

To: City Council
From: Debbie Laurie
RE: ARPA

Council Priority Update

The specific priority identified by the Council as it relates to ARPA funding is "Develop Metrics to Determine Priorities".

The following metrics have been suggested to date:

- 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

As part of the outreach process, we received comments as it relates to the process by which funding would be allocated and how to determine priorities. The suggestions included:

- 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?

Other Initiatives

Opioid Settlement Funds – Staff has made contact with the Attorney General's office to ascertain the status of the settlement. All paperwork has been submitted to the Courts by the State of Maine. We are awaiting information as to how much and when the funding will become available to parties of the suit.

State of Maine Emergency Housing Funding – Staff discusses housing opportunities biweekly with the Governor's Senior Advisor on Housing Policy and Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA). To date, it appears that the project within Bangor that would be the best fit for these funds is the Pine Tree Inn transitional housing project. As the State funding does not carry the same federal requirements, this will allow the project to come online sooner. Discussions continue as to the potential use of funds to encourage housing to those unsheltered individuals with housing vouchers.

Penobscot County – Both the beneficiary and sub recipient application processes have closed. In the beneficiary category (grants capped at \$25,000), there were approximately 30 applications. The sub recipient category received approximately 17 applications. All applications are currently under review and are expected to be considered by the County Commissioners in August, with final recommendations in September. City and County staff continue to discuss the timing and opportunity to partner on initiatives.

Summary of Feedback Received

Attached is a summary of the feedback received to date as well as a listing of the comments and feedback received from the various outreach methods.

City Councilor Suggestions

To date, the City Council has waited for the results of the public feedback sessions before sharing their thoughts and priorities. As a starting point, staff will review the Town Hall presentation and then the balance of the time is set aside for City Councilors to discuss suggestions, priorities, request additional information etc.

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

| Feedback Session # of Respondents/Participants | Emails (15) | Survey (87) | In Person (64) | Virtual (42) | Total 163 |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| * - Denotes Survey Answer | | | | | |
| Public Health | | | | | 125 |
| 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 | | | 18 |
| Negative Economic Impacts | | | | | 93 |
| 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 | | | 19 |
| Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities | | | | | 235 |
| 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 | | | 8 |
| Government Services | | | | | 193 |
| 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 | | | 20 |
| Other | | | | | 16 |
| 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 |

| Forum | Resident/ Business | Comment Submitted |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Email | Yes | Affordable Housing staff member- several suggestions to create more affordable housing |
| Email | Yes | Mental Health Clinic |
| Email | Yes | Renovate Abandoned Properties |
| Email | Yes | SUDS Clinic |
| Email | Yes | Public Safety |
| Email | Yes | Public transportation compensation |
| Email | Yes | Lower Property Taxes |
| Email | Unk | Homeless |
| Email | Unk | Restore bus service |
| Email | No | Youth Center |
| Email | No | Police Department |
| Email | No | Public transportation |
| Email | No | Promote Downtown Businesses |
| Email | No | Book Mobile |
| Email | No | Rent Control |
| Email | No | Women's Center |
| Email | Staff | Climate Change Mitigation - City and citizens - bike lanes. EV infra, citizen programs - heat pumps, winterize |
| Email | Staff | In house workforce training |
| Email | Staff | Grant opportunities for nonprofits |
| Email | Staff | Outreach and assistance to landlords to rehab buildings to accept housing vouchers |
| Email | Staff | Quality childcare to all families |
| Email | Staff | School mental health providers |
| Email | Staff | Public safety training center |
| Email | Staff | expand camera system within the City |
| Email | Staff | Public safety training center |
| Email | Staff | CCTV or video camera installation in certain public spaces |
| Email | Staff | Improved public space lighting (street lights, lights in parks and public spaces) |
| Email | Staff | Roads |
| Email | Staff | Sewer |
| Email | Staff | Public Transportation |
| Email | Staff | Add cameras to public spaces |
| Email | Staff | Transitional housing |

