the year end spending deal and provisions important to counties. For NACo's analysis of the COVID-19 relief provisions, [click here](#). For NACo's analysis of the omnibus spending package provisions, [click here](#). For our Government Affairs directory, [click here](#).

THE CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2021

COVID-19 RELIEF PROVISIONS IMPORTANT TO COUNTIES

The COVID-19 relief portion of this legislation provides \$900 billion to support individuals, families and businesses impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The agreement establishes a temporary \$300 per week supplemental jobless benefits and \$600 direct stimulus payments to many Americans, along with a new round of subsidies for businesses and additional funding for schools, health care providers, vaccine distribution efforts and rental assistance.

Most notably, the package does not provide additional flexible and direct aid to state and local governments.

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NEW MONEY FOR VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

The agreement provides \$8.75 billion in new funding to assist with vaccine development and distribution. Of this total, \$4.5 billion will be made available for direct grants from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to states and localities under the Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement formula.

Another \$300 million will be directed to high-risk and underserved populations including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities, through new or existing grants.

[Counties will play a large role in the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination programs.](#) A number of the elements identified as critical to the execution of vaccine deployment are county owned or operated – including emergency

management agencies, local health departments, hospitals and health systems, community health centers, rural health clinics and long-term care facilities.

BOOSTS FUNDING FOR TESTING, HEALTHCARE & NURSING HOMES

Testing and contact tracing: The bipartisan proposal provides \$22.4 billion for ongoing COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and mitigation efforts. Of this total, approximately \$21.6 billion is available for direct grants for states, localities and territories under the Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement formula.

The proposal also provides \$2.5 billion to high-risk and underserved including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities, through new or existing grants for improving testing and contact tracing capacity.

Healthcare provider support: The legislation provides \$3 billion in additional funding to the Provider Relief Fund (PRF), a \$175 billion pot funded through previous COVID-19 relief packages, including the CARES Act and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act ([P.L. 116-139](#)) that is used to support hospitals and healthcare providers combat the fiscal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proposal also includes provisions that amend current PRF reporting guidelines to clarify that lost revenue calculations can be done by any “reasonable” method, including calculating the difference between budgeted and actual revenue on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. It also allows money from the fund to be used for staffing expenses and allow health systems to suballocate Provider Relief Fund distributions to subsidiaries organizations within their system.

EXTENDS FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Extends all pandemic unemployment programs by 11 weeks and the federal supplemental unemployment insurance benefits by \$300 per week, from December 26 through March 14, 2021. It also provides \$1 billion to states for technology modernization and fraud prevention.

In August, via an [executive memorandum](#), President Trump directed an additional \$300 per week enhanced UI benefit. Most states have been approved to provide extended UI benefits. These UI benefits expire December 27, 2020.

TERMINATES FEDERAL LENDING FACILITIES

The proposal rescinds \$429 billion in unused CARES Act funds and ends the lending facilities created by the CARES Act by Dec. 31, 2020.

Additionally, the bill permanently terminates three programs established by the Federal Reserve at the end of the year including the Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF), which was established to lend up to \$500 billion to eligible

cities, counties and states that experienced steep revenue declines. The legislation also prevents a new Treasury secretary from restarting these programs as well as from designing any new programs that look the same as those that are ending. If the Federal Reserve seeks to establish a new similar program, it will need congressional approval.

The MLF was an important piece of the initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic and provided much-needed stability to the municipal bond market.

RE-UPS THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

The legislation provides \$325 million towards small business support. Of that total, the deal authorizes \$284 million to allow eligible businesses, with priority for distressed businesses to draw down a second round of loans from the Payment Protection Program (PPP) established under the CARES Act through March 31, 2021. Under the proposal, eligibility is limited to small businesses with 300 or fewer employees that have sustained a 30 percent revenue loss in any quarter of 2020.

The bill also allows businesses to deduct expenses paid out of past and new PPP funds for tax purposes, contrary to [current IRS regulations](#).

Additionally, the deal includes \$20 billion in Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) advance grants, which will provide up to \$10,000 to small businesses that remain severely impacted by the ongoing slowdown. It also repeals the requirement of deducting an EIDL Advance from the PPP forgiveness amount.

PROVIDES NEW ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Food and nutrition assistance: The relief package includes a temporary, 15 percent increase in monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for all participants, a [key county priority](#). The uniform benefit increase will take effect from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

The package offers a combined \$13 billion in emergency assistance for SNAP and other federal nutrition programs (including child and senior nutrition) to be available through Fiscal Year 2021. It also includes an important technical fix to ensure that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) can implement [changes to the Pandemic-EBT program authorized earlier this fall](#) that expands access to children in daycare.

