



## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

### General Information

- The purpose of ARPA is to keep people from getting sick and to build a solid base for enduring economic recovery.
- Amount Anticipated (rounded)
  - Local Share: \$496,000
  - Our portion of County Funds: \$921,000
- Funds must be obligated between March 3, 2021 and December 31, 2026
- Project complete on or before December 31, 2026
- To be eligible for consideration, a project or use must:
  - Respond to a problem caused by COVID-19
  - Be related to water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure
  - Consider-Will the project or use be subject to attack because it is perceived of as unfair, inappropriate or unnecessary?

### Specific Ineligible Uses

- Pension Fund contributions
- No 'Rainy Day Fund' contributions

## **Eligible Activities/Primary Uses**

1. Support Public Health Response
  - a. Public communication efforts
  - b. Support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities
  - c. Ventilation improvements in congregate settings, health care settings, or other key locations
  - d. Enhancement of public health data systems
  - e. Other public health responses
  - f. Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs are also eligible, such as adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics.
  
2. Negative Economic Impacts
  - a. Assess whether, and to the extent, there has been an economic harm, such as loss of earnings or revenue, that resulted from the COVID-19 public health emergency and whether, and the extent, the use would address this harm.  
Includes:
    - i. Impacts on Households and Individuals
      1. Can provide food assistance, rent, mortgage, utility assistance, job training, and emergency assistance for burials, home repairs, weatherization, or other needs.
    - ii. Impacts on Businesses and Non-profits
      1. Can provide loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship such as declines in revenues or impacts from closure;
      2. Loans or grants to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics such as physical changes
      3. Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs
      4. Ex. Street-scaping

- iii. Impacts to State and Local Governments
  - 1. Tourism, travel, and hospitality
  - 2. Improvements to ventilation, physical barriers or partitions
  - 3. Signage to facilitate social distancing, mask guidance, etc
- iv. Exacerbation of Pre-existing Disparities
  - 1. Services to address homelessness such as supportive housing, and to improve access to stable, affordable housing
  - 2. Educational Disparities such as childcare, scholarships, educational benefits for town employees or Foster residents.

### 3. Premium Pay for Essential Workers

- a. Up to \$13/hour in addition to wages or payment the worker otherwise receives not to exceed \$25,000 per eligible worker
- b. The payment may be made in a lump sum
- c. May include volunteers assuming the base wage is \$0

### 4. General Government Services

- a. Only to the extent that the Federal Funds replace ***Lost Revenue***
- b. The Final Rule provides broad latitude to use funds for the provision of government services. Government services can include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Police, fire, and other public safety services
  - ii. Infrastructure including roads
  - iii. Health services
  - iv. Cybersecurity, including hardware, software
  - v. Environmental remediation

- c. Ineligible Government Services
  - i. Paying interest of principal on outstanding debt
  - ii. Replenishing ‘Rainy Day’ or other reserve funds
  - iii. Pension contributions
  - iv. Anything else the government does NOT normally do should be carefully scrutinized because the judgment may include the question “why should they start doing it now?”

5. Investments in infrastructure

- a. Allowable services:
  - i. Water
  - ii. Sewer
  - iii. Broadband
  - iv. Low-income Housing
- b. Disallowed
  - i. Senior/Community Center
  - ii. Public Safety Facilities/Complex
  - iii. Roads/Sidewalks