



**COLORADO'S COMEBACK  
ROADMAP TO**

***BUILDING***

***BACK***

***STRONGER***

***On March 11, 2021 the President signed the American Rescue Plan Act that made unprecedented investments to support our country weathering a global pandemic that has taken 585,000 lives in the United States and impacted every man, woman and child in many ways - from health impacts, deaths, loss of jobs, social isolation, lack of in person learning, child care, and impacts to mental and behavioral health.***

**More than \$27 billion** is expected to reach our state from this landmark legislation. Some funds are flowing directly to Coloradans, including almost \$7 billion in stimulus checks, \$3 billion in enhanced benefits for unemployment claimants, and \$2 billion in expanded child tax credits. Other funds are flowing to the state and to local governments in Colorado for existing programs to support the recovery, including \$750 million for housing assistance, \$750 million for childcare and nutrition, \$1.65 billion for K-12 and higher education, and \$680 million for restaurants and small business support.

Part of the \$27 billion included in the American Rescue Plan Act is **more than \$6 billion in Fiscal Recovery Funds** to address ongoing needs created or exacerbated by the pandemic. **The state's share of these funds is \$3.8 billion, and the share for local governments is \$2.3 billion.**

***The state legislature, on a bipartisan basis, has already taken extraordinary steps to help Coloradans impacted by the pandemic.***

**The Colorado Recovery Plan**, invests roughly **\$800 million of state dollars** into helping all communities recover faster and build back stronger. Our five big goals have guided dozens of bills narrowly tailored to meet the challenge at hand, including strengthening small businesses, revitalizing infrastructure, supporting Colorado families, investing in rural Colorado, and developing and strengthening our workforce.

# SUMMARY OF STATE STIMULUS

## STRENGTHENING SMALL BUSINESSES

- **\$40 to 50 million** in sales tax relief for small restaurants and bars
- **\$31 million** toward lending institutions that cater to “historically underserved” entrepreneurs
- **\$15 million** in one-time grants to small businesses, with a priority for rural, women, minority and veteran-owned businesses
- **\$10 million** in relief for arts and culture organizations
- **\$10 million** in funding to incentivize and retain events in Colorado
- **Over \$1.5 million** to foster the growth of existing Colorado companies

## REVITALIZING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

- **\$30 million** on projects to revitalize community main streets
- **\$65 million** to transform downtown SPACES
- **\$75 million** to expand broadband internet access
- **Over \$40 million** for existing clean energy programs

## SUPPORTING COLORADO FAMILIES

- **\$15 million** to lease or buy hotel rooms for unhoused individuals
- **\$13 million** in seed funding for a program to incentivize local governments to adopt affordable housing development policies
- **\$8.8 million** to support businesses in adopting child care programs
- **\$8.7 million** for mental health screenings in schools
- **\$5 million** for high-impact tutoring to address learning loss
- **\$2.9 million** to support educator licensure
- **\$10 million** for public school ventilation improvements

## INVESTING IN RURAL COLORADO

- **\$69.5 million** to boost agriculture and rural communities
- **\$25 million** for forest restoration and wildfire recovery projects and another \$20 million toward watershed restoration grants
- **\$15 million** to create new job and economic development opportunities as part of the market driven transition away from coal
- **\$5 million** for the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) program
- **\$3 million** for additional funding for the Rural Jump Start program to attract businesses and incentivize job creation in rural Colorado

## DEVELOPING OUR WORKFORCE

- **\$25 million** in grants to local workforce boards
- **\$15 million** to help provide scholarships for people with some college but no degree
- **\$5 million** in funding for the creation of a career pathway for the energy sector
- **\$3 million** for an increased investment in Colorado’s SNAP Employment and Training program
- **\$3.5 million** for professional training for re-entry

With the \$3.8 billion of state aid provided by the American Rescue Plan Act, the Governor and legislature are rolling out the roadmap of investments designed to power the Colorado Comeback. These investments are informed by the feedback received from the statewide [Build Back Stronger listening tour](#), financial gap analysis of aid given to needs through the CARES Act, and allowable uses as defined by the United States Treasury.

A top priority for the state aid provided by the American Rescue Plan Act will be to shore up the state budget for the near term, so as our state and people are recovering from this global pandemic we do not have to cut back on critical state services, such as funding our K-12 schools, higher education, existing mental and behavioral and physical health programs, and our ongoing public health response to COVID-19. That's why a full third or \$1.3 billion of the federal relief funds will be invested in ensuring budget integrity for the next several years.

A common refrain from the listening tour was the opportunity to use this once in a generation funding infusion to make transformal change on the greatest challenges facing our state. That's why we plan to use more than a third of the money to tackle three of the most significant challenges facing our state:

- **Tackling our crisis in housing costs;**
- **Combating our crisis in mental and behavioral health; and**
- **Investing in our people through workforce development to provide Coloradans the skills they need to thrive in the new economy.**

We will also use these one-time funds to catalyze long term, sustainable investments in our roads, bridges, transit and parks to modernize our critical infrastructure, improve our quality of life and build on Colorado's competitive advantage of our natural beauty that attracts businesses and people to locate here. These one-time funds will be leveraged to catalyze a longer term solution to modernize our transportation and parks and put them on a sustainable funding path.

