

DISCUSSION OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, TREASURY GUIDELINES, AND TOWN PLANNING



Trumbull Town Council

February 7, 2022

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT?

- Signed into law on March 11, 2021, The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** delivers \$350 billion to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- The funding portion for Connecticut municipalities is approximately \$1.56 billion, \$864.1 million - direct /\$692.5 - million county. *
- In May 2021, the US Treasury published the Interim Final Rule (IFR) describing eligible and ineligible uses of funds, sought feedback from the public on these program rules, and began to distribute funds.
- On January 6, 2022, the US Treasury issued the Final Rule for use of the SLFRF program funds. The Final Rule takes effect on April 1, 2022. Until that time, the IFR remains in effect; funds used consistently with the IFR while it is in effect are in compliance with the SLFRF program.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Temporary Nature of ARPA: ARPA funds are non-recurring so their use should be applied primarily to non-recurring expenditures.
- Care should be taken to avoid creating new programs or add-ons to existing programs that require an ongoing financial commitment.
- Investment in critical infrastructure is a particularly well-suited use of ARPA funds because it is a non-recurring expenditure that can be targeted to strategically important long-term assets that provide benefits over many years. However, care should be taken to assess any on-going operating costs that may be associated with the project.

FUNDING AND TIMING

- Funds must be used for costs incurred on or after.....3/31/2021
- Funds must be obligated by.....12/31/2024
- Funds must be expended by.....12/31/2026

- Current amount awarded to Trumbull.....\$5,278,722.61 (May 2021)
- Future amount awarded to Trumbull.....\$5,278,722.61 (May 2022)

Key ARPA Links:

- Final Rule:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-01-27/pdf/2022-00292.pdf>

- Overview of the Final Rule:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-Overview.pdf>

- Interim Final Rule FAQs (Main):

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf>



ELIGIBLE USES

Fiscal Recovery Funds must be used in one of the four eligible use categories specified in the American Rescue Plan Act and implemented in the Final Rule:

Categories:

- A) To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- B) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
- C) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- D) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

ELIGIBLE USES

Category A: Overview

- COVID-19 mitigation and prevention • Medical expenses • Behavioral health care needs • Address disparities in public health and economic outcomes • Assistance to unemployed workers • Deposits to state unemployment insurance trust • Loans or grants to small businesses and non-profits to mitigate financial hardship • Aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, hospitality • Assistance to households for utilities, food assistance, rent/mortgage, home repairs, etc. • Responses to communities that experienced an increase in violence, particularly gun violence.
- The Final Rule contains a non-exclusive list of programs or services that may be funded as responding to COVID-19 or the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, along with considerations for evaluating other potential uses of Fiscal Recovery Funds not explicitly listed.
- The Final Rule gives recipients broad latitude to use funds for the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue.

ELIGIBLE USES

Category A: Eligible types of COVID-19 response, mitigation, and prevention activities

A broad range of services and programming that are needed to contain COVID-19 including:

Vaccination programs; •medical care; •testing; • contact tracing; • support for isolation or quarantine; •supports for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services; •public health surveillance; •enforcement of public health orders; • public communication efforts; • enhancement to health care capacity; •purchases of personal protective equipment; •support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities and other key settings like schools; •ventilation improvements in congregate settings, health care settings, or other key locations; •enhancement of public health data systems; •and other public health responses.

Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs are also eligible, such as physical plant improvements to health clinics or adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics.

ELIGIBLE USES

Category A: Eligible services in response to the negative impacts of the pandemic

- Assistance to impacted households including disproportionately impacted households. These services include but are not limited to food assistance; rent, mortgage, or utility assistance; counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness; cash assistance; emergency assistance for burials, home repairs, weatherization, or other needs; internet access or digital literacy assistance; or job training to address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker's occupation or level of training.
- Assistance as follows to impacted small business and non-profits including disproportionately impacted small businesses and non-profits:
 - Loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship
 - Loans, grants, or in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics
 - Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs
- Municipalities may use these funds to provide aid to impacted industries.

