

Q: I am in the Town of Essex. How do we know whether a community qualifies as Disadvantaged and how do we tell what tier we are in?

A: That is a very good question. I am going to post a link here in the chat that goes to our Affordability Calculation Results for 2022, the document that I will share will help you answer that question. There will be a number next to your community if you are considered a disadvantaged community, that number is your tier. The other way to tell is if you have already looked at the Intended Use Plan, a letter will appear next to your community and that letter in the key will help you know if you are eligible for loan forgiveness as well.

Q: Can you email or post the PowerPoint to access?

A: Yes, to both of those. If you email a Trust or DEP staff member, preferably a Trust one, we can email you a copy of the presentation and we also plan to post it to our website later today.

Q: How and when do we find out what the terms of our grant/loan will be for a specific project?

A: That is up to the community. As far as loans go, you can select any term the community would like. When it receives the loan questionnaire, it's just something that your community enters itself. Just be mindful of that 30-year maximum and the conditions that need to be met to be issued a loan term over 20 years and another important thing too is some planning projects requiring an engineer's useful life certificate over an amount that might be less (sometimes 5 or 10 years) but we don't usually run into too many tricky situations with those. As far as grants go, the asset management planning grants we expect those projects and all needed grant proceeds to be drawn down within about 2 years' time that's listed on the grant agreement signed by the community before any funding is disbursed. All 2022 IUP projects are looking at a board of trustees vote in fall 2023 when final amounts will be determined, but those percentages that were given to you earlier in this presentation and posted to our website are safe planning tools for the time being.

Q: You went over some ARPA funding and the BIL percentages as well. If we are not a disadvantaged community, how are we going to find out how much in ARPA or grants or loan forgiveness we should be expected to receive?

A: That is all in the process of being determined. With how it worked for 2021, all communities in the 2021 projects received some subsidy from ARPA, it just wasn't as great of a share as the disadvantaged communities. The disadvantaged communities got subsidy on top of loan forgiveness they were eligible for under the calculation.

Q: When should we expect that to be finalized?

A: It's going to be a similar process where our board of trustees approves final amounts with percentages available ahead of time to act as planning tools. Unfortunately, I can't give a timeframe now, the only

thing I can say is that before your community's loan is put into repayment, there will be certainty.

Q: *Your slide said this must be approved at a Town meeting by June 30th, but we had our town meeting May 5th, now what? We didn't have the notice until May 13th?*

A: If that May 5th meeting didn't involve local authorization for the loan, it looks like unfortunately your community may have to undergo special town meeting. If you have this kind of situation, please send Maria Pinaud a letter directly explaining the situation, and if there is going to be another opportunity in the near future to get the authorization we can (depending on whether the project is going to proceed this year) we can potentially extend the deadline by a reasonable time. But we do have to have certainty within the next couple of months. The draft Intended Use Plans came out in February and are meant to provide an opportunity to plan for town meeting. For the most part, projects that are listed on the draft IUP do not get removed from the final IUP. The draft IUP is a good tool for planning. And at the time if you have any questions, always feel free to reach out to DEP and we will be able to guide you until the IUP is published.