



CITY OF GREENBELT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 30, 2021

TO: City Council

FROM: Nicole Ard, City Manager
ARPA Project Team

RE: American Rescue Plan Act - Inclusions and Exclusions of Uses

As you know, last month, the City of Greenbelt received notification of a final American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation amount of \$22,881,666.47, of which 50%, or \$11,440,833.24, was disbursed to Greenbelt in late July. The U.S. Department of the Treasury, through a number of FAQs and other reliable sources i.e., the National League of Cities, has issued guidance on the allowable uses of the funds as well as guidance on the specific excluded uses. Attached to this memo is a May 10 Fact Sheet published by the Department of Treasury that provides a detailed summary of the ARPA program and description of the eligible uses of funding.

Since ARPA funds were distributed to the City in advance of an established spending plan, as opposed to a reimbursable arrangement, it is imperative that Treasury guidelines are followed as any expenditure disallowed by Treasury will need to be absorbed by the City. With this in mind, as a starting point, and as Council, the community and staff begin to identify projects and plans to be covered by ARPA funds, we submit this memo, and the attached Fact Sheet to provide a summary of inclusions and exclusions of the ARPA funds. The key determining factor of eligibility is demonstrating how a proposed use of ARPA funding responds directly to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recovery efforts to rebuild from its effects.

Eligible Uses

Treasury Interim Final Rule indicates ARPA funds are to support the immediate pandemic response, bring back jobs, and lay the groundwork for a strong and equitable recovery, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, designed to deliver \$350 billion to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to bolster their response to the COVID-19 emergency and its economic impacts. Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to:

- Support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff;

- Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector;
- Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;
- Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.”

Treasury Interim Final Rule further indicates that the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs—including support for households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest-hit by the crisis. These funds also deliver resources that recipients can invest in building, maintaining, or upgrading their water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.”

The complete Treasury’s Interim Final Rule that provides guidelines and principles for determining the types of programs and services that this funding can support, together with examples of allowable uses that recipients may consider, can be found at [Interim Final Rule \(https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/FRF-Interim-Final-Rule.pdf\)](https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/FRF-Interim-Final-Rule.pdf) .

Immediate Funding Assistance

Staff reviewed the memo Mayor Byrd presented to the Council on August 9th and met several times to discuss an immediate funding strategy to provide assistance to residents and businesses in the short-term. The development and approval of a comprehensive ARPA Implementation Plan that takes into account community input will take time and members of the Greenbelt community are in need assistance.

Staff is recommending that Council set aside \$1.25M to be allocated over the next four (4) months to residents, businesses and other Greenbelt located or serving entities in need. This amount reflects a small overall share of the City’s ARPA funds, just over 5%, but will provide important meaningful assistance.

The funds would be divided with \$500,000 being allocated for resident assistance programs, \$500,000 being allocated for business assistance programs and the remaining funds for non-profits and other Greenbelt serving entities in need of immediate assistance. A more detailed Resident and Business Assistance program is attached.

Staff Brainstorm Ideas

Staff met multiple times to discuss possible programs and initiatives and shared ideas that will help support our residents and local businesses and continue to raise the greater Greenbelt community out of pandemic’s affects. The potential projects and programs shown in the Brainstorm include both immediate actions to assist those in need, intermediate actions over the next year and “transformational” actions that will allow the City to provide greater service and support to our community in the years to come.

The Brainstorm list has been divided into 6 program areas. There is some overlap among the program

areas both in terms of service and service delivery. These program areas include:

- Resident Relief
- Local business support
- Technology
- Transportation/infrastructure
- Recreation/Outdoor spaces
- Other/Staff Support

Each of the potential programs/initiatives identified have been reviewed with ARPA edibility criteria in mind and were found to be in compliance. Staff has identified resources at both the county and federal level that can further vet potential opportunities for eligibility under ARPA rule as the list is refined and qualified.

