

Understanding ARPA

Alameda County & the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Program

Parent Voices Oakland

February 2024



The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- Legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Biden in March 2021
- \$1.9 Trillion to meet both needs triggered by the pandemic and conditions before the pandemic that made its impact worse.
- Funding for programs available to meet needs highlighted by COVID, including resources for COVID testing and treatment and other public health needs; support for renters, homeowners, and small businesses; financial assistance to child care providers and families; and much more.
- The single largest program was the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.

The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFR)

- ★ \$350 billion in grants from the Treasury Department directly to states, counties, cities, tribes and territories.
- ★ Allocations were based on a formula. States, counties and larger cities received money directly from Treasury. Smaller town and cities got funding passed through from their states.
- ★ All cities and counties, and most states, received their funding in two parts – half in the spring of 2021, and the second half a year later, in the spring of 2022.
- ★ The hallmark of this funding is its FLEXIBILITY – each jurisdiction gets to decide how best to spend its funds to respond to the pandemic.

How Can SLFR funds be used?

- 1. To address the health & economic impacts of the pandemic**
- 2. To provide premium pay for essential workers.**
- 3. To replace public revenue declines caused by the pandemic**
- 4. To invest in Water/Sewer/Broadband and other Infrastructure**

3. State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Key Dates

May 2021

Cities, counties and most states got the first half of their ARP State and Local Fiscal Relief;

Spring 2022

Cities, counties and most states will get the second half of their ARP State and Local Fiscal Relief

December 31, 2024

Deadline for decisions on how funds will spent (this is called "obligation")

December 31, 2026

Deadline by which funds must be expended

Alameda County's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Alameda County received a total of **\$324,636,065**

DEADLINE: The County must obligate those funds before December 31, 2024. Any unobligated funds must be sent back to Treasury – that is, they will be lost.

- The adopted “**budget**” is the budget adopted for each project by a recipient associated with SLFRF funds.
- An “**obligation**” is an order placed for property and services, contracts and subawards made, and similar transactions that require payment.
- An “**expenditure**” is the amount that has been incurred as a liability of the entity (the service has been rendered or the good has been delivered to the entity).

What Share of SLFR Funds Has Been Spent?

The County must file a report with the Treasury Department every 3 months that details its progress in obligating and spending down its funds on each project. Treasury makes those reports public (but the release is delayed).

check #s

Alameda County received a total of **\$324,636,065**

As of September 30, 2023, the county had:

Budgeted: \$322,836,065

Obligated: \$167,818,267

**Unobligated funding: \$156,817,798
(\$155,017,798)**

ARPA Uses

Despite overwhelming need, Alameda County has budgeted only:

- \$1.5 million to serve families needing emergency shelter;
- \$5 million for emergency rental assistance; and
- \$5 million to provide child care grants to families.

How Did Milwaukee Decide To Spend Its Funds?

Community Surveys

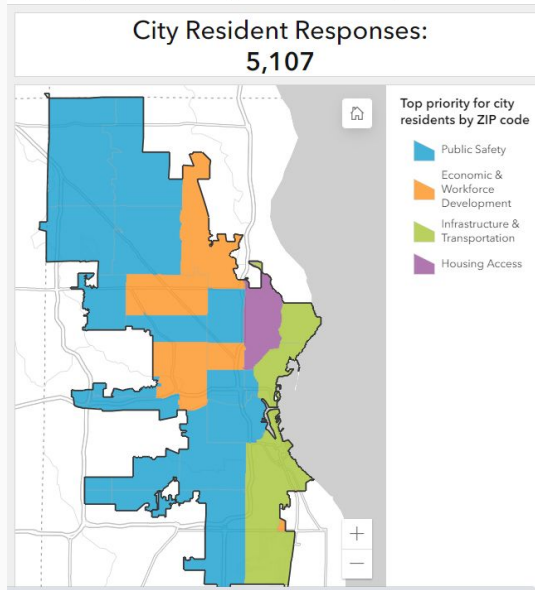
Public Hearings

Action by Mayor &
Common Council

A public survey was available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Hmong](#); [survey results](#)

From May 2021 through November 2021, the city held public hearings, meetings, and information sessions to gather feedback on funding priorities and provide the community with updates on the funding allocation process

The Mayor and Council are responsible for making spending decisions. In March 2022, they created a Task Force to engage residents and set funding criteria for projects.



Milwaukee's ARPA Task Force

The Task Force has 11 members:

1. The Mayor or the Mayor's designee.
2. The Common Council President or designee.
3. The Chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee or designee.
4. Two Common Council members who represent one or more Qualified Census Tracts, appointed by the Common Council President.
5. The Comptroller or designee.
6. The Budget Director or designee.
7. The Chief Equity Officer.
8. The Director of the Community of the Community Development Grants Administration.
9. Two community members, with one appointed by the Mayor and one appointed by the Common Council President.

“The ARPA Task Force shall conduct a minimum of two community meetings with residents...[and]... shall conduct educational outreach to residents outlining the parameters of allowable uses, including information sessions, social media, press releases, radio and television announcements, and other media and residential engagement methods.”

Our Questions:

- 1) How do we think the remaining approximately \$155 million that is unobligated should be spent?
- 1) Of the funds that are budgeted but not obligated, is there \$ we want to change, or that is at risk of not being obligated before the deadline that we want the County to repurpose before it is lost?
- 1) What is the process that the County will use to make these decisions?
- 1) Who do we need to influence?
- 2) Should we put in a public info

CALL TO ACTION



Next steps:

Completed:

- ❖ Email CAO's office - Complete
- ❖ Check in w/Priya + Trisha - Complete
- ❖ Get on agenda for OSSSI meeting - Complete

Still to do!

- Schedule meetings w/Board (process/tactical decision point)
- Demand re: non-decision making **3 day notice to PAY OR QUIT**
- Press?
- Plan for turn out to 2/27 Board of Supes meeting if they do not respond
- Will start distributing a survey and develop a community process on March 1st
- Next meeting 2/19/24