



Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Gilbert Lodge at Twin Lakes Park 6800 N. Long Lake Road Traverse City, MI 49684

Parks and Recreation: Enhance community and quality of life through people, parks and programs.

General Meeting Policies:

- Please turn off all cell phones or switch them to silent mode.
- Any person may make a video, audio or other record of this meeting. Standing equipment, cords, or portable microphones must be located so as not to block audience view.
- If you need auxiliary aid assistance, contact 231-922-6880.

Page

A. CALL TO ORDER:

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL:

D. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rules: Any person shall be permitted to address the Parks and Recreation Commission, which is required to be open to the public under the provision of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, as amended (MCLA 15.261, et. seq.). Public comment shall be carried out in accordance with the following Board Rules and Procedures.

1. Any person wishing to address the Commission may state his or her name and address.
2. No person shall be allowed to speak more than once on the same matter, excluding Commissioners' questions. The President shall control the amount of time each person shall be allowed to speak, which shall not exceed three (3) minutes. The President may, at his or her discretion, extend the amount of time any person is allowed to speak. No member of the Commission or staff shall respond to public comment. All commenters must refrain from any personal or political attacks on any member of the public, staff, or board. No profanity, harassment, or bullying will be tolerated, and will provide just cause to be removed from the meeting.

E. APPROVAL OF/ ADDITION TO AGENDA:

F.

APPROVAL OF STRATEGIC PLANNING MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2021 MEETING

1. Strategic Planning Minutes of the December 1, 2021 Meeting 3 - 4

[MINUTES Strategic Planning Subcommittee - 01 Dec 2021](#)

G. PARKS WISH LIST WORKSHOP

1. Generate a Parks Wish List for ARPA and other funding options. 5 - 37
[ARPA PP BOC 10.27.21 Final](#)

[SLFRP-Fact-Sheet-FINAL1-508A](#)
[Blank Parks Wish List - Google Forms](#)

- H. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (REFER TO ITEM C ON AGENDA FOR RULES)**
- I. NOTICES AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**
- J. ADJOURNMENT**



MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

**5:30 PM - Wednesday, December 1,
2021**

Commission Chambers, Second Floor,
Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue,
Traverse City, MI 49686

The Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning Subcommittee of the Grand Traverse County was called to order on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 5:30 PM, in the Commission Chambers, Second Floor, Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, MI 49686, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Jalen Provo, Rod Kivell, and Grace Edinger, Strategic Planning Commission.
Others Present: Deputy Administrator, Chris Forsyth, Grand Traverse County.
Ryan Walsh, Interim Director; Ariel Perreault, Office Specialist; and Katelynn Brown, Office Coordinator, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation.

EXCUSED:

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order 5:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF/ ADDITION TO AGENDA:

Approval of the Presented Agenda

Moved by Jalen Provo
Seconded by Rod Kivell

MOTION to approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

APPROVAL OF STRATEGIC PLANNING MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2021, MEETING

Strategic Planning Minutes of the June 24, 2021, meeting.

Moved by Rod Kivell
Seconded by Grace Edinger

MOTION to approve the minutes as written.

Carried

GENERATE PROPOSAL LETTER FOR ARPA FUNDS

Look at proposed capital requests and put together a proposal for the Board of Commissioners for ARPA funds.

County Deputy Administrator Chris Forsyth gave a presentation regarding the American Rescue Plan Act and the three-part funding program (ARPA, Infrastructure Investments, and Jobs Act). In the presentation, Mr. Forsyth also discussed the different grant possibilities at the federal, state, and local levels as well as the parameters and timelines for spending. The commission reviewed the master plans and brainstormed on possible funding ideas.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (REFER TO ITEM C ON AGENDA FOR RULES)

There was no public comment.

NOTICES AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

There were no notices or commissioner comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

County Clerk

Chairman

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT



ARPA

- Overview
- Interim Final Rule
- Application and Implementation

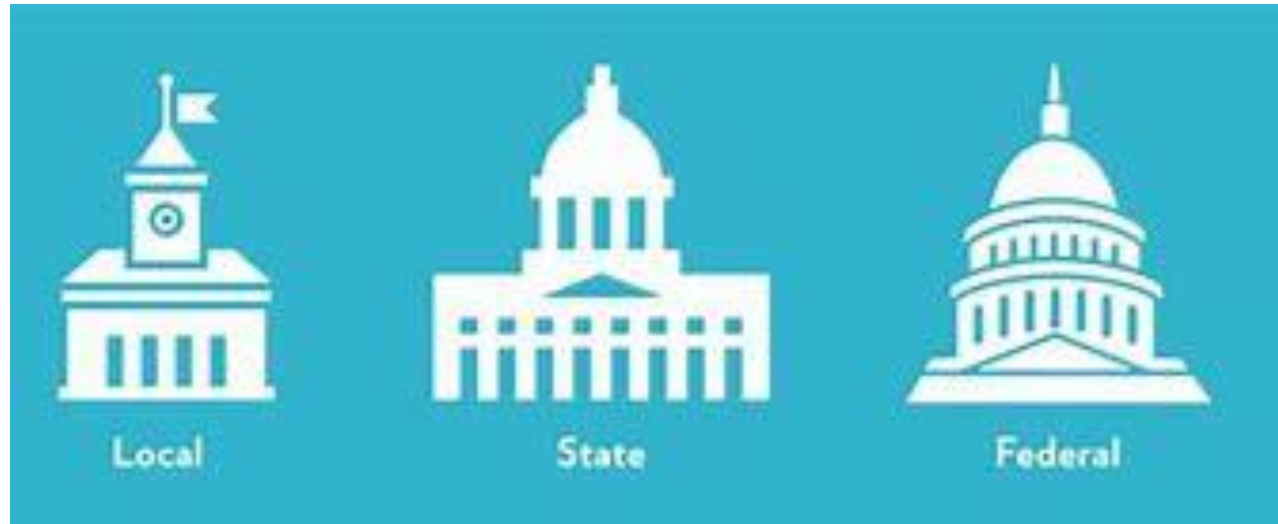




ARPA IS PART ONE OF A THREE-PART PROGRAM

Program	Amount
ARPA	\$1.9 trillion
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	\$973 billion
Reconciliation Bill	\$3.5 billion