Income Supports: The relief package includes another round of Economic Impact Payments similar to those provided under the CARES Act, with \$600 for individuals earning less than \$75,000 annually, \$1,200 for couples earning under \$150,000 annually and an additional \$600 per qualifying child. The agreement also allows families experiencing unemployment or reduced wages during the pandemic to receive an Earned Income Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit based on their 2019 income returns—directing an [estimated \\$5 billion](#) in additional relief to low-income families.

Rental assistance: The bipartisan legislation establishes a new \$25 billion emergency federal rental assistance program. Of the total amount, \$500 million will be allocated to U.S. territories and \$800 million to tribal communities. The remaining funds will be distributed to states and localities with populations of 200,000 or more. Each state will receive a minimum of \$200 million. Under the proposal, 319 counties are eligible to receive direct payments.

Ninety-percent of these funds must be used for payment of rent, rental arrears, utilities, home energy costs and other related housing expenses. The remaining ten percent are made available for housing stability services. Preference will be given to the most vulnerable households, such as those with 50 percent of area median income and below. Support can cover up to 18 months of arrears and limit prospective assistance to no more than 12 months, and funds provided to eligible grantees expire on December 31, 2021. Beginning on September 30, U.S. Treasury will begin to recoup unspent funds from grantees and reallocate to grantees who have obligated at least 65 percent of their original allocation.

The bill also extends the current [CDC eviction moratorium](#) by one month until January 31, 2021. Since the outset of the pandemic, [counties across the nation are working](#) around the clock to mitigate the housing impact on our residents and communities.

Additionally, the deal includes enhancement of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to increase the supply of affordable housing construction.

Mortgage Cramdowns: The relief package includes a provision permitting cramdowns of federally backed mortgages for a period of one-year after enactment for households impacted by COVID-19. Typically, cramdowns are not allowed on primary residence mortgages.

Child care relief: The relief package seeks to [address the COVID-19 child care crisis](#) by appropriating an additional \$10 billion in emergency funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). The Head Start program also receives an additional \$250 million in emergency funds.

Child welfare relief: The legislation includes provisions from the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act ([H.R. 7947](#)) to increase funding and create temporary flexibilities for programs targeting older foster youth, child abuse prevention, and kinship care providers.

PROVIDES FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION

The legislation provides \$45 billion for transportation, including money for highways, transit, airports and Amtrak.

Of this total, \$27 billion is allocated to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and distributed as follows:

- **\$10 billion for highways** to carry out operations and maintenance activities, make debt service payments and replace lost transportation revenue as a result of COVID-19.
- **\$14 billion for public transit** through Transit Infrastructure Grants to be used for operating assistance, which will be allocated to urban and rural areas, and paratransit grants to states.
- **\$2 billion for airports through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP)**, at a 100 percent federal cost share for operations and maintenance activities and personnel costs, including concessionaires. Of this total, \$5 million is set aside for the Small Community Air Service Program and \$23 million for the Essential Air Service. The bill also seeks to provide additional funding for primary airports in future years by amending AIP apportionments in FY 2022 and 2023.
- **\$1 billion for Amtrak**, including \$655.4 million for Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor (NEC) and \$344.6 million for Amtrak’s National Network. Of the amount appropriated for the NEC, \$109.8 million is allocated to Amtrak “in lieu of capital payments” by state and local governments and commuter rail providers.

The remaining \$18 billion will be directed to the U.S. Department of Treasury. Of the \$18 billion, \$16 billion is directed to airlines and their employees and \$2 billion to transit providers that operate buses, including local fixed-route service, or school buses.

MORE RESOURCES FOR MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The bill provides new and additional funding to several key county mental health and substance abuse programs. This includes \$600 million for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs) Program, which helps counties and other local entities provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals.

The agreement also provides \$1.7 billion in additional grant funding under the substance abuse treatment and prevention block grant program, \$1.7 in additional grant funding for the community mental health services block grant program and \$50 million for suicide prevention activities.

SECURES EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

The legislation helps bolster local emergency response efforts by strengthening language in Section 6 of the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 to help prevent states from diverting local 911 fees and creates the “Interagency Strike Force to End 911 Fee or Charge Diversion” that will examine how the federal government can best end fee diversion by states including criminal penalties.

