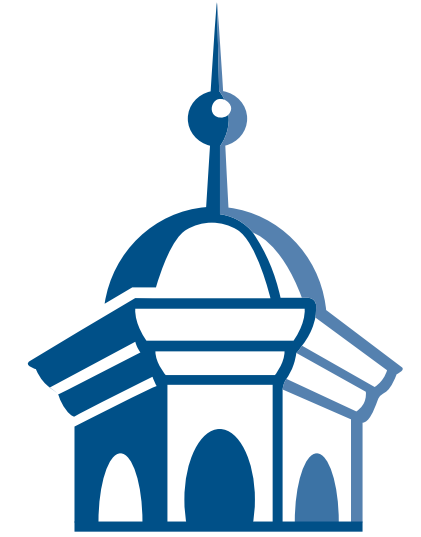


# ARPA Funding: What is it and how can it be used?



October 13, 2021 -

# What We'll Cover:

- Background on ARPA funding
- Vermont's share
- Timeline
- What you can and cannot spend ARPA funding on
- Overview of reporting
- OPM
- Public engagement & outreach
- ARPA in Vermont and nationally
- Role of VLCT and your RPC



# American Rescue Plan Act

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – \$1.9 trillion stimulus package signed into law March 11, 2021
- Purpose – Combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including health and economic impacts
- \$350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial and Tribal governments through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- The money will be distributed through the U.S. Department of the Treasury
- It is subject to the requirements specified in the [Interim Final Rule](#) adopted by Treasury on May 10, 2021
- The Final Rule just released on November 15, 2021

# American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

## Vermont's Share

- State of Vermont \$1,049,287,303
- Counties\* \$121,202,550
- Metro Cities \$20,721,902
- Non-Entitlement Units  
of Government (NEUs) \$58,788,245

TOTAL ARPA State and Local Funds: \$1,250,000,000

\*County money has been reallocated to municipalities. Payments (local and county) can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

# American Rescue Plan Act

## Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

### Timeline

- 1<sup>st</sup> payment (local and county) August 2021
- 2<sup>nd</sup> payment (local and county) summer 2022
- All funds must be **obligated** by December 31, 2024
- All funds must be **expended** by December 31, 2026
- Any funds not spent by December 31, 2026 must be returned to Treasury

You have time to be:

Patient

Deliberate

Strategic



# Planning Framework for Maximum Impact and Best Use of Municipal ARPA Funds



Vermont League  
of Cities & Towns

## 1. PRIORITIZE GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Convene all Stakeholders & Build Consensus
- Follow Allowable Uses Under ARPA
- Meet all Accounting & Reporting Rules
- Comply w/ all Local & State Laws/Ordinances
- Ensure Transparency Throughout
- Do Not Create Future Budget Deficits

## 2. LEVERAGE YOUR ARPA AID

- Use a Thoughtful Strategic Planning Process
- Leverage w/ ARPA, FEMA & Other \$ Fed Sources
- Coordinate w/ Other State & Local Programs
- Collaborate w/ Community Partners & Orgs
- Use Existing Delivery Systems for Efficiency
- Don't Reinvent the Wheel: Learn from Others

## 3. INVEST IN BEST USES FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY

- Invest in Urgent Health and Economic Needs
- Prioritize Short-Term Investments w/ Lasting Benefits
- ID and Address Pre-COVID Inhibitors to Growth
- Move Quickly to Stimulate a Faster Recovery
- Measure Progress Throughout to Inform Ongoing Plans

# What You CAN Spend \$ On

## Seven (7) Categories\* :

1. Public Health
2. Negative Economic Impacts
3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
4. Premium Pay
5. Infrastructure (Water, Sewer, Broadband)
6. Revenue Replacement
7. Administrative

\*There are [66 Expenditure Categories](#) that fall under these seven categories.



# What You CAN NOT Spend \$ On

1. Non-Federal Match - you can include your ARPA \$ in your capital stack, you just cannot use it as match for other federal grants
2. Pension Funds
3. Infrastructure Not Directly Addressed in ARPA
4. Rainy Day Funds, Financial Reserves, and Outstanding Debt

# Things to Consider:

- You can:
  - **Pool your funds** with other municipalities to achieve scale for deeper impact and long-term sustainability that benefits your community.
  - **Transfer your funds** to non-profits or other eligible third-party organizations performing ARPA eligible projects that benefit your community.
  - **Take time to be patient and think bigger** - see how the State of Vermont's ARPA money will be deployed, as well as other federal funding that could be on its way, like the infrastructure bill that is currently being taken up in Congress.