| Forum | Resident/ Business | Comment Submitted |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Email | Staff | Increased access to recovery services |
| Email | Staff | Workforce challenge - support working communities initiative |
| Email | Staff | Expanded daycare facilities |
| Email | Staff | Affordable and accessible broadband |
| Email | Staff | Extend Kenduskeag Trail |
| Email | Staff | Neighborhood access to trails |
| Email | Staff | Waterfront connections and tree planting |
| Email | Staff | Separate bike lanes |
| Phone | Unk | Roads |
| In Person | Yes | Assist small business with flavored tobacco ban |
| In Person | Yes | Bangor Greenway - 3 mile trail for connectivity to existing east side trails |
| In Person | Yes | Botanical gardens with native species - remove invasive plants |
| In Person | Yes | Build new neighborhoods |
| In Person | Yes | Buy down interest rates to promote development |
| In Person | Yes | Clear outfall to creat beach like access to river |
| In Person | Yes | Deal with monopoly of distributors to small stores |
| In Person | Yes | Demo 72 State Street, replace with housing for young professionals |
| In Person | Yes | Developer to invest in modular or mobile home w 1/2 ac lot ada compliant, open space for garden |
| In Person | Yes | Do a project grant process |
| In Person | Yes | Funding senior housing project gap |
| In Person | Yes | Health services |
| In Person | Yes | Healthy Corner Stores |
| In Person | Yes | KD Stream walls repair and perhaps consider park like design - minimize flood impacts |
| In Person | Yes | Lights in Stillwater Park |
| In Person | Yes | Maintain and enhance trail from Kenduskeag to Griffin Rd |
| In Person | Yes | Offer grants to developers to construct more housing units |
| In Person | Yes | Opioid (outside of Bangor) |
| In Person | Yes | Pave Howard Street |
| In Person | Yes | Preservation of forest and fields |
| In Person | Yes | Provide operational funding for eligible categories |

| Forum | Resident/ Business | Comment Submitted |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| In Person | Yes | Redo Downtown so no one way streets - connection, easier to shut down a St, slow traffic |
| In Person | Yes | Science and education |
| In Person | Yes | Science museum |
| In Person | Yes | Sohns Memorial - Pierce Park |
| In Person | Yes | Streets |
| In Person | Yes | Support non-profits |
| In Person | Yes | Trail connections |
| In Person | Yes | Trees - cutting more than planting - canopy over major arterials |
| In Person | Yes | Updated map at Waterfront |
| In Person | Yes | Waterfront performance space, outside fitness setup |
| In Person | Yes | Watershed improvements - gutters, rain barrels |
| In Person | Yes | Wet shelter located closer to downtown - increase beds |
| In Person | Unk | Affordable housing |
| In Person | Unk | Affordable housing |
| In Person | Unk | Brick and mortar for recovery residences |
| In Person | Unk | Financing gap for senior housing |
| In Person | Unk | Housing |
| In Person | Unk | Housing support |
| In Person | Unk | Mental Health and SUD programs |
| In Person | Unk | Mental health services |
| In Person | Unk | Mental health treatment |
| In Person | Unk | Partner with local banks \$100k grants for construction loans on 4+ unit properties |
| In Person | Unk | Projects that save money - i.e. fresh start sober living houses |
| In Person | Unk | Recovery and SUD treatment |
| In Person | Unk | Recovery residences |
| In Person | Unk | Recovery resources |
| In Person | Unk | Services to keep families together |
| In Person | Unk | Sober living houses |
| In Person | Unk | SUD |
| In Person | Unk | SUD services |
| In Person | Unk | SUD Treatment |
| In Person | Unk | Workforce, transitional, supported, low income and multi unit housing |