ARPA FUNDS



\$130.2 Billion

\$195.3 Billion

TBD

- FEMA
\$50 Billion
- EDA
\$3 Billion
- HHS
\$3 Billion
- BIA
\$31.2 Billion



Draft Proposal	Description	Policy Goal(s)
Housing and Community Development Fund <i>(announced)</i>	Invest in the HCDF, a powerful tool that will foster innovation and creativity in both affordable and attainable housing creation.	<i>New/Rehabbed Housing Units</i>
Regional Resiliency Fund	Fund the creation of "Regional Economic Resiliency Plans" and regional projects and/or programs that support the implementation of these plans.	<i>Increased Regional Alignment Around Policy Goals; Increased ROI for MI's ARP Investments Overall</i>
Brownfield Bridge Fund	The Brownfield Bridge Fund awards will provide a benefit equivalent to a performance-based grants support redeveloping brownfield sites to create housing or infrastructure for industrial spec buildings.	<i>New/Rehabbed Housing Units; New/Rehabbed Infrastructure at Sites for Business Development; Better Jobs</i>
Community Revitalization and Placemaking Grants	Grants for the rehabilitation of vacant buildings, repurposing of space, or the creation of social-zones to build stronger and healthier neighborhoods and communities.	<i>New/Rehabbed Housing Units; Increased Commercial, Residential Occupancy at Blighted/Underutilized Properties</i>
Residential Clean Energy Improvements	Create healthier, cleaner, and more energy efficient homes by expanding the capital available for clean energy improvements through the low-income housing tax credit program, property improvement program and the neighborhood enhancement program.	<i>Decreased Household Energy Costs; Decreased Carbon Footprint</i>
Large and Strategic Site Development	Invest in making crucial infrastructure and other site improvements that will increase Michigan's inventory of sites 300 acres and larger.	<i>New/Rehabbed Infrastructure at Sites for Business Development; Better Jobs</i>

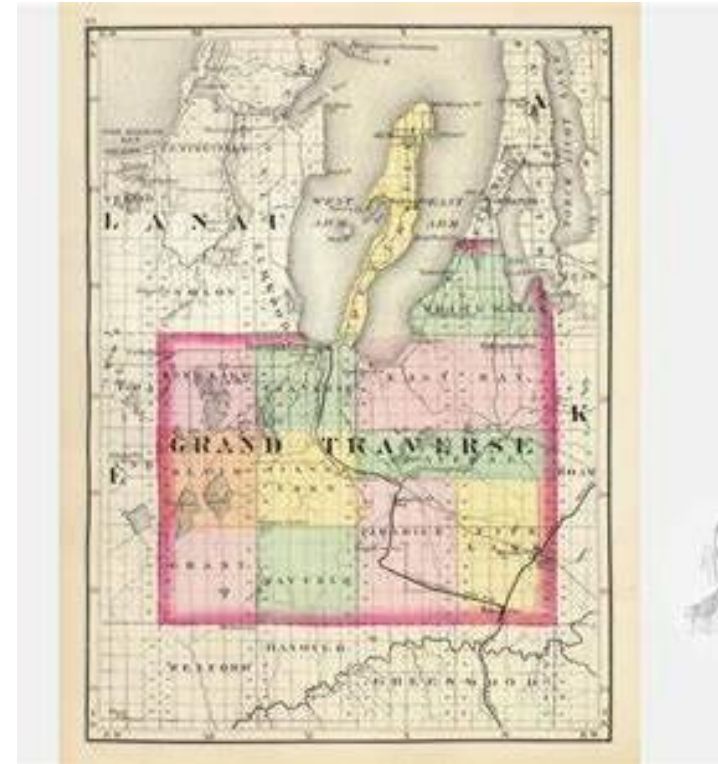
MICHIGAN – \$5.6 BILLION

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

First payment received July 2021

Second payment expected July 2022

\$18.2 million	\$27 million
Grand Traverse County	GTC plus TWPs,Villages and City





INTERIM FINAL RULE

Rule is for the Coronavirus State and Local
Fiscal Recovery Fund

U.S. Department of Treasury

Final rule should be published end of the year

IMPLEMENTING THE RULES

Directly fund priorities through grants and loans

Transfer funds to:

- Private nonprofits
- Other units of government, special purpose districts, and the State