Community Engagement – Preliminary Thinking

The City is in the process of engaging a consulting firm with expertise in community engagement, developing goals and objectives and assisting in prioritizing outcomes. In an initial conversation the following community/key stakeholder engagement options were recommended. Staff is proposing a Council Work Session in late September to work with the consultant to refine and finalize a community engagement strategy. The consultant will help to plan and facilitate the following:

- Internal ARPA Team meetings
- Council Work Sessions
- Key Stakeholder focus groups
- Public engagement sessions (in-person)
- ARPA Needs questionnaire (both on-line and in print)

The number of meetings, timing of when they occur and other logistics will be worked out in the next few weeks leading up to a Council Work Session for your input and discussion.

Next Steps

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| 1) Work Session with Novak to discuss ARPA Engagement Plan | Sept 20, 2021 |
| 2) Approval of ARPA Engagement Plan | Sept 27, 2021 |
| 3) Community Open Meetings and Key Stakeholder Focus Groups | October/November |
| 4) Council Work Sessions to aggregate the input/plans | November/December |
| 5) Staff development of a draft ARPA plan for Council/community review | December |
| 6) Council work session(s) to review draft ARPA Implementation Plan | January |
| 7) Council approval of ARPA Implementation Plan | |

We look forward to continuing discussions on identifying and developing the best plan/uses of ARPA funds for the Greenbelt community.

FACT SHEET: The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Will Deliver \$350 Billion for State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Governments to Respond to the COVID-19 Emergency and Bring Back Jobs

May 10, 2021

Aid to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments will help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery

Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to provide \$350 billion in emergency funding for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Treasury also released details on how these funds can be used to respond to acute pandemic response needs, fill revenue shortfalls among these governments, and support the communities and populations hardest-hit by the COVID-19 crisis. With the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, eligible jurisdictions will be able to access this funding in the coming days to address these needs.

State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments have been on the frontlines of responding to the immense public health and economic needs created by this crisis – from standing up vaccination sites to supporting small businesses – even as these governments confronted revenue shortfalls during the downturn. As a result, these governments have endured unprecedented strains, forcing many to make untenable choices between laying off educators, firefighters, and other frontline workers or failing to provide other services that communities rely on. Faced with these challenges, state and local governments have cut over 1 million jobs since the beginning of the crisis. The experience of prior economic downturns has shown that budget pressures like these often result in prolonged fiscal austerity that can slow an economic recovery.

To support the immediate pandemic response, bring back jobs, and lay the groundwork for a strong and equitable recovery, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, designed to deliver \$350 billion to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to bolster their response to the COVID-19 emergency and its economic impacts. Today, Treasury is launching this much-needed relief to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control;
- Replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs;
- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; and,
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic on certain populations.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs—including support for households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest-hit by the crisis. These funds also deliver resources that recipients can invest in building, maintaining, or upgrading their water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Starting today, eligible state, territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal governments may request Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the Treasury Submission Portal. Concurrent with this program launch, Treasury has published an Interim Final Rule that implements the provisions of this program.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

The American Rescue Plan provides a total of \$350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments meet their present needs and build the foundation for a strong recovery. Congress has allocated this funding to tens of thousands of jurisdictions. These allocations include:

Type	Amount (\$ billions)
States & District of Columbia	\$195.3
Counties	\$65.1
Metropolitan Cites	\$45.6
Tribal Governments	\$20.0
Territories	\$4.5
Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government	\$19.5

Treasury expects to distribute these funds directly to each state, territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal government. Local governments that are classified as non-entitlement units will receive this funding through their applicable state government. Treasury expects to provide further guidance on distributions to non-entitlement units next week.

Local governments should expect to receive funds in two tranches, with 50% provided beginning in May 2021 and the balance delivered 12 months later. States that have experienced a net increase in the unemployment rate of more than 2 percentage points from February 2020 to the latest available data as of the date of certification will receive their full allocation of funds in a single payment; other states will receive funds in two equal tranches. Governments of U.S. territories will receive a single payment. Tribal governments will receive two payments, with the first payment available in May and the second payment, based on employment data, to be delivered in June 2021.