| Forum | Resident/ Business | Comment Submitted |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| In Person | Unk | Fund bike and pedestrian infrastructure (2020 Bike Ped Plan) |
| In Person | Unk | Go electric - including arrays on buildings (Bangor High) |
| In Person | Unk | Government projects in lieu of bonding |
| In Person | Unk | Increased pedestrian infrastructure in downtown neighborhoods |
| In Person | Unk | Infrastructure - roads - one time projects - not ongoing programs |
| In Person | Unk | Pedestrian mall along Board & Merchants plaza to connect to new transit center |
| In Person | Unk | Public Safety |
| In Person | Unk | Reduce car traffic downtown - allowing for more pedestrian centered and community space |
| In Person | Unk | Spend on projects that wouldn't be funded - electric streetcar, vehicles, magnet schools, science ctr, healthcare |
| In Person | Unk | Streets/Sidewalks. Trail Parks |
| In Person | Unk | Business incubator/start up space downtown |
| In Person | Unk | Small business assistance |
| In Person | Unk | Community gardens in abandoned, unused spaces |
| In Person | Unk | Municipal land bank and housing trust |
| In Person | Unk | Subsidies for local and small landlords over out of state owners |
| In Person | Unk | Continue support for visiting nurses for new moms and infants with increased funding |
| In Person | Unk | Broadband for Capehart |
| In Person | Unk | Reduce sewer rate increase |
| In Person | No | Affordable supportive housing |
| In Person | No | Mental Health and SUD services |
| Survey | Yes | Access to assistance for those in subsidized housing |
| Survey | Yes | Affordable housing |
| Survey | Yes | Assist elderly - housing , care and food |
| Survey | Yes | Attract developers for multi- unit housing, new single family neighborhoods by providing grants |
| Survey | Yes | Business to support children's play and independent discovery (hands on - staff to provide intro only) |
| Survey | Yes | Construction of workforce and other housing that be affordable. Ensure energy efficiency. Dense multi-unit |
| Survey | Yes | Convert PCHC transitional housing program into supported recovery transitional program |
| Survey | Yes | Early childhood development |
| Survey | Yes | Editing rentals and create new workforce and affordable housing |
| Survey | Yes | Find ways to get supportive housing |
| Survey | Yes | Flexible housing for homeless (similar to Ramada Inn) |

| Forum | Resident/ Business | Comment Submitted |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Survey | Yes | Help support mental health and SUD |
| Survey | Yes | Hold landlords accountable to maintain retail housing to reasonable standards |
| Survey | Yes | Housing - working homeless - those with vouchers are unable to use them |
| Survey | Yes | Incentive program to repairs and spruce up low incoming housing (multi unit and single family) |
| Survey | Yes | Mental health services/substance abuse |
| Survey | Yes | Open mental health sites |
| Survey | Yes | Rental assistance |
| Survey | Yes | Replace current PCHC emergency shelter building with new construction |
| Survey | Yes | Repurpose existing PCHC shelter space to 24/7 resource center for individuals experiencing homelessness |
| Survey | Yes | Resources to disability orgs due to higher disability rates of pandemic |
| Survey | Yes | Rural specific funding for housing and services |
| Survey | Yes | Safe and secure dwelling sites |
| Survey | Yes | Service center in central location for homeless people - meals, warming, health and counseling |
| Survey | Yes | Services for mental illness and substance abuse prevention |
| Survey | Yes | Standards on what is livable and save housing to keep landlords accountable |
| Survey | Yes | SUD/MH Services |
| Survey | Yes | SUDS |
| Survey | Yes | Support orgs providing permanent housing or people within high risk populations find affordable housing |
| Survey | Yes | Support programs that keep people out of jail - manage mental health and SUD |
| Survey | Yes | Transitional housing |
| Survey | Yes | Vacant parcels for affordable housing (mall). |
| Survey | Yes | Acquire and protect parcel adjacent to Saxl Park |
| Survey | Yes | Acquire quieter, electric powered mowers and equipment |
| Survey | Yes | Bike lanes Broadway (dedicated) |
| Survey | Yes | Bike paths that connect trails to downtown neighborhoods and waterfront |
| Survey | Yes | Bike/walking trails |
| Survey | Yes | Cart paths at Bangor Muni. Provide more equipment and man power to remove fallen trees |
| Survey | Yes | City hall renovation |
| Survey | Yes | City-wide system for collecting recyclables |
| Survey | Yes | Connect Prentiss Woods, Essex Woods, City Forest to River |
| Survey | Yes | Encourage bike and public transit commuting |
| Survey | Yes | Equip parks to make destination - port-a-potties, picnic shelter, benches, sports fac, creative structures |