# ARPA Reporting - General Information

- All municipalities will be required to report on their spending directly to Treasury
- NEUs (all municipalities other than Burlington and South Burlington) have an annual reporting schedule\*\*
- Reporting guidance issued by Treasury and additional ARPA resources are posted on VLCT's ARPA webpage:
  - <https://www.vlct.org/resources/american-rescue-plan-information>

\*\* NEU 1<sup>st</sup> Project and Expenditure Report that was due October 31<sup>st</sup> has been pushed out to April 30, 2022.

# OPM (Other People's Money)

- Look for opportunities to leverage your ARPA money
- October 19<sup>th</sup> Webinar - [“Take Your Time and Think Big”](#) ← link to YouTube video
- [State of Vermont Recovery Plan – SLFRF 2021 Report](#)
  - Some of the State of VT's ARPA Money:
    - \$100 million Water, Wastewater, Stormwater
    - \$150 million Broadband
    - \$64 million Affordable Housing
    - \$20 million Affordable Community-Scale Renewable Energy
    - \$18 million Housing Weatherization
- Other funding opportunities - pending federal infrastructure bill, other existing programs, etc.



# VT ARPA - Public Engagement & Outreach

Examples from a few Vermont towns:

- **Charlotte:** public meetings and a [webpage](#) to submit residents' input
- **St. Albans Town:** working with neighboring towns to potentially pool funds
- **Jericho:** ARPA [webpage](#), survey, discussion forum, post ideas
- **Rutland Town:** ARPA listening sessions
- [Plainfield](#), [Richmond](#), Fairfax, St. Johnsbury, Westminster, [Westford](#): ARPA advisory committees (either formed or considering it)

**What are you doing in your community???**

# VT ARPA - Early Ideas Floated in the Public Realm:

- Waitsfield: wastewater treatment plant to support housing development
- Rutland: improve air quality in town hall, extending water and sewer lines
- Montgomery: municipal sewer system
- St. Albans Town: exploring water and sewer projects
- St. Albans City: neighborhood stabilization/housing rehab
- Highgate: water and sewer projects
- Ferrisburgh: water projects, broadband
- Panton: digitizing land records
- Barre Town: stormwater, water projects, radio coverage for EMS
- Cavendish: updating pump stations, water projects, digitizing land records, public building ventilation, hybrid meeting support
- Manchester: revenue replacement, improving EMS and EOC facilities, sewer improvements, town hall ventilation
- Montpelier: revenue replacement, water/sewer/stormwater projects, housing
- Weathersfield: grants to businesses, water and stormwater projects, COVID modifications to public facilities, premium pay (police)
- South Burlington: restore staffing levels

# ARPA - Nationally

## [National League of Cities COVID-19 Local Action Tracker:](#)

- Replace roofs for low-income seniors and homeowners with disabilities
- \$2,500 grants for households earning <40% AMI for household expenses: rent, utilities, childcare, medical, groceries, fuel, etc.
- Social distanced outdoor dining spaces, green spaces
- Safe rest villages – sleeping pods for people experiencing homelessness
- Universal basic income pilot program - \$200/month for 200 families for 2 years
- Park improvements; community center enhancements
- Cover 100% infrastructure costs to incentivize development of mixed-income housing
- New downtown park with skate park to boost tourism
- Water/sewer/stormwater/broadband, lost revenue, premium pay



# VLCT ARPA Assistance and Coordination Program

- Guidance and Project Eligibility Analysis
- Webinars, Targeted Training, Technical Assistance, Best Practices
- In-person and virtual meetings with local officials and staff
- Answer Questions ([arpa@vlct.org](mailto:arpa@vlct.org))
- Guidance with Compliance, Reporting, and Transparency
- ARPA resources webpage:

