# The American Rescue Plan:

## Funding for Code Departments

April 6, 2021

# The American Rescue Plan

Enacted on March 10, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided $1.9 Trillion in federal recovery investments, including the direct payment of **$350 billion** to state, tribal, territory, and local governments (STTL) through the **Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF).** Click here for initial distribution estimates.

States and DC
$195.3 billion

Counties
$65.1 billion

Larger Municipalities
$45.6 billion

Tribal Governments
$20 billion

Territories
$4.5 billion

Municipalities <50,000
$19.5 billion

# The American Rescue Plan
## Fiscal Recovery Funds – Timing

Local governments >50k and counties will receive funds in two tranches.

- 1st: 50% by May 10, 2021 (60 days)
- 2nd: 50% 12 months after the first tranche at the earliest

States and territories – TBD one or two tranches.

- 1st: At least 50%, 60 days from certification
- 2nd: At the discretion of Treasury, up to 12 months from certification

Local governments <50k will receive funds in two tranches.

- 1st: At least 50% by June 9, 2021 (30 days after state receipt, unless state receives 30-day extension)
- 2nd: 50% by June 2022 at the earliest (12 months)

# The American Rescue Plan
## Fiscal Recovery Funds – Eligible Costs

- Costs necessary “to respond to the public health emergency” or “its negative economic impacts”
  - Prior Treasury guidance interpreted “necessary expenditures . . . incurred due to the public health emergency” as including code department hardware and software investments for remote work
- Premium pay to workers performing “essential work”
- “Provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue . . . due to the COVID–19 public health emergency ”
  - Code department staffing and operations expenses are eligible
  - Funds cannot used to replace revenues lost because of tax cuts tied to the receipt of State or Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- Official guidance document from Treasury is TBA

## CARES Act (2020)

- $150B for states and localities >500,000
- No req. to provide funds to AHJs <500,000
- $111.4B provided to states and $27.6B to AHJs >500,000
- Covers “necessary expenditures” from the public health emergency, including code department hardware/software needs
- Funds may not be used to revenue shortfalls to cover staffing or operations that would not otherwise qualify
- Eligible costs incurred and funding spent: Mar. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2021

## American Rescue Plan (2021)

- $350B provided to governments of all sizes
- All AHJs must receive funding by formula
- $195.3B for states, $65.1B for counties, $45.6B for larger munis, $19.5B for munis < 50,000
- Covers response “to the public health emergency” or “its negative economic impacts,” code department hardware/software needs expected to be eligible
- Funding may be used for the “provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue . . . due to the COVID–19 public health emergency,” including for staffing and operations
- Eligible costs incurred and funding spent: Mar. 3, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2024

# Code Department Surveys Reveal Needs

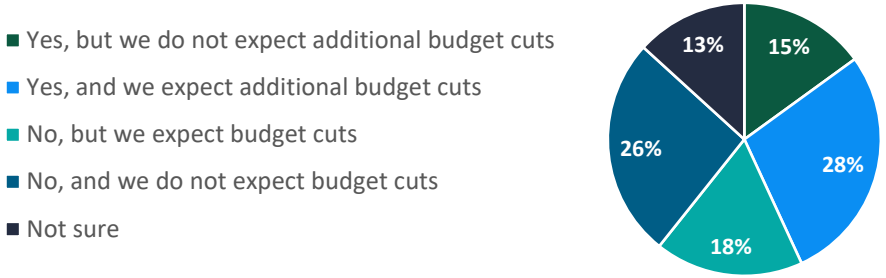
## Spring 2020 Survey
## Revealed Virtual Needs

Survey of 1150 jurisdictions showed

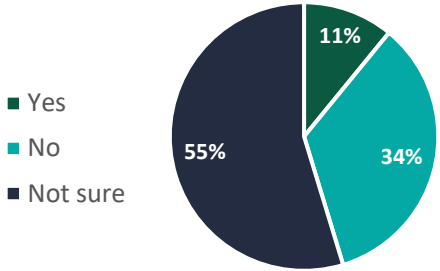
- 2/10 lacked needed hard copy code books
- 3/10 lacked e-permitting capability and 4/10 e-plan review capability
- 6/10 lacked the capability to conduct virtual inspections

## Fall 2020 Survey
## Use of Federal COVID-relief Funding

Has your department faced budget cuts?




Has your department used or does it expect to use the Coronavirus Relief Fund for virtual needs?



