

# 2 Years of the American Rescue Plan

## Impacts Across America



**S**igned into law two years ago, the American Rescue Plan Act helped stave off a second COVID recession and was a lifeline for states and cities to recover and rebuild from the pandemic.



As of late 2022, **over 200,000** childcare centers have benefited from ARPA's Child Care Stabilization Program



Within just the first year of ARPA, **over 4 million** jobs were created



As of January 2023, **over 100,000 households** have remained in their homes thanks ARPA-funded rental assistance

As we celebrate the rescue that ARPA has achieved, we must also recognize the much larger impact that is happening, especially as a result of the law's state and local recovery funds. Two years later, we are only just beginning to see the full scope and impact of the \$350 billion investment that permeated every state and locality. Elected officials, from city councilmembers to governors, are utilizing the funds to build affordable housing, invest in workforce training, expand access to high-quality child care and more. The data points and testimonials detailed below highlight some of the tangible progress, primarily achieved over the past 12 months, that NewDEAL Leaders are creating throughout the country, utilizing ARPA funds to build lasting change in their communities.

These stories provide both a guide for state and local officials across the country as they continue their work to maximize the benefits of the Rescue Plan, as well as proof that ARPA is a blueprint for how government should respond in a crisis: investment in the biggest challenges facing our communities and a recognition of the role of state and local leaders on the ground to identify targeted, effective solutions.

Amid a long-running decline in faith in government's ability to help solve problems, states and localities have recognized the historic opportunity of ARPA and are making government work to improve the quality of life for everyone they represent.

## Impacts

### Maine

Nearly 150 family caregivers have received grants of \$2,000 to help balance jobs with caregiving duties.

*State Representative Kristen Cloutier*

*"I'm glad I was able to pave the way for other women in forestry. In this industry where women are underrepresented however, I'm glad I felt empowered to use my voice. Thank you PowerCorps for allowing me to be heard."*

*Jelaine Flores*

*Boston PowerCorps Alum*

### Boston, MA

All 21 members of the inaugural PowerCorps program – which creates equitable and inclusive workforce pipelines into green jobs for historically marginalized young people – have a new green job or are enrolled in additional job training.

*Mayor Michelle Wu*

### New Bedford, MA

150 new housing units have been created for people with household incomes at or below the area median income.

*Mayor Jon Mitchell*

## Hartford, CT

Hartford's Youth Service Corps has provided **1,500 youth with opportunities to earn a paycheck while engaging in community service-based projects**, such as lawn care services and snow removal for senior citizens. American Rescue Plan funds have helped grow the program, adding 100 participants per year to serve 350 people annually.

*Mayor Luke Bronin*

## Stamford, CT

The city of Stamford is using \$1.5 million of the city's American Rescue Plan Act money to create a grant program for small businesses that have taken a financial hit from the COVID-19 pandemic. **It is expected to support 200 small businesses** with grants of up to \$7,500 to help with payroll, commercial lease or mortgage payments, and other critical expenses.

*Mayor Caroline Simmons*

## Norwalk, CT

Connecticut's expansive **free bus transportation service** has been critical in fighting homelessness, addressing unemployment and increasing access to healthcare and human services.

*Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff*

## Richmond, VA

The city of Richmond has opened multiple childcare centers, giving **over 200 families access to affordable, high-quality childcare**. They've also joined community partners to establish the first ever Positive Youth Development Fund, focused on **increasing school attendance and preventing youth violence**.

*Mayor Levar Stoney*

## Impacts

*"This grant funding is a game-changer for the Shelby County Health Department."*

*Dr. Michelle Taylor  
Shelby County Health  
Department Director*

## Shelby County, TN

Shelby County, TN, has established the Public Health Workforce & Infrastructure grant to **train and retain its public health workforce**. It also emphasizes recruiting a diverse workforce to **address health inequities and disparities in the community**.

*Mayor Lee Harris*

## Atlanta, GA

The Atlanta City Council approved **\$500,000 in housing subsidies for public safety personnel**. The city hopes that this initiative will make careers with Atlanta police officers, firefighters, and corrections officers more appealing and lead to a higher retention rate.

*Councilmember Amir Farokhi*

## Columbus, OH

The city of Columbus used American Rescue Plan funds to **maintain staffing levels for its Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit** in the face of budget cuts. This has allowed them to continue their important work keeping families safe.

