The Fiscal Link

NCSL & National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices (NALFO) Updates

- NALFO is planning a series of webinars throughout the fall and winter. The next session is “Analyzing Agency Budget Requests: Key Questions and Considerations” on Wed., Oct., 20 at 2 p.m. ET. Register here!
- NCSL’s Anna Petrini wrote an article in State Legislature News on stabilizing pension funds.
- State Legislature News highlighting how states are using Hurricane Ida damage to push Congress on a $1 trillion infrastructure bill.

OCTOBER FISCAL BRIEF

Fiscal Recovery Funds Out the Door

At least 36 states have allocated a portion of their funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds. The influx of stimulus money is a life saver for state budgets, but also creates a challenge to spend funds wisely.

Read more
An Economic Outlook at the Legislative Summit

The economy ground to a near-halt during the catastrophic COVID-19 pandemic, forcing the federal government to jumpstart it with trillions of dollars in relief. What is the long-term impact? Gain insight from one of the county’s leading economists at this year’s Legislative Summit Nov. 3-5.

State News and Reports

- Illinois | The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability updated the state’s Wagering in Illinois report with analysis on video gaming and sports wagering.
- Iowa | The Legislative Fiscal Office created an interactive dashboard to track federal COVID-19 relief awards and expenses.
- Louisiana | The Legislative Fiscal Office analyzed the individual and corporate consequences of 2021 state tax reforms.
- Maryland | The Office of Legislative Audits released their report of the 2016-2020 audit of the state’s Uninsured Employers’ Fund.

Federal News and Reports

- The U.S. Department of Treasury released guidance for the $10 billion Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund.
- The U.S. Government Accountability Office released a report on reducing the fiscal inefficiency of overlapping of federal programs.
- The Congressional Research Service examined the impact of a “fully refundable” child tax credit and the ramifications of an extension of the program introduced under ARPA.
- The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported on issues with the Social Security Administrations desire for Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries with disabilities to continue to work.

Other Items of Interest

- The National Association of State Budget Officers is tracking Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Plan Performance Reports.
• The Tax Foundation issued an analysis on state unemployment compensation trust funds.
• The Pew Charitable Trusts released several new resources. According to their analysis:
  o The nation’s retirement systems finished fiscal year 2021 in their best condition since the Great Recession.
  o More than half of states recorded their strongest personal income growth ever in the first quarter of 2021 as the economic recovery accelerated.
  o In 2020 employment rates in all states fell compared to pre-pandemic levels. On average rates dropped by more than 5%.
  o Employment growth in noneducation state and local governments jobs has not kept pace with private sector job recovery.
• **Bonus Clip:** A city official’s LEGO recreation of the city of Arlington, Texas is helping citizens understand how the city makes budget decisions. Check out [the viral budget video](#).

### Additional Resources

• Visit the NCSL Fiscal Affairs Program homepage.
• Visit the NALFO homepage.
• Consult a list of legislative fiscal offices that maintain webpages.
• Join NALFO’s Listserv.
• Check out NCSL Fiscal Briefs.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list for The Fiscal Link, or know a legislator or legislative staff person who should be added, just ask [Emily Maher](mailto:emily.maher@ncsl.org) or [Erica MacKellar](mailto:ericamackellar@ncsl.org).

**NOTE:** Links to external websites and reports are for information purposes only and do not indicate NCSL’s endorsement of the content on those sites.

### NCSL Staff Members

![Erica MacKellar](image)
**Program Principal, Fiscal Affairs**

![Emily Maher](image)
**Senior Policy Specialist, Fiscal Affairs**