

ARPA POWER

PEOPLE ORGANIZING & WORKING
FOR EQUITABLE RECOVERY

Leveraging American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds in Massachusetts



Leveraging ARPA Funds in MA

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ARPA Overview

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ONE Opportunity

A powerful opportunity for community-led equity.

What ARPA Means for You

- \$8.7B in Massachusetts federal covid recovery aid via the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF)
 - \$5.4B to state government
 - \$3.4B directly to MA municipalities
- ARPA investments are **required to promote equitable outcomes**
 - Local gov't engaging with community groups and residents
 - Focus on those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic

TWO Equity

Lived experience. Lasting insight.

Requirements for Outcomes

- The SLFRF program provides resources to:
 - **Fight** the pandemic and support those struggling with public health and economic impacts
 - **Maintain** vital public services despite lost revenue
 - **Build** a resilient, equitable recovery through investments that support long-term growth and opportunity

THREE Urgency

Today's act is tomorrow's impact.

Implementation & Timing

- **2021** – ARPA was signed into law
- **2024** – deadline for allocation of ARPA funds
- **2026** – ARPA-funded projects must be implemented

Now is the time for communities to engage – and hold city governments accountable.

FOUR Flexibility

Flexible funds. Endless ARPAtunities.

How Funds May Be Used

- Few limits and no minimum dollar amounts
- **Examples** – ongoing covid response, community aid, mental health & substance use programs, housing, small business support
- Only 4 types of spending are **ineligible**:
 - Deposits to pension funds
 - Payment of debt
 - Payment of settlement/judgement agreements
 - Replenishing financial reserves or stabilization funds

FIVE Reality

Real change. Right now.

Progress Happening in Massachusetts Cities

- Cities and towns across MA are already implementing millions of dollars in ARPA-funded programs
- Municipalities are committing to more equitable, accessible processes:
 - Offering meetings and documents in multiple languages
 - Working with community orgs to support their applications for funds
 - Other innovations to enhance engagement for marginalized communities

Massachusetts Community Examples

- **Chelsea** – a 20-member resident committee created an allocation plan that prioritized six areas and \$15 million in funding
- **Lynn** – making ARPA funds more accessible by opening suggestions to nonprofits and governmental groups, and encouraging individual residents to submit proposals
- **Worcester** – city and local coalition partnered to create a resident advisory committee for city RFPs, resulting in community-vetted ARPA allocations of \$50M
- **Holyoke** – after seeing a gap in engagement, the city did outreach to 100+ local businesses to better understand how ARPA dollars can support the local economy
- **The Berkshires** – developing a clearinghouse to facilitate training, technical assistance, grant-writing support, and resources to connect potential applicants to relevant grants

Learn more at
hria.org/arpapower