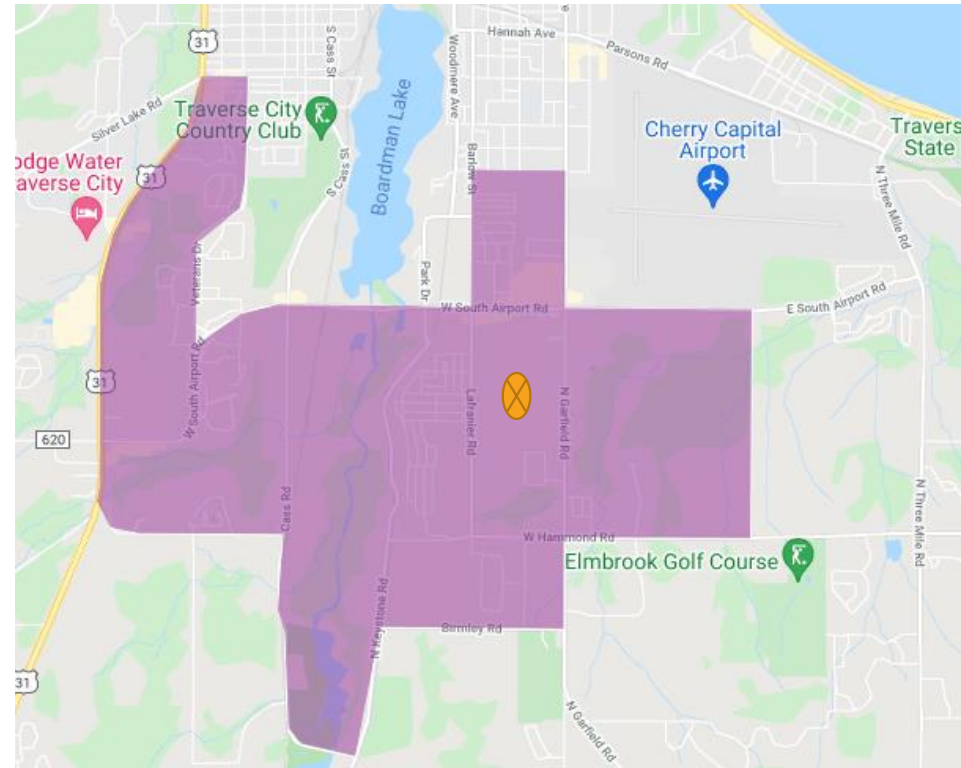
Can not use funds to pay unfunded pension liabilities

Can not use funds to pay for debt service, legal settlements or judgments

Can not deposit funds into a rainy-day fund or financial reserves

QUALIFIED CENSUS TRACT

- QCT is an area where 50 percent of the households have income less than 60 percent of the area median gross income
- Treasury will presume that certain specific services are eligible when provided in a QCT, to families who live in the QCT, or services are provided by Tribal governments.



IFR FIVE FUNDING CATEGORIES

- Responding to COVID-19
- Responding to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19
- Replace lost revenue caused by the Pandemic
- Premium pay for eligible workers performing work during the Pandemic
- Water, Sewer, Broadband infrastructure

