Leverage American Rescue Plan Funds to Modernize and Secure Your Digital Government Services

President Biden's $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan will have a significant and positive impact on state and local government IT. The plan includes $350 billion in aid for states and localities. State IT officials have called this new funding a "huge opportunity" as it, unlike previous rounds of COVID relief, can be used flexibly across all areas of government until the end of 2024.

Additional guidance from the US Treasury department has specified eligible uses of funding include modernizing legacy and outdated IT systems and applications, improving cybersecurity posture, and investment in technologies to enhance citizen interaction with their governments.

At F5, we believe organizations should focus on:

1. **Digitizing Government Services.** Society has become accustomed to finding information quickly and completing transactions securely and intuitively. Throughout the pandemic, States and Localities were challenged to meet heightened expectations and increased demand for their services. While these services increase public engagement and provide equitable access, they can also expose organizations to new risks and data leakage, which require additional security and protection. F5's advanced application services provide the increased performance, visibility, and security that help scale critical applications into the future. Learn more here.

2. **Modernizing Legacy Systems.** Government organizations frequently saw massive failures of legacy systems leveraging over 20-year-old technology. Many point to a lack of funding to overhaul these systems as the primary reason they were unable to handle the substantial increase in traffic and frequent cyber-attacks throughout the pandemic. Investing in modernization efforts which reduce complexity, enhance security, and ensure availability during peak usage will be critical in the delivery of critical services and benefits to citizens. Consider starting your app modernization journey today with NGINX.

F5'S SECURITY, PERFORMANCE, AUTOMATION, AND INSIGHT SOLUTIONS ENABLE ADAPTABLE APPLICATIONS THAT ALLOW ORGANIZATIONS TO BOOST THEIR SPEED TO MARKET, IMPROVE OPERATIONS, BUILD TRUST WITH CITIZENS, AND DELIVER BETTER USER EXPERIENCES.

3. **Ensuring Exceptional Security and high availability.** The pandemic has amplified significant vulnerabilities in state and local government systems, especially those operating on outdated technologies. Since March 2020, the US has seen a major uptick in ransomware, an unprecedented amount of digital fraud, and supply chain vulnerabilities. State and local governments should look to invest in fraud detection technologies, identity and access management technologies and implement advanced cybersecurity frameworks like zero trust. It's paramount that application-level security be implemented into all online web applications. Taking advantage of cloud-based managed security services like F5's Silverline can help expedite time-to-value without the need for upfront investments in IT infrastructure or support.

4. **Providing Secure Access Control and Authorization.** With users connecting from various locations and devices (working from home), and applications commonly residing in multiple environments, organizations require a new approach to securing access and preventing data breaches while increasing user productivity. Zero trust models, single sign on, multifactor authentication, per request policy processing. While there is no magical single solution for a Zero Trust security model, F5 provides several key components around access, application security, and encrypted traffic visibility. Get additional details here.

To learn more, visit our SLED microsite to view upcoming events & archived recordings!

www.f5.com
www.nginx.com
www.shapesecurity.com

Now Is the Time to Improve Your IT Services

The American Rescue Plan provides public sector organizations with a once in a generation opportunity to leverage government support to improve IT services that will last for years. F5 can help you identify areas in need and prioritize your funds so you get the most value out of your allocation. Contact us now to get started!