

ARPA Local Aid Allocation

Fund Overview

Funding Objectives

- Support urgent **COVID-19 response efforts** to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control
- **Replace lost revenue** for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments 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 unequal impact of the pandemic

Spending Timetable

- Local governments will receive the funds in two tranches, the second arriving in May 2022
- **Funding must be obligated by December 31st, 2024**
- **Funding must be spent by December 31st, 2026**

Framework of Interim Final Rule

Non-exclusive lists of allowable expenditures

- Categories include intervention for Qualified Census Tracts, public health, direct aid, community & economic development, infrastructure

Encouraged expenditures

- Categories include addressing racial disparities, inequities, disproportionate harm

Prohibited expenditures

- Categories include pension funds, legal settlements, federal match requirements

Source: National League of Cities

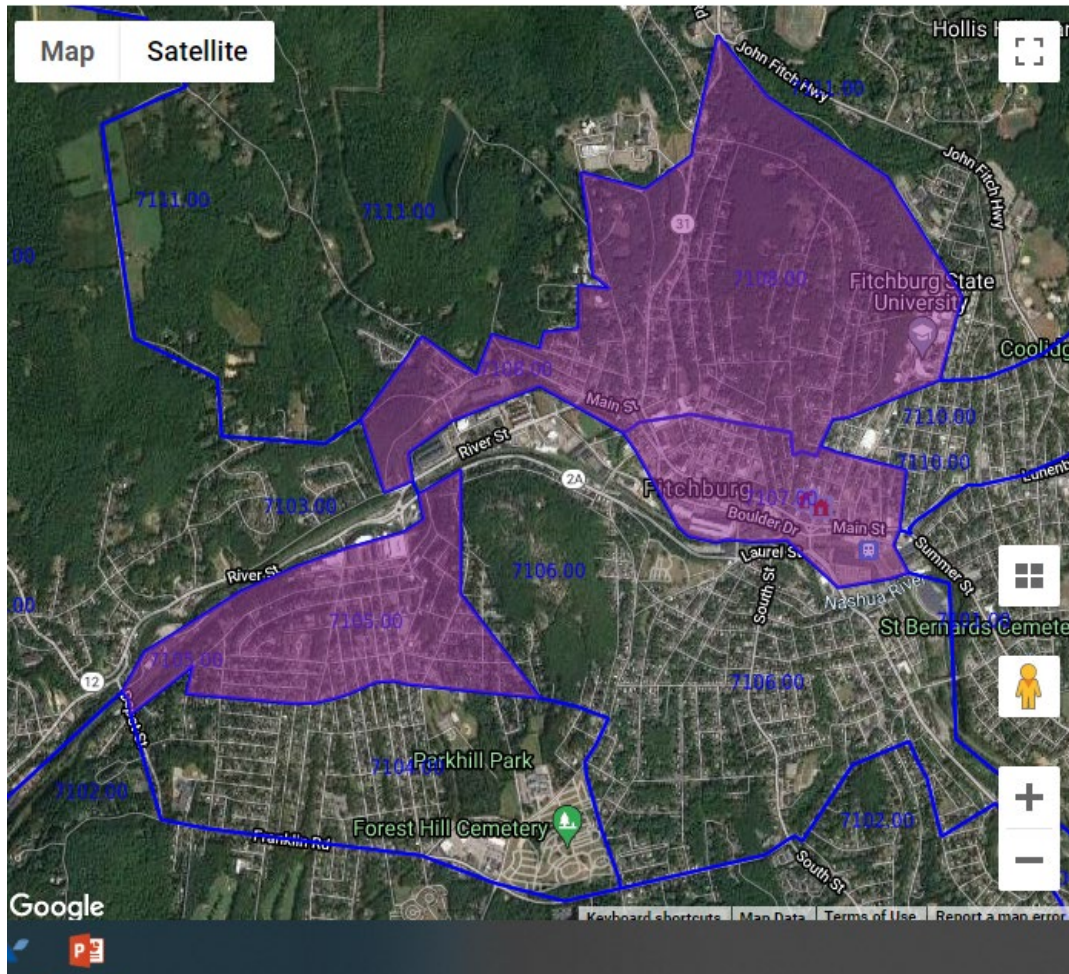
Presumption of Eligibility

Presumption of Eligibility inside Qualified Census Tracts (QCT)

- Direct cash and loan interventions
- Assistance to business and non-profits
- Impacted industries and workers
- Housing and Community Development
- Homelessness
- Childcare and Education

Source: National League of Cities

Qualified Census Tracts in Fitchburg



- 7105: Lower Cleghorn
- 7107: Downtown
- 7108: North of Main

More information can be found on https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html?locate=2502771050

Source: HUD

Ineligible Uses of Funds

- Federal Matching Requirements
- Premium Pay (unrelated to essential work)
- Pensions and Legal Settlements
- Infrastructure Not Directly Addressed in ARPA
- Rainy Day Funds, Financial Reserves, and Outstanding Debt