ELIGIBLE USES

Category A: Eligible services in response to the negative impacts of the pandemic

Restore and Bolster Public Sector Capacity

- Restore and support public sector employees and services, to strengthen local governments ability to deliver critical services as they relate to COVID-19 response.
- Specific areas of investment.
 - Provide payroll and covered benefits for public safety, public health and human service staff for their time spent on COVID-19 response.
 - Restoring and retaining public sector staff to pre-pandemic levels and supporting and retaining public sector workers.
 - Effective Service Delivery – funds can be used to address additional administrative costs caused or exacerbated by the pandemic.

ELIGIBLE USES

Category A: Investments in improving outdoor spaces

- There are multiple ways that investments in improving outdoor spaces could qualify as eligible uses.
- These programs and services are designed to build stronger neighborhoods and communities and to address health disparities and the social determinants of health.
- Investments in parks, public plazas, and other public outdoor recreation spaces may be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities.
- Municipalities may provide assistance to small businesses in all communities. Assistance to small businesses could include support to enhance outdoor spaces for COVID-19 mitigation (e.g., restaurant patios) or to improve the built environment of the neighborhood (e.g., façade improvements).
- Many municipalities saw significantly increased use of parks during the pandemic that resulted in damage or increased maintenance needs. “Decrease[s to] a local government’s ability to effectively administer services” can constitute a negative economic impact of the pandemic.

ELIGIBLE USES

Category B: Premium Pay

- Provide premium pay for eligible essential workers, in addition to the existing wages and compensation that the employee already receives.
- For those eligible, workers can be paid up to \$13 per hour, and may not exceed \$25,000 for any single worker in the program.
- Can be provided retroactively for work completed prior to March 3, 2021, that was associated with responding to the pandemic.
- Essential workers are those in critical infrastructure sectors. These sectors include healthcare, education and childcare, transportation, sanitation, grocery and food production, and public health and safety, among others, as provided in the Final Rule.
- The final rule delivers more streamlined options to provide premium pay, by broadening the share of eligible workers who can receive premium pay without a written justification while maintaining a focus on lower-income and frontline workers performing essential work.
- Pay must respond to workers needs who earn at or below 150% of their state or county's average annual wage or are not exempt from Fair Labor Standards Act overtime rules or the municipality provides written justification of how it meets needs.

ELIGIBLE USES

Category C: Revenue Loss

- Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue loss due to the pandemic.
- Municipalities may determine their revenue loss by choosing between two options:
 - A standard allowance of up to \$10 million in the aggregate, not to exceed their award amount, during the program. This greatly simplifies the program for small localities.
 - Calculating their jurisdiction's specific revenue loss each year using Treasury's formula.
- Municipalities may use funds up to the amount of revenue loss for government services. The Final Rule gives recipients broad latitude to use funds for the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue.
- Government services generally include any service traditionally provided by a government, including construction of roads and other infrastructure, provision of public safety and other services, and health and educational services. Funds spent under government services are subject to streamlined reporting and compliance requirements.

ELIGIBLE USES

Category D: Eligible Water and Sewer Projects

Municipalities may use these funds to make a broad range of necessary investments in water and sewer infrastructure.

Eligible projects include but are not limited to:

- Construction of publicly owned treatment works,
- Decentralized wastewater treatment systems, construction, upgrades and repair,
- Management and treatment of stormwater or subsurface drainage water,
- Water conservation, efficiency, or reuse measures,
- Reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater or subsurface drainage water,
- Green infrastructure,
- Additional stormwater infrastructure, including culvert repair, resizing and removal, and replacement of storm sewers,
- Certain dam and reservoir rehabilitation.

ELIGIBLE USES

Category D: Eligible Broadband Projects

Municipalities may use these funds to make a broad range of necessary investments in broadband infrastructure in order to meet access, affordability, and other challenges.

- Municipalities are encouraged to invest in locations without reliable wireline service of at least 100/20 Mbps speed but are broadly able to invest in locations where a need has been identified. This need includes a lack of access to high speeds, affordability, and reliability.
- Projects should also be designed to serve unserved or underserved households and businesses, defined as those that are not currently served by a wireline connection that reliably delivers at least 25/3 Mbps speed.

INELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS

ARPA funds may not be spent for the following purposes:

- Paying down unfunded pension liabilities.
- Paying interest or principal on outstanding debt.
- Contributing to reserve or “rainy day” funds.
- Paying for consent decrees or legal settlements.



TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS



- **Counseling Center**
 - Additional counselors at the Mary J. Sherlach Counseling Center to handle additional requests for help.
 - Hire a part time Licensed clinical social worker to conduct home visits to COVID isolated seniors for counseling.

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Finance**
 - Consultant to assist with management/oversight of ARPA funding
- **Health Department**
 - Increase size of parking lot to accommodate increase in staff and clients.
 - Contract for scheduling vaccines.
 - Purchase a temperature-controlled storage unit for PPE.

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **School Nursing**

- Hire health aides for each school nursing office to help relieve the added workload due to COVID issues.
- Purchase two spot vision screeners and portable printers for vision screening.
- Purchase two new audiometers for hearing screening.



TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS



- **Senior Center**
 - Use funds to continue Zoom programs at the Senior Center engaging with the homebound and individuals in quarantine or isolation. It would address mental health by keeping those in isolation engaged in the community.
 - Restroom renovation for two restrooms. Update restrooms and install automatic doors.
 - Continue the “local meals program” once grant funding is used up.

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Parks and Recreation**
 - New Construction of Multipurpose Artificial Surface Athletic Field at Indian Ledge Park
 - Beach Memorial Park Splash Pad Replacement
 - Additional Security Equipment at Town Buildings/Parks



TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS



- **Town Hall**
 - Town-wide Document Digitization Archival System
 - Additional lighting and security cameras
 - Office renovations addressing COVID-19 mitigation strategies
 - Town-wide HVAC Modernization Program
 - Consultant to assist in development of HVAC improvements in various buildings

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Public Works**

- Brock Street Bridge
 - Phase 1: Roadway Repair, foundation repair, safety
 - Phase 2: Critical wing walls, structural and cosmetic repairs
- Installation of culvert at Public Works complex – bids returned over budget
- Dredging Kaatz Pond
- Dredging Gunther Pond

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Public Works (continued)**
- Dam Stabilization/Reconstruction:
 - Plymouth Pond
 - Indian Road (Blackhouse Road to Chestnut Hill Road)
 - Madison Middle School Dam
- Vehicle charging stations
- Hybrid / Electric Fleet vehicles to replace aging inventory

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Public Works (continued)**
- Storm water systems/culverts:
 - Reservoir Avenue/Lindeman Road
 - Williams Road
 - Daniels Farm Road
 - Booth Hill School Drainage
 - Colony Road/Indian Road/ Blackhouse Road
 - Park Street
 - Hedgehog Road/Harvest Hill Road
 - Edison Road
 - Valley View Road
- Drainage funding to allow for advance inspection, repairs and improvements supporting capital plan paving schedule.

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **WPCA Sanitary**
 - Wildwood Drive Pump Station
 - Whitney Avenue Pump Station
 - Technical Assistance to ensure compliance with Clean Water Act
 - Beardsley force main
 - Reservoir Road drainage design
 - Alternate Flow Study

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Library**

- People Counters

- System integrated that will allow for tracking indoor visitor counts in real time.

- RFID system (Radio Frequency Identification System)

- tags the entire library collection

- Modular Study Rooms

- Two-to-four-person meeting spaces

- New carpet in Children's room

- Current carpeting is 20 years-old and is worn beyond repair OR
 - Replace all carpet in the building



TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Library (continued)**

- Parking lot lights
 - Change existing parking lights to “dusk to dawn” photosensors
- Hearing Loop
 - Hearing aid assisting induction loop. Essentially helps people with hearing aids to hear by improving sound quality. This would be installed in the library Community Room.

