



ARPA: Tell Your Story!

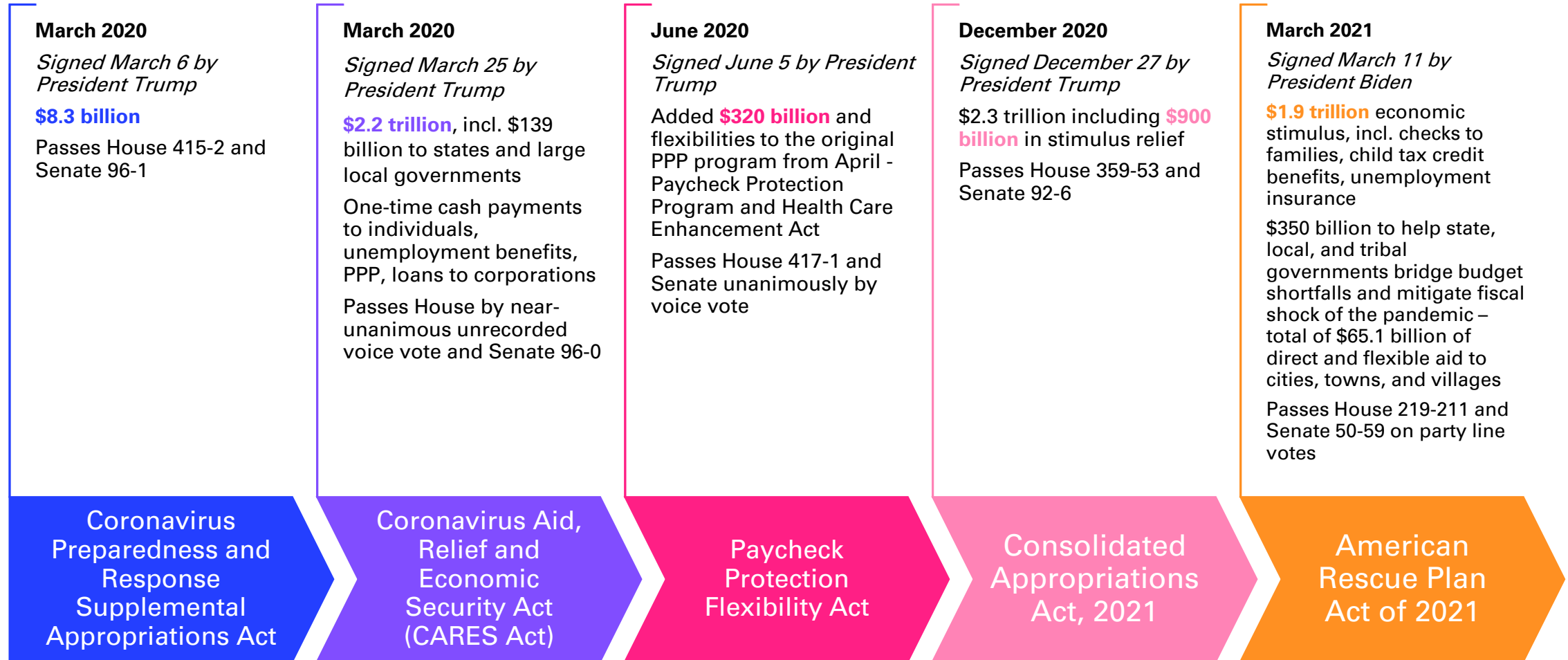


2022 Georgia Government Communicators Conference

Becky Taylor

btaylor@gacities.com

Timeline of pandemic relief funds



•⁺ ARPA Headlines Around the •⁺ ◦ U.S. and Congress ◦

“bailout”

THE NEWSROOM | SENATE RESOURCES | ABOUT LEADER McCONNELL

MITCH McCONNELL
REPUBLICAN LEADER

KENTUCKIANS
Visit Leader McConnell's Kentucky Site Here

THE NEWSROOM | THE LEADER BOARD

05.02.22

Pickle Ball Courts, CRT Training, Parking Meter Readers, And Golf Course Irrigation: The Wasteful Legacy Of Biden's Slush Fund For State And Local Governments

As Democrats Prepared To Pass Their Massive \$1.9 Trillion Left-Wing Wish List Of Stimulus Spending Last Year, President Biden Asked, 'What Would They Have Me Cut?' Senate Republicans' Answer: The \$350 Billion State And Local Slush Fund That Predictably Financed A Smorgasbord Of Wasteful Projects Unrelated To The Pandemic

