

**CORONAVIRUS ADVISORY  
INFORMATION:**

[CLICK HERE](#) for City Updates

[CLICK HERE](#) for County Updates



**CITY COUNCIL**

Norma Martínez-Rubin, Mayor  
Vincent Salimi, Mayor Pro Tem  
Devin Murphy, Council Member  
Anthony Tave, Council Member  
Maureen Toms, Council Member

**PINOLE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 9, 2021  
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

**9:30 A.M.**

-----  
DUE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY – THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD PURSUANT TO  
AUTHORIZATION FROM GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS – CITY COUNCIL AND COMMISSION MEETINGS  
ARE NO LONGER OPEN TO IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE.

**How to Submit Public Comments:**

**Written Comments:** All comments received **before 4:00 pm on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**, will be posted on the City's website on the agenda page ([Agenda Page Link](#)) and provided to the City Council prior to the meeting. **Written comments will not be read aloud during the meeting.**

**Email comments to [comment@ci.pinole.ca.us](mailto:comment@ci.pinole.ca.us)**

Please indicate which item on the agenda you are commenting on in the subject line of your email.

**To Participate in Public Comment During the Meeting:**

Members of the public may submit a live remote public comment via Zoom video conferencing. Download the Zoom mobile app from the Apple Appstore or Google Play. If you are using a desktop computer, you can test your connection to Zoom by clicking [here](#). Zoom also allows you to join the meeting by phone.

**From a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89335000272>

**Webinar ID: 893 3500 0272**

**By phone:** +1 (669) 900-6833 or +1 (253) 215-8782 or +1 (346) 248-7799

- Speakers are asked to provide their name and city of residence, although providing this is not required for participation.
- Speakers will be muted until their opportunity to provide public comment.

When the Mayor opens the comment period for the item you wish to speak on, please use the "raise hand" feature (or press \*9 if connecting via telephone) which will alert staff that you have a comment to provide.

## WAYS TO WATCH THE MEETING

**LIVE ON CHANNEL 26.** They are retelecast the following Thursday at 6:00 p.m. The Community TV Channel 26 schedule is published on the city's website at [www.ci.pinole.ca.us](http://www.ci.pinole.ca.us).

**VIDEO-STREAMED LIVE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE,** [www.ci.pinole.ca.us](http://www.ci.pinole.ca.us). and remain archived on the site for five (5) years.

**If none of these options are available to you, or you need assistance with public comment, please contact the City Clerk, Heather Iopu at (510) 724-8928 or [hiopu@ci.pinole.ca.us](mailto:hiopu@ci.pinole.ca.us).**

**Americans With Disabilities Act:** In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, if you need special assistance to participate in a City Meeting or you need a copy of the agenda, or the agenda packet in an appropriate alternative format, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (510) 724-8928. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or time when services are needed will assist the City staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting or service.

**Note:** Staff reports are available for inspection on the City Website at [www.ci.pinole.ca.us](http://www.ci.pinole.ca.us). You may also contact the City Clerk via e-mail at [hiopu@ci.pinole.ca.us](mailto:hiopu@ci.pinole.ca.us).

***Ralph M. Brown Act. Gov. Code § 54950. In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards and councils and the other public agencies in this State exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly. The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies, which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.***

**1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IN HONOR OF THE US MILITARY TROOPS**

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

*Before we begin, we would like to acknowledge the Ohlone people, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to the Ohlone elders, past, present, and future, who call this place, Ohlone Land, the land that Pinole sits upon, their home. We are proud to continue their tradition of coming together and growing as a community. We thank the Ohlone community for their stewardship and support, and we look forward to strengthening our ties as we continue our relationship of mutual respect and understanding.*

**3. ROLL CALL, CITY CLERK'S REPORT & STATEMENT OF CONFLICT**

*An official who has a conflict must, prior to consideration of the decision: (1) publicly identify in detail the financial interest that causes the conflict; (2) recuse himself /herself from discussing and voting on the matter; and (3) leave the room until after the decision has been made, Cal. Gov't Code § 87105.*

**4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD (Public Comments)**

*Citizens may speak under any item not listed on the Agenda. The time limit is 3 minutes and is subject to modification by the Mayor. Individuals may not share or offer time to another speaker. Pursuant to provisions of the Brown Act, no action may be taken on a matter unless it is listed on the agenda, or unless certain emergency or special circumstances exist. The City Council may direct staff to investigate and/or schedule certain matters for consideration at a future Council meeting. **PLEASE SEE THE COVERSHEET OF THE AGENDA FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS***

**5. WORKSHOP ITEMS**

**A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Workshop [Action: Engage in Workshop and Receive Public Input [Guillory]]**

Please note: Public comment and questions will be facilitated in an open workshop format following staff's presentation. Comments and questions will be taken one at a time in the order in which hands are raised in Zoom. Members of the public may raise their hands more than once for follow up comments and/or questions. Please see the coversheet of the agenda for more details on how to participate in via phone or Zoom software. Contact the City Clerk if you have any questions: Heather Iopu [hiopu@ci.pinole.ca.us](mailto:hiopu@ci.pinole.ca.us) or (510) 724-8928

**6. ADJOURNMENT to the Regular City Council Meeting of October 19, 2021 In Remembrance of Amber Swartz.**

I hereby certify under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing Agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the main entrance of Pinole City Hall, 2131 Pear Street Pinole, CA, and on the City's website, not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date set forth on this agenda.