| Forum | Resident/ Business | Comment Submitted |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Survey | Yes | Expand bus services and provide shelters in key locations |
| Survey | Yes | Expanded bus hours and routes |
| Survey | Yes | Green spaces connected by multi use trails |
| Survey | Yes | Improve access to Mall area, redesign sidewalk from Howard to I95, make wider - multi-use |
| Survey | Yes | Improve safety of crosswalks, flashing lights, |
| Survey | Yes | Incentives program to collect rainwater |
| Survey | Yes | Increase # and size of natural areas, connections, improve areas for wildlife and human recreation |
| Survey | Yes | Increase funding for parks |
| Survey | Yes | Lower KD Stream Trail - new firm paving surface, lighting, fencing, canoe/kayak launch, benches, trash, sharps |
| Survey | Yes | Micro mobility options - city-provided ride sharing, e-bike rentals etc |
| Survey | Yes | More sidewalks, trails,, bike paths, trees, pollinator gardens - reduce lawns and parking lots |
| Survey | Yes | New sidewalks and better maintenance of existing , implement bike infrastructure |
| Survey | Yes | Norumbega Parkway & Hannibal Hamlin - new walkways, lighting , beddings etc |
| Survey | Yes | Pickering Sq - imp park area around depot, open air multi purpose performance space, light, benches, connect to |
| Survey | Yes | Plan bicycle network connects the City's neighborhood |
| Survey | Yes | Public transportation |
| Survey | Yes | Restore small park in front of Brick Church |
| Survey | Yes | Roads, sidewalks, street trees, parks |
| Survey | Yes | Swales - example projects in downtown to educate people on natural options for run off |
| Survey | Yes | Trees all over the City - as a Tree City |
| Survey | Yes | Victory parkway new paving, walls, fencing, specialty entrance gardens |
| Survey | Yes | Waterfront welcome center |
| Survey | Yes | Assist with start businesses |
| Survey | Yes | City owned retail space for start-up opportunities for retail operations |
| Survey | Yes | Economic Development |
| Survey | Yes | Funding to arts |
| Survey | Yes | Grants for small business |
| Survey | Yes | Heating assistance |
| Survey | Yes | Incentives to care workers to work and live in area, including affordable housing |
| Survey | Yes | Job training program - CDL - electricians, plumbers, carpenters, insulation, mental health etc |
| Survey | Yes | Library - longer hours, expanding the idea of what a library is |
| Survey | Yes | Maine Science Park - emphasis on projects with no other source of funding and one time costs |

| Forum | Resident/ Business | Comment Submitted |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Survey | Yes | Small business/start up single office spaces with access to shared resources |
| Survey | Yes | Balance and cohesion of projects within the City - s/b well-connected, welcoming and thriving place |
| Survey | Yes | Community garden for health and food security |
| Survey | Yes | Limit ability of corporations to buy up single family housing stock |
| Survey | Yes | Rent rate hike restrictions |
| Survey | Yes | Save for future needs |
| Survey | Yes | Premium pay for all City of Bangor essential workers |
| Survey | Yes | Premium pay for essential workers |
| Survey | Yes | Broad testing and masking initiatives |
| Survey | Yes | Improve public health |
| Survey | Yes | Manage communicable diseases in public spaces |
| Survey | Yes | Standards for medical transportation to keep drives and patients safe |
| Survey | Yes | Ventilation for schools |
| Survey | Yes | Broadband |
| Survey | Yes | Broadband - including availability in public areas of City |
| Survey | Yes | Fix remaining CSOs and other drainage issues to protect and improve water quality |
| Survey | No | Acquire run down buildings and renovate or rebuild for middle income rentals |
| Survey | No | Additional support for harm reduction and prevention - safe syringe disposal, OUD treatment |
| Survey | No | Assist low income families with past rent or housing deposits |
| Survey | No | Consultant to figure out homeless and suds issue |
| Survey | No | Expand low income, transitional/supportive, housing, housing outreach, direct rental assist to homeless |
| Survey | No | Free public transportation for elderly and low-income |
| Survey | No | Homeless |
| Survey | No | Inadequate SUDS treatment |
| Survey | No | Insufficient mental health care |
| Survey | No | Invest in diversion programs |
| Survey | No | Lack of safe, affordable housing |
| Survey | No | Mental health resources and trained non-law enforcement personnel for crisis response |
| Survey | No | More public housing |
| Survey | No | Move Bangor Area Homeless Shelter into a newer facility near Hope House |
| Survey | No | Penobscot County social services |
| Survey | No | Prevention and treatment for diseases caused by poverty and despair |