California cities spent huge share of federal Covid relief funds on police

Records reveal that some cities gave more stimulus money to law enforcement than to health, housing and food initiatives



Long Beach spent \$135m in Arpa funds on its police department - the entire amount the city received from the federal government. Photograph: Raquel Natalicchio/Zuma Press Wire/Rex/Shutterstock

“money grab”



Los Angeles Police Department officers push back protesters in July 2020. Michael Mutha/Unsplash

‘IT’S A MONEY GRAB’: BILLIONS IN COVID RELIEF GOING TO FUND POLICE AND PRISONS

Less than two years after racial justice protests sparked calls to “defund the police,” states and jurisdictions are using pandemic aid to pad already bloated law enforcement budgets.

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

THE COVID MONEY TRAIL

‘Immense fraud’ creates immense task for Washington as it tries to tighten scrutiny of \$6 trillion in emergency coronavirus spending

Fraud and identity theft continue as watchdogs wonder whether they can recover all that was stolen

“slush fund”

“[ARPA is] fueling the fire of inflation”



GOVERNING
THE FUTURE OF STATES AND LOCALITIES

THE FUTURE OF FINANCE

Minnesota Local Govs Still Have \$2B in COVID Aid to Spend

Most of the remaining funds have been earmarked by cities, townships and counties for community projects to address broadband access, housing, workforce development and other needs. But some worry about the debt repayment.

July 18, 2022 • Christopher Magan, Pioneer Press

[f](#) [in](#) [t](#) [m](#) [p](#)



PATERSON PRESS

Paterson's city budget infused with \$46 million in COVID relief. What does this mean for you?

Joe Malinconico Paterson Press

Published 12:44 p.m. ET July 21, 2022 | Updated 2:30 p.m. ET July 21, 2022



The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Local News Georgia Politics Dangerous Dwellings Opinion EPaper Sports Newsletters

Fruit trees to grain alcohol: Local governments get creative in spending COVID relief cash



DEKALB COUNTY

By Tyler Estep, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Credit: Jason Getz / Jason.Getz@ajc.com



Windfall of federal relief money paying for local SC roads, tax relief, housing and more

BY DAVID SLADE DSLADE@POSTANDCOURIER.COM
JUL 24, 2022



“we don't have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem, an addiction”

Why communicating strategically and thoughtfully is important

This is an email from a Congressional Staffer to a Georgia Mayor in May 2022:

As follow-up to another item from our meeting - your questions regarding possible ARPA fund rescission. To our knowledge, Congress has not rescinded any ARPA funds. Congress (led by the Senate) has been discussing a potential COVID supplemental appropriations bill, and the pay-for that is being considered is rescinding some unused state and local bailout funds from ARPA. That bill was close to being attached to the recent omnibus appropriations bill but was ultimately left out because the far left objected to their states' unused funds being rescinded. The Senate now has an agreement on that bill and we expect it will be up for a vote soon.

As you know from our meeting, [REDACTED]'s position, and basically every other Republican, support repurposing unused funds because all of us opposed ARPA and don't think those funds should have been appropriated in the first place. This part of ARPA has essentially become a slush fund to bail out state and local governments that have mismanaged their budgets for years since long before COVID started.

Please let me know if you have any questions whatsoever or how we can help you in your efforts,

With kind regards,

“...all of us opposed ARPA and don't think those funds should have been appropriated in the first place. This part of ARPA has essentially become a slush fund to bail out state and local governments that have mismanaged their budgets for years since long before COVID started”

+
• +
○

**“How we communicate
data is essential”**

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• ○

Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker

Tracks ARPA dollars spent by the 329 counties and cities nationwide with 250,000+ residents. These jurisdictions received \$62 billion in total. [Explore tracker here.](#)

The screenshot displays the 'Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker' interface. At the top, it shows national-level statistics: 1 local government, 5 projects, \$12.0M total tracked, and 7.0% of funding budgeted. Below this, there are buttons for 'Download Data' and 'Submit Your Local Gov's ARPA Plan'. The interface is currently set to 'Atlanta, GA' and shows a map of the United States with a blue dot in the Southeast. To the left of the map is a breakdown of spending by category: Government Operations (1.7%), Infrastructure (0.0%), Public Health (12.5%), Economic & Workforce Dev (12.5%), Community Aid (8.3%), Housing (0.0%), and Public Safety (0.0%).

