City of Medford’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Content

• What is ARPA?
• Community engagement
• Spending strategy
What is ARPA?
Spirit of ARPA

• Fight the pandemic and support municipalities, individuals, families, and businesses struggling with public health and economic impacts
• Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue
• Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity.
Funding Amounts

- $1.9T American Rescue Plan Act
- $8.7B Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery
  - $5.3B Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery (CSFRF)
  - $3.4B Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFRF)
- $1.2M Medford State Earmarks
- $48M Medford Grant Funding
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City of Medford * American Rescue Plan Act
ARPA Timeline

• Signed into law March 11, 2021
• Department of Treasury released the following:
  • May 17th, 2021, Interim Final Rule
  • January 6th, 2022, Final Rule
  • March 1st, 2022, Final Rule Compliance and Guidance
• Massachusetts
  • December 13th, 2021, Chapter 102: Act Relative to Immediate COVID-19 Recovery Needs
  • TBD approximately 2 Billion left for State to distribute
ARPA Timeline

Funds need to be spent by
December 31, 2026
Eligible Uses

- Public Health Emergency
- Premium Pay
- Revenue Loss
- Infrastructure
# Prohibited Uses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offset tax cut</th>
<th>Pensions</th>
<th>Debt Servicing</th>
<th>Stabilization Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You cannot use funds to offset a reduction in taxes</td>
<td>Funds cannot be deposited into a pension fund (but covered benefits for new employees are okay)</td>
<td>Infrastructure investments must be “pay go” investments</td>
<td>You cannot deposit funds into a Rainy Day or Stabilization Fund</td>
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</table>
Explanation of Eligible Uses
Part 1: Responding to the Public Health Emergency

- Public health: Covid-related cost, staff, infrastructure, capacity, facilities
- Support staff and up to pre-pandemic levels of the public sector
- Direct Aid to impacted small business and non-profit
- Direct Aid to individuals: food, housing, cash assistance, personal health and economic subsidies
Part 1: Responding to the Public Health Emergency

- Educational disparities - learning loss, mental health; Educational equipment and facilities
- Investments to neighborhoods and public buildings. Greening, demo, rehab, remediation etc
- Community health: staffing, infrastructure, equipment, paid leave, prevention/response to violence
- Long-term financial security programs: housing, banking, health cost
Part 1: Responding to the Public Health Emergency
How to create a program

1. Recognize the harm.
2. Is the individual or population impacted or disproportionately impacted?
3. Select a program to address the harm.
Part 2: Revenue Replacement

Government Services

- Public Safety
- Education
- General Government Administration
- Health Services
- Environmental Remediation
Part 3: Premium Pay

What is it?
Payments to essential workers

Eligibility
Lower-income essential workers

Examples Industries: healthcare and nursing home; farm and food; janitors; public health and safety, truck and transit, and warehouse; childcare and educators; human and social service
Part 3: Premium Pay

The State of Massachusetts is distributing Premium Pay in the “COVID-19 Essential Employee Premium Pay Program”

This program will distribute $500 million to lower-wage frontline workers who put themselves at risk with admirable commitment to their communities.

$500 payments will be delivered to 500,000 people in March. These payments represent the first round of funds to be distributed as part of the program.

COVID-19 Essential Employee Premium Pay Program | Mass.gov
Part 4: Water, Sewer, and Broadband

Water and Sewer Infrastructure

- Lead Abatement
- Drinking Water
- Climate Change
- Wastewater
- Water Treatment
Part 4: Water, Sewer, and Broadband

Broadband

- Facilitating Internet Access
- Facilitating Digital Literacy
- Last-Mile Connections
Community Engagement
Community Engagement Strategy

The purpose of engagement:

- **Develop** a base of collective knowledge and learning about how ARPA funding can be used in Medford
- **Engage** key stakeholders in conversations around ARPA; Additional focus on populations hardest hit by the pandemic, its economic impacts, including communities of color, renters, low-income residents, and non-English speaking residents
- **Explore** community priorities for how the funding should be used
- **Share** with city staff what we heard were resident priorities

Engagement activities will focus on:

- Providing clear and accessible information about the ARPA funding; including what the money can and can’t be used for and what the City’s high priority initial emergency spending plans are
- Creating opportunities for Medford residents to share priorities and program suggestions with the City to inform further ARPA spending that best serves the community
Equity Priorities

Accessibility

• Develop an outreach team to conduct proactive outreach, surveying, and listening that meets people where they are

• Translate materials for a range of outreach formats designed to overcome participation barriers

• Clear information, “de-technicalized” language, analysis provided during engagement events

• Share with city staff what we heard were resident priorities

Targeted Outreach

• Meet communities where they are

• Priority is to focus on communities that:
  1. Can be underrepresented in public policy decision making
  2. Have resource needs that can be addressed through ARPA money
  3. Have been identified by the City as priority for involvement
# Communications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Materials</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>City Website</td>
<td>Graphics, Video, Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>TV</td>
<td>Medford Community Media</td>
<td>Chyron, Recorded Videos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Email/Newsletters</td>
<td>Departmental email list and newsletters</td>
<td>Graphics, Text, and Links</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Space</td>
<td>Soofa Boards</td>
<td>Graphics, Text and QR Codes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Robo Calls, Multilingual Resource Line, City Hall Phone number</td>
<td>Voice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>City of Medford Twitter and FB</td>
<td>Graphics, Text and QR Codes</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Person</td>
<td>Table and Chair at Local Events</td>
<td>Fact Sheet, QR Code, Translated Materials</td>
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Community Engagement

1. Translated into: Haitian Creole, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese
2. Print out hard copies for community centers and schools
3. Share with Community Groups

Community Priority Survey

1. What is ARPA, how to get involved, and Q/A
2. Survey results
3. Funded Projects

Community Meetings

Bring ARPA information and survey to people

Outreach series
Community Engagement Timeline

- **March 2022**
  - City Council Meeting
  - Community meeting: What is ARPA and how do I get involved?

- **Spring 2022**
  - Multilingual Survey

- **Summer 2022**
  - Community Outreach Series

- **Fall 2022**
  - Survey Close

- **Winter 2022**
  - Survey results shared in community meeting and online.
Spending Strategy
How will the City choose projects?

- Public feedback and values
- Emergency need
- Project readiness
- Priorities identified in earlier processes
How will the City choose projects?

- Public feedback and values
- Project readiness
- Emergency need
- Priorities identified in earlier processes

- Medford Comprehensive Plan
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Climate Plan
- Housing Plan
How will your feedback impact these decisions?

Public values about ARPA spending will help guide the City’s decision-making process.

Is the project ready to go?

YES!

Let’s fund it!
How can I share my ideas?

https://www.medfordma.org/arpa/
What are other cities and towns doing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Programs / Initiatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salem: $35.5M</td>
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<td>• Housing: Rental Asst, Landlord Education, Tenant Right's program etc</td>
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<td>• Climate Crisis Mitigation</td>
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<td>• Rental assistance</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Exploring free or reduced transit program</td>
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<td>Malden: $45.7M</td>
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<td>• Free membership to Malden Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>• Winter Festival for local businesses and artist</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Affordable housing</td>
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<td>Pittsfield: $40M</td>
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<td>• Childhood Development &amp; Youth Intervention (including daycares)</td>
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<td>• Mental Health &amp; Substance Use Disorders</td>
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<td>• Disabled, Elderly &amp; Veterans</td>
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<td>• UBI program</td>
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<td>Somerville: $77.5M</td>
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<td>• Government services</td>
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