

A Closer Look at ARPA Funds

What are ARPA funds?

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will create programs that support public health and economic recovery. The funds cities and towns are receiving come from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, or the SLFRF program.

Massachusetts municipalities have been awarded \$3.4B in SLFRF funds.

How are ARPA's SLFRF funds different from other economic stimulus packages?

The federal government set strict guidance to make sure SLFRF funds address the impacts of the pandemic on **those who were harmed the most**.

Specifically, this guidance mandates that SLFRF address **problems identified by communities themselves**.

How can SLFRF funds be spent?

Funds from the SLFRF program can be used for many different purposes. According to the Federal Government, almost any type of investment is eligible. Cities and towns must aim to address **community inequities made worse by the pandemic**. All types of organizations are eligible to receive funds, and there is no minimum dollar amount for projects.

Is there anything SLFRF funds can't be used for?

There are only 4 categories of spending that are not eligible:

- Depositing money into any pension fund
- Payment of debt
- Payments of settlement or judgement agreements
- Replenishing financial reserves or stabilization funds

What are cities in Massachusetts doing?

Cities like Chelsea, Lynn, Worcester, and others are funding needs from infrastructure to engagement to community organizations. Common investments include COVID-19 response, direct aid to residents or nonprofits, mental health and substance use programs, housing, and small business support. See what's happening [here](#).

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