Overlaid on the screenshot are two callout boxes. The first callout box highlights the national-level statistics: Total \$ Tracked: \$12.0M and % of Funding Budgeted: 7.0%. The second callout box highlights the City of Atlanta's statistics: Total \$ Tracked: \$25.3bn and % of Funding Budgeted: 40.8%.

City of Atlanta
(total allocation: \$170,928,821)

How Cities and States are Gathering Data as They Spend Federal Aid



(L-R) Kevin Chambers, Director for COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement, Department of Justice; Hannibal "Mike" Ware, Inspector General, Small Business Administration; Michael Horowitz, Chair, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee; and Roy D. Dotson Jr., Acting Special Agent in Charge,

ROUTE FIFTY (6/29/22)

Excerpt from article:

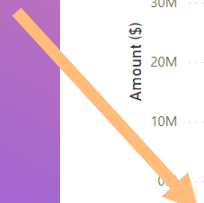
The [Pandemic Response Accountability Committee](#), the watchdog agency responsible for monitoring the historic disbursement of federal dollars, promotes data collection both as a way to encourage transparency and uncover fraud, abuse and mismanagement. On Wednesday, the committee held a webinar featuring officials who have prioritized openness when it comes to pandemic relief funds.

“How we communicate data is essential,” said Julie Demuth, assistant director of budget and performance for Pierce County, Washington. “Communication is probably even more important than the data itself. You can put a ton of data out there and make it available to the public but if it’s not consumable or understandable, it really defeats the purpose.”

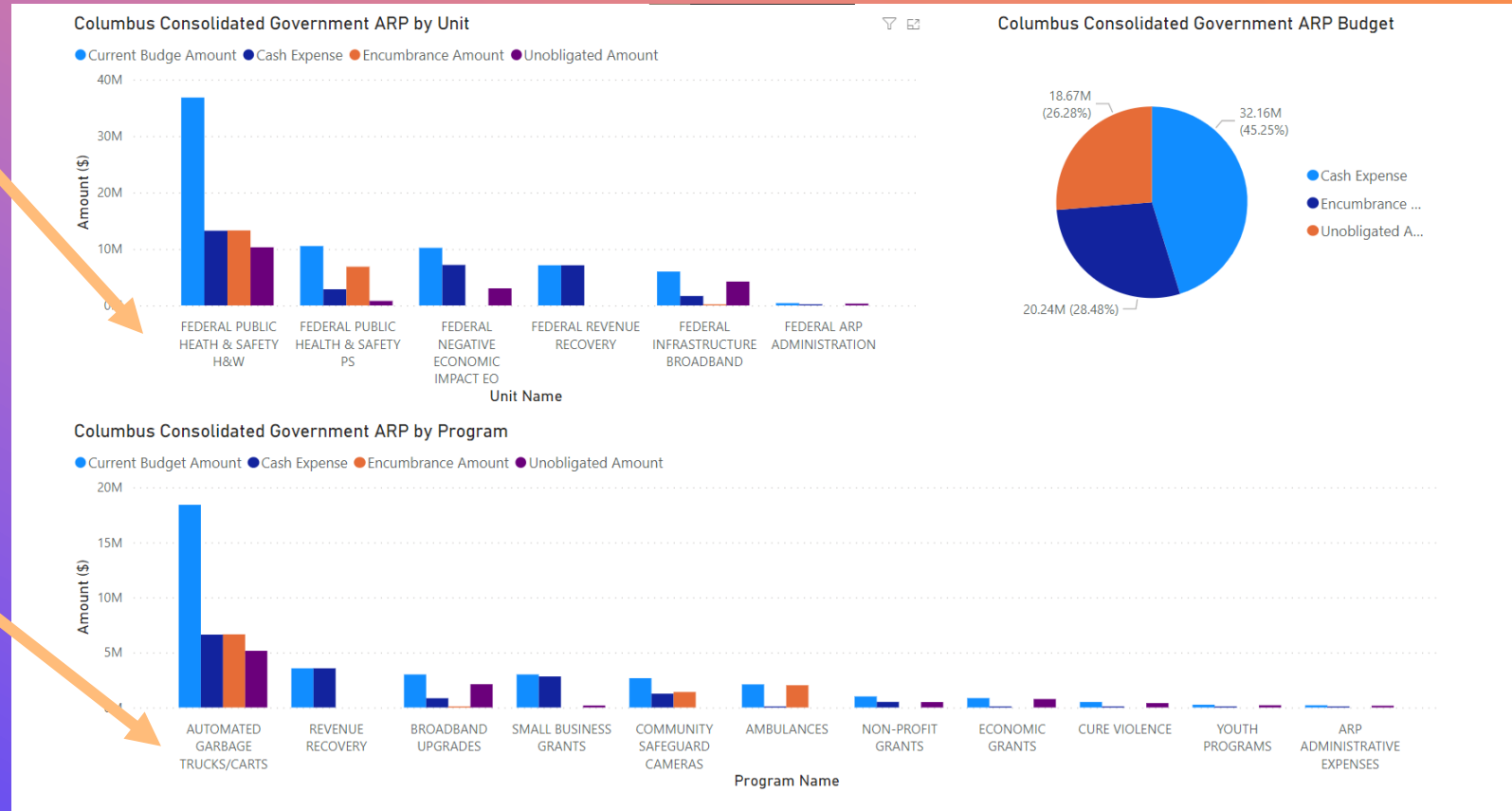
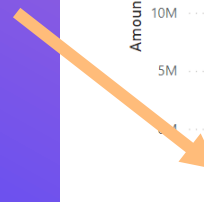
CITY OF COLUMBUS