**POSTED: October 6, 2021 at 11:00 A.M.**

---

**Heather Iopu, CMC**  
**City Clerk**



## **CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

**5A**

**DATE:           OCTOBER 9, 2021**

**TO:             MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**FROM:          MARKISHA GUILLORY, FINANCE DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT:   AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS WORKSHOP**

---

### **RECOMMENDATION**

City staff recommends that the City Council hold two special City Council meetings, in workshop format, to get input from the community on how to spend the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the City of Pinole.

### **BACKGROUND**

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, signed into law on March 11, 2021, is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARPA includes the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program, which provides \$350 billion in emergency funding for eligible state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to mitigate the fiscal and public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities, individuals, and businesses. The funds are allotted as follows:

- States - \$195.3 billion;
- Counties - \$65.1 billion;
- Metropolitan Cities - \$45.6 billion;
- Tribal Governments - \$20.0 billion;
- Territories - \$4.5 billion; and
- Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government - \$19.5 billion.

The City of Pinole's allocation was determined to be \$4,605,010 based on a formula that considered several factors, including population. According to the guidelines established by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, governments will receive their allocations in two installments in equal amounts, one year apart. Pinole received its first installment of \$2,302,505 in July 2021. The second installment is expected to be received one year later in July 2022.

## **REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

The Finance Subcommittee met on August 10, 2021 to discuss and provide recommendations on the appropriations process for the ARPA funds allocated to the City of Pinole. Those recommendations included public engagement through special City Council meetings, in workshop format, to get input from citizens on how to spend the ARPA funds.

At its meeting on August 17, 2021, the City Council received a report of the Finance Subcommittee's recommendations on the ARPA appropriations process and provided its recommendations. The City Council collectively set the dates of October 9<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup> to hold the workshops. The Council directed staff to market the workshops using electronic and hard copy communications, therefore, staff communicated the events via the City's website and Facebook page. A paper flyer was mailed to all Pinole residential and commercial addresses. Additionally, the Bay Front Chamber of Commerce promoted the workshops through its website and newsletter.

Prior to the first workshop, the City launched a business recovery survey and invited all business owners with businesses in Pinole to complete it. The goal of the survey is to assess the needs of the business community as one component of the eligible uses is to provide aid to businesses. A general community survey will be launched following the October 9<sup>th</sup> workshop.

### **American Rescue Plan Act General Guidelines**

The U.S. Department of Treasury established guidelines on the primary categories of eligible uses of ARPA funds. They are as follows:

1. Negative Economic Impacts or COVID-19 Expenditures - Address negative economic impacts, including providing assistance to households, small businesses, impacted industries, and economic recovery; support public health efforts to mitigate and prevent the spread of COVID-19;
2. Premium Pay - Provide premium pay for essential workers;
3. Infrastructure Investments - Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure; and
4. Revenue Replacement - Replace revenue lost in the public sector, using the funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.

Eligible uses of the ARPA funds are restricted to those listed above. The funds cannot be used to:

- Directly or indirectly use to offset tax reductions or delay a new tax or tax increase;
- Deposit of funds into a pension fund.

All ARPA funds must be used for costs incurred during the period of performance that began on March 3, 2021. The funds must be obligated by the City Council by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026. Any unused portion of the funds must be returned to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Attachments A and B provide more detailed information on the ARPA guidelines.

To guide the prudent use of the ARPA funds, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends the following guiding principles:

- Temporary Nature of ARPA Funds - ARPA funds are non-recurring so their use should be applied primarily to non-recurring expenditures;
- ARPA Scanning and Partnering Efforts - State and local jurisdictions should be aware of plans for ARPA funding throughout their communities; and
- Take Time and Careful Consideration - ARPA funds will be issued in two tranches to local governments. Throughout the years of outlays, and until the end of calendar year 2024, consider how the funds may be used to address rescue efforts and lead to recovery.

### **American Rescue Plan Act Workshops**

The two special City Council meetings that will serve as ARPA workshops will provide an opportunity for the City Council and staff to participate in open dialogue with the community on allocating the funds. With City Council approval, staff engaged a consultant, HdL, to assist the City with formulating COVID-19 relief and economic recovery efforts. This includes facilitating the workshops and the process to allocate the ARPA funds.