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

31 CFR Part 35

RIN 1505-AC77

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

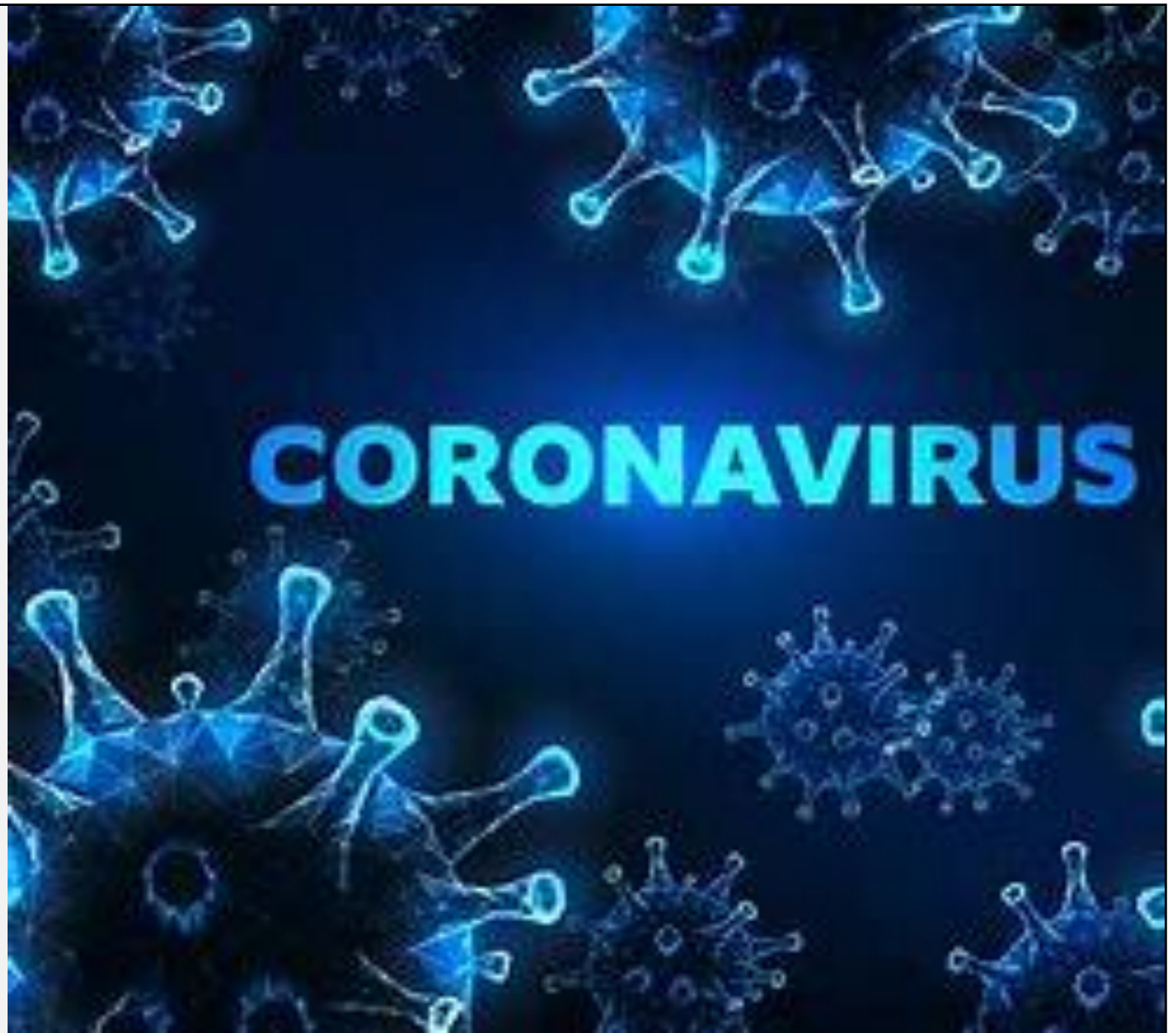
AGENCY: Department of the Treasury

ACTION: Interim Final Rule

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

Mitigation and prevention

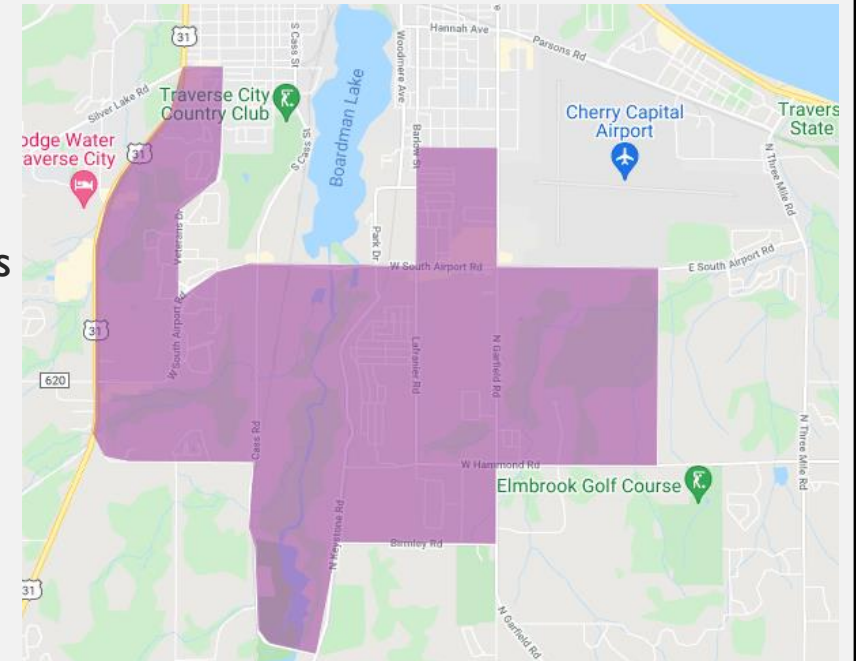
- Testing, contact tracing, surveillance and monitoring
- Vaccine distribution
- Improve public buildings for mitigation purposes
- Equipment that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 such as filters, barriers and touchless systems
- Fund hospitals, and other care facilities
- Health care workers and emergency responders
- Mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment and other behavioral health services



QCT ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Treasury will presume that certain specific services are eligible when provided in a QCT, to families who live in the QCT, or services are provided by Tribal governments.

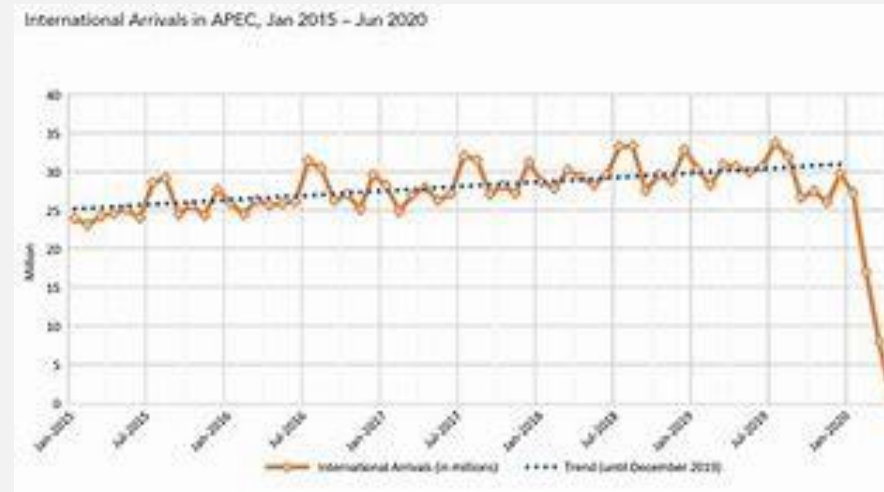
- Community Health Workers
- Public Benefits Navigators
- Housing services
- Remediation of lead paint and other lead hazards
- Community violence intervention programs



RESPONSE TO THE NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19

An economic harm resulted from the public health emergency and the use of funds would respond to or address the harm

