



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

USET SPF Alert

President Biden Signs the American Rescue Plan Act into Law

Dear USET SPF Membership,

Today, President Joe Biden signed into law [H.R. 1319](#), the American Rescue Plan Act, his \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, a central priority during his Administration's first 100 days. The bill was approved by a party-line vote of 220-211 in the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday after being amended by the U.S. Senate on Saturday, March 6th, with a party-line vote of 50-49. H.R. 1319 utilized a mechanism known as "budget reconciliation," which allowed Senate Democrats to approve the legislation with a simple majority, as opposed to the typical 60 vote threshold needed to overcome a filibuster.

H.R. 1319 contains the single largest allocation of funding for Indian Country ever at \$31.2 billion, which is approximately 1.5% of the funding total. By comparison, the CARES Act contained \$10 billion for Indian Country at 0.5% of total spending.

Among other notable provisions, this includes:

- \$20 billion in direct governmental relief for Tribal Nations to combat COVID-19 and stabilize Tribal community safety-net programs;
- \$6 billion for the Indian Health Service;
- \$900 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs programs;
- More than \$1.1 billion for Native education programs;
- \$1.248 billion for HUD Tribal & Native Hawaiian housing programs;
- \$20 million to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Native languages;

For more information regarding this historic infusion of resources into Tribal communities, please consult the following:

- [Senate Democratic Policy and Communications Committee High-Level Summary](#)
- [Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Summary](#)
- [NCAI Detailed Summary](#)

[One year into the COVID-19 pandemic](#), USET SPF celebrates the passage of the American Rescue Plan and extends our sincere appreciation to Indian Country's champions, who fought for the inclusion of Tribal Nations and our priorities. We look forward to working with the Biden-Harris Administration to ensure funding is distributed equitably, expeditiously, and in a way that reflects our sovereign rights and authorities. We will provide updates on implementation and any other relevant information to our membership as it develops.

With questions or for more information on the American Rescue Plan, please contact USET SPF Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, Liz Malerba, at lmalerba@usetinc.org.