

***Brookline
American Rescue Plan Act
(ARPA)
Community Engagement***

October 2021 – January 2022

WELCOME!
WE WILL BEGIN MOMENTARILY.



Community Engagement Opportunities

Virtual Informational & Listening Sessions

Thursday, October 21 at 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 24 at 3 p.m.
Wednesday, November 10 at 10 a.m.
November 17 at 8:30 a.m.

Community Charrette (In-Person)

December 15 at 6 pm.
Join stakeholders and decision-makers in a shared community space to develop solutions together. Register today!

Focus Groups (Virtual & In-Person)

Share your feedback in small focus-group settings, hosted by various organizations and groups.

Contact Marianne by **Oct 31** at mbeauvais@brooklinecommunity.org if you are interested in hosting a focus group!

Agenda

- Welcome and Agenda (~5 minutes)
- About the Brookline Community Foundation (3 minutes)
- General Overview of ARPA (~30 minutes)
- Eligible Uses of Funding (~10 minutes)
- Ways of Being (3 minutes)
- Listening Questions (~50 minutes)
- Thank You & Closing (~2 minutes)

BCF Vision, Mission, Values

Our Vision: *A better Brookline for all*

Our Mission: *Brookline Community Foundation creates opportunity and promotes equity through the transformative power of giving*

Our Values: *Lead by Listening
Anchored in Equity
Sustainable Support
Community First*



Our Strategy: *Forward Together*



Surfacing barriers to opportunity and equity in Brookline

Engaging community members in collaborative solution-building

Inspiring transformative giving that supports a thriving Brookline

Advancing opportunity for those most impacted by inequities

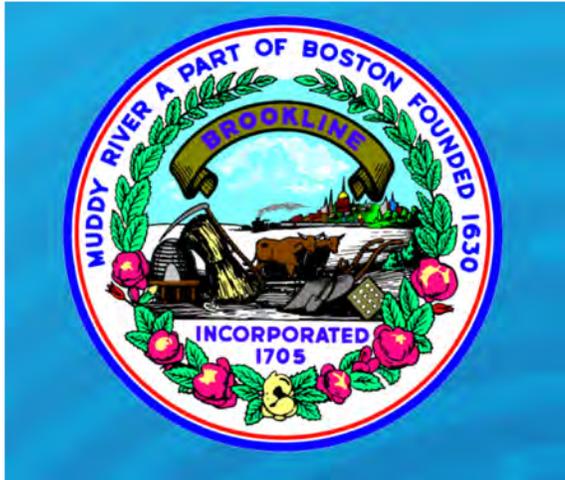


What is ARPA?



- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is an expansive **\$1.9 trillion package** to help people cope with the economic and public health fallout of the pandemic.
- **\$350 billion** is being passed down to states, local governments and tribal governments.
- Local jurisdictions have discretion in how to spend ARPA funds.
- **Communities can input** into how this funding is spent.

What You Should Know About ARPA in Brookline



Brookline ARPA Funding

- Brookline will receive ~\$43M in ARPA Funds for pandemic rescue & recovery efforts
- The Select Board will make strategic investments to remedy COVID-19's impact on Brookline and will look to **community input as critical to identifying priorities and making decisions on funding**
- All funds must be **obligated by 12/31/24** and **spent by 12/31/26**
- The **ONLY** way to submit a request for support is through the **OpenGov** ARPA platform

ARPA Funding Objectives

What are the objectives of this funding?

- **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

- **Address systemic public health and economic challenges** that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic

Eligible Uses

Here are the use categories as outlined by the U.S. Treasury

A – Public Health/Negative Economic Impacts

B – Premium Pay (Essential Workers)

C – Revenue Loss/Government Services

D – Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband

Select your option

- ✓ A - Public Health/Negative Economic Impacts
- B - Premium Pay (Essential Workers)
- C - Revenue Loss/Government Services
- D - Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband

Example Uses of Funds

A – Support Public Health Response

- **Services to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19**, including vaccination, medical expenses, testing, contact tracing, quarantine costs, capacity enhancements, and many related activities.
- **Behavioral healthcare services**, including mental health or substance misuse treatment, crisis intervention, and related services
- **Payroll and covered benefits** for public health, healthcare, human services, and public safety staff to the extent that they work on the COVID-19 response.

Example Uses of Funds

A – Address Negative Economic Impacts

- **Deliver assistance to workers and families**, including support for unemployed workers, aid to households, and survivor's benefits for families of COVID-19 victims
- **Support small businesses & nonprofits** with loans, grants, in-kind assistance, and counseling programs
- **Speed the recovery of impacted industries**, including the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors
- **Rebuild public sector capacity** by rehiring staff, replenishing state unemployment insurance funds, and implementing economic relief programs

Example Uses of Funds

Equity Focused Services / Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Additional flexibility for the hardest-hit communities and families to address health disparities, invest in housing, address educational disparities, and promote healthy childhood environments.