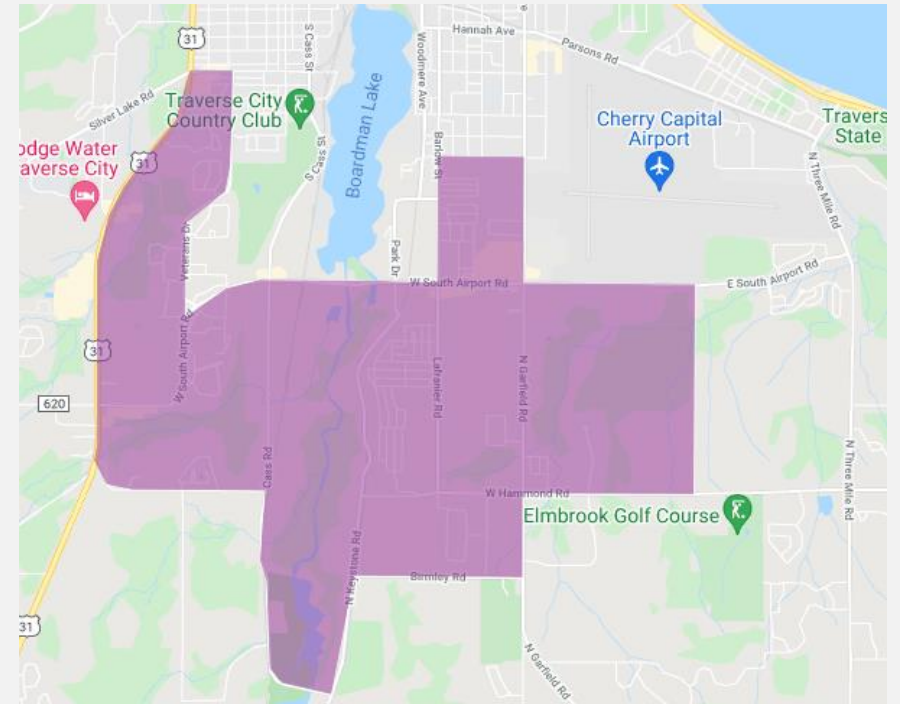
- Aid to households
- Aid to small businesses
- Aid to hospitality industries such as tourism and hospitality
- Aid to non-profits



QCT

Treasury will presume that certain specific services are eligible when provided in a QCT, to families who live in the QCT, or services are provided by Tribal governments.

- Affordable Housing
- Supportive Housing
- Housing vouchers or navigators
- Expanded childcare and early childhood learning
- Aid to certain school programs



PREMIUM PAY

- Eligible workers performing essential work during the Pandemic
- Work involving regular in-person interactions or physical handling of items that were also handled by others
- Examples:
 - Staff at nursing homes and hospitals
 - Janitors and sanitation workers
 - Childcare workers
 - Social service staff

An amount up to \$13 per hour in addition to wages or remuneration the worker otherwise receives in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$25,000 per eligible worker.



REVENUE LOSS

- Use payments from the funds for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the Pandemic.
- Government services can include maintenance or pay-go funded building of infrastructure, modernization of cybersecurity, health services, environmental remediation and the provision of public safety services.
- GTC \$2.3 million



INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Improve access to clean drinking water
- Improve wastewater systems
- Improve stormwater infrastructure systems
- Improve broadband services to unserved or underserved populations

Additional points:

- Projects that control non-point sources of pollution
- Improve resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events
- Water/sewer infrastructure includes projects on privately owned property
- Broadband projects designed to deliver service that has upload/download speeds of 100 Mbps.

Water Sewer and Broadband



APPLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION



PROJECT TEAM WITH
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



SEEK PUBLIC INPUT



ESTABLISH PRIORITIES



WRITE A PLAN THAT
INCORPORATES
PRIORITIES



IMPLEMENT THE PLAN
BY FUNDING
PROJECTS OR
INITIATIVES

PROJECT TEAM

Size and makeup

Technical
assistance

PUBLIC INPUT

- Start with the NCS
- Online polls through Polco
- Hold work groups
- Allow for submission of written comments through mail or drop box



Grand Traverse County, MI

Community Livability Report
2020
DRAFT



National Research Center, Inc.
2955 Valmont Road Suite 300
Boulder, Colorado 80301
n-r-c.com • 303-444-7863



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

International City/County Management Association
777 North Capitol Street NE Suite 500
Washington, DC 20002
icma.org • 800-745-8780

PRIORITIES



Organization vs Community



Wide vs narrow focus



Geographically diverse vs specific locations



Shovel ready projects

WRITE AND IMPLEMENT THE PLAN

- Examples
- Priorities
- Report: Due January 31, 2022
- Implementation:
 - Obligate funds by end of 2024
 - Spend funds by end of 2026

Posted on: June 23, 2021

Maricopa County Outlines Priorities for American Rescue Plan Dollars

Maricopa County is using a new influx of federal funds to bring services and stability to individuals, families, and businesses impacted by the pandemic.



When the Board of Supervisors approved the fiscal year 2022 budget, they also approved spending priorities for \$435 million in federal funds made available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) passed by Congress. ARPA funds are meant to help communities address public health and economic recovery needs related to the COVID-19 crisis.

"Maricopa County took immediate and aggressive action to ease the pain of our citizens during the worst of the pandemic. Now, using ARPA money, we will build on the experience we have implementing targeted, successful assistance programs to support small business owners, seniors and persons with disabilities, folks struggling to get a job or pay bills, and people who are experiencing homelessness," said Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jack Sellers, District 1. "How we treat and respond to these members of our community not only says a lot about who we are as public servants, but will also determine the speed and extent to which Maricopa County can bounce back from the effects of the COVID-19 crisis."

