


Appropriations Committee (ARPA) Proposal Highlights









The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided \$1.04 billion in federal funds to the State of Nebraska. \$520 million has already been received and another \$520 million is anticipated to be received no later than May 2022. These funds have requirements and parameters in statute and U.S. Treasury guidance that direct how they can be spent.

Half of the proposals recommended for funding came to the committee via [LB1014](#) at the request of the Governor. The other half from bills introduced by senators. Several modifications were made to the proposal during floor debate. The largest being an allocation of \$250 million of the funds through [LB1024](#), now known as the Economic Recovery Act. Approximately, \$2 million of the \$1.04 billion has been left unappropriated.

The final bill includes \$15 million to support state agencies with operational support, software licensing, vendor and contractor support in administering these programs; as well as covering IT costs associated with higher utilization of programs within the Department of Health and Human Services.

Public Health Emergency Response	
<u>Healthcare Facility Expansion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$10 million to build pediatric mental health care capacity. \$5 million to build mental health care capacity. \$5 million to build adolescent mental health development day school. 	<u>Greater Nebraska Healthcare Infrastructure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5 million for equipment purchases to volunteer emergency medical services in programs in communities of less than 100,000 people. \$20 million to assist rural communities to replace aging ambulances.
<u>Rural Health Initiatives</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$60 million for a joint UNK/UNMC Rural Health Complex on the UNK campus. 	<u>Child Welfare Case Counts & Provider Rates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$25 million to provide temporary provider rate increases and assist in managing increased costs in the child welfare aid program due to rising case counts.
<u>Pediatric Mental Health Services Technology</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.8 million for telehealth technology related to pediatric mental health services. 	<u>Local Public Health Departments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$10 million distributed proportionately based on employees.
<u>Research Studies</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1 million to assess existing electric generation facilities and compatibility to be converted into advanced nuclear reactor. \$1 million to the University of Nebraska to study environmental and health effects from the production of ethanol made from treated grain or seed. 	<u>Model System of Care</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5 million for grants to institutions who have developed a model system of care to treat individuals with persistent symptoms of COVID (Long-COVID).
<u>Healthcare Workforce Incentives</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5 million for student loan repayment for rural healthcare professionals. \$5 million for scholarships for nursing students 	<u>HIV Prevention Programs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1 million for HIV prevention programs and preexposure prophylaxis medication.

Premium Pay	
<u>Salary Increase 24-Hour Facilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$36.7 million to provide premium pay increases for front-line workers in 24-hour facilities at Dept. of Health and Human Services, Dept. of Veterans' Affairs, and Dept. of Correctional Services. 	<u>Payments to Assisted Living Facilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5.4 million for recruitment and retention incentives for staff, as well as for the purchase of supplies, PPE and testing supplies.
<u>Licensed / Medicaid-Certified Nursing Facilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$47.5 million for incentive payments for direct care staff. 	<u>Developmental Disability Providers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$47.5 million for provider rate increases.

Negative Economic Impacts	
<u>Job Training and Apprenticeships</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 million for apprenticeship and customized workforce training programs. • \$1 million for youth who have aged out of the foster care system. 	<u>Community College Workforce Development</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$60 million to be divided equally among the 6 community college areas for capital or programs that support workforce development. • \$15 million for to cover tuition costs of dual-credit courses for high school students. 
<u>Workforce Housing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$39.5 million for workforce housing grants and to address labor shortages and attract workers 	<u>Shovel Ready Capital Projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100 million for capital projects under the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act. Such projects include: arts, culture, humanities and sports complexes. 
<u>Programs and Services for Deaf or Hard of Hearing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 million for programs and interpreters that provide services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing. • \$500,000 for supporting in-person interpreting in rural areas and legal communication access by the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. 	<u>Meat Processing Infrastructure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 million to support the proposed meat packing plant in North Platte. • \$10 million to upgrade equipment and facilities at small to medium meat processors and conduct a dairy industry study.
<u>Behavioral Health Care Services</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$28 million for access to behavioral health acute care beds in rural Nebraska and training and educational opportunities for the behavioral health workforce. 	<u>International Competitions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500,000 for the purpose of awarding major sponsorship grants for international competitions to be hosted in Nebraska.
<u>Law Enforcement Training Center</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$47.7 million to support the purchase of new land and expand the current facility to train additional law enforcement officers. 	<u>Climate Change Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$150,000 to the University of Nebraska for updating the <i>Assessing Climate Change</i> report.
<u>Nonprofit Food Assistance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 million for grants to nonprofits providing food assistance. 	<u>Childcare Capacity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4 million to support grants to expand or start childcare programs in areas of need. 

Water, Sewer, Broadband	
<u>State Colleges Facility & Equipment Upgrades</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8 million to purchase equipment to assist healthcare professionals and upgrade campus drinking water and wastewater projects. 	<u>State Fair Sewer Upgrades</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 million to assist the State Fair to improve their sewage system for storm drainage and assist in creating a new wastewater system.
<u>Wastewater System Projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8.1 million to address wastewater and sewage issues at Nebraska state parks. 	<u>Wyuka Cemetery Stormwater Project</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.8 million for a stormwater project at Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln.
<u>Reverse Osmosis Systems</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4 million for grants to small and rural communities to install reverse osmosis systems in community water systems where nitrates exceed 10 parts per million. 	<u>Water Transport Infrastructure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 million for grants for the design, construction, and implementation of water transport infrastructure for the Department of Natural Resources.
<u>Ft. Laramie-Gering Irrigation Canal</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$23.1 million to repair collapsed irrigation tunnels. 	<u>Drinking Water Projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$7 million for grants for rural drinking water infrastructure and distribution.
<u>Noxious Weed Controls</u> - \$2 million for grants to reduce or prevent populations of designated noxious weeds or invasive plant species.	