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

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

Lived experience. Lasting insight.
THREE

Urgency

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

Implementation & Timing

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

Today’s act is tomorrow’s impact.
FOUR
Flexibility

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

Flexible funds. Endless ARPAtunities.
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

Real change. Right now.
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