

# For many Arkansans, **times are tough.**

## Help is available through the American Rescue Plan.

Earlier this year, Congress passed a COVID-19 relief plan to help Americans impacted by the pandemic and resulting economic crisis. Through this plan, you may qualify for one or more of the benefits below to get you and your family through this difficult time.

### DO YOU NEED HELP PAYING FOR FOOD?

Apply for **SNAP benefits** online at [access.arkansas.gov/Welcome.aspx](https://access.arkansas.gov/Welcome.aspx). Eligibility depends on your income, savings, and the size of your family. And if you have little mouths to feed, you can apply for **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** food assistance at your local county health unit—just be sure to call ahead to make an appointment. Pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, as well as infants and children under age 5, may qualify based on income.



SNAP benefits have been increased by an average of \$28/month per person through September, and WIC assistance provides an extra \$35/month for those who qualify to spend on fruits and vegetables.

### DO YOU NEED HEALTH COVERAGE?

The enrollment period for **Marketplace health insurance** has been extended through August 15, and there is more financial help available—for more Arkansans—than ever before. If you would like to enroll or change your plan, visit [HealthCare.gov](https://HealthCare.gov).

When you apply for Marketplace coverage, you may qualify for a tax credit that lowers your monthly payments. Even if you've already enrolled in a 2021 plan, you may qualify for additional financial help. Check today by logging into your [HealthCare.gov](https://HealthCare.gov) account.



### ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT PAYING RENT?

If you don't have a place to live or are at risk of becoming homeless, you can apply for rental assistance through the **Arkansas Department of Human Services** at [AR.gov/RentRelief](https://AR.gov/RentRelief) or through the **Arkansas Fresh Start Program** at [ARFreshStart.com](https://ARFreshStart.com).



Looking for related resources? Find a detailed list at [bit.ly/3b36j1d](https://bit.ly/3b36j1d).

### ARE YOU PLANNING A FUNERAL?

If you are organizing a funeral for a loved one whose death was conclusively caused by COVID-19, you can apply for **financial assistance through FEMA** by calling 844-684-6333 (TTY: 800-462-7585).



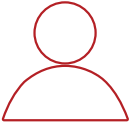
The following tax credits will be automatically applied based on federal tax filings. If you qualify for any of the credits below, the IRS will send your payment to the bank account you included on your 2021 federal tax return.

Remember that even if you don't owe taxes, you should always file a tax return to ensure you get any credits that you qualify for.

### EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)

You qualify for the increased **\$1,500 tax credit** if you meet the following criteria:

- You are 19 years old or older
- You have no children
- You are a worker earning no more than \$21,000/year



Last year, this credit was \$540—it's been nearly tripled this year as part of the American Rescue Plan.

### CHILD TAX CREDIT (CTC)

You qualify for this credit if you are a parent to dependent children ages 17 or under. The credit varies in amount based on your children's ages:

- 5 years old and under: **\$3,600 per child**
- Ages 6 to 17: **\$3,000 per child**

For more information from the IRS, visit [bit.ly/3vxez0J](https://bit.ly/3vxez0J).



Last year, this credit was a flat \$2,000 per child. The credit amount has been increased to better meet the needs of parents, particularly parents of young children.

### CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT (CDCTC)

Parents of children ages 12 or under can use this credit to help cover the cost of childcare. The credit covers up to 50% of qualifying childcare and dependent expenses. The maximum credit amount depends on how many children you have:

- **\$4,000 for one child**
- **\$8,000 for two or more children**



Last year, the maximum credit amount was \$3,000 for one child or \$6,000 for two or more children. Only 35% of qualifying expenses were covered.

For more information on accessing American Rescue Plan benefits, visit [ARadvocates.org/ARP-resources](https://ARadvocates.org/ARP-resources).