

LANCASTER COUNTY COMMUNITY REQUESTS FOR ARPA FUNDING – ROUND 2

Lancaster County received \$106 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. As of June 1, 2023, a total of \$66.6 million has been allocated (broken down as listed below), leaving \$39.4 million unallocated.

Breakdown of Total Amount Allocated to Date by Category

Public Safety (equipment, fire & EMS, personnel hiring & retention)	\$ 7,857,282
Infrastructure Improvements (water, sewer, stormwater)	\$ 7,731,105
Housing (affordable and personal care)	\$ 5,596,326
Preservation/Conservation (farmland, natural areas, clean water, trails)	\$ 6,902,292
Technology Upgrades (equipment, services & cybersecurity)	\$ 6,811,909
COVID Cost/Revenue Recovery (lost revenue, new personnel, COVID costs)	\$30,678,334
Pediatric Care & Workforce	<u>\$ 1,007,500</u>
TOTAL	\$66,584,748

As noted previously, the County's primary goal with ARPA funds is to use this time limited, one-time source of funding, for one-time projects that will be transformational and benefit the taxpayers of Lancaster County. A sizeable portion of these funds has been used to assist Lancaster County government in hiring and retaining staff, updating and modernizing its infrastructure (particularly technology), and projects that will lead to more efficient and cost-effective services. A total of \$44 million has been allocated for such projects and activities. In addition, last year the County issued a request for proposals from the community for use of ARPA funds (Round 1). The County received 100 applications, which were due by August 31, 2022. The total amount allocated by the Board of Commissioners in Round 1 was \$22.6 million. It is worth noting that over the past 3 years, the Board of Commissioners has allocated approximately \$110 million of federal funds in the community through CARES Act and ARPA.

Community ARPA Proposals Round 2

Given the amount of funds remaining, County government's anticipated needs to meet its objectives and the time remaining for allocation, the amount being allocated for Round 2 of Community ARPA proposals is anticipated to be approximately \$6 million, but funded projects will be determined on a case-by-case basis and may exceed that amount. It is also anticipated that this will be the final round.

Based on experience with Round 1 and the amount of funding available, below are updated guidelines for community proposals requesting County ARPA funding for Round 2. In general, they are quite similar to the first round.

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/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>. Please note that should legislation be passed changing the Rule and Guidelines for use of ARPA funds, the County's guidelines and use will change to reflect such legislation.

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.

Guidelines

- A. Eligible applicants include municipalities, municipal / county authorities, non-profit organizations, public safety organizations / departments (law enforcement, fire, EMS and EMA)
- B. The project must meet a community-wide benefit that is an eligible objective of ARPA as defined by the U.S. Treasury Department and meet the established guidelines. The County has set the following ARPA objectives as priorities:

1. Infrastructure (water, sewer, stormwater, broadband)
 2. Clean water / natural area conservation initiatives
 3. Technology modernization for effective service delivery
 4. Workforce development
 5. Planning and/or mitigation for disease prevention and control in congregate settings
 6. Affordable housing that serves senior citizens, persons with disabilities, veterans and/or homelessness
- C. One-time funding into a prospective project (unless there is a limited multi-year project that ends by 12/31/24).
 - D. Does not require additional ongoing operational funding support 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 to maintain the service. The project must not duplicate an existing government program, project or service.
 - E. "Last-in" funding – due to the sunset use of ARPA funds, all other sources of funds should be identified and committed such that the project can be completed, and funds disbursed by 12/31/24. This policy does not exclude large comprehensive projects that may extend past the 12/31/24 date from applying for funds, but County expenditures must be completed by 12/31/26 per ARPA regulations.
 - F. Partner organization / agency funds are required - ARPA cannot be the sole source of funds for the project (unless a municipality has provided an allocation of its own ARPA 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. Application shall include a complete breakdown of project cost and committed sources of funds to cover the identified cost.
 - G. 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 a project.

Application Process

Round 2 of community ARPA requests will closely follow the process used in Round 1. The County will accept applications on a rolling basis until **August 31, 2023**. Applications will be reviewed, and may be obligated, by the County on a rolling basis during this time. These guidelines and the Application can be found at <https://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/2583/American-Rescue-Plan-Act-ARPA>

- Complete and file a County application form. Applications will be received on a rolling basis until August 31, 2023.
- 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.
- The Application must clearly identify the total cost of the project, how much County ARPA is being requested and the sources and amounts of all other committed funds for the project.
- 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 County ARPA Committee and a recommendation made to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) as to whether it meets U.S. Treasury ARPA rules, County guidance, and any 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 provided, applicant will be required to enter into an Agreement with the County.

Please submit your completed application form, send it with any supportive documents by email to Amy Campbell, Deputy Chief Clerk, at lancoarpacommunity@lancastercountypa.gov, you can also send it by mail or drop off at the Lancaster County Government Administration Center, 150 N. Queen St., Suite 715, Lancaster, PA 17603.