Under the plan approved by the Board, the County would allocate funds to key recovery efforts including:

\$136 million to support the ongoing public health response to COVID-19

The County is focused on ending the pandemic. This starts with getting more people vaccinated. To support that effort, Maricopa County has purchased vehicles that will allow Public Health to take mobile COVID-19 vaccinations to hard-to-reach populations. ARPA funds are also being used for a vaccination campaign that seeks to get facts to people who are on the fence about getting vaccinated. In addition, ARPA funds will be used to establish two new public health clinics—one in the Southwest Valley and one in the East Valley—which will provide an array of services including COVID-19 vaccinations.

\$60 million for business support

The County will continue its effort to help small businesses keep their doors open and thrive in a post-COVID world through a combination of grants, loans, and technical assistance. The focus will be on small and micro-sized businesses.

\$40 million for housing



ROADMAP TO RECOVERY

Cook County's American Rescue Plan

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Questions?

FACT SHEET: The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Will Deliver \$350 Billion for State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Governments to Respond to the COVID-19 Emergency and Bring Back Jobs

May 10, 2021

Aid to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments will help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery

Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to provide \$350 billion in emergency funding for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Treasury also released details on how these funds can be used to respond to acute pandemic response needs, fill revenue shortfalls among these governments, and support the communities and populations hardest-hit by the COVID-19 crisis. With the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, eligible jurisdictions will be able to access this funding in the coming days to address these needs.

State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments have been on the frontlines of responding to the immense public health and economic needs created by this crisis – from standing up vaccination sites to supporting small businesses – even as these governments confronted revenue shortfalls during the downturn. As a result, these governments have endured unprecedented strains, forcing many to make untenable choices between laying off educators, firefighters, and other frontline workers or failing to provide other services that communities rely on. Faced with these challenges, state and local governments have cut over 1 million jobs since the beginning of the crisis. The experience of prior economic downturns has shown that budget pressures like these often result in prolonged fiscal austerity that can slow an economic recovery.

To support the immediate pandemic response, bring back jobs, and lay the groundwork for a strong and equitable recovery, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, designed to deliver \$350 billion to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to bolster their response to the COVID-19 emergency and its economic impacts. Today, Treasury is launching this much-needed relief to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control;
- Replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs;
- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; and,
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic on certain populations.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs—including support for households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest-hit by the crisis. These funds also deliver resources that recipients can invest in building, maintaining, or upgrading their water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Starting today, eligible state, territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal governments may request Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the Treasury Submission Portal. Concurrent with this program launch, Treasury has published an Interim Final Rule that implements the provisions of this program.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

The American Rescue Plan provides a total of \$350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments meet their present needs and build the foundation for a strong recovery. Congress has allocated this funding to tens of thousands of jurisdictions. These allocations include:

Type	Amount (\$ billions)
States & District of Columbia	\$195.3
Counties	\$65.1
Metropolitan Cites	\$45.6
Tribal Governments	\$20.0
Territories	\$4.5
Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government	\$19.5

Treasury expects to distribute these funds directly to each state, territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal government. Local governments that are classified as non-entitlement units will receive this funding through their applicable state government. Treasury expects to provide further guidance on distributions to non-entitlement units next week.

Local governments should expect to receive funds in two tranches, with 50% provided beginning in May 2021 and the balance delivered 12 months later. States that have experienced a net increase in the unemployment rate of more than 2 percentage points from February 2020 to the latest available data as of the date of certification will receive their full allocation of funds in a single payment; other states will receive funds in two equal tranches. Governments of U.S. territories will receive a single payment. Tribal governments will receive two payments, with the first payment available in May and the second payment, based on employment data, to be delivered in June 2021.

USES OF FUNDING

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments with a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger, more equitable economy as the country recovers. Within the categories of eligible uses, recipients have broad flexibility to decide how best to use this funding to meet the needs of their communities. Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to:

- **Support public health expenditures**, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff;
- **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector;
- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

Within these overall categories, Treasury’s Interim Final Rule provides guidelines and principles for determining the types of programs and services that this funding can support, together with examples of allowable uses that recipients may consider. As described below, Treasury has also designed these provisions to take into consideration the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on those hardest-hit by the pandemic.

1. Supporting the public health response

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 continues to require an unprecedented public health response from state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources to meet these needs through the provision of care for those impacted by the virus and through services that address disparities in public health that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Recipients may use this funding to address a broad range of public health needs across COVID-19 mitigation, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and public health resources. Among other services, these funds can help support:

- **Services and programs to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including:**
 - ✓ Vaccination programs
 - ✓ Medical expenses
 - ✓ Testing
 - ✓ Contact tracing
 - ✓ Isolation or quarantine
 - ✓ PPE purchases
 - ✓ Support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services
 - ✓ Public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring for variants)
 - ✓ Enforcement of public health orders
 - ✓ Public communication efforts
 - ✓ Enhancement of healthcare capacity, including alternative care facilities
 - ✓ Support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities and schools
 - ✓ Enhancement of public health data systems
 - ✓ Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs
 - ✓ Ventilation improvements in key settings like healthcare facilities

- **Services to address behavioral healthcare needs exacerbated by the pandemic, including:**
 - ✓ Mental health treatment
 - ✓ Substance misuse treatment
 - ✓ Other behavioral health services
 - ✓ Hotlines or warmlines
 - ✓ Crisis intervention
 - ✓ Services or outreach to promote access to health and social services
- **Payroll and covered benefits expenses** for public health, healthcare, human services, public safety and similar employees, to the extent that they work on the COVID-19 response. For public health and safety workers, recipients can use these funds to cover the full payroll and covered benefits costs for employees or operating units or divisions primarily dedicated to the COVID-19 response.