- **Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health**, including: community health workers, resource navigators, community violence intervention programs;
- **Building stronger neighborhoods and communities**, including: supportive housing and other services for individuals experiencing homelessness, development of affordable housing, and housing vouchers;
- **Addressing educational disparities exacerbated by COVID-19**, including: early learning services, tutoring or afterschool programs, supports for students' social, emotional and mental health needs; and
- **Promoting healthy childhood environments**, including: childcare, enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth.

Example Uses of Funds

B – Premium Pay for Essential Workers

- **Provide premium pay to essential workers**, both directly and through grants to third-party employers
- **Prioritize low- and moderate-income workers**, who face the greatest mismatch between employment-related health risks and compensation
- **Key sectors include** healthcare, grocery and food services, education, childcare, sanitation, and transit
- **Must be fully additive** to a worker's wages

Example Uses of Funds

C – Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

- **Ensure continuity of vital government services** by filling budget shortfalls
- **Revenue loss is calculated** relative to the expected trend, beginning with the last full fiscal year pre-pandemic and adjusted annually for growth
- **Recipients may re-calculate revenue loss** at multiple points during the program, supporting those entities that experience revenue loss with a lag

Example Uses of Funds

D – Investments in Water & Sewer Infrastructure

- **Includes improvements to infrastructure**, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems
- **Eligible uses aligned to Environmental Protection Agency project categories** for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Example Uses of Funds

D – Broadband Infrastructure

- **Focus on households and businesses** without access to broadband and those with connections that do not provide minimally acceptable speeds
- **Fund projects that deliver reliable service** with minimum 100 Mbps download / 100 Mbps upload speeds unless impracticable
- **Complement broadband investments** made through the Capital Projects Fund

Ineligible Uses of Funds

Ineligible Uses

- **Changes that reduce next tax revenue** must not be offset with ARPA funds
- **Extraordinary payments into a pension fund** are a prohibited use of this funding
- **General infrastructure projects** are typically not allowable use of funds unless the project responded to a specific pandemic public health need
- **Paying interest or principal on outstanding debt**, replenishing rainy day or other reserve funds, or paying settlements or judgements

SOURCES & WEBSITES

To Learn more about ARPA, visit

The U.S. Department of Treasury:

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

Treasury Fact Sheet:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRP-Fact-Sheet-FINAL1-508A.pdf>

Treasury FAQ:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf>

Treasury Quick Reference Guide:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRP-Quick-Reference-Guide-FINAL-508a.pdf>

Federal Register

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf>

National Association of Counties FAQ:

<https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/naco-recovery-fund-faqs>

Ways of Being

Conversation Ground Rules

- Use the Raise Hand function in zoom
- Make space, take space
- Engage in dialogue not debate
- Create trusting and safe space – where a little bit of discomfort is ok
- Speak your truth and listen to understand others
- Expect and accept non-closure

Questions

Three Main Categories for Questions

- **COVID-19's impact on individual and institutional/organizational levels**
- **Investment opportunities** at individual and institutional/organizational levels
- **Outcome measures and impact** (what does good look like?)

Questions: COVID-19's Impact

COVID-19's Impact on the individual and institutional levels (negative economic impacts)

- Who in Town (at the individual level) has been most impacted by COVID-19 and how?
- What systems, institutions, and organizations in Town have been most impacted by COVID-19 and how?
- What suffering in our community was directly caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and what was pre-existing that was exacerbated by COVID-19?

Questions: Investment Opportunities

Investment opportunities at the individual and institutional levels

- Are there specific investments that would focus support on groups and individuals who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 (e.g. Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color, older adults, essential workers, etc.)?
- Are there specific investments that would focus support on institutions or organizations that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 (e.g. health care/mental health organizations, restaurants, nonprofit service providers, small businesses)?
- What are your ideas for using “one-time” funds in transformational ways that address the impacts of COVID-19 and contribute to an equitable economic recovery?

Questions: Impact

Outcome measures and impact – what would good look like?

- What would be different in 3 years, 5 years, 10 years, if we as a community invest this funding well?
- Is there anything else you would like to share in this space?

Learn More & Spread the Word

For more information, updates, and resources go to <https://www.brooklinecommunity.org>.

Please help us spread the word about future engagement events by downloading the toolkit and sharing information with your networks:

<https://www.brooklinecommunity.org/help-spread-the-word-arpa>

We believe a better future for
all in Brookline is possible.

Let's build it together.