USES OF FUNDING

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments with a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger, more equitable economy as the country recovers. Within the categories of eligible uses, recipients have broad flexibility to decide how best to use this funding to meet the needs of their communities. Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to:

- **Support public health expenditures**, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff;
- **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector;
- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

Within these overall categories, Treasury’s Interim Final Rule provides guidelines and principles for determining the types of programs and services that this funding can support, together with examples of allowable uses that recipients may consider. As described below, Treasury has also designed these provisions to take into consideration the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on those hardest-hit by the pandemic.

1. Supporting the public health response

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 continues to require an unprecedented public health response from state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources to meet these needs through the provision of care for those impacted by the virus and through services that address disparities in public health that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Recipients may use this funding to address a broad range of public health needs across COVID-19 mitigation, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and public health resources. Among other services, these funds can help support:

- **Services and programs to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including:**
 - ✓ Vaccination programs
 - ✓ Medical expenses
 - ✓ Testing
 - ✓ Contact tracing
 - ✓ Isolation or quarantine
 - ✓ PPE purchases
 - ✓ Support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services
 - ✓ Public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring for variants)
 - ✓ Enforcement of public health orders
 - ✓ Public communication efforts
 - ✓ Enhancement of healthcare capacity, including alternative care facilities
 - ✓ Support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities and schools
 - ✓ Enhancement of public health data systems
 - ✓ Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs
 - ✓ Ventilation improvements in key settings like healthcare facilities

- **Services to address behavioral healthcare needs exacerbated by the pandemic, including:**
 - ✓ Mental health treatment
 - ✓ Substance misuse treatment
 - ✓ Other behavioral health services
 - ✓ Hotlines or warmlines
 - ✓ Crisis intervention
 - ✓ Services or outreach to promote access to health and social services
- **Payroll and covered benefits expenses** for public health, healthcare, human services, public safety and similar employees, to the extent that they work on the COVID-19 response. For public health and safety workers, recipients can use these funds to cover the full payroll and covered benefits costs for employees or operating units or divisions primarily dedicated to the COVID-19 response.

2. Addressing the negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency

The COVID-19 public health emergency resulted in significant economic hardship for many Americans. As businesses closed, consumers stayed home, schools shifted to remote education, and travel declined precipitously, over 20 million jobs were lost between February and April 2020. Although many have since returned to work, as of April 2021, the economy remains more than 8 million jobs below its pre-pandemic peak, and more than 3 million workers have dropped out of the labor market altogether since February 2020.

To help alleviate the economic hardships caused by the pandemic, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds enable eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to provide a wide range of assistance to individuals and households, small businesses, and impacted industries, in addition to enabling governments to rehire public sector staff and rebuild capacity. Among these uses include:

- **Delivering assistance to workers and families**, including aid to unemployed workers and job training, as well as aid to households facing food, housing, or other financial insecurity. In addition, these funds can support survivor’s benefits for family members of COVID-19 victims.
- **Supporting small businesses**, helping them to address financial challenges caused by the pandemic and to make investments in COVID-19 prevention and mitigation tactics, as well as to provide technical assistance. To achieve these goals, recipients may employ this funding to execute a broad array of loan, grant, in-kind assistance, and counseling programs to enable small businesses to rebound from the downturn.
- **Speeding the recovery of the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors**, supporting industries that were particularly hard-hit by the COVID-19 emergency and are just now beginning to mend. Similarly impacted sectors within a local area are also eligible for support.
- **Rebuilding public sector capacity**, by rehiring public sector staff and replenishing unemployment insurance (UI) trust funds, in each case up to pre-pandemic levels. Recipients may also use this funding to build their internal capacity to successfully implement economic relief programs, with investments in data analysis, targeted outreach, technology infrastructure, and impact evaluations.