2. Addressing the negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency

The COVID-19 public health emergency resulted in significant economic hardship for many Americans. As businesses closed, consumers stayed home, schools shifted to remote education, and travel declined precipitously, over 20 million jobs were lost between February and April 2020. Although many have since returned to work, as of April 2021, the economy remains more than 8 million jobs below its pre-pandemic peak, and more than 3 million workers have dropped out of the labor market altogether since February 2020.

To help alleviate the economic hardships caused by the pandemic, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds enable eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to provide a wide range of assistance to individuals and households, small businesses, and impacted industries, in addition to enabling governments to rehire public sector staff and rebuild capacity. Among these uses include:

- **Delivering assistance to workers and families**, including aid to unemployed workers and job training, as well as aid to households facing food, housing, or other financial insecurity. In addition, these funds can support survivor's benefits for family members of COVID-19 victims.
- **Supporting small businesses**, helping them to address financial challenges caused by the pandemic and to make investments in COVID-19 prevention and mitigation tactics, as well as to provide technical assistance. To achieve these goals, recipients may employ this funding to execute a broad array of loan, grant, in-kind assistance, and counseling programs to enable small businesses to rebound from the downturn.
- **Speeding the recovery of the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors**, supporting industries that were particularly hard-hit by the COVID-19 emergency and are just now beginning to mend. Similarly impacted sectors within a local area are also eligible for support.
- **Rebuilding public sector capacity**, by rehiring public sector staff and replenishing unemployment insurance (UI) trust funds, in each case up to pre-pandemic levels. Recipients may also use this funding to build their internal capacity to successfully implement economic relief programs, with investments in data analysis, targeted outreach, technology infrastructure, and impact evaluations.

3. Serving the hardest-hit communities and families

While the pandemic has affected communities across the country, it has disproportionately impacted low-income families and communities of color and has exacerbated systemic health and economic inequities. Low-income and socially vulnerable communities have experienced the most severe health impacts. For example, counties with high poverty rates also have the highest rates of infections and deaths, with 223 deaths per 100,000 compared to the U.S. average of 175 deaths per 100,000.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allow for a broad range of uses to address the disproportionate public health and economic impacts of the crisis on the hardest-hit communities, populations, and households. Eligible services include:

- **Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health**, through funding for community health workers, public benefits navigators, remediation of lead hazards, and community violence intervention programs;
- **Investments in housing and neighborhoods**, such as services to address individuals experiencing homelessness, affordable housing development, housing vouchers, and residential counseling and housing navigation assistance to facilitate moves to neighborhoods with high economic opportunity;
- **Addressing educational disparities** through new or expanded early learning services, providing additional resources to high-poverty school districts, and offering educational services like tutoring or afterschool programs as well as services to address social, emotional, and mental health needs; and,
- **Promoting healthy childhood environments**, including new or expanded high quality childcare, home visiting programs for families with young children, and enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth.

Governments may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support these additional services if they are provided:

- within a Qualified Census Tract (a low-income area as designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development);
- to families living in Qualified Census Tracts;
- by a Tribal government; or,
- to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

4. Replacing lost public sector revenue

State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments that are facing budget shortfalls may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to avoid cuts to government services. With these additional resources, recipients can continue to provide valuable public services and ensure that fiscal austerity measures do not hamper the broader economic recovery.

Many state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments have experienced significant budget shortfalls, which can yield a devastating impact on their respective communities. Faced with budget shortfalls and pandemic-related uncertainty, state and local governments cut staff in all 50 states. These budget shortfalls and staff cuts are particularly problematic at present, as these entities are on the front lines of battling the COVID-19 pandemic and helping citizens weather the economic downturn.

Recipients may use these funds to replace lost revenue. Treasury's Interim Final Rule establishes a methodology that each recipient can use to calculate its reduction in revenue. Specifically, recipients will compute the extent of their reduction in revenue by comparing their actual revenue to an alternative representing what could have been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic. Analysis of this expected trend begins with the last full fiscal year prior to the public health emergency and projects forward at either (a) the recipient's average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the public health emergency or (b) 4.1%, the national average state and local revenue growth rate from 2015-18 (the latest available data).

For administrative convenience, Treasury's Interim Final Rule allows recipients to presume that any diminution in actual revenue relative to the expected trend is due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Upon receiving Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, recipients may immediately calculate the reduction in revenue that occurred in 2020 and deploy funds to address any shortfall. Recipients will have the opportunity to re-calculate revenue loss at several points through the program, supporting those entities that experience a lagged impact of the crisis on revenues.

Importantly, once a shortfall in revenue is identified, recipients will have broad latitude to use this funding to support government services, up to this amount of lost revenue.

5. Providing premium pay for essential workers

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to recognize the heroic contributions of essential workers. Since the start of the public health emergency, essential workers have put their physical well-being at risk to meet the daily needs of their communities and to provide care for others.

Many of these essential workers have not received compensation for the heightened risks they have faced and continue to face. Recipients may use this funding to provide premium pay directly, or through grants to private employers, to a broad range of essential workers who must be physically present at their jobs including, among others:

- ✓ Staff at nursing homes, hospitals, and home-care settings
- ✓ Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants
- ✓ Janitors and sanitation workers
- ✓ Public health and safety staff
- ✓ Truck drivers, transit staff, and warehouse workers
- ✓ Childcare workers, educators, and school staff
- ✓ Social service and human services staff

Treasury's Interim Final Rule emphasizes the need for recipients to prioritize premium pay for lower income workers. Premium pay that would increase a worker's total pay above 150% of the greater of the state or county average annual wage requires specific justification for how it responds to the needs of these workers.

