

American Rescue Plan Act – Emergency Paid Leave

This message is intended for all DOL Federal Employees.


Dear Colleagues,

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act signed into law on March 11, 2021, includes Emergency Paid Leave (EPL). EPL provides a source of paid leave for federal employees who are unable to work (including telework) due to specific qualifying reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for those in limited leave circumstances.

Beginning in the current pay period 11, which runs from May 23, 2021, to June 5, 2021, DOL employees may use EPL. The EPL transaction codes will be active in the webTA timekeeping system starting the second week of the pay period. EPL is effective through September 30, 2021, and may be claimed retroactively to March 11, 2021.

It is important to note that the ARP created a fund of \$570 million to be shared by federal agencies to cover the costs of EPL. Because of this limit, the use of EPL by employees is conditional on the availability of funding. Additionally, the ARP legislation requires that the use of EPL will reduce an employee's creditable service when their retirement benefit is calculated. So, employees wishing to use this leave need to give serious and thoughtful consideration as to whether the utility of this leave is appropriate for their individual situation.

For more information regarding these provisions and other important considerations, as well as instructions for requesting and using EPL, please visit LaborNet. On this page, you'll also find a fact sheet, frequently asked questions, a schedule for upcoming information sessions, and other helpful resources.

If you have questions regarding EPL, please send an email to 

Sincerely,

Sydney T. Rose | Chief Human Capital Officer

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