*City Attorney Zach Klein*

## Scranton, PA

To help non-profits mitigate financial hardships precipitated by the pandemic, Scranton used \$1 million to award **nearly 50 mental & behavioral healthcare non-profits with recovery grants.**

*Mayor Paige Cagnetti*

## Pittsburgh, PA

To improve health and safety throughout the city, Pittsburgh has allocated \$18 million to replacing all lead waterlines. So far, they have replaced **over 10,000 lead lines and have conducted 15 lead dust wipe inspections** at city facilities.

*City Councilmember Erika Strassburger*

## Impacts

*"This once-in-a-lifetime ARPA funding is helping us to accelerate progress and promote the people and organizations that make Scranton a wonderful place to live and work."*

*Paige Cagnetti*

*NewDEAL Leader & Mayor, Scranton, PA*

## Chester County, PA

The county has awarded funding to **95 projects to address behavioral and mental health initiatives.** Projects include Chester County's 9-8-8 Mental Health Crisis Response system, mobile mental health crisis teams, and crisis stabilization centers.

*County Commissioner Josh Maxwell*

## Michigan

Pursuing the governor's goal to make preschool free for all 4-year-olds by 2027, the state is building **2,000 new classrooms.**

*Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist*

## Oakland County, MI

Oakland80, the county's education and workforce development program, has connected with over 700 people and provided over 200 people with in-depth counseling, coaching, and education services.

*County Executive Dave Coulter*

## Impacts

*"It's about bringing humanity back to people. Meeting people where they are, and having a real conversation with them."*

*Andrew Asdell*

*Social Worker with Grand Rapids's  
HOT team*

## Grand Rapids, MI

Grand Rapids's homeless outreach team has fostered relationships with nearly 7,000 individuals experiencing homelessness, providing resources, food, shelter, and substance abuse recovery.

*Mayor Rosalynn Bliss*

## Impacts

*"Many of our students have to drive to Sterling, Ogallala, North Platte, and even Denver to access these services. This program has made a huge difference for them as well as their families."*

*Ashley Clayton  
School Counselor  
On the "I Matter" program*

## Fergus Falls, MN

The city is using American Rescue Plan funds to transform the downtown and riverfront areas. This project **increases pedestrian and bicycle access and provides more recreational spaces**, including a community splash pad.

