

## **Supplemental Funding for Child Abuse Prevention - American Rescue Plan Act**

Commission to Develop a Pilot Program to Provide Legal Representation  
to Families in the Child Protection System- October 3, 2020

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 ([Pub. L. No. 117-2](#)) included \$350 million in supplemental funding for two grant programs under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). These funds were appropriated to states, *in addition* to amounts otherwise available. The \$350 million in supplemental funding was divided between two separate grant programs under the CAPTA law as follows:

- **CAPTA State Grants:** \$100 million in supplemental funding
  - Supplemental allotment to Maine = **\$337,496** to the Department of Health and Human Services
- **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Program Grants:** \$250 million in supplemental funding
  - Supplemental allotment to Maine = **\$829,927** to the Maine Children’s Trust (non-profit)

In May 2021, the Children’s Bureau released a Program Instruction ([ACYF-CB-PI-21-07](#)) providing guidance on the allowable uses of the supplemental funding, the requirements to report on planned and actual use of the funds, and the allotments to states for each grant program (see attachments B and D of [PI-21-07](#)). On August 26, 2022, the Children’s Bureau issued additional guidance to remind states of these funds and “encourage timely and effective use of the supplemental funds within the expenditure period” ([ACYF-CB-IM-22-03](#)).

Key aspects of the ARPA 2021 supplemental funding for these two grant programs include:

- **Timeline:** The funding has a 5-year project and expenditure period from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2025. The funding must be obligated by September 30, 2025, and liquidated by December 30, 2025 (see [PI-21-07](#), p.4,6; [IM-22-03](#), p.1).
- **No Match:** There is no match requirement for the CAPTA State Grant under either the regular or supplemental appropriation, and Section 2205 of the ARPA waives the match requirement applicable to annual CBCAP Program Grants (see [PI-21-07](#), p.4,6).
- **Priorities:** The Children’s Bureau outlined four priority goals for the expenditure of these supplemental funds as follows: (1) ***Prevent Children from Coming into Foster Care***; (2) Support Kinship Caregivers; (3) Ensure Youth Leave Care with Strengthened Relationships, Holistic Supports and Opportunities; and (4) Develop and Enhance the Child Welfare Workforce (see [IM-22-03](#), p.2). The Children’s Bureau specifically referenced legal representation under priority (1), stating:  
  
*“CB is committed to expanding resources for **legal representation** to ensure that families have access to legal services to help them advocate for needed services and resolve issues that leave them vulnerable to potential child welfare involvement or impede permanency for children once in care”* (see [IM-22-03](#), p.2).
- **Allowable uses - CAPTA State Grant:** “to improve the child protective services system of the state in a manner consistent with any of the 14 program purposes of CAPTA State Grants” (see [IM-22-03](#), p.3). These include making improvements to: intake, screening and investigation of reports; use of multidisciplinary teams; ***legal representation and preparation***; case management; risk and safety assessment; technology; training; staff development; services to disabled infants; public education; community-based programs; and collaboration with juvenile justice, public health, domestic violence.
- **Allowable uses - CBCAP Program Grant:** “to enhance community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect in a manner consistent with any of the program purposes of CBCAP” (see [IM-22-03](#), p.3). These purposes are: (1) to support community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, enhance, and coordinate initiatives, programs, and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect and to support the coordination of resources and activities to better strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect; and (2) to foster understanding, appreciation, and knowledge of diverse populations in order to effectively prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

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Resources to learn more:

U.S. DHHS, Administration on Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Informational Memorandum 22-03 (August 26, 2022). Re: Supplemental funding under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding for the CBCAP and CAPTA State Grant programs:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/IM-22-03.pdf>

U.S. DHHS, Administration on Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Program Instruction 21-07 (May 5, 2021). Re: Supplemental funding under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding for the CBCAP and CAPTA State Grant programs:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/pi2107.pdf>

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021:

<https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>

U.S. DHHS, Administration on Children and Families, Children's Bureau, The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act with amendments made by Public Law 115-271:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/capta.pdf>

Casey Family Services, The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act: Keeping children safe and strengthening families in communities (May 2019):

<https://www.casey.org/child-abuse-prevention-treatment-act/>