***This one time money gives us the opportunity to make sure Colorado builds back stronger by investing in what we already know makes Colorado special; our people, our small businesses, our quality of life, and our public lands.***

Our state is just beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel of this pandemic coupled with the unprecedented infusion of federal funding directly to individuals, businesses, child care, education, social programs, and housing relief, it's hard to know at this juncture what the needs of our changing economy and the people of Colorado past the near term. That's why we will be appropriating roughly half of Colorado's flexible federal aid this legislative session, and setting up strong interim processes with the legislature to study and examine the highest uses for the remaining money to be appropriated next legislative session on further addressing housing costs, mental and behavioral health needs, workforce development resources, and providing further economic recovery and stimulus.

**Total State Aid \$3.8 billion**

**Total Spent this Session: est: \$2.0B**

**Total Remaining for Interim/ Next Session: est: \$1.8B**

**FISCAL INTEGRITY AND BUDGET STABILIZATION AND ONGOING HEALTH RESPONSE**

**Total Spent: \$1.3billion**

Topic	Total Investment:	Descriptions	Timing:
<b>Fortify the State Budget and Maintain Fiscal Integrity</b>	<b>\$1 billion</b>	Utilize revenue loss provision for the future provision of government services, including General Fund expenses in the priority areas such as K12 education, housing, employee compensation, thus protecting funding in tight economic times.	This legislative session
<b>COVID-related</b>	<b>\$300 million</b>	Continued support for public health response and spending oversight	2021

**CATALYZE TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE & JOB CREATION, & PROVIDE RECOVERY & RELIEF**

**Spent This Leg Session: \$750 million**

**Interim & 2022 Session: \$1.8 billion**

Topic	Total Investment:	2021 Legislative Session:	Interim & 2022 Session
<b>Affordable Housing &amp; Homeownership</b>	<b>\$400-\$550m</b>	Roughly \$150 million this legislative session in strategic investments to build housing supply, remove barriers to increase housing affordability, and address homelessness.	Roughly \$400 million set aside for an interim process to make recommendations to the General Assembly for the 2022 session to use one time investments to expand affordable and workforce housing for thousands of Coloradans while also making key investments to end homelessness and increase stability.
<b>Mental &amp; Behavioral Health</b>	<b>\$400-\$550m</b>	<b>Roughly \$100 million in investments this legislative session to increase the number</b>	<b>Roughly \$450 million set aside for an interim process to make recommendations to the General Assembly for the 2022 session with the</b>

		of Coloradans able to access behavioral health care by investing in infrastructure and workforce capacity needs and existing effective programs, as well as addressing and preventing substance use.	goal of building a behavioral and mental health system that provides the appropriate level of treatment to every Coloradan who needs to access behavioral health care.
<b>Workforce Development/ Education</b>	<b>\$200m</b>	Roughly \$100 million this session to help students reconnect with their postsecondary options, support innovation in workforce development, and increase funding for existing effective programs that help to connect K-12, higher education, and industry.	Roughly \$100 million set aside for an interim process to make recommendations to the General Assembly for the 2022 session that invests in our people to gain the skills needed for higher wage jobs in the new economy and helps our higher education system adapt to better meet the needs of students wherever and however they are learning and upskilling.
<b>Recovery and Relief</b>	<b>\$817m</b>	<b>Roughly \$80 million this session to invest in existing programs to promote business development and create jobs, and provide critical relief services to domestic violence victims and the aging population.</b>	<b>Roughly \$717 million set aside for an interim process to make recommendations to the General Assembly for the 2022 session that meets the ongoing needs of economic recovery and rebuild Colorado's economy to ensure we are the best economy in the country. Our goal is to ensure Colorado small business recovery, help regain full employment (Listening Tour examples include broadband, solar energy installation, and unemployment insurance trust fund), and provide additional gap relief efforts and fund unmet needs, especially for communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.</b>
<b>Transportation, Infrastructure, Parks and Agriculture</b>	<b>\$404- \$414m</b>	\$378.5 million for shovel-ready projects.  Catalyse a modernization of transportation funding that will result in over \$5 billion investment in infrastructure over 10	

		<p>years.</p> <p>Jump start urgently needed investments in public lands maintenance, state park expansion, access and equity that the Keep CO Wild Pass and the Lottery Outdoor Equity Fund will sustain in future years, and agricultural events, including the stock show.</p>	
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## SUMMARY OF OTHER DIRECT AID FROM AMERICAN RESCUE ACTION:

**TOTAL AID TO COLORADO \$27 BILLION.**

STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS **\$3.8 BILLION**

LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS **\$2.3 BILLION**

### EXAMPLES OF OTHER DIRECT AID

<b>K-12</b>	<b>\$1.2B</b>	<b>FUNDING FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS</b>
<b>HIGHER EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$450M</b>	<b>FUNDING FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION</b>
<b>CHILD CARE</b>	<b>\$530M</b>	<b>SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS FOR PROVIDERS AND ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS</b>
<b>HOUSING RELIEF</b>	<b>\$750M</b>	<b>RENTAL, HOMEOWNERSHIP, AND HOMELESS</b>
<b>BUSINESS RELIEF</b>	<b>\$680M</b>	<b>RESTAURANTS, SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT, AND PAYCHECK PROTECTION EXTENSION</b>
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF</b>	<b>\$3B</b>	<b>ENHANCED BENEFITS AND OTHER PROVISIONS TO SUPPORT CLAIMANTS</b>
<b>STIMULUS CHECK</b>	<b>\$7B</b>	<b>\$1400 STIMULUS CHECKS</b>
<b>CHILD TAX CREDIT EXPANSION</b>	<b>\$2B</b>	<b>UP TO \$300 PER MONTH PER CHILD</b>