

**The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021
Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)
ACTION PLAN
ROUND 1 COMPETITIVE GRANT
TIERS 3 & 4**

BACKGROUND

In the fall of 2021, Cumberland County made available a total of eleven Million dollars in competitive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to qualifying projects that propose big, bold investments in order to deliver equitable outcomes and transformative impacts. Projects and/or programs must first meet one or more of the Statutory Eligible uses outlined within sections 602 & 603 of the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF).

Based on the overwhelming demand for funding, the County established and implemented the Applicant tiers and priorities system to assist with the application review process. As a means to release funding into the community faster, the County conducted an initial review of just the top two tiers and priorities. Those recommendations were presented to and awarded by the County Commissioners in April of 2022.

Before you today are the recommendations of the internal review; and, thereby, the conclusion of the remaining applications received by Cumberland County as part of the competitive grant application process.

PROJECT SELECTION

In April of 2022, County Commissioners allocated just over Seven (7) million dollars of the eleven million made available through the competitive process. This left just under four (4) million for possible allocations. At the direction of the ARPA Advisory Committee, staff conducted an internal review of those remaining applications. The goal and main focus of the internal staff review was to ensure our process adhered to the guidance provided by the County Commissioners and County Manager. This also ensured only projects that were shovel ready, sustainable, and/or one-time expenditures that provided a regional community benefit would be brought forth to the AAC & County Commissioners. This process also allowed staff to streamline both the timeline and total number of applications reviewed, allowing for a more detailed approach to the applicant review process.

Staff are making recommendations to the County Commissioners for approval. The totality of the round 1 Competitive Grant Schedule was as follows:

- Pre-Application Process October 15, 2021 - close November 15, 2021
- January 06, 2022: Application portal Open
- January 20, 2022: Applications DUE by 4:00 PM
- February 28, 2022: Status of the current application review process
- March 15, 2022: AAC recommendations presented to County Commissioners, First Reading and also Public Hearing.
- April 11, 2022: County Commissioners Public Hearing & Approval Tier 1 & Tier 2
- **May 01, 2022- June 01, 2022: Internal Review of the remaining applications**
- **June 07, 2022: Staff presented internal recommendations for review and approval to the AAC.**
- **June 13, 2022: Internal Staff recommendations presented to County Commissioners for first reading and public hearing.**
- **July 11, 2022: County Commissioners final Public Hearing and approval of the ARPA Competitive grant process.**
- **All meetings were noticed and open to the public**

Agency	Funding Requested	County Managers recommendation	Project Description	Funding will support	Sustainably Plan	Duration	Outcome
City of Westbrook	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	Site/ Ground Improvements	relocate +upgrade sewer +stormwater	Buildt into the project	summer of 2022	30+affordable housing units 50+year round jobs for disadvantaged
Greater Portland Land Trust	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	Affordable Housing	Site work and building Construction	sustainable after built		16 Homes = 22-52 individuals
Milestone	\$ 222,780.00	\$ 222,780.00	expansion costs	funding the 1st year of lease for the new building	Mainecare to be built into the budget	1 year from when property is leased	expand number of beds by 8 and serve 1200 per year
Boys and Girls Club	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	Learning Recovery	Regain membership and purchase vans for transportation and buy new computers	one time expenditures	FY23	400
Cumberland County Adult Education and Career Development Hub	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$500,000.00	Adress workforce shortage. English Language learners and youth 17-28	hiring teachers and staffing, as well as scholarships	Has a sustainable plan	FY2023-2025	2400
Town of Pownal	\$ 155,214.00	\$ 155,214.00	Mallet Hall Communication Center	consist of fixing the acoustics in the meeting room by applying sound muffling fabric and updating the windows, purchasing all the necessary equipment to run and allow for remote access and updating the elevator as the meeting room in on the 2nd floor.	one time expenditures	FY23	1500 Residents of Pownal

Remaining Balance		3,904,848.00
Total Requested Funds to be reviewed	\$	2,017,994.00
Balance pulled forward		1,886,854.00

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS

Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder

Expanding Substance Use Treatment Capacity – Milestone Recovery is seeking ARPA funding to support expansion of their detox facility from sixteen beds to twenty-four, which is the new State of Maine maximum. In order to accommodate the new capacity limits, Milestone Recovery will need to lease a larger, more modern medical building, located in Greater Portland. ARPA funding would support the first year of the lease on the expansion, after which time the program will be self-sustaining.