Additionally, the package includes the Don't Break Up the T-Band Act of 2020 ([H.R. 451](#)), which repeals Section 6103 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 that would otherwise require local emergency communications networks to relocate to another portion of the spectrum during the middle of this pandemic.

BOOSTS RESOURCES FOR FARMERS

The proposal provides \$100 million for the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP). Created in the 2018 Farm Bill, LAMP combined two existing food production and promotion programs: the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP) and Value-Added Producers Grant Program (VAPG). Investments in the LAMP program would help bolster local food systems across the country.

The legislation also includes \$75 million for the Farming Opportunities, Training and Outreach Program, which would provide socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers with technical and financial assistance for farm ownership and operations.

Additionally, the package provides \$28 million for a state block grant program to help support farm stress programs and connect individuals in the farming community with stress and mental health assistance.

INCREASES FUNDING FOR BROADBAND SERVICES

The legislation provides \$300 million towards the Broadband Infrastructure Program to deploy broadband in underserved areas through public/private partnerships.

The package also allocates \$3.2 billion to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund, which includes a \$50 monthly stipend to help households pay for internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital divide continues to impact counties of all sizes. Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of [U.S. counties experience the internet at speeds below minimum standards](#) set by the FCC, with that number even higher in rural America where 77 percent of counties operate below the FCC standard.

The bill provides \$65 million for the FCC to fully fund the Broadband DATA Act ([S. 1822/H.R. 4229](#)) – a major legislative priority for NACo – which requires the FCC to collect more granular broadband coverage data and develop a broadband map depicting the availability of broadband services throughout the country.

The package establishes the “Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives” within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to collaborate with federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments to

determine how to expand access to broadband internet access service and technical assistance in anchor communities. Additionally, it creates the “Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program” for eligible recipients in communities to purchase broadband internet service, equipment or to hire and train information technology personnel.

PROVIDES NEW FUNDS FOR EDUCATION STABILIZATION

The relief package provides an additional \$82 billion in emergency funds for the Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) established under the CARES Act ([details on ongoing implementation of the ESF can be found here](#)) to be disbursed within thirty days. Of this amount, \$4.5 billion will go to the Governor’s Relief Fund to be distributed as competitive grants to school districts with \$2.75 billion set aside for private schools that have not also received Paycheck Protection Program funds. \$54.3 billion goes to the Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund (ESSRF) for distribution to Local Education Agencies following the Title-I formula, which targets federal education assistance to low-income districts. Eligibility for these funds is not tied to in-person learning. Finally, \$22 billion is allocated for the Higher Education Relief fund, with a set-aside for minority-serving institutions and those with the most unmet needs.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY PROVISIONS

\$10 billion for the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to offset operational costs and expenses resulting from the pandemic.

Removes the non-federal cost share for funeral assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for COVID-related deaths.

\$1 billion for USDA’s Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program to support local clean water and waste disposal projects.

\$200 million for timber harvesting/hauling businesses that have lost 10 percent of gross revenue in 2020 compared to 2019 due to the pandemic.

Prevents surprise medical bills by directing healthcare insurers to cover emergency services provided in a hospital or other freestanding emergency department without prior authorization or extensive cost-sharing payments by the individual.

Includes \$12 billion in support for community development financial institutions and minority-owned depository institutions.

Extends employer tax credits for providing both paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

through March 31, 2021. However, counties are not eligible to receive these tax credits.

Includes extension and enhancement of the Employee Retention Tax Credit, a payroll tax credit to encourage businesses to keep workers in their jobs during coronavirus pandemic.

THE CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2021

FY 2021 OMNIBUS FUNDING ANALYSIS FOR COUNTIES

An omnibus appropriations bill is included in the year-end package, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*, provides **\$1.4 trillion** in combined defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending. The spending deal adjusts [previously agreed upon caps](#) for NDD by \$15 billion, such that the final bill includes \$664.5 billion in baseline and off-budget funds for that account. Defense spending in the bill totals the expected \$740 billion in baseline and off-budget funds.