# Code Departments are Critical

- Per DHS and every state, code officials are essential workers
- Protect health and life safety
- Disaster mitigation and response
- Facilitate construction, vital to our economic recovery
- Full talking points available here

# Next Steps!

How to Access Fiscal Recovery Funds

1. Determine your staffing, operations, and/or hardware/software needs and assess costs.

2. Determine whether funding is available for your department.
   - Consult with the budget/finance department, county clerk, municipal league.
   - Check out ICC's Coronavirus Response Center – Advocacy Resources or email Advocacy@iccsafe.org for help.

3. Determine the purchasing/procurement process.

4. Track expenses and, where applicable, apply for reimbursement.

# Resources and Contact Info

## Virtual Capabilities

- Code Council Survey Results
- Going virtual

## American Rescue Plan

- Initial distribution estimates
- Fact Sheet: ARP Funding for Code Departments
- Talking points on why to support virtual needs
- Coronavirus Advocacy Resources

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# Fiscal Recovery Funds and ICC Solutions

Supporting department operations and enabling remote work

- Digital Codes Premium
- Model Program for Online Services
- NTA's Third Party Plan Review
- E-permitting with Municity
- E-process and Records Management with Laserfiche
- Remote Virtual Inspections through Inspected
- General Code's Custom Local Building Codes and MapLink

# Digital Codes Premium

# Digital Codes Premium

- **Work Faster, Navigate Smarter**

  Navigate from section to section with ease using advanced search tools, reference links, color coded version changes and content tagging.

- **Collaborate Seamlessly**

  Premium for Teams with Concurrent Access makes it easy to organize your notes inline to codebook text-filter, export, and share across your team.

- **Expanded Database of Content**

  Access supplemental content such as commentaries, significant changes, expert code interpretations and revision history.

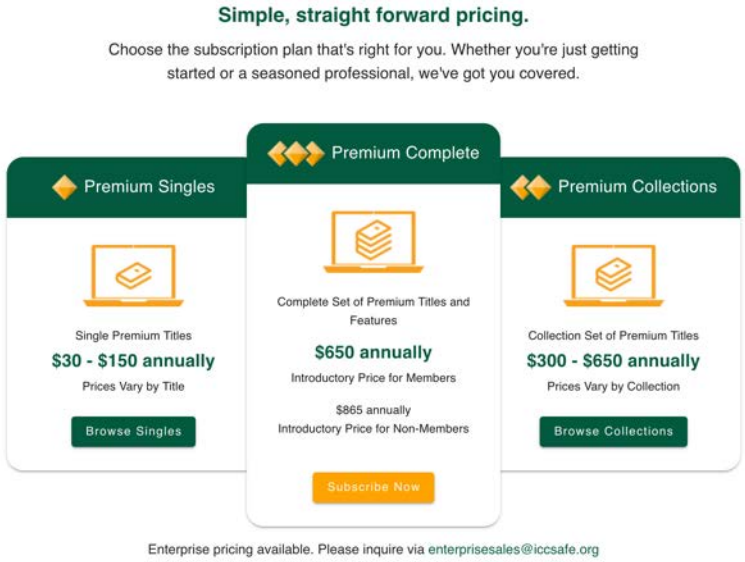
- **Get More With Your Access**

  A Premium Subscription simplifies the way you review, research, and interact with code. Save time, reduce errors, and improve efficiency.

# Subscription Offerings for Every Need

- **Premium Complete**
  All the content and features available across the platform for one simple price.
- **Collections**
  Bundled set of related titles providing a discount from subscribing to all titles individually.
- **Singles**
  Flexibility in access by subscribing to just the title or titles that you need.

- 3 Year, Annual and Monthly durations available
- Enterprise Volume Discount Pricing
- 14 Day Free Trial

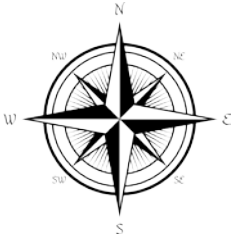


# Model Program for Online Services (MPO)

# MPO Overview

## Best Practices

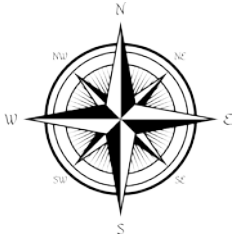
- The MPO Guide provides the code official with guidance and implementation of online permitting, electronic plan review and remote virtual inspections in response to the growing demand for and popularity of these services.
- The guidance is based on recommended best practices and the advice of building officials, industry professionals and inspection agencies. Training for staff and communication with customers is also discussed.



