

RRP Funding Webinar Part One Q&A

00:25:16 **Nur Asri:** This webinar is being recorded and will be uploaded to the RRP program website. Please submit your questions through chat - we will leave time for Q&A at the end of the webinar.

00:32:51 **Emmy Hahn/MDI/RRP:** From Chris Moynihan - We are seeing a need to increase management capacity in some communities in order to handle RRP projects. Would it be possible to use ARPA funds for a 1 or 2 year position for something like a Downtown Rapid Recovery Coordinator?

00:34:15 **Ann Burke:** or to fund a downtown management entity like a BID or Downtown organization.

00:35:01 **Lori Tanner:** I second Chris M's question

00:35:37 **Brendan Sweeney:** Helpful US Treasury CLFRF materials:

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

00:35:58 **Brendan Sweeney:** CLFRF guidance document:

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

00:36:39 **Brendan Sweeney:** CLFRF FAQ document:

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

00:37:50 **Brendan Sweeney:** DLS and A&F materials regarding local ARPA funding (i.e., CLFRF):

[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-resources-and-guidance-for-municipal-officials#american-recovery-plan-act-\(arpa\)-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-resources-and-guidance-for-municipal-officials#american-recovery-plan-act-(arpa)-)

00:40:13 **Lisa Nisenson:** The interim rule states a recipient may address disparities in public health outcomes by funding public health positions. So recovery positions are likely allowed, however, these are one time funds, so think about funding the long term.

00:43:31 **Lisa Nisenson:** Raleigh NC is proposing to fund a downtown study (\$230K) and two fiscal analyst positions to manage grant compliance (\$230K).

<https://indyweek.com/news/wake/raleigh-american-rescue-plan-funds>

00:45:51 **Catherine Feerick:** Is there a state body (someone in AG Office or elsewhere) where we can address any questions about project eligibility if local counsel are unsure?

00:46:40 **Brendan Sweeney:** CLFRF compliance and reporting guidance:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>

00:47:30 **Brendan Sweeney:** Eligibility or other questions regarding CLFRF can be emailed directly to the US Treasury at SLFRP@treasury.gov

00:48:20 **Christine Moynihan:** Re. my question -- perhaps this slide (21) provides an answer -- "Expenses to improve efficacy of public health or economic recovery programs."

00:56:35 **Jane DiBiasio (Mayor Coogan's Office):** Where can we find (look for) info re: OA&F's training sessions on Compliance/Reporting for category 4?

00:58:38 **Alan Wolf:** Thanks for the local ARPA use recap. We've definitely been thinking long and hard about how to do that, and also have been grateful for the RRP consulting program. Heath has been great sharing this in multiple webinars.

I'm wondering if the the Commonwealth will be using any of the \$5.3B it received in ARPA money directly from the Feds to create a grant program to support RRP projects? Will there be some kind of program to have a rapid amplifying affect now that we've identified and vetted these projects?

01:02:57 **Brendan Sweeney:** GFOA members can access the GFOA ARPA revenue loss calculator here: <https://www.gfoa.org/materials/arpa-revenue-calculator>

01:03:19 **Kathleen "Kathy" McCabe:** The Treasury FAQ is really helpful and pretty easy to read and undstand for federal guidance!

01:05:00 **Raul Gonzalez:** Any knowledge on what the state plans on doing with its \$16 million State Tourism allocation and up to \$1 million State Planning allocation from the Economic Development Administration ARPA funds?

01:10:56 **Kathleen "Kathy" McCabe:** EDA sent in July an invite to the Commonwealth for the Travel & Toursim Grants to the state. Will ANF and MOTT be issuing requests to local governments to use EDA travel and tourism money

01:11:28 **Sukanya Sharma:** Thank you!

01:12:34 **Nur Asri:** Top 20 hardest hit communities: <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-launches-targeted-outreach-initiative-in-20-hardest-hit>

01:12:48 **Brendan Sweeney:** Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, and Worcester (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-equity-initiative>)

01:17:11 **Catherine Feerick:** Thank you!

01:17:12 **Kathleen "Kathy" McCabe:** Thank you for the informative session

01:17:39 **Christine Moynihan:** Great job -- I never thought I would understand a word... but I did!

Q & A File

Answered Questions:

Christine Moynihan:

We are seeing a need to increase management capacity in some communities in order to handle RRP projects. Would it be possible to use ARPA funds for a 1 or 2 year position for something like a Downtown Rapid Recovery Coordinator?

Jay Donovan:

Which funds at the state level will be available to implement the LRRP projects?

Alan Wolf:

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I'm wondering if the the Commonwealth will be using any of the \$5.3B it received in ARPA money directly from the Feds to create a grant program to support RRP projects? Will there be some kind of program to have a rapid amplifying affect now that we've identified and vetted these projects?

Sukanya Sharma:

Any thoughts on the possibility of combining/coordinating ARPA funds to municipalities and EDA-ARPA funds into a regional effort if there is interest to support activities recommended in RRP's?

Lori Tanner:

I was hoping there would be more specific guidance on which types of projects under RRP could be funded with this.

Gabrielle Gould:

Is there a list of the top 20 most affected municipalities?

Lauren Baker:

What data or backup information would you recommend that municipalities get in order as the state ARPA legislative process plays out? Is the RRP process sufficient preparation or are there other things we can be doing?

Also, thinking specifically about municipalities that may not qualify under the Gateway or "Hardest Hit" criteria being considered, this formula is concerning. Seasonal communities, for example, have seen significant in-migration and impacts that wouldn't be captured by this.

Previously unanswered, now answered questions:

From Jane DiBiasio:

Where can we look for (find) info re: OA&F's training session on Compliance/Reporting for Category 4: Water, Sewer, Broadband?

The US Treasury compliance and reporting guidance can be found [here](#). Additionally, an overview session for metropolitan cities and counties was held with the MMA, linked [here](#).

From Mark Favermann:

Are there separate funds for Arts and Cultural Organizations? Or is this from the same funding source?

The funding discussed was the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF), which is a single stream of funding for municipalities to use to cover a variety of needs related to COVID-19. However, more information about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the streams of funding specific to arts and cultural organizations can be found [here](#).

From Christine Moynihan:

I am familiar with a community that currently intends to use the ARPA funding for approved DPW projects (lead pipe replacement, etc.) -- would you recommend waiting on this decision until communities are informed about funding from the new infrastructure bill?

Ultimately, this is a decision that is up to your municipality. However, I recommend first reviewing the [Interim Final Rule](#) to see if your project is an eligible use of CLFRF.