3. **Serving the hardest-hit communities and families**

While the pandemic has affected communities across the country, it has disproportionately impacted low-income families and communities of color and has exacerbated systemic health and economic inequities. Low-income and socially vulnerable communities have experienced the most severe health impacts. For example, counties with high poverty rates also have the highest rates of infections and deaths, with 223 deaths per 100,000 compared to the U.S. average of 175 deaths per 100,000.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allow for a broad range of uses to address the disproportionate public health and economic impacts of the crisis on the hardest-hit communities, populations, and households. Eligible services include:

- **Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health**, through funding for community health workers, public benefits navigators, remediation of lead hazards, and community violence intervention programs;
- **Investments in housing and neighborhoods**, such as services to address individuals experiencing homelessness, affordable housing development, housing vouchers, and residential counseling and housing navigation assistance to facilitate moves to neighborhoods with high economic opportunity;
- **Addressing educational disparities** through new or expanded early learning services, providing additional resources to high-poverty school districts, and offering educational services like tutoring or afterschool programs as well as services to address social, emotional, and mental health needs; and,
- **Promoting healthy childhood environments**, including new or expanded high quality childcare, home visiting programs for families with young children, and enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth.

Governments may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support these additional services if they are provided:

- within a Qualified Census Tract (a low-income area as designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development);
- to families living in Qualified Census Tracts;
- by a Tribal government; or,
- to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

4. **Replacing lost public sector revenue**

State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments that are facing budget shortfalls may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to avoid cuts to government services. With these additional resources, recipients can continue to provide valuable public services and ensure that fiscal austerity measures do not hamper the broader economic recovery.

Many state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments have experienced significant budget shortfalls, which can yield a devastating impact on their respective communities. Faced with budget shortfalls and pandemic-related uncertainty, state and local governments cut staff in all 50 states. These budget shortfalls and staff cuts are particularly problematic at present, as these entities are on the front lines of battling the COVID-19 pandemic and helping citizens weather the economic downturn.

Recipients may use these funds to replace lost revenue. Treasury's Interim Final Rule establishes a methodology that each recipient can use to calculate its reduction in revenue. Specifically, recipients will compute the extent of their reduction in revenue by comparing their actual revenue to an alternative representing what could have been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic. Analysis of this expected trend begins with the last full fiscal year prior to the public health emergency and projects forward at either (a) the recipient's average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the public health emergency or (b) 4.1%, the national average state and local revenue growth rate from 2015-18 (the latest available data).

For administrative convenience, Treasury's Interim Final Rule allows recipients to presume that any diminution in actual revenue relative to the expected trend is due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Upon receiving Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, recipients may immediately calculate the reduction in revenue that occurred in 2020 and deploy funds to address any shortfall. Recipients will have the opportunity to re-calculate revenue loss at several points through the program, supporting those entities that experience a lagged impact of the crisis on revenues.

Importantly, once a shortfall in revenue is identified, recipients will have broad latitude to use this funding to support government services, up to this amount of lost revenue.

5. Providing premium pay for essential workers

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to recognize the heroic contributions of essential workers. Since the start of the public health emergency, essential workers have put their physical well-being at risk to meet the daily needs of their communities and to provide care for others.

Many of these essential workers have not received compensation for the heightened risks they have faced and continue to face. Recipients may use this funding to provide premium pay directly, or through grants to private employers, to a broad range of essential workers who must be physically present at their jobs including, among others:

- ✓ Staff at nursing homes, hospitals, and home-care settings
- ✓ Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants
- ✓ Janitors and sanitation workers
- ✓ Public health and safety staff
- ✓ Truck drivers, transit staff, and warehouse workers
- ✓ Childcare workers, educators, and school staff
- ✓ Social service and human services staff

Treasury's Interim Final Rule emphasizes the need for recipients to prioritize premium pay for lower income workers. Premium pay that would increase a worker's total pay above 150% of the greater of the state or county average annual wage requires specific justification for how it responds to the needs of these workers.

