



Greene County Legislature American Recovery Plan (ARPA) Expenditure Policy

Greene County will receive approx. \$9.1 million of ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) from the Federal Government in response to the declining or stagnant economy via the effects of the Worldwide Virus Pandemic. The Covid-19 virus closed many businesses or altered their operations so dramatically that Congress reacted with Stimulus Funding to spur the national economy.

With the funding came early outlines or requirements, limitations and how-to's to meet the Federal Legislation. On January 6, 2022, after months of "interim" guidance dictating local action, the U.S. Department of Treasury has now released the Final Rule on the use of ARPA's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). Many of the changes between the interim and final rule afford municipalities greater flexibility in how they spend funds.

While the final rule won't take effect until April 1, 2022, Greene County can make use of the added flexibility in eligibility prior to that date without issue. This greater flexibility now allows Greene County to take a standard allowance of revenue loss up to \$10 million dollars, allowing the entire amount of ARPA funds to be used as "unrestricted use for public purposes".

For a county such as Greene, the new scope has completely changed our original planning estimates and the departure from the restrictions on revenue loss providing investment choices for longer term benefits.

Therefore, the following will outline the overarching policy to be employed by Greene County in the use of the funds for general government services.

Address Negative Economic Impacts:

- Projects should embrace the concept of economic development which should align with original Federal concepts. By such, projects should enhance development activity, be it redevelopment of existing infrastructure, or expansion of infrastructure, and capital facility investments supporting the effective and efficient delivery of county services, benefitting both the property tax base and the creation of employment opportunities for Greene residents.
- Infrastructure, such as water and sewer, road construction, paving and maintenance, should be considered as long-term fixed physical assets that can be enjoyed over long periods of time, ensuring citizens receive a maximum benefit from the funding.
- Educational components should also be considered that supports innovation and alignment among employment, training and educational programs in partnership with the Columbia Greene Community College and promotes collaboration between Greene County and economic development and workforce entities.
- When projects develop that result in partnerships with county towns or villages, the county reserves the right in review how said towns and villages are planning on expending their individual ARPA funding, preventing duplication of efforts.

Supporting Public Health:

- Expenditures can be programmed and focused on future pandemic crisis, thereby reducing any negative impacts, including care and coordination of public health and/or mental health services. This can include communication enhancements for better outreach to the community via social media, electronic communications, radio/tv announcements and programming. It can also include facility improvements for virus testing POD's, inoculation sites and other community gathering points of health services. Lastly, it may include capital facility improvements for community health services and hospital services, including transportation, equipment and pandemic emergency training.

Supporting Emergency Services:

- Expenditures can be programmed and focused on future pandemic crisis, thereby reducing any negative impacts, including care and coordination of emergency services responses. This can include, fire, police, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, ambulance and emergency services buildings, and ancillary items such as training, equipment, rolling stock, personnel, etc.

Supporting Security Modernization:

- Eligible recipients may use available funds for the modernization of cybersecurity programs, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure. COVID-19 impacted organizations of all sizes. Greene County shifted to operate in a remote environment which created new cybersecurity challenges. Continuity of operations is important to Greene County to provide essential services necessary for its residents.

Advancing Broadband and Telecommunications Infrastructure:

- The federal guidelines include approval for ARPA funds to directly enhance broadband capacity and penetration to the remote areas of the county and/or completing connectivity to "final mile" thresholds.

The county's final segment of availability can be general expenditures in smaller denominations or amounts that are minority expenses when considering the whole allotment.