Applicants Funding Request \$222,780.00

County Manager Recommendations \$222,780.00

Homelessness and Housing

Randall Street Affordable Housing Project - Greater Portland Community Land Trust is seeking ARPA funding to support the creation of 16 affordable homes located at 21 Randall Street in Portland, Maine. This application was previously scored and reviewed by the AAC but was not funded in Tier1. The developers have since provided updated ADA federal requirements for the property that fulfilled the AAC original request, and the Committee is now recommending funding.

Applicants Funding Request \$500,000.00

County Manager Recommendation \$500,000.00

Education and Job Training

Enhancing Workforce Opportunities - Cumberland County Adult Education and Career Development Hub is seeking ARPA funding to support the expansion of their regional career Development Hubs. Funds would be targeted toward rebuilding capacity and expanding student enrollment in regional programs. The requested ARPA funds will support up to nine contracted teachers and advisors to teach ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and support young adults who have not been able to sustain their education as a result of the pandemic.

Cumberland County Adult Education and Career Development Hub does have a sustainability plan moving forward which is to fully fund these activities in year one (FY23) of the grant. In year two (FY24), the grant will pay for 85% with the local programs, using either local or other grant funds to fund the balance. In year 3 (FY25), the grant would pay for 72% of these activities. This will allow the AE programs to incorporate these positions into their permanent budgets if they are still needed. It is also possible that the need may decrease over the next several years, as educational services resume to pre-pandemic levels. This funding will allow the Hub to meet the current need and to plan for the anticipated need looking ahead.

Applicants Funding Request \$2,000,000.00

County Manager Recommendation \$500,000.00

Childcare

Learning Recovery- The Boys and Girls Club of Southern Maine is requesting funding to support learning recovery at their four clubs located within Cumberland County. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated issues already present in our community – specifically a widening academic achievement gap in core subjects like reading and math. Poor access to quality expanded learning opportunities and high cost of affordable enrichment programs contribute to the widening academic achievement gap. According to the Afterschool Alliance, for every child in an afterschool program in our state, there are five waiting to get into one. Quality after-school programs give participants access to enriching opportunities and educational support that will level the playing field, support their learning recovery from the pandemic, and help to close the academic achievement gap. ARPA funding would go toward purchasing vans to transport students to the various club locations, purchase updated technology for supported learning at the clubs, and for outreach/engagement strategy to increase membership and awareness.

Applicant request \$140,000.00

County Manager Recommendation \$140,000.00

Infrastructure

Mallett Hall Communication Center- The town of Pownal is seeking ARPA funding to support initial infrastructure and equipment purchases necessary to create a remote meeting space within their communication center. Funding would also be used to assist the Town with making necessary upgrades to their elevator, which is used to access the communication center were town meetings are held. The town has funds for yearly operational costs after initial infrastructure is supported. The Town is requesting a total of \$155,214.00, which will support the total cost of the request. It is important to note

that though the town does have their own ARPA award, they are seeking the full request from the County so they may use their ARPA award toward existing needs, such as upgrading the village district pump station and fire department, as well as provide sign-on bonuses for fire fighters. However, if the commissioners prefer, the town is willing to forgo some of those projects and apply 25% of their existing ARPA award toward the Mallett Hall Communication Center.

Applicants request \$155,214.00

County Manager recommendation \$155,214.00

The City of Westbrook amended Vertical Harvest Proposal

The City of Westbrook has submitted an amended proposal for the Vertical Harvest Maine project. The amended proposal is requesting funding to support the Site/ Ground Improvements to relocate existing sewer and storm water for the project. The city has identified these amended components of the project as necessary to ensuring the site is made-ready for - and as a means to support - the affordable housing development to be created by CHOM.

Applicants Funding Request \$500,000.00

County Manager Recommendations \$500,000.00