

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

What you need to know.

Here are three major benefits you may be receiving:

Direct Payment to You

AKA “stimulus check.” You will receive \$1,400 per person in your household, as claimed on your last tax return.

Larger Child Tax Credit

Your 2021 Child Tax Credit will increase to \$3,000 per child, with an additional \$600 for any child under age 6.

Unemployment Extension

If you are collecting unemployment, the federal benefit will be increased from \$300 to \$400 per week through August 29.

Here are some simple tips for making the most of your funds:

Say “Yes”

- **Say “yes” to making a plan.** It’s not often you get a chance at a windfall of money. If you wait until it arrives to plan for it, you’ve waited too late. Assign every dollar to a financial objective.
- **Say “yes” to an emergency fund.** Your expenses won’t stop coming. Take some of your money and fully fund an emergency savings account. You’ll have back-to-school, the holidays, maybe even a vacation sometime soon. Save for it now.
- **Say “yes” to rental or utility assistance.** You have a stimulus check in hand. But before you use a chunk of it to pay back rent or past due utilities, look into programs that might provide additional resources. CWC can help you find them.

Consider Saying “No”

- **Say “no” to major purchases.** You’ve been through a tough time. But even though it may seem like a lot of money, a down payment on a high-interest loan for a new car might not be best.
- **Say “no” to paying rent forward.** It’s a far better idea to calculate how much six month’s rent will be and put that money in a credit union savings account. If you need it to pay rent, you can withdraw it. If you don’t, you’ll have more savings.
- **Say “no” to friends and family.** Ever notice how people show up when you have money? You may see some of those people in the next few weeks. This is your stimulus check, your child tax credit and your unemployment. Use it for YOU!

We are here to help!

If you want to schedule a **FREE phone or Zoom session** with a certified Common Wealth Charlotte counselor to work on a customized plan, **text CWC to 474747** and we’ll be in touch.