



ARPA Municipal Project Selection

1. Be Patient and Methodical

There is no need to rush! Funds must be obligated by 2024, and must be expended by 2026.

2. Review Municipal Priorities and Programs

What does your Municipal Plan prioritize for future investment? Develop an initial list of project ideas from your Municipal Plan goals and strategies. Consider what's changed. How do these needs connect with the four ARPA eligibility buckets?

- Respond to the public health emergency or negative economic impacts
- Premium pay for essential workers
- Revenue replacement, and
- Water, sewer, broadband Infrastructure.

Municipal Priorities

- Improve drinking, waste, or storm water infrastructure
- Buildout broadband
- Strengthen village center and business economic resilience
- Improve certain outdoor spaces
- Further childcare goal

3. Consult your Citizens

Use a public process to solicit and prioritize project ideas. Reach out to community groups. ARPA funding can be distributed to nonprofits or other eligible third-party organizations performing eligible projects that benefit your community!

Invite Ideas

- Host a public forum
- Conduct a survey
- Use events
- Send a letter
- Leverage social media
- Ask committees

4. Exclude ineligible uses

ARPA funds cannot be spent on:

- Match to other federal programs (you can *add* to federal funding received)
- Pensions
- Infrastructure not directly addressed in ARPA, or
- Rainy day funds, financial reserves, and outstanding debt.



5. Leverage Other Funding Sources

Federal or state programs (Economic Development Agency, FEMA, Agency of Natural Resources, Agency of Transportation, Agency of Commerce and Community Development) may be able to provide funding for municipal projects. Guidance on potential uses of State ARPA funds is in development. Projects that cannot be funded by these programs should be considered for ARPA.

6. Leverage CVRPC

The Legislature provided ARPA funding to regional planning commissions to support municipalities in project selection and development. We are happy to attend meetings at your request to provide information about ARPA and public engagement. Contact Grace Vinson at vinson@cvregion.com or 802-229-0389 with questions.

Planning Framework for Maximum Impact and Best Use of Municipal ARPA Funds

1. PRIORITIZE GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Convene all Stakeholders & Build Consensus
- Follow Allowable Uses Under ARPA
- Meet all Accounting & Reporting Rules
- Comply w/ all Local & State Laws/Ordinances
- Ensure Transparency Throughout
- Do Not Create Future Budget Deficits

2. LEVERAGE YOUR ARPA AID

- Use a Thoughtful Strategic Planning Process
- Leverage w/ ARPA, FEMA & Other \$ Fed Sources
- Coordinate w/ Other State & Local Programs
- Collaborate w/ Community Partners & Orgs
- Use Existing Delivery Systems for Efficiency
- Don't Reinvent the Wheel: Learn from Others

3. INVEST IN BEST USES FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY

- Invest in Urgent Health and Economic Needs
- Prioritize Short-Term Investments w/ Lasting Benefits
- ID and Address Pre-COVID Inhibitors to Growth
- Move Quickly to Stimulate a Faster Recovery
- Measure Progress Throughout to Inform Ongoing Plans

THIS IS YOUR TARGET

Vermont League of Cities & Towns

<https://www.vlct.org/resources/american-rescue-plan-information>