



**Federal American Rescue Plan Act (2021)
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Frequently Asked Questions
AS OF October 28, 2021**

This document contains answers to frequently asked questions regarding Solano County’s direct federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF or Fiscal Recovery Funds). The County will be updating this document periodically in response to questions received from stakeholders.

1. ARPA Guidelines

1.1 What is ARPA?

The federal American Rescue Plan Act (2021) or ARPA is the federal government’s legislation signed into law on March 11, 2021 in response to the COVID-19. See the link below for further information:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-rescue-plan/>

1.2 What is SLFRF?

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) is the portion of ARPA funding for eligible state, local territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and bring back jobs. The County’s ARPA funding allocation is provided through SLFRF. For further details on SLFRF see link to the U.S. Treasury below:

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

1.3 Which government agency is responsible for establishing the requirements for use of ARPA direct funds?

The U.S. Treasury is the lead agency at the federal Government responsible for establishing requirements for the County’s utilization of ARPA funding. Additional information on the rules and regulations for ARPA direct funds under SLFRF can be accessed through links on the County’s ARPA webpage at www.Solanocounty.com/ARPA or directly on the U.S. Treasury’s Website at the following link:

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

1.4 What is the Interim Final Rule?

The Interim Final Rule (IRF) is a detailed set of rules issued by the U.S. Treasury on May 10, 2021 which applies to ARPA and is outlined in the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (SLFRF). The IRF is the guidance and includes a non-exhaustive list of eligible expenditures, encouraged expenditures, and prohibited expenditures. The U.S. Treasury sought comments on the IRF thru July 16, 2021. Comments are under review by the U.S. Treasury and additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) are anticipated to be issued by the U.S. Treasury to respond to comments and questions. Updated U.S. Treasury FAQ's and a Final Rule are anticipated in Fall 2021 or early in 2022.

[U.S. Treasury COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – Interim Final Rule](#)

1.5 What are the eligible uses of ARPA direct funding under SLFRF?

The federal ARPA legislation that establishes the SLFRF and the U.S. Treasury issuance of Interim rules for these funds specify that allowable use of funds must fit into one of the following four statutory categories:

To respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts;

To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to such eligible workers of the recipient, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who performed essential work;

For the provision of government services, to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such recipient due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the recipient prior to the emergency; and to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

These four uses are split into 7 summary expenditure categories and each has additional details and definitions. The 7 expenditures categories are:

1. Public Health
2. Negative Economic Impacts
3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
4. Premium Pay
5. Infrastructure
6. Revenue Replacement
7. Administrative

All SLFRF award funds must be used in compliance with these guidelines. The Interim Final Rule details compliance responsibilities and provides additional information on eligible and restricted uses. Each expenditure category has distinct reporting requirements.

1.6 What are U.S. Treasury Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) under SLFRF?

The U.S. Treasury issues answers to questions on SLFRF rules and regulations through published U.S. Treasury FAQ's. See the link below for FAQ documents:

[U.S. Treasury Covid-19 SLFRF Frequently Asked Questions](#)

1.7 Is there a deadline to use the funds?

Yes, ARPA (SLFRF) Funds can be used to cover eligible costs incurred during the period that begins on March 3, 2021 and ends on December 31, 2024. All obligations incurred must be fully expended by December 31, 2026.

2 Funding Allocated in Solano County

2.1 What was the total ARPA direct funds allocated to County of Solano under the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)?

The Total direct allocation of SLFRF to Solano County is \$86,949,405.

2.2 Were local Cities allocated ARPA funding separate from the County?

Yes, each of the Cities in Solano County received an allocation of ARPA funding either through the SLFRF allocation to metropolitan cities, or as a Non-Entitlement Unit. The following metropolitan cities received the allocations separate from the County:

Fairfield	\$19,805,577
Vacaville	\$12,675,830
Vallejo	\$25,727,736

The following cities with populations under 50,000 received an allocation of ARPA SLFRF as a Non-Entitlement Unit (NEU) of Local Government, to be paid by the U.S. Treasury to the State of California for distribution to each NEU City. The following are the CA Department of Finance estimated allocations to Cities classified as NEU's:

Benicia	\$6,755,608
Dixon	\$4,951,402
Rio Vista	\$2,324,752
Suisun	\$7,096,202

The Cities are administering their respective funds and are developing spending plans in-line with the federal guidelines. Please refer to each respective City for further information on their individual process. Please note funds allocated to the Cities are independent from the County, and the County Board of Supervisors and Staff have no oversight or responsibility for City funding. City direct allocations fall under the jurisdiction of each respective City Council.

3 County Process for Allocating ARPA Direct Funding

3.1 What process is the County Board of Supervisors implementing to determine the allocation of funding?

The Board of Supervisors is completing a series of public meetings to review the federal requirements for spending and evaluate the various options for allocating funding. These meetings began in May 2021, and continued with meeting dates in June, August, September, and October. These meeting provided opportunity to receive public input into the County's process. Additional Board meetings on ARPA are being scheduled for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 with specific dates TBD. Check the Board of Supervisors calendar and agenda for further information.

3.2 What expenditure categories has the Board of Supervisors considered?

The Board of Supervisors has supported considering options in each of the 7 expenditure categories in ARPA SLFRF as outlined by U.S. Treasury. The 7 expenditures categories are:

- 1 .Public Health
- 2.Negative Economic Impacts
- 3.Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
- 4.Premium Pay
- 5.Infrastructure
- 6.Revenue Replacement
- 7.Administrative

3.3 How can I provide input / suggestions on how the County should utilize the Solano County ARPA direct funding?

The County has offered several opportunities for providing public comment in connection with each of the ARPA Board Reports. The County Board of Supervisors is also seeking to receive input through a Community ARPA Survey which is accessible through the County's ARPA Website www.solanocounty.com/ARPA. The County has a website setup and a web portal for individuals or organizations to submit input on use of funds and the Board accepts comments each time the ARPA allocation is on the Board agenda. **The Survey is schedule to close on November 30, 2021.**

3.4 How can local providers/agencies submit proposals or suggestions for funding?

The Board is working to evaluate options for funding and outline the specific eligible categories and program areas where funding will be allocated . Local providers/agencies should continue to follow the Board of Supervisors meetings for additional updates and check the County website for additional details and important dates.



3.5 Where do I send communications or direct input regarding ARPA?

Direct input on ARPA can be submitted through the ARPA Community Survey. Direct input and communications on ARPA can also be directed to the Solano County Clerk of the Board at the following address by mail or email and during public comment at future Board of Supervisors meetings on ARPA. Track the effort on the County website at www.solanocounty.com/ARPA:

County Administration Center
675 Texas Street, Suite 6500, 6th Floor
Fairfield, CA. 94533

The email address for the Clerk is: clerk@solanocounty.com

Please Note: ARPA funding is subject to federal procurement rules and regulations per 2CFR200.317 through 2CFR200.327. These standards require that all procurement transactions for property or services be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition, with non-competitive procurements only in limited circumstances per the federal/County standards. Communication with the Clerk does not in any way qualify as a submission in a competitive procurement. The County will follow existing County policies regarding Request for Proposal practices for all competitive procurement.