columbusga.gov/arp

Eligible use categories from Final Rule



Specific projects



"If you watch the news and on social media, we see PPP loan fraud. The City of Columbus did not want to be a meme. So, in order to protect the integrity of our endeavor [small business and nonprofit grant program], we required those documents to make sure that we are not in the news for awarding people fraudulent money." – February 2021 article

**Georgia Cities, you have
great stories to tell!**

And some are already telling them...

“The use of funds will restore the city's resources and allow for **improved functionality** and the **opportunity to be responsive to the immediate and future needs** of those directly and indirectly affected as well as those who have been steadfast in sustaining operations during the crisis.”

JONESBORO

“Hamilton is having a few problems at the moment and we are short staffed. However, we are using the ARPA money to run a new water line that will serve new houses **plus citizens on the lower income scale. We have wanted to do this for years but have not had the resources.** This will take a great deal of the money. We also intend to procure another well that is needed **due to the growth we have had in the last few years.** We will be upgrading our lift stations and sewage treatment plant.”

HAMILTON

“The city has planned and designed a new well, water tower and improved water lines. **This project will benefit all residents, schools, hospitals and public facilities.** The new water tower and improved water lines will **also improve fire protection** by increasing the water pressure throughout the city. The grant funds awarded will be used to complete this project, **while not increasing the water usage rate for customers.**”

LAKELAND

CITY OF BOGART



“Bogart is so proud of these men. Because of the ARPA funds, we have been able to update and add to the Fire Department/Rescue's arsenal to better equip them in their mission to keep the citizens of Bogart safe. Here is a picture shared after the first training with the new Jaws of Life! Awesome.”

BOGART

CITY OF LOUISVILLE



Before & After

NEWS

Louisville homeowners receive new roofs from city program

by: [Ashley Jones](#)
Posted: Jan 23, 2022 / 01:41 AM EST
Updated: Jan 23, 2022 / 10:55 AM EST

**RENOVATION PAID FOR BY
THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE
USING ARPA FUNDS**



#buildinguplouisville



A COMMUNITY COMMITMENT
LOUISVILLE, GA



JENNY SMITH
MAYOR, CITY OF LOUISVILLE

WJBF (1/23/22)

CITY OF DUNWOODY

- ✓ Simple but catchy title
- ✓ Photos
- ✓ Quotes
- ✓ A bit of background and motivation for the project – *why should people care?*
- ✓ Key dates or milestones
- ✓ Contact information

Dunwoody uses federal funds to support summer tutoring

Post Date: 05/18/2022 9:36 a.m.

Dunwoody, GA – May 18, 2022 – Registration is now open for the Corners Academy Summer Camp, a free program that’s designed to support Dunwoody students and prevent learning loss. On May 9, the Dunwoody City Council voted unanimously to award Corners Outreach a grant of up to \$200,000 from Dunwoody’s allocation of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding for the program.

“One of the approved uses of ARP funds is to provide services to disproportionately impacted communities,” said Dunwoody Mayor Lynn Deutsch. “The pandemic negatively impacted children, and we are pleased to be able to offer this resource.”

