

# ORAL HEALTH PANDEMIC RESPONSE WORKGROUP

Federal Update

May 19, 2021

# Today's Updates

- COVID Investments in Rural Communities
- Emergency Home Visiting Assistance for Families Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Funding Highlights
- Appointments and Confirmations

# Biden Administration Announces \$1 Billion for Rural COVID-19 Response

- HHS announced the availability of nearly \$1 billion to strengthen COVID-19 response efforts and increase vaccinations in rural communities.
- HRSA will implement the Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation Program and provide \$460 million to more than 4,600 rural clinics across the country.
- In addition, HRSA will implement the Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Confidence Program, making nearly \$100 million available in grants to eligible RHCs to address health equity gaps by offering support and resources to medically underserved communities where COVID-19 vaccine uptake lags in comparison to more populated areas.

- NRHA Rural Roundup, May 10 – 14, 2021

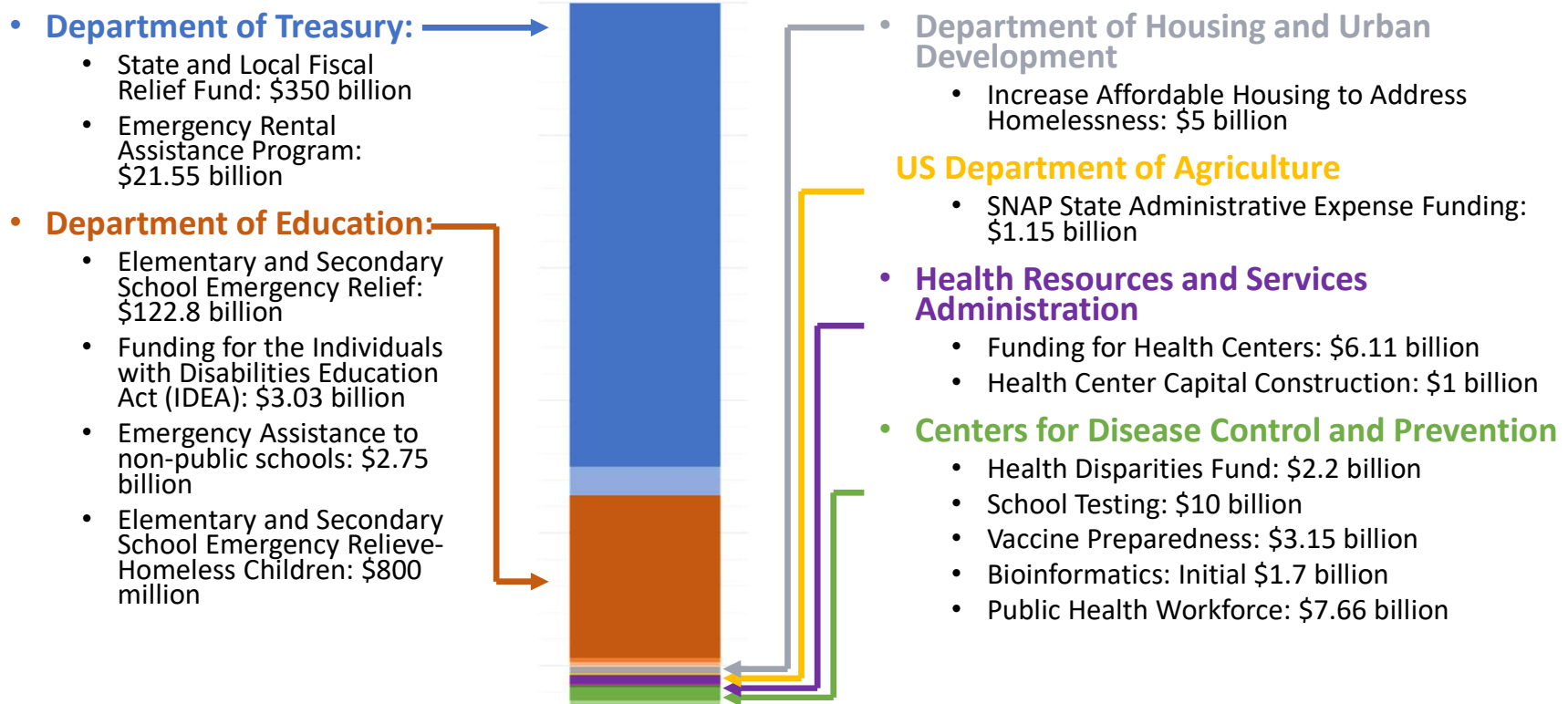
# American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Emergency Home Visiting Assistance for Families Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic

- HHS will award \$40 million in emergency home visiting funds to states, territories, the District of Columbia through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant program.
- The MIECHV program supports the delivery and coordination of comprehensive, high quality, voluntary evidence-based home visiting services to children and families living in communities at risk for poor maternal and child health outcomes. In FY 2020, three quarters of the families participating had household incomes at or below 100 percent of the FPL, 78% of adults and children relied on Medicaid or the CHIP program.
- Funds can be used to provide services and emergency supplies; families can be provided with technology to participate in virtual home visits; funds can be used to train home visits on emergency preparedness and response planning for families.

# Community-based COVID-19 Workforce

- HHS announced a new \$250 million investment in a community-based workforce designed to “serve as trusted voices sharing information about vaccines, increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence, and address any barriers to vaccination for individuals living in vulnerable and medically underserved communities.”

# American Rescue Plan Act: Highlights of funds going to states and localities



\*This chart is illustrative only; allocations announced to date; national totals

\*\* \$3B in SAMHSA block grants recently announced

# Biden Administration HHS Nominees



## **Confirmed**

### **Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm**

- Former Secretary of Health (WI)
- Former senior HHS official in the Obama Administration



## **Discharged from Committee; Pending Floor Vote**

### **CMS Administrator Designate Chiquita Brooks-LaSure**

- Former CMS official
- Former OMB official
- Former Ways and Means Staff

# CDC Updates

- John Auerbach, former president of Trust for America's Health, will return to CDC as the Director of Intergovernmental and Strategic Affairs.
- Ann Schuchat, Deputy Director, will retire.
- Nancy Messonnier, Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, has joined the Skoll Foundation.



# Health Equity Task Force Meeting

- Next meeting: May 28
  - Purpose is to consider interim recommendations specific to discrimination and xenophobia
- Past meeting: April 30
  - Focused on mental and behavioral health