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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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

**Offset tax cut**
You cannot use funds to offset a reduction in taxes

**Pensions**
Funds cannot be deposited into a pension fund (but covered benefits for new employees are okay)

**Debt Servicing**
Infrastructure investments must be “pay go” investments

**Stabilization Funds**
You cannot deposit funds into a Rainy Day or Stabilization Fund
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.

Part 4: Water, Sewer, and Broadband
Part 4: Water, Sewer, and 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>City Website</td>
<td>Graphics, Video, Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV</td>
<td>Medford Community Media</td>
<td>Chyron, Recorded Videos</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>City of Medford Twitter and FB</td>
<td>Graphics, Text and QR Codes</td>
</tr>
<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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</tbody>
</table>
## 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 to 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.
Big ARPA Questions

What has been spent and how will funding be allocated?
# Projects and Spending to Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Covid-19 Testing</td>
<td>$22,040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covid-19 Mitigation</td>
<td>$19,353</td>
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<td>Community Outreach Workers</td>
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<td>Water and Sewer Projects</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Lead Remediation Rebate Program</td>
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<td>ARPA Consulting Services</td>
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How will the City choose projects?

- Public feedback and values
- Emergency need
- Project readiness
- Priorities identified in earlier processes
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City of Medford * American Rescue Plan Act
How can I share my ideas?

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

Salem: $35.5M
• Housing: Rental Asst, Landlord Education, Tenant Right’s program etc
  • Climate Crisis Mitigation
  • Rental assistance
  • Exploring free or reduced transit program

Malden: $45.7M
• Free membership to Malden Chamber of Commerce
• Winter Festival for local businesses and artist
  • Affordable housing

Pittsfield: $40M
• Childhood Development & Youth Intervention (including daycares)
• Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders
• Disabled, Elderly & Veterans
  • UBI program

Somerville: $77.5M
• Government services
• Exploring free or reduced transit program
  • Rental assistance
  • Childcare subsidy
Discussion Time