*Mayor Ben Schierer*

## Colorado

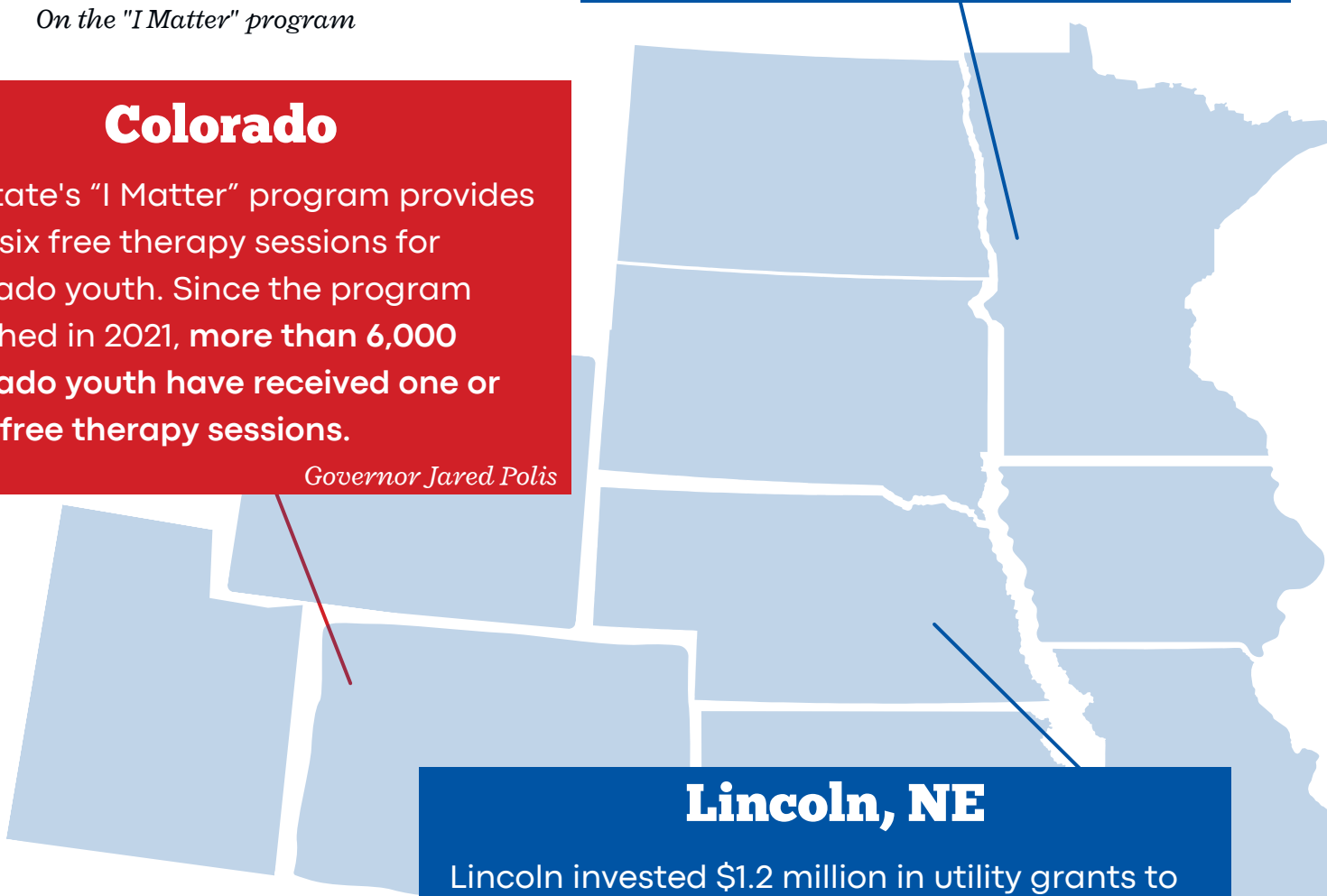
The state's "I Matter" program provides up to six free therapy sessions for Colorado youth. Since the program launched in 2021, **more than 6,000 Colorado youth have received one or more free therapy sessions.**

*Governor Jared Polis*

## Lincoln, NE

Lincoln invested \$1.2 million in utility grants to cover a year of electric and water payments for small businesses. As of February 2023, **Lincoln has helped 160+ businesses which will not receive a utility bill for the rest of the year**, allowing them to hire additional staff and complete maintenance that was deferred during the pandemic.

*Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird*





## Impacts

*"On behalf of Justa Center, thank you for lining up not just meals, but great meals from a variety of restaurants that helped our seniors maintain health, reduce hunger, and restore hope during this challenging time in our history. We are grateful for the partnership and the care. We look forward to opportunities like this in the future."*

*Wendy Johnson*

*Justa Center in Phoenix, AZ*

*Feed Phoenix Food Program partner*

## Dallas, TX

Dallas Real Time Rapid Rehousing (DRTRR) has rehoused 1,000 households and connected 1,500 individuals to social services. The program aims to provide families, unsheltered people, and survivors of domestic violence with quality, affordable housing.

*Mayor Eric Johnson*

## Phoenix, AZ

The American Rescue Plan helped create one of the city's most impactful programs, Feed Phoenix Food Program. So far, the program has helped deliver over 264,000 meals and provide 169,000 families with resources through food pantries.

*Mayor Kate Gallego*

## Travis County, TX

Using funds from the American Rescue Plan, Travis County is building 2,000 new supportive housing units that will also provide access to mental healthcare and work opportunities.

*Judge Andy Brown*



## Impacts

### Beaverton, OR

The city of Beaverton has given COVID Business Grants to 544 unique businesses to help them recover from the pandemic. 71% of all grants went to businesses with 5 employees or less, 64% of the grants went to BIPOC-owned businesses, and 53% of the grants went to women-owned businesses.

