



# Society of St. Vincent de Paul District Council of Attleboro

*(updated March 18, 2021)*

The **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021** was signed into law on Thursday, March 11, 2021. Under this new legislation, individuals and families who qualify will receive:

- \$1,400 in **economic impact payments** for each adult and child (\$7,000 for a family of five). Those payments are flowing now directly into those bank accounts registered with the IRS.
- Documented members of **mixed immigration status households** are eligible for a \$1,400 economic impact payment.
- Continued **unemployment benefits** including the special \$300 a week boost. Both the \$300 a week boost and the pandemic unemployment assistance (PUA) program have been extended until September 6, 2021.
- Significantly **expanded Child Tax Credit benefits** of up to \$300 monthly per child under 6 years old and \$250 monthly for those age 6 to 17. These payments will now be received monthly rather than as a tax refund. However, it may be several months before the new monthly payment system kicks in. This provision is currently time-limited to calendar year 2021.
- In addition to these direct payments to our Neighbors-in-need, the legislation also provides \$21.6 billion<sup>1</sup> in new **rental assistance and emergency aid** for renters impacted by COVID-19. Our understanding is that these funds will likely be used in Massachusetts to increase the pot of money available under programs such as RAFT.
- Non-recurrent, short-term cash assistance for crisis situations for lowest incomes through **pandemic emergency fund**.
- Additional \$4.5 billion for LIHEAP **utility assistance**, as well as \$500 million for low-income households with water and wastewater arrearages.
- Extended 15% increase in SNAP benefit through September 30, 2021,

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<sup>1</sup> Of that amount, \$18.712 billion is directed to state and local emergency rental assistance.