

LANCASTER COUNTY COMMUNITY APPLICATION POLICY 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 approximately 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. While ARPA funds may be spent through 12/31/26, the County must obligate those funds by 12/31/24 or risk losing ARPA funds, therefore, the County's application and review process will focus on the obligation date. It should be noted that State and federal governments are also making ARPA funds available for many uses or have other programs that provide funding.

With ARPA funds, the County is looking at using this one-time source of funding, which will disappear in a few years, for one-time projects that will be transformational and benefit the taxpayers of Lancaster County. It is anticipated that a sizeable portion of these funds will be used to assist Lancaster County government in hiring and retaining staff, updating, and modernizing 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. 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. When submitting proposals within the County's guidelines, such proposals must meet U.S. Treasury ARPA Final Rule and Guidelines, which can be found at <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0550>. It is important to note that should legislation be passed changing the Rule and Guidelines for use of ARPA funds, the County's guidelines and use would change to reflect that legislation.

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
 7. Affordable housing that serves senior citizens and/or persons with disabilities, or housing for low-to-moderate income households that also provide assistance working toward financial stability, affording market rate housing and/or homeownership
- B. One-time funding into a prospective 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 it is a significant expansion of an existing project, and the organization can conclusively identify committed sources of funding after 12/31/24. The project must 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. Partner organization / agency funds are required - ARPA cannot be the sole source of funds for the project. 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 or costs will be considered in-kind contributions to the project.

Timeline for Applications: To provide the community both flexibility and nimble access to ARPA funds, and prudence for the County in allocations of ARPA Funds, the County will accept applications on a rolling basis until August 31, 2022. Applications will be reviewed and may be obligated by the County on a rolling basis during this time period. The County will allocate a portion of the funds during this period of application, but also intends to make available another application period.

Process for Submitting Requests

- Complete and file a County application form. Applications will be received on a rolling basis until August 31, 2022 in accordance with the Timeline listed above. Additional application timelines will be determined and published after August 31, 2022.
- Applicants that aggregate multiple projects in one application must clearly delineate each project including costs and timeline for completion and rank the list in the Applicant's order of priority.
- Applications that have multiple partners must list each partner, the contact person(s), and their role and contribution in the project (financial or otherwise).
- Applications are reviewed by the ARPA Committee and a recommendation made to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) as to whether it meets ARPA rules, County guidance, and suggested ranking of each project.
- Applications will come before the BOC at a public meeting for presentation, public comment, and a final determination.
- If funding is approved, Applicant will be required to enter into an Agreement with the County.