

American Rescue Plan Act FAQs

Question: What is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)?

On March 11, President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 (ARPA), a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue package designed to facilitate the United States' recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The package provided \$350 billion in emergency State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) for state and local governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and bring back jobs.

Question: How much is Scituate receiving from ARPA?

Scituate is receiving \$3.2 million from ARPA's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The Town has received the first half of its allocation and will receive the second half later this year.

Question: How much time does the Town have to spend the ARPA funds?

Recipients of ARPA funds must obligate the dollars by Dec. 31, 2024, and spend them by Dec. 31, 2026.

Question: How can ARPA's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds be spent?

ARPA SLFRF funds can be used for the following:

- To respond to the pandemic or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- For premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work (as determined by each recipient government) during the pandemic;
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the pandemic (relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency);
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure

Who gets to decide how the funds are spent or used?

As the town's governing body, the Town Council will be the governmental body that allocates the monies received. All expenditures must comply with the ARPA regulations and requirements as mandated by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Question: How can residents have input on the disbursement of APRA funds?

As the Town considers projects and programs to be implemented using its allocation, the Town wants to ensure that planned uses of the funding incorporate input and feedback from constituents, community-based organizations, and other community stakeholders. As such, you are encouraged to join in on Town Council meetings, some of which are meant to focus almost exclusively on ARPA funds. Additionally, the Town plans to set up an on-line suggestion box soon and this will be designed to generate ideas from the community for projects and programs. Any further questions can be submitted by email to the Town Clerk at MLong@ScituateRi.Org.