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## COVID Relief Bill provides support for the building industry

*Building departments will be eligible for additional funding*

**Washington, D.C.** – Over the past week, Congress passed and President Biden signed into law the [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act of 2021](#) to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. The Act created Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) to provide \$350 billion to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments “to provide government services to the extent necessary because revenues have declined due to the pandemic” and to “respond to public health emergency or its economic consequences.” The Code Council worked with a large coalition of organizations and associations in encouraging Congress and the Administration to support additional assistance for state and local governments.

As a result of this new package jurisdictions facing revenue downturns can use FRF resources to pay code department staff salaries and sustain operations, which could serve as a lifeline to the roughly 4 in 10 code departments that, per a Code Council [survey](#), experienced or expected future budget cuts. Code departments are also expected to be able use this FRF funding to make hardware and software investments that facilitate department functions during the pandemic, which is critically important given [about half of departments](#) did not have the capability to remotely carry out important aspects of their work. But state and local governments will ultimately determine how the Act’s resources are allocated.

“The American Rescue Plan is a lifeline for communities and code officials across the U.S. facing pandemic-driven budget shortfalls,” said Code Council Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO. “Construction professionals need to engage now, at all levels of government to make sure Act’s resources sustain the work of code departments critical to construction activity and building safety, and ensure those departments have the tools they need to operate effectively during the pandemic.”

Deemed as essential by Homeland Security early in the pandemic, the building industry and code officials, continue to play a [vital role](#) in communities’ pandemic response, resilience, economic recovery and long-term success. Additional information on how the American Rescue Plan can support code departments and building safety professionals is available through the Code Council’s Coronavirus Response Center, [here](#).

**About the International Code Council**

The [International Code Council](#) is the leading global source of model codes and standards and building safety solutions. Code Council codes, standards and solutions are used to ensure safe, affordable and sustainable communities and buildings worldwide.