

Solano County Board of Supervisors
County Administrator's Office



**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Request for Qualifications (RFP)
ARPA RFQ 2024-01
Addendum 1**

**July 22, 2024
Applicant Questions & Answers**

- 1. Are one-time capital expenses permitted? On page 3 of the RFQ in the last sentence of Section 1.4 it reads, “Funds are not allocated for capital improvements” but then directly below in Section 1.5, it says “Applications may be for any amount of funds that are one-time in nature. Examples are capital expenditure or other implementation costs which would be spent within a limited timeframe.” Can you please clarify what type of capital expenses are permitted?**

Yes, one-time capital expenses are permitted. Section 1.4 is amended to read:

The Solano County Board of Supervisors may make funding available for projects as ARPA SLFRF funding becomes available before December 31, 2024. While it is the intent of the Board to fund a limited number of projects based on this RFQ, there is no guarantee any projects will be funded as a result of this RFQ.

No monies from this program may be used to supplant state, county or local general fund monies available to the agency for any purpose.

- 2. Does the proposed program have to be new or can it be a continuation or expansion of existing services? Can an entity apply for funding to add a new service to address the ongoing impacts from the pandemic?**

Proposed programs may be new, continuation, or expansion of existing services.

- 3. Can you please explain one-time funds vs. program/services?**

As discussed in Section 1.5, Applicants may apply for One-time funds or for programs/services.

Applications for one-time funds may be for any amount of funds that are one-time in nature. Examples are capital expenditure or other implementation costs which would be spent within a limited timeframe. While Applicants may request any amount in their

application, they should indicate if they have other funding sources and if they would be able to complete the project if the Board awarded less funding than their total request.

Applications for programs/services may be no more than \$250,000 a year for up to a 2-year period (\$500,000 maximum for the period October 2024-September 2026). Examples include program related expenses such as salaries/benefits, rent, operating expenses, and program supplies, such as food or other supplies for participants.

- 4. The application asks, “How you will ensure activities are completed no later than September 2026” but also “How you intend to sustain the activities after the ARPA funding ends.” These questions seem to conflict. Please explain how to reconcile this conflict.**

Activities which are utilizing the ARPA funds must be completed by September 2026. However, it is the intention of the funding to supplement other funding sources so the activities themselves may continue in the community beyond the timeframe of ARPA funding. Please describe both how you will complete your utilization of ARPA funds within the required timeline, as well as how the activities themselves will be able to be sustained beyond the period of ARPA funding.

- 5. In the RFP, it states that those applying for one-time funding can apply for any amount - however, is there a general guideline on award ceiling for the one-time funding option?**

There is no guideline on award ceiling for one-time funding.

- 6. Are supplemental letters of support allowed to be included in application submission?**

No.

- 7. Is there flexibility in the insurance requirements?**

Agencies may request exceptions to the standard insurance requirements as part of their application. Should the agency move forward to the contracting process, exceptions to the standard insurance requirements will be considered by the County on a case-by-case basis.

- 8. The Treasury Category ARPA 2022 Final Rule, 2023 Interim Final Rule, Volume 31 CFR Part 35.6 includes the language: “Programs to address the impacts of lost instructional time for students in K-12.” Does that confirm that an educational organization providing academic services to students affected by the pandemic is eligible for this grant under the categories of both Public Health and Negative Economic Impact? If not, why not?**

It is up to the Applicant to identify how their project fits within the Treasury guidance for ARPA SLFRF and describe this in their Application. It will be confirmed during the review and evaluation process on whether a project meets the Treasury guidelines for use of ARPA funding.

- 9. Can our application address more than one category of the Treasury Categories, ie Public Health, Negative Economic Outcome AND Title 1 Project? Can projects fall under more than one category (i.e. negative economic impacts and Title I)? Or is it better to focus on just one area?**

Applications or projects may fall under more than one Treasury Category, but should Applicants should select only one Treasury Category to apply under.

- 10. Can you have a multi-faceted program under negative economic impact or must it be singularly focused?**

Programs may be multi-faceted, but all aspects of the program should fall under the same Treasury Category.

- 11. If applying for a capitol project, can it include multiple needs? Such as if we ask for funds to replace our HVAC can we also ask for funds to replace toilets?**

Yes, there may be multiple needs as long as they are included in one application, fit under one treasury category, and fit under one type of application (one-time or program/services).

- 12. For Title I project funding, is an education organization eligible to apply for this grant under Section 105(a) 8 of the Housing and Community Development Grant of 1974, specifically the provision of Public Services?**

Per Section 105(a) 8 of the Housing and Community Development Grant of 1974, education is an eligible public service under Title I project funding.

