



COVID-19 Relief Bill

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. In addition to a number of provisions such as stimulus checks and unemployment support to provide relief from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the law includes the following health related provisions:

- \$50 billion for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing;
- \$16 billion to fund vaccine distribution and supply chains;
- \$7.66 billion to expand the public health workforce; and,
- Provisions to increase access to affordable health insurance, including a reduction in healthcare premiums by increasing Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits for 2021 and 2022.

The Act did not include additional funding to the National Institutes for Health for research restart issues related to the pandemic; supplemental funding from Congress is expected in the coming months.