In addition, employers are both permitted and encouraged to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to offer retrospective premium pay, recognizing that many essential workers have not yet received additional compensation for work performed. Staff working for third-party contractors in eligible sectors are also eligible for premium pay.

6. Investing in water and sewer infrastructure

Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in necessary improvements to their water and sewer infrastructures, including projects that address the impacts of climate change.

Recipients may use this funding to invest in an array of drinking water infrastructure projects, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems, including the replacement of lead service lines.

Recipients may also use this funding to invest in wastewater infrastructure projects, including constructing publicly-owned treatment infrastructure, managing and treating stormwater or subsurface drainage water, facilitating water reuse, and securing publicly-owned treatment works.

To help jurisdictions expedite their execution of these essential investments, Treasury's Interim Final Rule aligns types of eligible projects with the wide range of projects that can be supported by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Recipients retain substantial flexibility to identify those water and sewer infrastructure investments that are of the highest priority for their own communities.

Treasury's Interim Final Rule also encourages recipients to ensure that water, sewer, and broadband projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions.

7. Investing in broadband infrastructure

The pandemic has underscored the importance of access to universal, high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband coverage. Over the past year, millions of Americans relied on the internet to participate in remote school, healthcare, and work.

Yet, by at least one measure, 30 million Americans live in areas where there is no broadband service or where existing services do not deliver minimally acceptable speeds. For millions of other Americans, the high cost of broadband access may place it out of reach. The American Rescue Plan aims to help remedy these shortfalls, providing recipients with flexibility to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in broadband infrastructure.

Recognizing the acute need in certain communities, Treasury's Interim Final Rule provides that investments in broadband be made in areas that are currently unserved or underserved—in other words, lacking a wireline connection that reliably delivers minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Recipients are also encouraged to prioritize projects that achieve last-mile connections to households and businesses.

Using these funds, recipients generally should build broadband infrastructure with modern technologies in mind, specifically those projects that deliver services offering reliable 100 Mbps download and 100

Mbps upload speeds, unless impracticable due to topography, geography, or financial cost. In addition, recipients are encouraged to pursue fiber optic investments.

In view of the wide disparities in broadband access, assistance to households to support internet access or digital literacy is an eligible use to respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, as detailed above.

8. Ineligible Uses

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial resources to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments manage the public health and economic consequences of COVID-19. Recipients have considerable flexibility to use these funds to address the diverse needs of their communities.

To ensure that these funds are used for their intended purposes, the American Rescue Plan Act also specifies two ineligible uses of funds:

- **States and territories may not use this funding to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue due to a change in law from March 3, 2021 through the last day of the fiscal year in which the funds provided have been spent.** The American Rescue Plan ensures that funds needed to provide vital services and support public employees, small businesses, and families struggling to make it through the pandemic are not used to fund reductions in net tax revenue. Treasury's Interim Final Rule implements this requirement. If a state or territory cuts taxes, they must demonstrate how they paid for the tax cuts from sources other than Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds—by enacting policies to raise other sources of revenue, by cutting spending, or through higher revenue due to economic growth. If the funds provided have been used to offset tax cuts, the amount used for this purpose must be paid back to the Treasury.
- **No recipient may use this funding to make a deposit to a pension fund.** Treasury's Interim Final Rule defines a "deposit" as an extraordinary contribution to a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability. While pension deposits are prohibited, recipients may use funds for routine payroll contributions for employees whose wages and salaries are an eligible use of funds.

Treasury's Interim Final Rule identifies several other ineligible uses, including funding debt service, legal settlements or judgments, and deposits to rainy day funds or financial reserves. Further, general infrastructure spending is not covered as an eligible use outside of water, sewer, and broadband investments or above the amount allocated under the revenue loss provision. While the program offers broad flexibility to recipients to address local conditions, these restrictions will help ensure that funds are used to augment existing activities and address pressing needs.