| Forum | Resident/ Business | Comment Submitted |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Survey | No | Strengthen services in Bangor to support outlying rural areas |
| Survey | No | Substance use and addition peer counselors available |
| Survey | No | Support childcare expansion - beyond standard workday |
| Survey | No | Supportive, low-income housing and housing for transitioning out of institutional settings or incarceration |
| Survey | No | Tiny home proposal for homeless individuals with an office that is staffed |
| Survey | No | Add traffic light to Broadway and Pushaw Rd |
| Survey | No | Assist Penobscot County with jail improvements |
| Survey | No | Expand public transportation routes |
| Survey | No | Fix roads |
| Survey | No | Fix up dog park |
| Survey | No | New Bangor signs and Airport sign |
| Survey | No | Paint lines, turns lands and crosswalks |
| Survey | No | Path Golf Cart paths |
| Survey | No | Rebuild roads, sidewalks, rehab neighborhoods and schools |
| Survey | No | Assistant downtown business with façade, security and other needs |
| Survey | No | Support arts, theatres, museum and concert venues - improve quality of life |
| Survey | No | Implement rent control |
| Survey | No | Make it difficult for investors to buy homes, so residents have the ability to purchase |
| Survey | No | New/improved Folk Festival |
| Survey | No | Rent control |
| Survey | No | Premium pay for essential workers |
| Survey | No | Premium pay for essential workers - those who served the community directly - appears to be City specific |
| Survey | No | Expand broadband |
| Virtual | Yes | Allow temporary shelters |
| Virtual | Yes | Allow temporary shelters for those in treatment or training program |
| Virtual | Yes | Arts & Culture support essential to our vitality |
| Virtual | Yes | Busses appear to not be full - cost more to operate, small vehicles - economy and environ friendly |
| Virtual | Yes | Climate programs for residents - thermal analysis, education - assist for insulation |
| Virtual | Yes | Enhance website |
| Virtual | Yes | Hire outside legal counsel to track down owners of vacant properties |
| Virtual | Yes | Homelessness and job training are interrelated |

| Forum | Resident/ Business | Comment Submitted |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Virtual | Yes | Mental Health Services |
| Virtual | Yes | Public bathrooms |
| Virtual | Yes | Subsidies for rentals |
| Virtual | Yes | Update vacant property fees - sliding scale longer vacant higher the fee |
| Virtual | Yes | Workforce Housing |
| Virtual | Yes | Zoning changes to allow multi-units in P&S where property in disrepair |
| Virtual | Unk | Convert vacant buildings into living spaces |
| Virtual | Unk | Food access - community gardens to support housing areas, neighborhood grocery stores |
| Virtual | Unk | Increase in Section 8 Vouchers |
| Virtual | No | Managed unhoused community - gather input from those who are unhoused |
| Virtual | No | Pallet Village |
| Virtual | No | Pallet Village - individual has property that could be used for this purpose - but lacks transportation to Bangor |
| Virtual | No | Restart housing group |