The funds will pay for staff, equipment, and transportation for the camp for up to 250 students from Dunwoody schools. Camp starts on May 31 and will include daily tutoring in math and reading, social and emotional learning, outdoor activities, and breakfast and lunch.

“Corners Outreach is honored to partner with the City of Dunwoody this summer to help our families succeed. Corners Academy Vice President. “Our Academy summer camp will be full of learning and fun for children who will keep up with their academics over the summer.”

Corners Academy is offering an eight-week program for grades K-5 at 6890 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Suite A. In addition, Corners will



Dunwoody breaks ground on new park in Perimeter Center

Post Date: 07/21/2022 3:00 p.m.

Dunwoody, GA – July 25, 2022 – Dunwoody Parks and Recreation and members of the Dunwoody City Council broke ground on a new park in Perimeter Center today. The five-acre park at 50 Perimeter Center East will feature the City’s first splash pad, a playground, small and large pavilions, restroom facilities, exercise equipment, and trails.

“We’ve had a need for a park in Perimeter Center since the City was incorporated,” said Dunwoody Mayor Lynn Deutsch. “Thousands of Dunwoody residents will finally have easy access to green space and park amenities.”

This park was supposed to be built in 2020 with hotel/motel taxes to provide a draw for tourists, as well as a key amenity for Perimeter residents. But when that funding dried up during the pandemic, plans were put on hold. In March 2022, The Dunwoody City Council approved using American Rescue Plan funding to get the project back on track.



[PRESS RELEASE \(5/18/22\)](#)

[PRESS RELEASE \(7/21/22\)](#)

ARPA GIVES AGENCY TO CITIES

On June 14, 2022, Vince Williams, Mayor of Union City, Georgia and President of the National League of Cities, testified before the U.S. House Budget Committee.

He talked about how ARPA gave cities and towns the **agency to address unique conditions facing their community and the hardest-hit residents**, and how ARPA helped keep his city running over the last two years.



[“How the American Rescue Plan Saved Lives and the U.S. Economy” \(video of full hearing\)](#)

What can you do?

Congress is looking for funds and “unobligated” funds are vulnerable to clawback.

- ❑ Cities are getting their second tranche this month. Now is the time to gather input and finalize ARPA budgets.
- ❑ Communicate with residents about how these funds will help them.
- ❑ Consider online data tracker or one-pager.
- ❑ Invite members of Congress and the media to your city to show how funds are helping.
- ❑ Promote your city’s story to the media, get out front and tell your positive story.
- ❑ Put a human face on how funds are impacting the city now and in the future.

Attention Conyers Residents and Businesses!
You may be eligible for ARPA Funds.

Apply for ARPA Funds Today



**Only qualifying residents and businesses in the Conyers city limits are eligible to apply.*

Apply online at conyersga.com/government/about-conyers/arpa-funds-assistance/
—Or—
Apply at the Customer Service kiosk at Conyers City Hall, 901 O'Kelly Street

Apply online at conyersga.com/government/about-conyers/arpa-funds-assistance/

The Conyers Mayor and Council have authorized the disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to qualifying Conyers residents and businesses who have experienced hardship and negative economic impact due to COVID-19. Qualifying residents and businesses interested in applying should log on to conyersga.com/government/about-conyers/arpa-funds-assistance/. Documentation of your qualification will be required.

Only online applications will be accepted. Those who do not have access to the online application may visit City Hall at 901 O'Kelly Street between 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday and apply via a kiosk in the customer service lobby. City staff are available to assist with any questions.



- HOME
- OVERVIEW >
- MAYOR & COUNCIL >
- CITY DEPARTMENTS >
- LEGAL >
- RESIDENTS >
- VISITORS >
- CALENDAR
- NEWS & EVENTS
- CONTACT >

QUICK LINKS

- Utility Services Application
- Utility Disconnect Form
- Careers
- Current Bid Opportunities
- Garden Policies and Procedures
- Sanitation 2022 Holiday Collection Schedule
- CoderED Community Notification System
- Tax & License Office



Columbus Consolidated Government ARP Programs



□ Highlight partners your city is collaborating with

□ Create flyers

ARPA Funding Proposed Spending

Home / ARPA Funding Proposed Spending

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SPENDING PROPOSAL

The City of Statesboro is seeking feedback on the proposed use of funding from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The city is expected to receive approximately \$12.3 million in ARPA funds. Of this amount, the city has already received \$6.15 million with the remaining portion due to be received in July 2022.