- 13. Does an emergency relief from natural disaster application also need to be linked to effects of COVID-19?**

All Applicants must describe their need, including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic under Section 1A of the Application. In Section 1B, Applicants must describe how the activities qualify under the selected Treasury Category which may or many not include effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, depending on the requirements of the selected Treasury Category.

- 14. Do you have to be a registered non profit to qualify?**

Applicants must have a 501(c) designation to qualify.

- 15. Can a 501(c)(6) be considered?**

Yes, any 501(c) organization will be considered.

- 16. Can an organization or business that has served Solano County for 15 years but doesn't have a 501(c) apply with a fiscal sponsor that does have a 501(c)?**

This funding is intended for nonprofit organizations. Therefore, any organization receiving funds under this RFQ whether the organization is the primary applicant or a

subrecipient/subcontractor must be a 501(c), including those who may be utilizing a fiscal sponsor.

17. Is it mandatory that a fiscal sponsor with the 501c has been operating in Solano County before December 31, 2021?

Yes.

18. If an organization is local to Solano County, may the fiscal sponsor operate in a different county?

Any applicant organization, including fiscal sponsors, must have been operating in Solano County prior to December 31, 2021.

19. If we are working with a Fiscal Sponsor are there special documents you require?

There are no additional documents required with the application. Additional documentation may be required during the contracting process.

20. Is there a possibility for a joint project between a nonprofit and a public agency?

A public agency may be a partner in the project, but may not receive any of the funds via this RFQ.

21. Can an applicant apply as the lead agency of a collaborative and subcontract funds to another agency? If so, do all collaborative partners need to be 501(c) agencies?

An Applicant may apply as a lead agency and subcontract funds to another agency. All agencies receiving funds must be 501(c) agencies.

22. If an applicant applies for a collaborative, can another member of the collaborative also apply separately?

No, only one application per agency will be accepted.

23. Are there spacing requirements for the application (double spaced v. single space) and are charts/tables allowed?

The application may be single spaced or double spaced. Charts and tables are allowed but do count toward page limits.

24. Is there a definition for the term Public Health?

Treasury does not have a specific definition for Public Health, but activities which may be funded in the Category of Public Health can be found on pages 14-15 of the [2022 Overview of the Final Rule](#).

25. Are the identified eligible uses listed in the Final Rule Overview comprehensive or do they include those examples, but are not limited to them?

Per the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Frequently Asked Question 2.1:

Q: If a use of funds is not explicitly permitted in the 2022 final rule as a response to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, does that mean it is prohibited?

A: No. The 2022 final rule provides a non-exhaustive list of enumerated uses that respond to pandemic impacts. The 2022 final rule also presumes that some populations experienced pandemic impacts and are eligible for responsive services. Recipients also have broad flexibility to (1) identify and respond to other pandemic impacts and (2) serve other populations that experienced pandemic impacts, beyond the enumerated uses and presumed eligible populations. Recipients also may identify groups or “classes” of beneficiaries that experienced pandemic impacts and provide services to those groups.

26. Are these grants connected to the CalAim initiative? If so, do they fall under community supports?

No, these grants are not connected to CalAIM.

27. Can you please provide the links to the documents you discussed?

Solano County ARPA Request for Proposals:

https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/county_admin/arpa/rfps.asp

Direct link to ARPA 2024-01 RFQ:

<https://www.solanocounty.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=43182>

Direct link to the Application download:

<https://www.solanocounty.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=43180>

Link to Treasury Eligible Uses:

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

28. In the Treasury Categories, sometimes it's the 2022 final rule overview and sometimes it is 2023. Will they both be used?

Yes, all relevant Treasury Rules must be followed.

29. Will the Board ask qualified applicants to attend the meeting on 9/10?

Applicants may attend the Board of Supervisors Meeting on September 10 as a member of the public, but attendance is not mandatory.

30. We have a negotiated Indirect Cost Rate that exceeds 10% for most of our programs. Is 10% the maximum rate that can be requested, or can we use our negotiated rate?

If you have a federal negotiated indirect cost rate that exceeds 10%, you may request to use the higher rate in your application. Should you move forward to contract award, you will be required to provide proof of the Indirect Cost Rate provided.

31. Can you provide county standard reporting requirements or samples contracts from this type of RFQ?

Reporting will be quarterly, but specific reporting requirements will be dependent on the scope of the approved project.

32. Would invoicing occur quarterly as well as reporting?

Reporting will be quarterly. Invoicing may be monthly or quarterly at the request of the contracted organization.