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AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS

Our nation's [2,050 rural counties](#), accounting for 72 percent of the national land area, support the 15 percent of the population that live in rural communities. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 generally maintains funding for rural development programs for FY 2021:

Rural Utilities Service | [County Role](#)

- **Water and Waste Disposal:** \$1.4 Billion for Direct Loans (\$50 million decrease from 2020) and \$50 Million for Guaranteed Loans (no change from 2020)
- **Community Connect Grant Program:** \$35 Million (no change from 2020) The act appropriates funds toward this program specifically, whereas in previous years the program wasn't specified.
- **Distance Learning, Telemedicine and Broadband Program:** \$60 Million (\$10 million increase from 2020)

Rural Housing Service | [County Role](#)

- **Community Facilities Program:** \$2.8 Billion for Direct Loans (no change from 2020) and \$500 Million for Guaranteed Loans (no change from 2020)
- **Single and Multi-Family Housing Loans:** \$1 Billion for Direct Loans (no change from 2020) and \$24 Billion for Unsubsidized Loan Guarantees (no change from 2020)
- **Rental Assistance Program:** \$1.41 Billion (\$26 million increase from 2020)

Rural Businesses and Cooperatives Service | [County Role](#)

- **Rural Economic Development Loan Program:** \$50 Million (no change from 2020)
- **Cooperative Development Grant Program:** \$26.6 Million (no change from 2020)
- **Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program:** \$6 Million (no change from 2020)

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Counties invest more than \$6 billion in local dollars in critical [community, economic and workforce development programs](#). The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provides slight increases for key housing, economic and workforce development programs for FY 2021:

Housing, Community and Economic Development | [County Role](#)

- **Community Development Block Grant:** \$3.45 billion (\$50 million increase from FY 2020); clarifies CDBG money can be spent on activities related to addressing homelessness
- **HOME Investment Partnerships Program:** \$1.35 billion (equal to the FY 2020 funding level)
- **Homeless Assistance Grants:** \$3 billion (\$200 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Section 8 Housing Vouchers:** \$25.7 billion (\$1.9 billion increase from FY 2020)
- **Project-Based Rental Assistance:** \$13.5 billion (\$900 million increase from FY 2020)
- **HUD-VASH vouchers:** \$40 million (no change from FY 2020)
- **Economic Development Administration:** \$346 million (\$13 million increase from FY 2020)
 - **Economic Development Assistance Programs:** \$305 million (\$12.5 million increase from FY 2020)

Workforce Development | [County Role](#)

- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I programs:** \$2.85 billion (\$3 million increase from FY 2020)
 - **Dislocated Workers:** \$1.06 billion (\$1 million increase from FY 2020)
 - **Adults:** \$862.6 million (\$8 million increase from FY 2020)
 - **Youth:** \$921 million (\$8 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Apprenticeships:** \$185 million (\$10 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Veterans Employment and Training:** \$316 million (\$5 million increase from FY 2020)

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & LAND USE

Counties are [tasked with ensuring environmental protection](#) while maintaining the economic vitality of their region. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 funds environmental and energy programs with modest increases for FY 2021 and includes a new two-year authorization for [WRDA 2020](#) :

Air | [County Role](#)

- **Targeted Airshed Grants:** \$59 million (\$2.7 million increase from FY 2020)
- **State and Local Air Quality Management:** \$229.5 million (\$100 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Diesel Emissions Grants:** \$90 million (\$3 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Environmental Justice Activities:** \$12.5 million (\$2.3 million increase from FY 2020)

Energy | [County Role](#)

- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Funding:** \$2.86 billion (\$10 million increase from 2020)
- **Weatherization Assistance Programs:** \$330 million for FY 2021 and \$350 million for FY 2022 through FY 2025 (\$25 million increase from 2020)

Land | [County Role](#)

- **Brownfields Program:** \$90.98 million (\$1.98 million increase from 2020)
- **Superfund Cleanup:** \$1.21 billion (\$21 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Program:** \$92.2 million (\$262,000 increase from FY 2020)
- **PFAS:** \$53 million (\$10 million increase from FY 2020)

Water | [County Role](#)

- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund:** \$1.64 billion (no change from FY 2020)
- **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:** \$1.13 billion (no change from FY 2020)

- **Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation (WIFIA) Program:** \$65 million (\$5 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA):** Includes a new two-year authorization for [WRDA 2020](#)

FINANCE, PENSIONS & INTER- GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Counties are responsible for [funding the critical basic public services](#) that their residents rely on and strong intergovernmental partnerships are the hallmark of federalism. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 generally maintained funding levels for FY 2021.

