

New Federal Funds Flow to West Virginia Counties and Cities Elected Officials Need to Hear from You.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) will send at least \$4 billion to West Virginia in new federal funding for COVID recovery and infrastructure improvements. The help will flow to individuals and to state and local government. West Virginia will receive \$1.25 billion, and each county and the larger cities will directly receive additional, significant funds.

New Federal Funds by County and City

For estimates of new funds counties and cities will receive, see this [resource](#) from Senator Manchin.

Allowable Uses of Funds

Counties and cities can use the new federal dollars to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, or its negative economic impacts. This can include:

- Providing assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries, such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- Respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing premium pay to eligible government workers performing essential work or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers;
- Provide government services, to the extent COVID-19 caused a reduction of revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the state; or,
- Make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Federal Guidance

The U.S. Department of Treasury released its guidance on [pre-award requirements](#), outlining immediate steps counties need to take to receive direct payments from the U.S. Treasury. Treasury announced the creation of a [new office](#) dedicated to the distribution of COVID-19 relief to state and local governments. Treasury also launched a [new website](#) with resources on COVID-19 relief programs, including the \$362 billion Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Recovery Fund).

County Resources

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has an ARPA [clearinghouse](#) and released a new [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) document that answers common questions asked by members about the Recovery Fund. NACo launched a new [interactive tool](#) to assist counties in navigating county-related funding from the ARPA.

Share Your Priorities

1. Reach out to your County Commissioners and City Council Members to find out how they will gather community input before making decisions about these new federal funds. You can use this [Directory of West Virginia County Commissioners](#) for all 55 counties. City council members are found on the internet by searching under a specific city name.
2. Connect with others across the state who want to be sure community voices are heard. A coalition of West Virginia organizations are sharing an [online survey](#) that asks your opinion on the most critical needs in your community. By responding, you will have the opportunity to link up with others working to influence how these federal funds are spent.