The city has prepared a preliminary plan to utilize the ARPA funds but is seeking public input and comment before any funding plan is finalized by the Mayor and City Council. The preliminary plan currently includes proposals to fund the following:

- \$2.5M for housing rehabilitation: specifically for the Johnson St. Neighborhood as well as scattered sites;
- \$3M for new sewer lines;
- \$500,000 for Food Insecurities (matching a \$500,000 Bulloch County grant to relocate the Food Bank); and,
- \$153,110.50 for Loss Revenues/Incentives.

A presentation on the proposed spending plan can be found below. Citizens are invited to submit their feedback via the submission form at the bottom of the page.

□ Public-facing website outlining spending proposals

Deadline to **obligate** funds

December
31, 2024

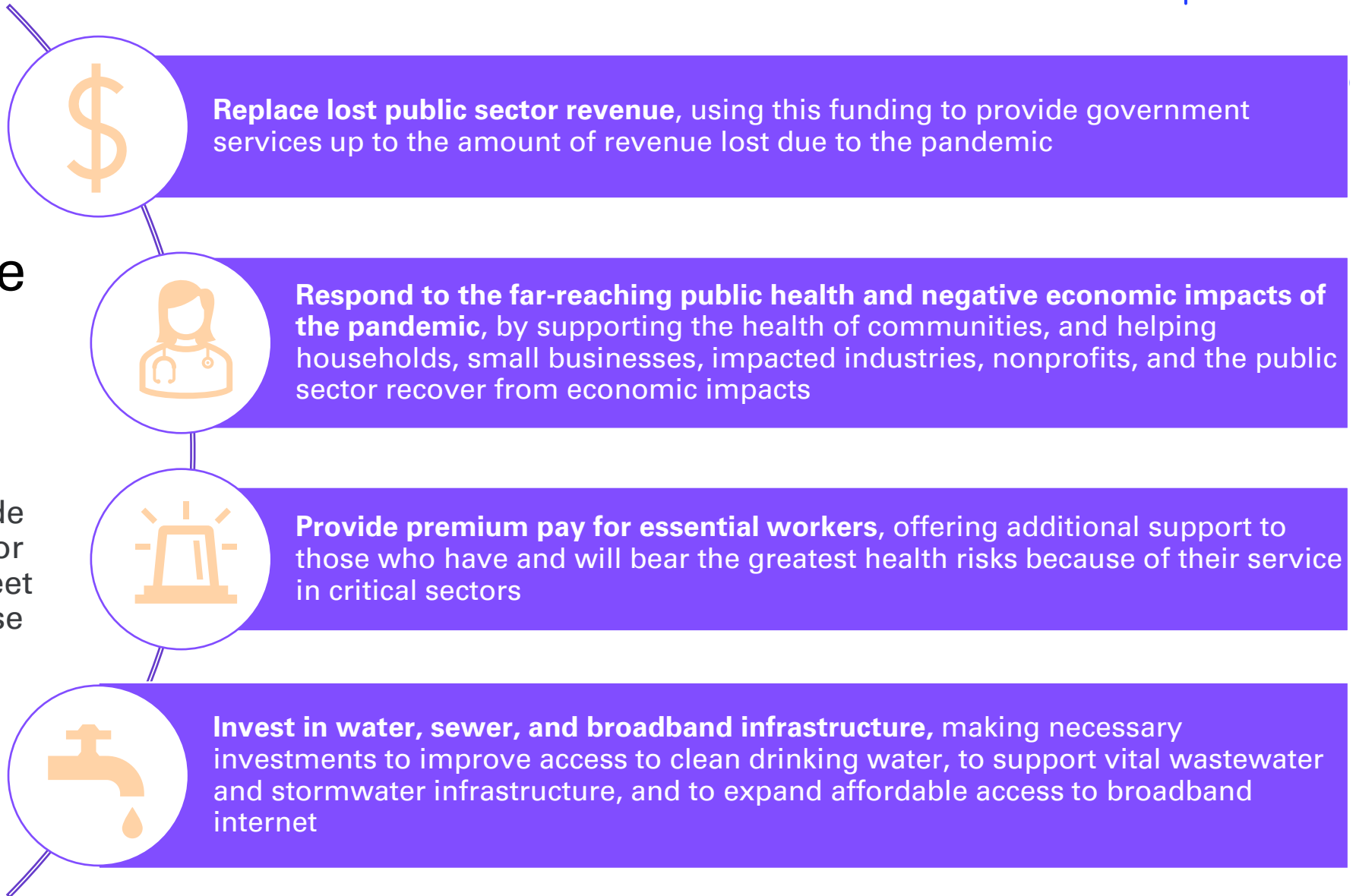
Deadline to **spend** funds

December
31, 2026



How may recipients use ARPA SLFRF funds?