Election Assistance Commission | [County Role](#)

- \$17 million (\$1.8 million increase from 2020)
- Help America Vote Act (\$1.2 transferred for salaries)

Census Bureau | [County Role](#)

- \$1.1 billion (\$6.5 billion decrease 2020)

HEALTH

Counties [operate the systems that keep us healthy](#) from the time we are born to the time we grow old, investing approximately \$83 billion annually in community health and hospitals. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 increases or keeps level funding for health and related programs for FY 2021:

Health Care Safety Net Programs | [County Role](#)

- **Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Payments:** Delays a DSH payment reduction through FY 2023; but sets DSH reductions at \$8 billion per fiscal year from FY 2024 through FY 2027.
- **National Health Service Corps:** Extends mandatory funding through FY 2023 at \$310 million per fiscal year (no change from FY 2020)
- **Community Health Centers:** Extends mandatory funding through FY 2023 at \$4 billion per fiscal year (no change from FY 2020)

Local Public Health and Prevention | [County Role](#)

- **Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE):** \$2.4 billion (no change from FY 2020) to the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program; \$102.3 million to the Health Centers Program.
- **Maternal and Child Health Block Grant:** \$712.7 million (\$25 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Rural Communities Opioid Response:** \$110 million (no change from FY 2020)

Behavioral and Mental Health | [County Role](#)

- **Community Mental Health Services Block Grant:** \$736.5 million (\$35 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grants:** \$1.9 billion (no change from FY 2020)
- **Opioid State Target Response Grants:** \$1.5 billion (no change from FY 2020)
- **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) Grants:** \$250 million to be available through FY 2023 (\$50 million increase from FY 2020)

HUMAN SERVICES & EDUCATION

Counties invest more than \$58 billion in federal, state and local dollars in [critical human services](#) that help county residents thrive. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 offered modest increases across key federal programs for counties:

Child Welfare | [County Role](#)

- **Child Welfare Services:** \$268 million (No change from FY 2020)
- **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Grants:** \$186 million (\$5 million increase from FY 2020)

Early Childhood | [County Role](#)

- **Head Start/Early Head Start:** \$10.7 billion (\$135 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):** \$6 billion (no change from FY 2020)

Child Care | [County Role](#)

- **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG):** \$5.9 billion (\$85 million increase from FY 2020)

Anti-Poverty Programs | [County Role](#)

- **Community Services Block Grant:** - \$745 million (\$5 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):** \$3.8 billion (\$10 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** Extends TANF through September 30, 2021

Aging Services | [County Role](#)

- **Administration for Community Living (ACL):** \$2.3 billion (\$35 million increase from FY 2020)

K-12 Education *

- **Title I Grants to States:** \$16.5 billion (\$227 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) Grants:** \$12.9 billion (\$173 million increase from FY 2020)

*Counties do not fund schools in most states apart from Va., Md., Tenn. And N.C. but in all states, counties share a tax base with local school districts and provide complementary services to families with school-aged children.

JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

Counties invest almost \$93 billion annually in [justice and public safety](#) services and serve on the front lines responding to disasters. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 generally increases funding for key justice and public safety programs for FY 2021:

State and Local Law Enforcement | [County Role](#)

- **Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants (JAG):** \$484 million (\$63 million decrease from FY 2020)
- **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program:** \$386 million (\$46 million increase from FY 2020)
- **State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP):** \$244 million (no change from FY 2020)

Reentry | [County Role](#)

- **Second Chance Act Grants:** \$100 million (\$10 million increase from FY 2020)

Juvenile Justice | [County Role](#)

- **Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP):** \$346 million (\$26 million increase from FY 2020)

Justice and Mental Health | [County Role](#)

- **Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHC):** \$35 million (\$2 million increase from FY 2020)

State and Local Opioid Response | [County Role](#)

- **Drug Courts:** \$83 million (\$3 million increase over FY 2020)
- **Veterans' Treatment Courts:** \$25 million (\$2 million increase over FY 2020)
- **Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs):** \$32 million (\$2 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP):** \$185 million (\$5 million increase from FY 2020)

Disaster Mitigation, Response & Recovery | [County Role](#)

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund:** \$17.14 billion (\$720 million decrease from FY 2020)
- **Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG):** \$355 million (no change from FY 2020)
- **Assistance to Firefighter Grants:** \$360 million (\$5 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants:** \$360 million (\$5 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis:** \$263 million (no change from FY 2020)
- **National Flood Insurance Fund:** \$204.4 million (no change from FY 2020)

State and Local Homeland Security*

- **Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI):** \$705 million (\$40 million increase from FY 2020)
- **State Homeland Security Grants:** \$610 million (\$50 million increase from FY 2020)