Eligible Uses of Funds

- **Support public health expenditures**, by, for example, 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
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and storm water infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet
- **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

Eligible Uses of Funds: Public Health

- **Support public health expenditures**, by, for example, 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
- Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
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Eligible Uses of Funds: Public Health

To respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality. Such as:

- COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention
- Medical Expenses
- Behavioral Health Care Including Addiction Treatment
- Public Health and Public Safety Employees
- Data, Design, and Execution of Health Programs
- Health Disparities
- Survivors Benefits

Eligible Uses of Funds: Economic Impact

- **Support public health expenditures**, by, for example, 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
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Eligible Uses of Funds: Economic Impact

Includes items such as:

- **Delivering assistance to workers and families**
- **Supporting small businesses and nonprofits** with loans, grants, in-kind assistance and counseling programs
- **Speeding the recovery of impacted industries**, such as tourism, travel and hospitality
- **Rebuilding public sector capacity** by rehiring staff, replenishing state unemployment funds, and implementing economic relief programs
- **Additional flexibility for hardest hit communities** and families to address health disparities, invest in housing, address educational disparities, and promote healthy childhood environments

Eligible Uses of Funds: Premium Pay

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Eligible Uses of Funds: Premium Pay

Fiscal Recovery Funds payments may be used to provide premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work during the COVID-19, capped at 150% of the state median income. Such workers include:

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

Anyone earning above 150% the average state wage (\$105,015) is not eligible, and municipalities are asked to prioritize lower-income workers for this category

Eligible Uses of Funds: Water/Sewer/Broadband

- **Support public health expenditures**, by, for example, funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff
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Eligible Uses of Funds: Water/Sewer/Broadband

- Can be used for necessary investment in:
 - Water
 - Sewer
 - Broadband Infrastructure
- CANNOT be used to repair roads, bridges, dams, etc.
- Additional funding may be available through the Infrastructure Bill

ARPA Local Aid Allocation

Local Selection Process

ARPA Selection Criteria

- **Eligibility:** Is the project deemed eligible under the Interim Final Rule?
- **Timeliness:** Can the funds be obligated by '24, spent by '26?
- **Tangible Impact:** Does the project impact directly impact Fitchburg residents and businesses
- **Long-Term Impact:** Does the project have a long-term impact (10+ years) on the City or its residents and businesses
- **Community Need:** Does the project respond to a salient need and reach a population of disproportionate impact?
- **Alignment:** Is the project aligned to the goals of a City strategic plan?
- **ROI:** Does the project leverage additional funding to expand impact?
- **Efficiency:** Is the impact greater than the resource expenditure?
- **Change:** Would this project happen without ARPA funds?

ARPA Advisory Committee

- 10-12 community stakeholders
- Goals: Demographic and Subject-Area Representation
- Will review project proposals, make recommendations to Mayor DiNatale and the budget team
- Will include an ex-officio Council member
- Committee will be announced in October

ARPA Local RFP

- RFP is posted and available, at www.fitchburgma.gov/arpa
- Funding must be ARPA-eligible and aligned to the City's ARPA criteria

Important Dates

- September 27, 2021: RFP Process released
- October 7, 2021: Information Session to discuss potential proposals
- November 1, 2021: RFPs due through the online portal by 11:59PM EST

ARPA Local RFP: Application Process

- Application available online for [municipal](#) and [non-municipal](#) applicants
- Necessary Attachments (all applicants):
 - Job Descriptions: Job descriptions of any staff funded through the proposed program
 - Detailed Project Budget: Outlining sources, uses, and any matching funds.
 - Detailed Project Schedule: For all Construction projects, a detailed project schedule is requested.
- Necessary Attachments (non-municipal applicants):
 - Organizational Chart
 - List of Board of Directors
 - Authorized Official Certification
 - Financial Audit
 - Financial Statement
 - ADA Compliance
 - Non-Discrimination Policy

City of Fitchburg ARPA Allocation

Next Steps

Other Funding Sources

- 2021 Infrastructure Bill – U.S. Congress
 - \$1.2 Trillion
- 2021 Reconciliation Bill – U.S. Congress
 - \$3.5 Trillion
- State ARPA Funds – MA Legislature
 - \$113 Billion
- Local HOME Allocation
 - \$1.7 Million (allocated towards addressing regional housing insecurities)

ARPA Timeline

- November 1st: Application Deadline
- Month of November: Advisory Committee holds public meeting(s) to review applications
- December: Mayoral Recommendations made, applicants notified
- First Quarter 2021: Mayor Submits 1st ARPA budget to City Council

The City of Fitchburg expects multiple ARPA budgets to be submitted between now and 2024, when all funding must be obligated

Questions?