*Mayor Lacey Beaty*

*"The last few weeks of March were very frightening for us, not knowing how we would pay rent, our two employees, and other expenses due at the end of the month. We applied for the Beaverton grant & were approved within the week, what a relief!"*

*Vivian Lee*

*Business owner & Beaverton grant recipient*

### Boise, ID

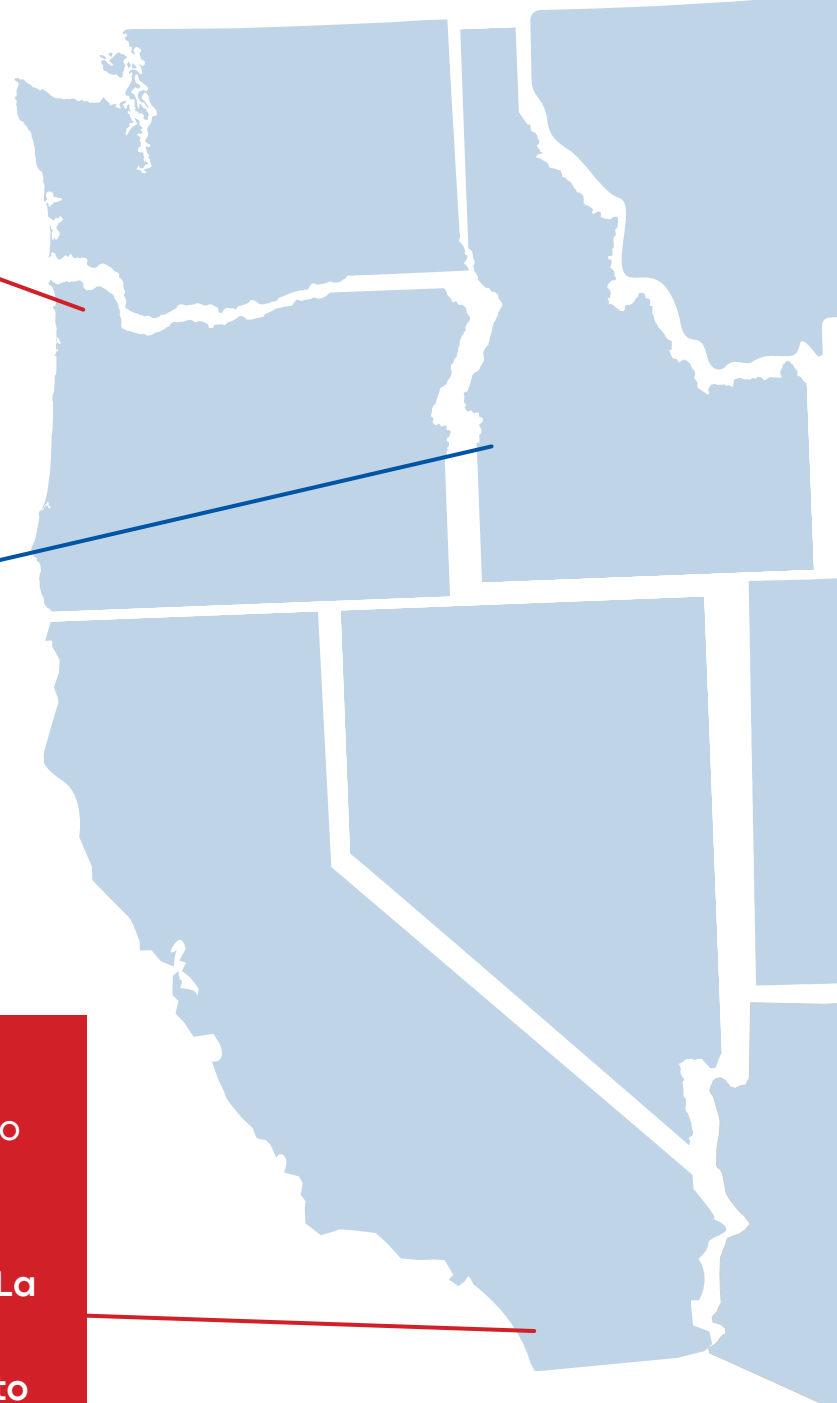
To support childcare providers, the city of Boise distributed \$1,500 checks to 1,220 childcare workers. Providers have used the money to cover everything from supplies and operations expenses to medical bills and groceries.

*Mayor Lauren McLean*

### La Mesa, CA

The city council allocated over \$800,000 to support small business recovery and help entrepreneurs and new startups open storefronts in the city. Participants in the La Mesa Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program (LEAP) are eligible to receive up to \$20,000 in grants as well as personalized start-up training programs.

