

LANCASTER COUNTY COMMUNITY REQUESTS FOR ARPA FUNDING

Lancaster County is authorized to receive up to \$106 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. It is important to note when determining the potential use of ARPA funds, that while many counties absorbed a significant amount, if not most, of their CARES funding for county operations, Lancaster County deployed nearly 80% of the \$96 million of CARES Act funds in 2020 through 2021 into the community to protect lives and livelihoods given the magnitude of the health issues and higher level of government shutdowns and mandates. Similar to CARES requirements which sunset, ARPA funds must be obligated by 12/31/24.

With ARPA funds, the County is looking at using this one-time source of funding, which will disappear by the end of 2024, for one-time projects that will benefit all taxpayers of Lancaster County. A sizeable portion of these funds will be used to assist Lancaster County government to update and modernize its infrastructure as eligible in ARPA guidelines. In addition, the County is also making some ARPA funds available to community organizations, businesses and authorities who have not otherwise received ARPA funds, in a guided and streamlined manner. In addition, municipalities who have projects that fit the County guidelines and go beyond the ability to use their ARPA allocation, may also be eligible.

Below are the County's current guidelines for requesting ARPA funding. It is important to note that should legislation be passed changing the guidelines for use of ARPA funds, the County's guidelines and use would change to reflect that legislation. It is important to note that the state and federal governments are making ARPA funds available for many uses or have other programs that provide funding.

Guidelines

The project must meet the following criteria:

- A. Community-wide benefit that meets an eligible objective of ARPA in the following areas:
 1. Infrastructure (water, sewer, broadband)
 2. Clean water / natural area conservation initiatives
 3. Public safety (Law enforcement, EMS, EMA, Fire)
 4. Technology modernization
 5. Work force development
 6. Planning and/or mitigation for disease prevention and control in congregate settings
- B. One-time funding into a project (unless there is a limited multi-year project that ends by 12/31/24)
- C. Does not require additional ongoing operational funding to sustain the project, unless the organization can conclusively identify non-governmental sources of funding after 12/31/24. And does not duplicate an existing government program, project or service.
- D. "Last-in" funding – due to the sunset use of ARPA funds, all other sources of funds must be identified and committed such that the project can be completed, and funds disbursed by 12/31/24.
- E. Matching funds are required - ARPA cannot be the sole source of funds. It is difficult and would not be prudent to establish a minimum percentage criterion, however, the more funding provided beyond the County ARPA requested dollars, the better. This includes municipalities which have received ARPA funds.
- F. No administrative, interest or other fees are permitted for use of County ARPA funds, any such fees are considered in-kind contributions to the project.

Process for Submitting Requests

- Complete and file a County application form. Applications will be received on a rolling basis until the BOC decides at a public meeting to end the application period.
- Applications are reviewed by ARPA Committee and a recommendation made to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) as to whether it meets ARPA rules and County guidance.
- Applications will come before the BOC at a public meeting for presentation, public comment and a final determination.
- If funding is provided, applicant will be required to enter into an Agreement with the County.

County of Lancaster

Request for ARPA Funding

Organization _____ Date _____

Submitted By _____ Authorized Signature _____

Email Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Project/Item Description	
Estimated Cost – provide how cost was derived & provision of matching funds (who is providing, how much and please show commitments).	
Which County ARPA Community-wide Benefit does this project fall under?	
Briefly explain how this project meets the County's guidelines.	
Why should this project be a priority and how will it help the County?	
Will this project require ongoing expense (maintenance, updates) or frequent replacement? Are expenses already being incurred, if so, can they be reduced through this project?	
Project Timeline – start to finish, and when funding will be needed.	
Are there other organizations a part of this project? If not, explain why not, or if others have been consulted to be part of the project?	
ARPA Committee Comments	
ARPA Committee Recommendation	
Funding Amount Recommended (if recommended for approval)	\$