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs within these four separate eligible use categories.



ARPA Compliance and Reporting Guidance

Appendix 1: Expenditure Categories has a list of 80+ eligible project categories. [See the guidance here.](#)

Expenditure Category	EC ²⁸	Previous EC ²⁹
Healthy Childhood Environments: Other [^]	-	3.9
Social Determinants of Health: Other [^]	-	3.13
3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity		
General Provisions		
Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers	3.1	1.9
Public Sector Workforce: Rehiring Public Sector Staff	3.2	2.14
Public Sector Workforce: Other	3.3	-
Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery	3.4	7.2
Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs	3.5	-
4: Premium Pay		
Public Sector Employees	4.1	4.1
Private Sector: Grants to Other Employers	4.2	4.2
5: Infrastructure		
Water and Sewer		
Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment	5.1	5.1
Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance	5.2	5.2
Clean Water: Decentralized Wastewater	5.3	5.3
Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows	5.4	5.4
Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure	5.5	5.5
Clean Water: Stormwater	5.6	5.6
Clean Water: Energy Conservation	5.7	5.7
Clean Water: Water Conservation	5.8	5.8
Clean Water: Nonpoint Source	5.9	5.9
Drinking water: Treatment	5.10	5.10
Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution	5.11	5.11
Drinking water: Lead Remediation, including in Schools and Daycares	5.12	5.12
Drinking water: Source	5.13	5.13
Drinking water: Storage	5.14	5.14
Drinking water: Other water infrastructure	5.15	5.15
Water and Sewer: Private Wells	5.16	-
Water and Sewer: IJJA Bureau of Reclamation Match	5.17	-
Water and Sewer: Other	5.18	-
Broadband		
Broadband: "Last Mile" projects	5.19	5.16
Broadband: IJJA Match	5.20	-
Broadband: Other projects	5.21	5.17
6: Revenue Replacement		
Provision of Government Services	6.1	6.1
Non-federal Match for Other Federal Programs	6.2	-
7: Administrative		
Administrative Expenses	7.1	7.1
Transfers to Other Units of Government	7.2	7.3
Transfers to Non-entitlement Units (States and territories only)	-	7.4



GMA ARPA RESOURCES

The American Rescue Plan Act: What Georgia Cities Need to Know

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 is a historic \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill. Within the ARP, the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund provides \$350 billion for states, municipalities, counties, tribes, and territories, including \$65.1 billion for cities throughout the U.S.

This section of the Georgia Cities website provides city leaders with continuously updated information related to the ARP Act.

About

Background information and summaries of the bill.

Guidance and Compliance

Information on eligible uses, allocations for your city, and U.S. Treasury guidance.

Key Resources and Sample Documents

Additional information from NLC as well as federal and state agencies.

Events and Webinars

Events hosted by GMA, NLC and other agencies and organizations.

FAQ/Contact Us

Do you have questions or feedback? GMA would like to hear from you.

ARPA Roundup

Resources highlighting the impact of ARPA on Georgia's cities.

www.gacities.com/arpa

Events and Webinars

Past Events

Please Note: GMA webinars are intended solely to provide information. The information presented in these webinars is provided for general purposes only, reflecting the most current available information at the time of the event, and should not be construed as legal advice from GMA, the presenters, or sponsors of the webinar, or any of their employees or representatives. Please consult your city attorney prior to taking any action in relation to the information disseminated in GMA webinars.

ARPA Webinar: Audit of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund Expenditures



ARPA Webinar: Single Audit of Your Federal Fiscal Recovery...
Single Audit Objectives

- Financial Accuracy
 - Financial Statements
 - Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA)
- Internal Controls
 - Entity-wide
 - Over Federal Awards
- Compliance
 - Entity-wide
 - Over Federal Awards

Watch on YouTube

[Slides: Audit of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund Expenditures \(PDF\)](#)

[Assistance Listing 21.027 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds \(US Department of the Treasury - April 2022\) \(pdf\)](#)

THANK YOU

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Please contact GMA with any questions:

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