City of Greenbelt COVID-19 Rental and Utility Assistance Program

- The purpose of the City's Rental and Utility Assistance Program is to provide financial support to residents who have been impacted by COVID-19. Assistance can be provided for past due rent and utilities that occurred beginning April 1, 2020. Maximum grant amount of \$10,000 per household. With an initial ARPA allocation of \$500,000, the program anticipates serving 50-75 households.
- Residents in need of more than \$10,000 will be referred to the County Rental and Utility Assistance Program. The County program offers to cover "Past due rent or utilities beginning April 1, 2020, up to 18 months".

Eligibility:

- Must live with the City of Greenbelt
- Must show financial hardship due to COVID-19
- Must meet income guidelines
- May have received less than \$10,000 in Rental Assistance from City or County Rental and Utility Assistance Programs.
- Can not have received \$10,000 or more previously from the City or County Rental and Utility Assistance program. Residents who exceed the \$10,000 maximum amount will be referred to the County Rental and Utility Assistance Program which is offering up to 18 months of assistance.

Requirements:

- 1) Completed Application
- 2) Submission of documents:
 - 30 Day Proof of income or unemployment
 - Copies of Monthly bills (phone, cable, electric, etc.)
 - Copy of Lease or Letter from Landlord
 - Completed Landlord Form

Note: The Federal Treasury does not require proof of resident status thus it will not be required for this grant program.

Grant Amount:

- A household may receive up to \$10,000 in rental and utility assistance
- Households who previously received assistance totaling less than \$10,000, from the City or County may apply for additional assistance. No household is to receive more than \$10,000 in Rental Assistance total.
- Households that need more than \$10,000 in Rental and Utility Assistance will be referred to the County Program.



County Coordination:

The program will coordinate with the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to ensure applicants are enrolled in one program for assistance.

Grant Disbursement:

Grant checks will be made out to the Landlord.



City of Greenbelt COVID 19 Mortgage Assistance Program

The State of Maryland has not yet released the requirements for the mortgage assistance program.

The City of Greenbelt is awaiting these guidelines to assist in the development of its proposal for mortgage assistance.

Homeowner Assistance Fund

The [Homeowner Assistance Fund](#) was established by the American Rescue Plan Act enacted on March 11, 2021, to help homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development expects to receive approximately \$250 million through this program to assist homeowners struggling with their mortgage payments or other housing costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The department is currently developing plans on implementing this program in the state in accordance with federal regulations, and expects to open the program later in 2021. When program application information is available, it will be posted to this website.

<https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Pages/HomeownerAssistanceFund.aspx>



Greenbelt Business Improvement and Recovery Fund **Immediate ARPA Action Plan (Round II)**

The Greenbelt Business Improvement and Recovery Fund, ARPA Funded Round II, is being recommended to offer financial assistance to local small businesses, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals, independent contractors, cooperative businesses and 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations whose operations continue to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This program, initially funded for immediate assistance with \$500,000 of ARPA funds, will provide local businesses and nonprofit organizations with a grant for up to \$20,000. This grant supports operating and workforce-related expenses related to business interruption, improvements and continuity. Applicants must meet eligibility guidelines and provide evidence of financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples of expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Rent
- Utilities
- Advertising
- Employee Hiring & Recruitment
- Employee Training & Onboarding
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Outdoor Space Build-out or Expansion

The Applicants must meet eligibility guidelines and provide evidence of financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The same guidelines, forms and processes approved by Council and implemented in Round I will be applied to Round II.