In addition, employers are both permitted and encouraged to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to offer retrospective premium pay, recognizing that many essential workers have not yet received additional compensation for work performed. Staff working for third-party contractors in eligible sectors are also eligible for premium pay.

6. Investing in water and sewer infrastructure

Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in necessary improvements to their water and sewer infrastructures, including projects that address the impacts of climate change.

Recipients may use this funding to invest in an array of drinking water infrastructure projects, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems, including the replacement of lead service lines.

Recipients may also use this funding to invest in wastewater infrastructure projects, including constructing publicly-owned treatment infrastructure, managing and treating stormwater or subsurface drainage water, facilitating water reuse, and securing publicly-owned treatment works.

To help jurisdictions expedite their execution of these essential investments, Treasury's Interim Final Rule aligns types of eligible projects with the wide range of projects that can be supported by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Recipients retain substantial flexibility to identify those water and sewer infrastructure investments that are of the highest priority for their own communities.

Treasury's Interim Final Rule also encourages recipients to ensure that water, sewer, and broadband projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions.

7. Investing in broadband infrastructure

The pandemic has underscored the importance of access to universal, high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband coverage. Over the past year, millions of Americans relied on the internet to participate in remote school, healthcare, and work.

Yet, by at least one measure, 30 million Americans live in areas where there is no broadband service or where existing services do not deliver minimally acceptable speeds. For millions of other Americans, the high cost of broadband access may place it out of reach. The American Rescue Plan aims to help remedy these shortfalls, providing recipients with flexibility to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in broadband infrastructure.

Recognizing the acute need in certain communities, Treasury's Interim Final Rule provides that investments in broadband be made in areas that are currently unserved or underserved—in other words, lacking a wireline connection that reliably delivers minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Recipients are also encouraged to prioritize projects that achieve last-mile connections to households and businesses.

Using these funds, recipients generally should build broadband infrastructure with modern technologies in mind, specifically those projects that deliver services offering reliable 100 Mbps download and 100

Mbps upload speeds, unless impracticable due to topography, geography, or financial cost. In addition, recipients are encouraged to pursue fiber optic investments.

In view of the wide disparities in broadband access, assistance to households to support internet access or digital literacy is an eligible use to respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, as detailed above.

8. Ineligible Uses

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial resources to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments manage the public health and economic consequences of COVID-19. Recipients have considerable flexibility to use these funds to address the diverse needs of their communities.

To ensure that these funds are used for their intended purposes, the American Rescue Plan Act also specifies two ineligible uses of funds:

- **States and territories may not use this funding to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue due to a change in law from March 3, 2021 through the last day of the fiscal year in which the funds provided have been spent.** The American Rescue Plan ensures that funds needed to provide vital services and support public employees, small businesses, and families struggling to make it through the pandemic are not used to fund reductions in net tax revenue. Treasury's Interim Final Rule implements this requirement. If a state or territory cuts taxes, they must demonstrate how they paid for the tax cuts from sources other than Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds—by enacting policies to raise other sources of revenue, by cutting spending, or through higher revenue due to economic growth. If the funds provided have been used to offset tax cuts, the amount used for this purpose must be paid back to the Treasury.
- **No recipient may use this funding to make a deposit to a pension fund.** Treasury's Interim Final Rule defines a "deposit" as an extraordinary contribution to a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability. While pension deposits are prohibited, recipients may use funds for routine payroll contributions for employees whose wages and salaries are an eligible use of funds.

Treasury's Interim Final Rule identifies several other ineligible uses, including funding debt service, legal settlements or judgments, and deposits to rainy day funds or financial reserves. Further, general infrastructure spending is not covered as an eligible use outside of water, sewer, and broadband investments or above the amount allocated under the revenue loss provision. While the program offers broad flexibility to recipients to address local conditions, these restrictions will help ensure that funds are used to augment existing activities and address pressing needs.

Parks Wish List

During the Strategic Planning Committee meeting of December 1, 2021, the commission requested to work on putting together a list of "big wish ideas" for park improvements and/or programs that would fall under some upcoming funding opportunities. Please include your "big wish" item so it can go back to the Strategic Planning Committee to be fleshed out and so projects can be earmarked for funds.

1. Is your wish list item a parks wish or a program wish?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Parks wish
☐ Program wish

2. What county park is your project wish for?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Beitner Park
☐ Civic Center Park
☐ Keystone Soccer Complex
☐ Maple Bay Park and Natural Area
☐ Medalie Park
☐ Meyer House
☐ Natural Education Reserve
☐ Power-Bassett Island
☐ Twin Lakes Park
☐ VASA Trailhead

3. What is your project wish? (i.e. Civic Center Plumbing)

4. What are the details of the project wish? What would you like to see done? (i.e. I would like the plumbing at the Civic Center to be upgraded. I would like to see the pipes replaced so the toilets flush the first time and do not need to be flushed two or more times.)

5. What fund option does your project wish fall under?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- ☐ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- ☐ Reconciliation Bill
- ☐ An Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant
- ☐ Other: _____

6. How does your project wish fall within the funding rules/guidelines? (i.e. the Civic Center plumbing would fall under the IIJA because it has to do with infrastructure improvements.)

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