<https://www.vlct.org/resources/american-rescue-plan-information>

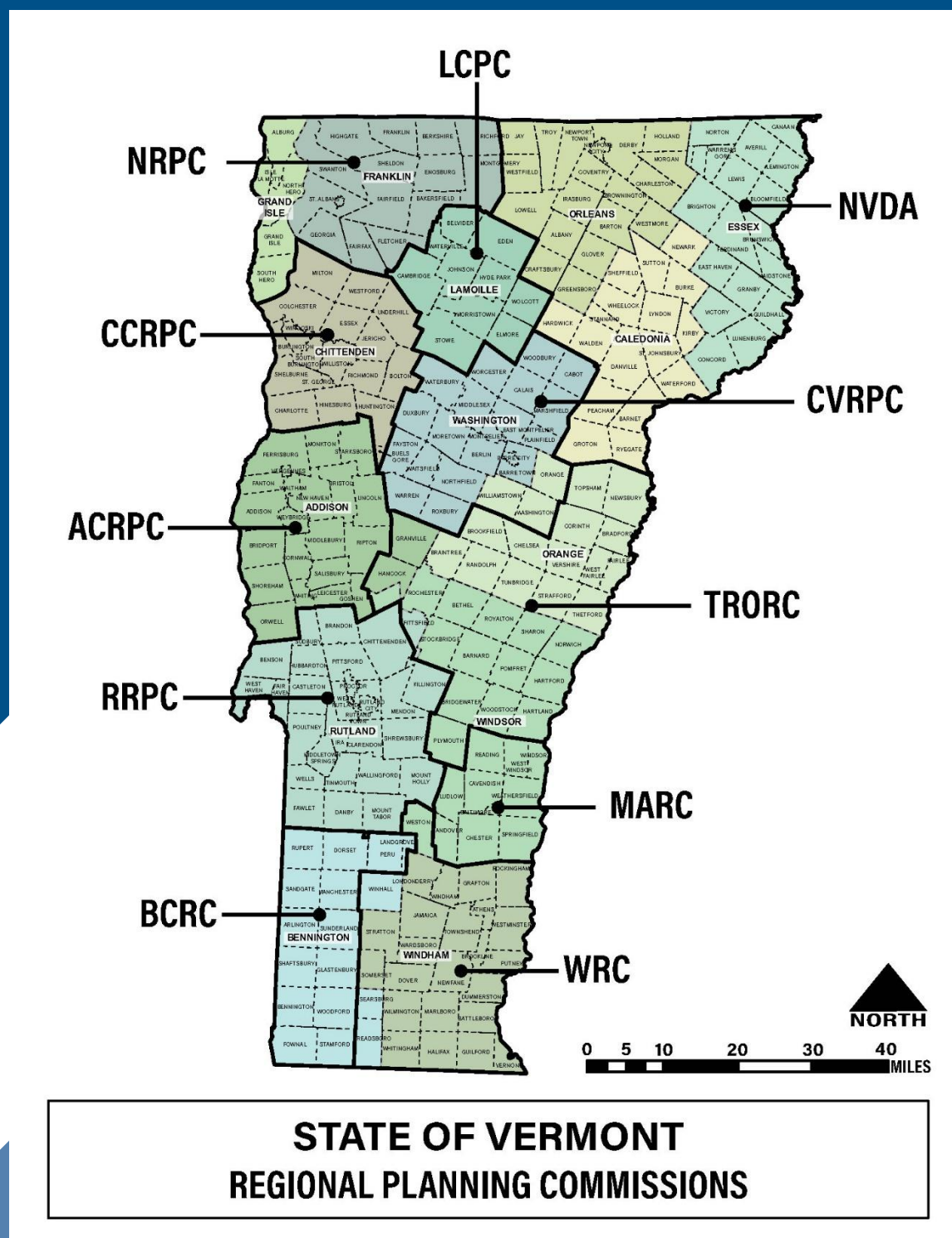


# Regional Planning Commission Assistance

- Identify needs and top priorities for designing and building projects that are consistent with existing State, regional and local plans.
- Respond to inquiries on eligibility to facilitate local discussions among stakeholders on specific projects.
- Provide other assistance as needed from local communities in coordination with VLCT.
- Work with VLCT, regional development corporations, and private consultants working with municipalities to ensure needs of local communities are met, especially related to project development and management.

For more information on the State of Vermont's 11 Regional Planning Commissions visit:

<https://www.vapda.org/>





**VLCT ARPA Assistance and Coordination Program**

**Questions?**

# Thank You!



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