
The American Rescue Plan: Domestic & Sexual Violence

Additional Funding for Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

[The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) (ARPA) provides an additional \$180 million for domestic violence and \$198 million for sexual violence services (such as shelter, counseling, supportive services through already existing Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funds). As the FVPSA office develops guidelines to distribute these funds, advocates expect ARPA funds to be flexible, available through FY25, not require a match, and fall within already established formulas (i.e., funds for state coalitions, set-aside funding for Indian tribes, funding for the national hotline, etc.).

A New Culturally Specific Program

\$49.5 million will be for a new culturally specific program to address the needs of domestic violence and sexual assault survivors.

Emergency Housing Vouchers

\$5 billion in emergency housing vouchers will be available to transition families, youth, and individuals to stable housing. People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking may be eligible to access these vouchers, which will be distributed through the HOME Investment Partnerships program formula.

For Domestic Violence Victims: If Your Spouse or Ex-Spouse Took Your COVID-19 Relief Stimulus Checks

If you are a domestic violence victim whose spouse or ex-spouse [took your COVID relief stimulus checks](#) (2020: \$1200/individual and \$500/qualifying child; January 2021: \$600/individual and \$600/qualifying child), you may be able to claim them on your 2020 federal income tax return as the Rebate Recovery Credit. For assistance with this, contact The Community Tax Law Project at 804-358-5855 or check their website, <http://ctlp.org/>.

More Information: Susheela Varky • susheela@vplc.org • (804) 351-5274