

# NEW FEDERAL FUNDS FLOW TO WEST VIRGINIA COUNTIES AND CITIES ELECTED OFFICIALS NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

## The Money is Coming Soon!

Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), West Virginia cities, municipalities, and counties will receive a total of **\$676.6 million**. For estimates of the new Local Recovery Funds that each West Virginia county, city, and town will receive see this [\*\*resource\*\*](#) from Senator Manchin.

On May 10, 2021, the U.S. Department of the Treasury issued an [\*\*Interim Final Rule\*\*](#) (IFR) providing guidance to recipient governments explaining how the Treasury will interpret the ARPA legislation's language and administer the Local Recovery Funds. The Treasury also launched a [\*\*new website\*\*](#) which includes information on the Local Recovery Funds.

Localities will receive the **funds** in two batches – the first, after the U.S. Treasury certifies the proceeds to each jurisdiction and the second, one year later. **Funding** must be spent by the end of calendar year 2024. Counties, cities and towns can use the new federal dollars to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts.

These funds give states a lot of flexibility and the Treasury provides a long list of examples in the Interim Final Rule, which is why citizen involvement is so important.

### **It is up to us to put the right ideas for your community on the table. Make a difference!**

In its guidance, the Treasury explicitly “urges state, territorial, tribal, and local governments to engage their constituents and communities in developing plans to use these payments, given the scale of funding and its potential to catalyze broader recovery and rebuilding.”

Who has been most affected by the pandemic? The Interim Final Rule includes references to people who are of low-income, minority communities, rural areas, frontline workers, the hospitality and tourism industries, and people who are underserved by adequate water and sewer systems and broadband.

No one knows better than you do how the pandemic has affected you, your family, and your neighbors. It is up to you to share this first-hand information and ensure that it is considered in the planning for use of these funds. Where feasible, use a process that identifies shared community needs. See this [\*\*resource\*\*](#) for ideas on generating community member input to decisions about this money.

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## ELECTED OFFICIALS NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Work with local officials and reach out to your County Commissioners office and to your City Council members. Find out how they will gather community input before making decisions about these new federal funds. Identify other individuals and groups to join you in your community outreach efforts, including groups that represent people with low-income, minorities, women, rural areas, and others with a wide-range of needs related to the purpose for these funds.
- Connect with others in your community and with others across the state who want to be sure community voices are heard. A coalition of West Virginia organizations is 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.

You can use this directory of **West Virginia County Commissioners** for all 55 counties. City and Town Mayors and Council members are found on the internet by searching under a specific city name.

- Best practices for Local and State prioritization of American Rescue Plan Act Funds, the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy.

### Additional Helpful 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 ARPA Recovery Fund. NACo launched a new **interactive tool** to assist counties in navigating county-related funding from the ARPA.
- The National League of Cities (NLC) also has a **resource page** with Frequently Asked Questions.
- To learn more about local county and municipal budgets in West Virginia, see the **State Auditor's office website** and the **West Virginia Checkbook website**.
- **How should local leaders use their American Rescue Plan funding?** The Brookings Institute.