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Economic Development**

- Matching funds for economic development grants (priority)

Other projects if funding is available:

- New signage at Corporate Park
- Continue Long Hill Green improvements
- Completion of pavers on Broadway
- Missing sidewalk links at Oakview/Lindeman
- Trumbull Center Improvements/Pending Plan recommendations

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

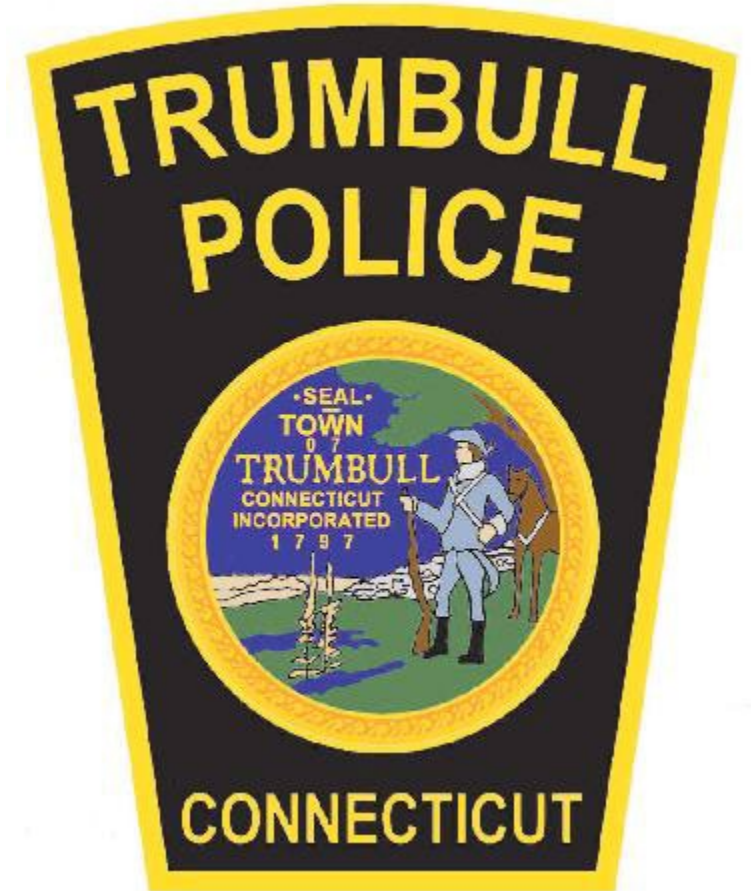


- **Emergency Medical Services**
 - EMS Radio Communication System Replacement/Modernization
 - EMS New Facility
 - Vehicles and Equipment

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Police**

- Part-Time Social Worker to act as Case Manager for those who are emotionally disturbed, suffer from addiction, and domestic violence issues.
- Interview Room: required for certain arrests to be recorded.
- SCUBA team equipment replacement (detailed cost list available).
- In-Car Camera System for all marked patrol vehicles.
- Mobile Data Terminal Replacements.
- All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) for patrol of parks/trails.
- Bicycles for Bicycle Unit (4 replacements).
- Traffic Signage (detailed list available).
- Medical Supplies (detailed list available).
- Fencing perimeter Police HQ.
- HVAC system.



Trumbull Departmental Suggestions

- **Technology**

- Town Hall Council Chambers TriCaster Upgrade

- Virtual Desktop Infrastructure

- **Fiber Internet**

Sites not yet connected: Beardsley Pump Station, Ranger Station, Counseling Center, Tashua Knolls Golf Course, Tashua Knolls Golf Course Maintenance, Health Department, Helen Plumb Building, Transfer Station, Twin Brooks (Brock St), Twin Brooks (Twin Brooks Drive), Beach Pool, Tashua Pool, Trumbull Nature & Arts Center, Island Brook Park

TRUMBULL DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Technology (continued)**

- Digital Document Storage: MetroCOG is in the process of setting this up for the region on Laserfiche.
- Audio / Visual upgrades to Long Hill Conference Room: can likely be rolled into the videoconference project
- Building Security
 - Access Control System
 - Security Cameras

NEXT STEPS/TIMELINE

- Town staff will provide project descriptions and cost estimates for department suggested ARPA projects.
- The Town Council and the Board of Finance will hold a joint meeting in March 2022 to hear ARPA projects and ideas from the public and discuss the projects proposed by Town staff.
- First Annual Project and Expenditure Report is due to the US Treasury on April 30th, 2022.

Please contact the First Selectman's Office at 203-452-5005 or firstselectman@trumbull-ct.gov with questions, comments, and ARPA project suggestions.

