

**To: City Council**

**From: Debbie Laurie**

**RE: Council Review and Discussion of ARPA Funding Priorities and Process**

Earlier this year, the City held a variety of public input sessions as well as indicated their support to consider partnership opportunities with Penobscot County on their application process, which was underway at that time. Last week, the Council had the opportunity to receive an overview of the projects the County Commissioners had suggested as potential opportunities to partner on. The City is awaiting information on dates to discuss these potential opportunities in more detail with the County.

There were two primary areas of focus the Council indicated a desire to begin discussing and reviewing this evening; share their thoughts on the priorities and process and to discuss metrics to be considered in determining funding priorities.

#### Eligible Expenditure Categories

- Public Health
- Negative Economic Impacts
- Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
- Water/Sewer & Broadband Infrastructure
- Government Services due to Loss of Revenue

#### Guiding Principles

- Temporary Nature of ARPA Funds
  - Avoid creating or expanding programs that require ongoing financial commitment
  - Investment in critical infrastructure is well suited as it is non-recurring
- Ability to Leverage Additional Funds
  - Maintain awareness of state-level ARPA efforts
  - Consider regional initiatives or partnering with other ARPA recipients
- Take Time and Careful Consideration
  - Use other dedicated grant funds first and use ARPA for priorities not eligible for other assistance
  - Whenever possible, spread expenditures over qualifying period (12/26)
  - Adequate time should be taken to carefully consider all alternatives prior to committing the resources to ensure the best use of the temporary funding

Attached is a summary of the ARPA public input sessions by category.

Below are additional comments/suggestions that were received during the feedback sessions as it relates to the process by which funding would be allocated and how to determine priorities.

- Consider allocating funds to projects where no other funding source is available.
- Consider allocating funds to each area to ensure that all priority areas realize a benefit.
- Ask the experts
- Funding was allocated to assist cities in their recovery, should we ascertain what was most affected by COVID.

- There is a rush to use the funds to fix problems that were prevalent before the pandemic or should the funds be used for new things.
- Think about complex problems – what is the state or federal government not doing that impacts our community.
- Quantify non out of pocket costs that could be redirected.
- Allowed use of the funding is pretty-wide ranging, but it could be paralyzing.
- What is the City's role in addressing identified issues, versus support of organization working on the issue?

### Metrics

The following metrics have suggested to date to assist the Council in determining the funding priorities of ARPA funding allocations.

- Leverage additional funding sources;
- Support established Council goals/priorities;
- Impact on number of residents;
- Mitigate future cost to taxpayers;
- One-time costs vs on-going costs

This information is being provided for background purposes only. The intent of tonight's workshop is to provide an opportunity for the City Councilors to share their input as to priorities, process, request additional information, etc.

**SUMMARY OF ARPA PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS  
BY CATEGORY**

<b>Feedback Session # of Respondents/Participants</b>	<b>Emails (15)</b>	<b>Survey (87)</b>	<b>In Person (64)</b>	<b>Virtual (42)</b>	<b>Total 163</b>
* - Denotes Survey Answer					
<b>Public Health</b>					<b>125</b>
Women's Center	1				1
New Moms			1		1
Health Services	1		1		2
Recovery Services	1				1
* Prevention in Congregate Settings		7			7
* Covid Vax, Text, Trace		2			2
* Capital Public Facilities Respond COVID		8			8
* Mental Health	1	36	7	3	47
* Substance Use Disorder	1	32	8	3	44
* All on Survey		12			12
* None on Survey		18			<b>18</b>
<b>Negative Economic Impacts</b>					<b>93</b>
Public Safety Scholarship	1				1
Downtown Bangor Promotion	1				1
Small Business Assistance			1		1
Science Museum/Education		1	2		3
Business Incubator/Startup/Retail		2	1		3
* Job Training Assist	2	17		2	21
* Aid to Non-Profits		26	1	2	29
* Aid to Impacted Industries		9	2		11
* Other Economic Support		9			9
* All on Survey		15			15
* None on Survey		19			<b>19</b>
<b>Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities</b>					<b>235</b>
Homeless	1		3	6	10
Youth Center	1				1
* Healthy Childhood Environments		21			21
* Education Assistance		15			15
Support to Projects Accept Vouchers	1				1
Housing - general - zoning			5	2	7
Staff	1				1
Vacant Buildings	1			3	4
Senior Housing			2		2
Recovery Housing			4		4
* Low Income Housing		30	1		31
* Workforce		24	3	2	29
* Single Family Housing		13			13
* Multi-Unit Housing		23	2		25
* Transition/Support Housing	1	33	5	3	42
* Other Housing		15			15
* All on Survey		14			14
* None on Survey		8			<b>8</b>
<b>Government Services</b>					<b>193</b>
Support Public Safety	3		1		4
Public Transit	3			3	6
Pay as you go - one time projects			2		2
Climate Action - Electric veh, arrays, etc	1		5	2	8
CCTV in certain public spaces	3				3
Public Space Lighting	1				1
Waterfront		1	4		5
* Broadband	1	25	1	1	28
* Sewer	1	11	1		13
* Sidewalks/Pedestrian Improve		19	6		25
* Bike Lanes/Paths	1	20	2	1	24
* Parks	1	15	3		19
* Recreational Trails	2	15	7		24
* Streets	2	14	6		22
* All on Survey		9			9
* None on Survey		20			<b>20</b>
<b>Other</b>					<b>16</b>
Lower Taxes	1				1
Rent Control	1			1	2
Book Mobile	1				1
Community Garden			1	1	2
Family Services			1		1
Landlord Support			1		1
Land Bank			1		1
Grant Submission Process	1		2	1	4
Quality childcare for all families	2			1	3