

Subtitle C -- Emergency Assistance to Children and Families
Section by Section Summary

Section 9201. Pandemic Emergency Assistance

This section provides \$1 Billion for emergency assistance to families with children, to be administered by the lead agencies for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or in territories not operating a TANF program, by the lead territorial human services agency.

The section reserves \$2 million for HHS administrative expenses and to provide technical assistance to states, tribes, and territories and allocates the remainder of the funding as follows:

- 92.5 percent of funds to be distributed to US states and Washington DC through an allotment formula that is half based on the population of children in the state and half based on prior state expenditures on direct cash assistance and Non-Recurrent Short-Term benefits to low-income families with children.
- 7.5 percent of funds are set-aside for Tribal TANF programs and all 5 US Territories, to be distributed in a manner deemed appropriate by the HHS Secretary.

To receive the full amount of funding, the states, Washington DC, tribes, and territories must inform HHS whether they intend to use all of their allotted funds. For States and Washington DC, HHS must receive such expenditure commitment within 45 days of enactment. For Tribal TANF programs and US Territories, HHS must receive such expenditure commitment within 90 days of enactment.

Unspent funds are to be reallocated among states, tribes, and territories willing to use them in the same proportions as the original funding was provided.

No more than 15 percent of Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund dollars may be spent on administrative costs, and the remainder may only be spent on Non-Recurrent Short-Term cash and other Non-Recurrent Short-Term benefits, as defined in ACF-196R, published on July 31, 2014. The paragraph also specifies that funds may not supplant other federal, state, or tribal funds, and that funds from the original allocation must be spent by the end of fiscal year 2022. Funds that have been reallocated to other states, tribes and territories must be spend within 12 months of receipt.

This section exempts Pandemic Emergency Funds from the overall cap on funding to U.S. Territories in Section 1108 of the Social Security Act and defines terms used within the section.