Application Process:

The application process has been streamlined to expedite the review, selection and disbursement of grant funds. The process is as follows:

1. Businesses would be required to provide the following documentation:
 - a. Completed application.
 - b. Business is in Good Standing as required by Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)
 - c. 2020 Business Tax Return
 - d. 2020 Personal Tax Return (If filing a Schedule C)
 - e. 2021 Interim Income Statement (July – September)
 - f. Proof of employment



2. An open application period is recommended and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. If all funds are not allocated to applicants during the second round, then a third round of applications will be accepted.
3. Applications will be reviewed and approved by a committee of key stakeholders to ensure that the process is fair and equitable at the end of the application period.
4. Approved businesses would then be issued a grant for up to \$20,000.
5. Businesses receiving funding would be encouraged via the Grant Award Letter to:
 - a. Adopt Federal, State and County guidance for operating their businesses (i.e. social distancing, clean down procedures, limiting in-store occupancy, etc).
 - b. Prioritize hiring Greenbelt residents and delivery or designate special hours for the purchase of food and services to seniors or other economically vulnerable populations.

Grant Review and Recommendations

Staff is recommending an initial application period through December 2021 and that applications are reviewed at the end of the application period. Staff is also recommending that if all funds are not allocated to applicants during the second round, then a third round of applications will be accepted. As mentioned, staff is recommending that the grant application be reviewed by an external committee that is comprised of residents and volunteers from Greenbelt businesses. The application review committee will review and make recommendations of businesses to receive grant funds all at once. Staff will work with City Administration and Finance Departments to also review grant applications and evaluator recommendations before disbursement of grant funds. Staff will work with the Finance Department on a process for disbursing funds. Council will receive regular update reports on disbursement of funds, unless a different process is otherwise requested.

Informational materials about the program have been created in English and Spanish. Application forms and information will be available on the City of Greenbelt website and sent directly to businesses through a variety of outreach methods including newsletters and partnering organizations.

Conclusion

Staff is requesting that Council review and approve the Greenbelt Business Improvement and Recovery Fund Round II program overview and materials so that staff can launch as soon as possible.

STAFF BRAINSTORM - POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR ARPA FEDERAL FUNDS THROUGH 2024/26

The Potential Projects for ARPA funds list below is the aggregation of meetings and deliberations with representatives from each of the City’s departments and discussion and input in between. These projects/programs have been screened based on ARPA criteria based on the Interim Final Rule as well as the Department of Treasury’s latest FAQ (July 19). Staff will continue to refine the list as federal guidelines and standards become clearer and as input from the Council and Greenbelt community comes in.

The list is broken down into seven (7) categories, acknowledging there is some overlap in the list and some projects/programs could be listed under multiple categories. The overriding purpose of this list is to provide initial thoughts on projects and programs that will best serve the Greenbelt community and assist in the recovery and rebuilding from this terrible pandemic. While the list has not been broken out into time-frames, staff is looking at 1) immediate need (next four months), 2) short-term recovery (next year); and, 3) long-term, catalytic changes (through 2026). Staff will also be incorporating issues of racial and social equity, particularly with respect to underserved members/areas of our community, as the list is refined.

SUMMARY

- Immediate Support to Residents and Businesses
- Resident Relief
- Local business support
- Technology
- Transportation/infrastructure
- Recreation/Outdoor spaces
- Other/Staff Support

RESIDENT RELIEF (RENT/MORTGAGE/EVICTION/FOOD)

- Subsidize resident rental and utility relief assistance
- Mental Health Connection – Online and Virtual Support services
- Grants to non-profits (Meals on Wheels, food banks/food pantries)
- Successful Aging Support Services (frail and at-risk seniors)
- Provide loans or grants for housing rehabilitation (aging in place, energy, etc.)
- Provide loans or grants to support first-time home buyer purchases in addition to the County and Federal
- Temporary case management managers, including bi-lingual support