# MPO Overview

## Use Cases

- The purpose and scope of the Model Program for Online Services (MPO) is to provide guidance for the implementation processes to issue permits, provide plan review, and conduct inspections are also discussed.
- The MPO addresses items related to implementation and enforcement.
- Coming Soon: The MPO will be available in May at codes.iccsafe.org and shop.iccsafe.org.



# Plan Review Services

# ICC Plan Review Services

- Limited-Scope Plan Review/Technical Consulting Service
- Preliminary Plan Review
- Complete Plan Review

- Plans are reviewed to verify compliance with building codes and standards in multiple areas of discipline.
  - Residential and Commercial buildings, Accessibility, Electrical, Structural, Plumbing, Mechanical, Conservation & Energy, and Fire Safety

- Plan Review Portal Available for the Best Customer Experience
  - Track and review projects from anywhere
  - Digital Reports available for download
  - Upload and tag files
  - Automated notifications on progress of plan review

- Professional engineers registered in all 50 states, Guam District of Columbia, and parts of Canada

- More Information Available Contact Ben Chisholm at bchisolm@icc-nta.org or visit www.iccsafe.org/products-and-services/plan-review-services/

ICC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS

# Digital Transformation for Community Development and Regulation

- Formerly General Code Content Management Solutions. Acquired by ICC in 2017
- Provide business automation solutions for local governments using state-of-the-art software while providing customer support

MUNICITY
Cloud Based Municipal Software

Laserfiche

avolve software

QAlert™

BLUEBEAM

Inspected

ICC DIGITAL CODES PREMIUM

# Integrated Software Solutions

## Services

- Business Process Design
- Integration programming
- Implementation and Training
- Project Management
- Award-winning post-installation customer support

GENERAL CODE

# Custom Local Building Codes and MapLink

# Custom Local Building Codes (CLBC)

Combines code content adopted at the local level currently

referenced from multiple sources into a unified code accessed through the Digital Codes Premium platform

- I-Codes
- State Adopted Codes
- Local Amendments

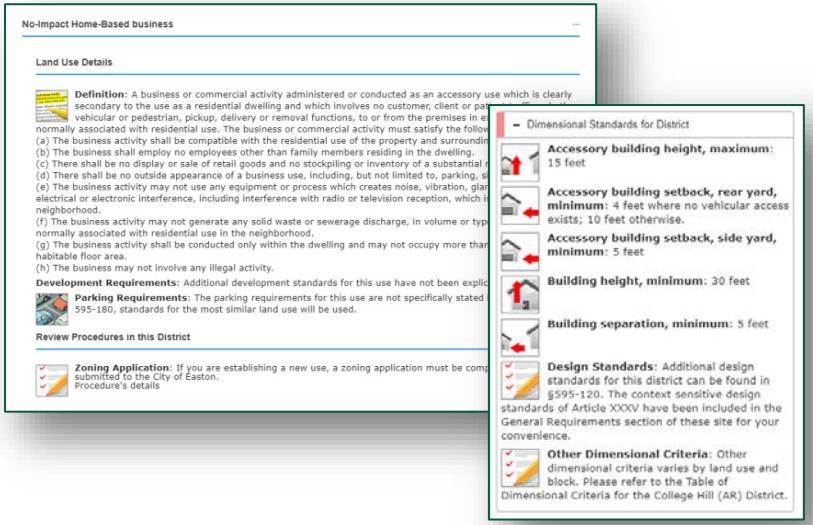
# CLBC Benefits

- Consolidates User Experience
  - Provides one central platform for I-Codes and all local code amendments
- Improves Public Transparency and Convenience
  - Free public access provided to combined code at no cost to users
- Enhances Functionality for Building Officials and Staff
  - Municipal users enjoy full feature benefits of Digital Codes Premium, mobile access to the content, and linking to the municipal code
- Saves Municipal Staff Time / Speeds Service for Constituents
  - Architects, engineers, contractors and tradespeople will quickly and easily find current regulations and requirements for projects, reducing the volume of inquiries to municipal staff
- Easy, Accurate Updates
  - All amended code content is kept up to date by General Code’s expert staff

# MapLink

Provides a simple to use GIS-based interactive zoning map that allows searches for zoning code by district, allowable uses or address.

- Quickly answers essential questions about a municipality's zoning code: "What can I do with my property?" Where can I put my business?"



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