**Counties utilize funding from UASI and State Homeland Security Grants to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to mitigate and respond to acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.*

PUBLIC LANDS

Sixty-two percent of America's counties have federal lands within their jurisdiction, impacting land and resource management plans, economic potential, recreational opportunities and property taxes. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 makes the following changes to public lands programs important to counties:

County Payments | [County Role](#)

- **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT):** One-year of full, mandatory funding for PILT in FY 2021, utilizing the same language as the FY 2020 appropriations package. (\$515 million for FY 2020)
- **Secure Rural Schools (SRS):** No language on SRS is included in the bill. National Forest Counties will still face the same annual five-percent reduction as in previous fiscal years.
- **Refuge Revenue Sharing Act (RRS):** \$13.2 million (no change from FY 2020)

Wildland Fire Management | [County Role](#)

- **DOI Wildland Fire Management:** \$1.3 billion, of which \$310 million is reserved for the DOI Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund (\$50.2 million increase from 2020)
- **DOI Fuels Management:** \$220 million (\$26 million increase from FY 2020)

- **USFS Wildland Fire Management:** \$3.9 billion, of which \$2 billion is reserved for the USFS Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund (\$333 million decrease from 2020)

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)* | [County Role](#)

- **Federal Land Acquisition:** \$405 million (\$168 million increase)
- **State Grants Program:** \$365 million (\$107 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Non-Federal Grants Program:** \$135 million (\$71.1 million increase from FY 2020)

Species Conservation and Management | [County Role](#)

- **Recovery and Delisting of Threatened and Endangered Species:** \$105 million (\$2 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Sage Grouse Conservation:** \$74 million (\$2 million increase from 2020)
- **Wild Horse and Burro Program:** \$115.7 million (\$15 million increase from FY 2020)

* The Great American Outdoors Act made LWCF a permanent, mandatory program, financed at \$900 million annually. Previously, LWCF was subject to annual appropriations.

**TRANSPORTATION
&
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Owning 45 percent of America’s public road miles and 38 percent of the National Bridge Inventory and directly supporting 78 percent of public transit systems and a third of the nation’s airports, counties play a critical role in the national [transportation and infrastructure](#) network. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provides \$88.2 billion in gross budgetary resources for the U.S. Department of Transportation, an increase of \$955 million from FY 2020, to be divided in the following ways:

Highways, Roads & Bridges | [County Role](#)

- **Federal Highway Administration:** \$46.37 billion in Highway Trust Fund contract authority (No change from FY 2020); \$25.5 billion in discretionary funds (\$523 million increase from FY 2020)
- **BUILD Grants:** \$1 billion (No change from 2020)
- **Highway Infrastructure Programs:** \$2 billion (\$166 million decrease from FY 2020)
 - **Bridge Replacement & Rehabilitation Grants:** \$1.08 billion (\$70 million decrease from FY 2020)
 - **At-Grade Rail-Highway Crossing Grants (Section 130):** \$50 million (No change from FY 2020)

Rail & Transit | [County Role](#)

- **Federal Transit Administration:** \$13 billion (\$47 million increase from FY 2020)
 - **Capital Investment Grants:** \$2 billion (\$36 million increase from FY 2020)
 - **Transit Infrastructure Grants:** \$516 million (\$6 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Federal Railroad Administration:** \$2.8 billion (\$27 million increase from 2020)
 - **Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grants:** \$375 million (\$50 million increase from 2020)
 - **State of Good Repair Grants:** \$200 million (No change from FY 2020)
 - **Amtrak:** \$2 billion (No change from FY 2020)

Airports & Ports | [County Role](#)

- **Federal Aviation Administration:** \$18 billion (\$347 million increase from FY 2020)
 - **Airport Improvement Program:** \$400 million (No change from FY 2020)
 - **Small Community Air Service Development Program:** \$10 million (No change from FY 2020)
- **Essential Air Service:** \$141.72 million (\$20.3 million decrease from FY 2020)
- **Port Infrastructure Development Program:** \$230 million (\$5 million increase from FY 2020)
- **Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF):** \$9.9 billion (*A full unlock of the HMTF is included within the bill's WRDA provisions.*)

Safety | [County Role](#)

- **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration:** \$748 million (\$69 million increase from 2020)
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:** \$989 million (No change from FY 2020)
- **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA):** \$288 million (\$7 million increase from FY 2020). The bill reauthorizes PHMSA programs through FY 2023.

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