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

- Provide assistance to businesses/nonprofits impacted by the pandemic.
- Create business start-up, incubator/entrepreneurial support programs
- Implement a business growth strategies initiative to support business retention
- Provide loans, grants or other resources to support retail and office commercial property owners fill vacancies caused by the pandemic
- Establish programs to support BIPOC, veteran and woman-owned businesses
- Provide grants and develop programs to support workforce development, such as training, education, and stipends, etc.
- Create a cooperative technical assistance program to support existing coops that have been impacted by the pandemic; and promote coops as a business model.
- Provide loans, grants and technical assistance to retrofit or build workspaces/facilities
- Develop a community-based business organization that supports outreach to historically disadvantaged populations to encourage businesses
- Restore the University of Maryland Shuttle subsidy for low-income workers, provide a subsidy for Metro/MARC rail for low-income workers
- Develop marketing campaigns to highlight post Covid19 resiliency (i.e. #ShopGreenbelt, Maryland Strong, Prince George's Proud, etc.)

TECHNOLOGY

- Build fiber connections among City Buildings
- Build fiber to replace the County institutional network (INET)
- Improve network security – cybersecurity threats
- Conduct a feasibility study for municipal broadband (for resident access?)
- Expand Wi-Fi within City buildings
- Improve technology to recreation facilities, including the Springhill Lake Recreation Center Game Room
- Expand computer, security camera, and other technology city organization wide
- Purchase a new playback system for the local government channel-
- Install solar charging stations for mobile devices at City parks
- Install solar visitor counters at City parks
- Possible Code Enforcement Improvements (technology)
- Implement remaining security system improvements, (Access Control, CCTV/Monitoring)
- Expand public Wi-Fi in public spaces like Buddy Attick Park
- Support County Public Library patron check out services of laptops/Wi-Fi/devices
- Additional Windows 10 computers
- New security system
- Tablets for seniors to reduce social isolation

TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE

- Complete planning and engineering stage, construct Hanover Parkway Hiker/Biker Trail
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan implementation and traffic calming
- Bus stop safety and accessibility plan implementation
- Electric bus (Recreation and Public Works)
- Conduct an Armory feasibility study,
- Implement Armory feasibility study recommendations
- Develop a new City Hall or purchase an office building
- Partially dredge Greenbelt Lake – *(water quality)*
- Purchase a new elevator for the Municipal Building
- Design and install new roofs at the Police Station and the Municipal Building
- Construct Cherrywood Lane Complete and Green Streets Project *(stormwater management)*
- Design and construct streets, sidewalk, curb, gutter, & ADA improvements
- Implement space study recommendations
- Purchase a new trash truck (small, electric),
- Purchase portable lifts for mechanics,
- Design and install HVAC upgrades Youth Center - Addition Area, Community Center – Lower Level, and GAFC – Ductwork
- GPD CIU office renovation
- Subsidize the construction of affordable senior housing (ED)
- Space needed for CARES employees

RECREATION/OUTDOOR SPACES

- Design and construct outdoor pavilion improvements at Buddy Attick and other parks
- Design and construct a pavilion for the Summer Camp behind the pool (horseshoe pits)
- Design and construct ballfield improvements/upgrades
- Install benches at City parks
- Create flexible/mixed-use space at in City buildings
- Outdoor amenities (YC and SHLRC) & archery range
- GAFC Splash Pad
- Guard desk renovation (COVID social distancing)
- Design and build an addition to Springhill Lake Recreation Center
- Design and construct an inclusive playground
- Public art/sprinklers

OTHER/STAFF SUPPORT/PUBLIC SAFETY

- Economic development staff support (contracted)
- Fund a temporary “ARPA” Account Technician (5 yrs)
- Contract project/construction management
- Community Engagement consultant
- Police Department (GPD) Radio system upgrades
- Premium Pay (GPD and DPW)
- Design and implement online payments for City services (permitting, registrations)
- Shot Spotter Detection System (to address increase crime during the pandemic)
- Surveillance cameras (to address increase crime during the pandemic)
- Cell Bright (GPD)
- Replace police vehicles and equipment