*Councilmember Colin Parent*



# Projects by NewDEAL Leaders made possible by the American Rescue Plan



## BROADBAND

- Closing the Digital Divide in Brownsville, TX
- Boosting Maryland's Office of Statewide Broadband
- Santa Cruz County Brings Broadband to 4,000 Rural Residents
- Santa Ana, California Analyzes the Digital Divide
- Broadband Among Long-Term Investments in Providence
- Waterloo, IA, Invests in "Middle-Mile" Broadband Network
- County Executive Matt Meyer Invests ARPA Funds into Community Priorities
- Phoenix Connects 250,000 Families



## CHILDCARE

- Investing in Childcare Workers and Families
- Investing in Flexible Childcare
- Everett, Washington Aims to Expand Access to Childcare Facilities
- Investments in Equity Agenda to Help Children and Families Thrive
- Scranton Mayor Paige Cagnetti Allocated \$1.5 Million in ARP Funds to Support Childcare and Literacy Programs
- Stabilizing Childcare in Vermont
- Michigan Invests \$1.4 Billion Ensuring Access to Childcare for Working Families
- New Bedford Expanding Access to High Quality Child Care



## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- New Workforce Training Opportunities in Lincoln, NE
- Phoenix Invests in Jobs of the Future
- Boise Looks to Reduce Obstacles for Childcare Workers
- Lansing, Michigan Helps Students Graduate on Time
- Preparing Workers for the Jobs of Tomorrow
- Salem, MA Invests in Tourism and Culture

- Credentials for Oakland County, MI Workers
- Maine Recognizes Work of Caregivers
- Providence Promotes Youth Mentoring and Training Opportunities
- Job Training for Franklin County, OH Workers
- Salt Lake City Bundles Childcare, Job Training
- Mayor Fischer's Pre-Apprenticeship Program Provides Jobs in Financial Crisis



## HOUSING

- Homelessness and Affordable Housing Solutions for Vulnerable Residents
- Using ARP Funds to Reinvigorate Public Housing
- Build Generational Wealth Through Homeownership
- A Surge in Construction in New Castle County, Delaware
- Austin to End Homelessness in Texas's Fourth Largest City
- New Bedford, MA Supports New Mixed-Income Housing
- Boise Assists Renter Households
- Colorado Funds Affordable Housing Solutions
- Manchester, NH to Fund Affordable Housing
- Albuquerque Tackles Youth Homelessness
- Colorado Invests in Homelessness Navigation
- Burlington to Double Housing Production, End Homelessness, and Support Renters
- St. Louis Determined to Keep Residents in Their Homes
- Community-Based Housing Incentives for Public Safety Officials
- Mayor Gallego Approves Millions in Community Housing Support
- Travis County Judge Andy Brown Announced \$35 Million in ARP Funds to Build New Supportive Housing Community
- Birmingham Develops New Affordable Homes
- Salem, MA Tackles Housing Insecurity



## SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

- Investing in an Equitable Economic Recovery
- Supporting Small Businesses in Lincoln, NE
- New Bedford, Massachusetts Invests in Small Businesses
- St. Louis Pledges \$5 Million to Help Small Businesses

- Manchester, NH Relaunches Small Business Grants
- Nevada Creates Business Credit to Diversify Its Economy
- Scranton Creates Recovery Grants to Support Small Businesses



## MISCELLANEOUS

- Colorado Invests in More Mental Health Support
- Manchester, NH Invests in Public Safety and Violence Prevention
- Louisville Invests in Families
- Expanding Transportation Access
- Sonoma County Invests in Equity Programs
- Youth Engagement and Violence Prevention
- Defending Reproductive Freedoms
- St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones Passed a Plan to Allocate \$40 Million ARP Funding to Reduce Traffic Violence
- New Bedford Supporting the Arts and Culture Sector
- Community Investments to Help with COVID Recovery
- Oakland County Invests in Food Assistance Programs
- Linn County Invests in Infrastructure Projects and Bolsters Social Services
- Improving Public Health with Mobile COVID Testing and Vaccination Units
- Mayor Tishaura Jones Signed a Bill to Use ARPA Funds for Abortion Access
- Lansing Mayor Andy Schor Approved Nearly \$2 Million in ARP Funds for Community Groups to Boost Their Impact

Find all NewDEALer ARP-funded initiatives at  
<https://newdealleaders.org/ideas/>