



Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

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American Rescue Plan Act Update

June 16, 2021

The Tribal Government is actively creating a plan for use of the American Rescue Plan funds in a manner that is consistent with federal law. This plan will have a long-term positive result related to the health and welfare of the Caddo people.

The *American Rescue Plan Act* sets out the categories of spending that tribal governments can lawfully pursue with their allocations.

1. To respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality;
2. to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of that State, territory, or Tribal government that are performing such essential work or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
3. for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such State, territory, or Tribal governments due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the State, territory, or Tribal government prior to the emergency; or
4. to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure

Tribes have been cautioned:

"A first consideration is the fact that blanket per capita, 'no strings' payments that cannot be linked directly to the burdens of the pandemic may not be lawful under ARPA. Even absent that constraint, the evidence from across Indian Country points away from undifferentiated and large per capita distributions when community development and nation rebuilding are priorities for a tribe. While understandably politically attractive, Indian Country can point to case after case in which financial settlements or payouts have been distributed, dissipated, and thus lost to the larger goals of community revitalization." - Executive Summary by Harvard Law funding of American Rescue Plan Act for American Indian Tribal Governments

Bobby Gonzalez, Principal Executive Officer Chairman of the Caddo Nation

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