

Council Workshop – ARPA

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 @ 5:15 pm

1. ARPA Application Parameters

As the City Council/Penobscot County initial partnership opportunities come to a close, the Council would like to finalize its own application process. In order to finalize this, staff would like to clarify and codify the various discussions so that clear guidelines/requirements/limits etc. can be developed that are reflective of the direction of the City Council.

- Areas of emphasis:
 - Question: Does the Council want to limit applications to the areas of emphasis previously identified? These include: 1) mental health, 2) substance use disorder, 3) job training assistance, 4) aid to non-projects, 5) small business support, 6) housing, 7) houselessness, and 8) childcare? Other areas of interest have been omitted as projects would likely be advanced by the City (i.e. broadband, economic development strategy, climate action steps, etc). Are there other areas of emphasis missing from this list?
- Applicants:
 - Question: Do you want to limit applications to only those that have experience with the receipt of federal funding? Depending on the applicant and the final form of any agreement it may be necessary to require it.
- Expenditure Type:
 - Question: Do you want to allow applications for capital, start-up operating, operating or general organizational support?
- Application Limits:
 - Question: Do you want to limit/cap the application dollar amount that may be requested?
 - Question: Do you want to limit the amount of funding to make available through this application process?
- Other:
 - Question: Are there any other guidelines/requirements/limits that should be considered?

2. ARPA Application Decision Criteria

Establishing decision criteria that will be considered during the review of applications has been identified as an integral piece of any application process. In order to ensure that the data that may factor into any final decision is readily available as part of the

application, staff is seeking further input and feedback on the following considerations discussed to date:

- Would the award leverage additional funding?
 - potential partnerships or grant matches (including potential asks to Penobscot County)
- Would the award support Council priorities or adopted plans?
- How many residents would be impacted?
 - consider demographic most impacted
- Would the award mitigate future costs to taxpayers?
- Would the award fund one-time costs vs. ongoing operations?
- Consider the probability of successful outcomes?
- Is the initiative sustainable?
- Consideration of short-term vs. long-term benefits?
 - short-term projects can have long-term benefits
- Any others

3. Status of ARPA Funding

Balance 12/31/2022	20,845,671
Penobscot County Partnership Awards to Date:	
Fresh Start	396,100
Maine Discovery Museum	500,000
Penquis	540,000
Bangor Public Library	241,271
Supported - Not Yet Finalized	
Housing Position	350,000
Homelessness Position	350,000
Y	2,000,000
Housing	4,100,000
Balance	12,368,300

4. Housing Follow Up from Consultant

- Qualifying expenditures
- Emphasis on programs that have more immediate impact
 - Sprinklers
 - Vacant/placarded properties
- Support of housing initiatives – contract and or position

Timeline for follow up on items from December 14, 2022 Workshop

- Community based SUDS and Mental Health Strategies – February 2023 – March 2023
- Efficiency Maine Partnership Program – February 2023 - Ongoing