The format of the first workshop, to be held on October 9, 2021, starting at 9:30 am, will be similar to that of a webinar. The public will be able to participate in dialogue throughout the meeting. The general guidelines of the workshop are as follows:

- The public will join the meeting using the Zoom link published on October 6<sup>th</sup>
- The Mayor will open the meeting and introduce the panel (City Council and staff)
- Staff will provide a presentation on the ARPA guidelines and eligible uses of the funds
- The public will be given a chance to ask questions or pose comments on the ARPA guidelines

- The consultant, HdL, will then take the lead on facilitating the discussion and brainstorming on ARPA spending
- The public will be invited to speak at various intervals throughout the meeting using the raise hand feature
- Department heads will participate in the meeting to respond to questions and comments on activities and services within their respective departments that may be considered for ARPA funding.

The expected outcome of the workshop is that the Council will identify some tentative areas and amounts for expenditure of the ARPA funds. Following the October 9, 2021 workshop, the City will launch a general community survey through the online interactive platform, Balancing Act. It will include the tentative priorities identified at the October 9, 2021 workshop and the results of the business recovery survey. All community members will be invited to provide their input, including prioritizing programs and projects from an individual perspective. The Balancing Act results will be used to inform decision-making during the November 6, 2021 workshop.

### **Next Steps**

The next step will be to launch a community survey through the online platform, Balancing Act, prior to the next workshop. The City Council will be hosting the second workshop on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. Community members are encouraged to participate in both workshops as the second workshop will be a continuation of the first workshop.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The workshop does not itself have any fiscal impact on the City. Once the City Council decides on ARPA appropriations, FY 2021/22 Operating Budget will be amended to incorporate approved expenditures to be funded by the \$2,302,505 of ARPA funds received. The second installment of \$2,302,505 will be allocated in the FY 2022/23 Operating and Capital Budget.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Quick Reference Guide
- B – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Fact Sheet





## Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The American Rescue Plan will deliver \$350 billion for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and bring back jobs.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

### Funding Objectives

- **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 Jurisdictions & Allocations

#### Direct Recipients

- States and District of Columbia (\$195.3 billion)
- Counties (\$65.1 billion)
- Metropolitan cities (\$45.6 billion)
- Tribal governments (\$20.0 billion)
- Territories (\$4.5 billion)

#### Indirect Recipients

- Non-entitlement units (\$19.5 billion)



#### Support Public Health Response

Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff



#### Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic



#### Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure



#### Address Negative Economic Impacts

Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector



#### Premium Pay for Essential Workers

Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors



#### Broadband Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access



**For More Information:** Please visit [www.treasury.gov/SLFRP](http://www.treasury.gov/SLFRP)

**For Media Inquiries:** Please contact the U.S. Treasury Press Office at (202) 622-2960

**For General Inquiries:** Please email [SLFRP@treasury.gov](mailto:SLFRP@treasury.gov) for additional information





# Example Uses of Funds



## 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



## 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



## 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



## Equity-Focused Services

- **Additional flexibility for the hardest-hit communities and families** to address health disparities, invest in housing, address educational disparities, and promote healthy childhood environments
- **Broadly applicable** to Qualified Census Tracts, other disproportionately impacted areas, and when provided by Tribal governments



## 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** 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



## 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



## 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

- **Changes that reduce net tax revenue** must not be offset with American Rescue Plan funds
- **Extraordinary payments into a pension fund** are a prohibited use of this funding
- **Other restrictions apply** to eligible uses

The examples listed in this document are non-exhaustive, do not describe all terms and conditions associated with the use of this funding, and do not describe all the restrictions on use that may apply. The U.S. Department of the Treasury provides this document, the State and Local contact channels, and other resources for informational purposes. Although efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided, the information is subject to change or correction. Any Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds received will be subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement entered into by Treasury and the respective jurisdiction, which shall incorporate the provisions of the Interim Final Rule and/or Final Rule that implements this program.

## 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 unequal 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:

| <b>Type</b>                                  | <b>Amount<br/>(\$ billions)</b> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| States & District of Columbia                | \$195.3                         |
| Counties                                     | \$65.1                          |
| Metropolitan Cites                           | \$45.6                          |
| Tribal Governments                           | \$20.0                          |
| Territories                                  | \$4.5                           |
| Non-Entitlement Units of<br>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                     | ✓ Truck drivers, transit staff, and warehouse workers |
| ✓ Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants | ✓ Childcare workers, educators, and school staff      |
| ✓ Janitors and sanitation workers   | ✓ Social service and human services staff             |
| ✓ Public health and safety 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.