

PRESS RELEASE



Call for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Proposals

May 4, 2022

Anchorage Assembly Chair Suzanne LaFrance has announced that the Assembly has issued a call for proposals for the second round of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The Municipality expects about \$50 million to be transferred from the federal government in late May. Applications can be filed by nonprofits, businesses, and associations, as well as Tribal and educational entities.

The application can be found on the Assembly's homepage or at: https://moaonlineforms.formstack.com/forms/assembly_arpa_funding_round_2. **The deadline to apply is 5pm on Friday, May 20, 2022.**

At a worksession on April 29, the Assembly set a vision, priorities and guiding principles for the plan to allocate funds:

Assembly Vision for ARPA Fund Allocation

The Anchorage Assembly recognizes that this one-time funding through the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) must be wisely spent to allow it to do as much good in our community as possible. To achieve this goal, the Assembly envisions funding projects which focus on economic resilience, will increase our competitiveness as a destination city, and make all parts of our city vibrant and welcoming. Successful proposals should provide long-term investments and be transparent and equitable. Projects should be aligned as much as possible with the Assembly's ARPA priorities: child and family support, housing, economic development and a healthy workforce. In addition, proposals are encouraged to speak to the Assembly's approved [2022 Goals and Priorities](#).

Priorities

- Child and Family Support
- Housing
- Economic Development (including Community Investment and Downtown Development)
- Healthy Workforce

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Guiding Principles for Distribution

- **Need** – aid populations that need it the most, and address current and unique challenges, including COVID-19 impact and inflation
- **Geography** – have a fair and positive impact across the municipality
- **Alignment** – leverage other opportunities and address resource gaps
- **Feasibility** – consider the financial resources and timing needed for implementation success
- **Informed** – consider the most recent data, public input and where possible, best practices
- **Equity** – address current, historical, and geographical inequities in our systems that have been illuminated by COVID-19

Schedule

- **April 29:** Assembly Worksession #1 on ARPA funding priorities and process (10-2pm, City Hall, Suite 155)
- **May 6:** Assembly Worksession #2 on ARPA funding evaluation criteria (1-3pm, City Hall, Suite 155)
- **May 20:** ARPA applications due
- **May 26:** Assembly Worksession #3 on ARPA funding application review (*tentative* – location and time TBD)
- **June 7:** Public Hearing and Adoption of ARPA Funding Plan at Regular Assembly Meeting

Background

Over the past two years, the Assembly has distributed \$214M in federal relief funds through the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help businesses, organizations and individuals survive the pandemic. Some of the beneficiaries of those funds shared how the funds impacted them:

“This saved our life. We were at the point where we were going to close our doors. We didn’t know what to do. And because of this program, we’re still open. We brought back our whole staff eventually. And we’re still surviving. And it’s all because of this program. If we hadn’t been a part of it, we would have closed and there would have been an empty café on 4th and K.” - *Brandi Rathbun, owner of Moose A’La Mode*

“I’d like to thank the Assembly. Two years ago we were shut down by the mandate and it was probably one of the most challenging times of my life. This program was decisive. We were able to retain 15 employees because of the program.” - *Jason Motyka, co-owner of 49th State Brewing*

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“I was so relieved to get the money. It paid for past debt, for both the licensing and insurance. It allowed us to get back on our feet to actually be able to serve people in 2021. It sustained us through that period of time where we were still in question—were people going to come?” - *Angie Oberlitner, co-owner of Alaska Step on Guides*

ARPA Investment Review Series Videos:

[KTUU - Anchorage Assembly is exploring how to best use next round of COVID relief funds](#)

#1: Tourism Industry – [click here to view](#)

#2: Food, Housing and Childcare – [click here to view](#)

#3: Economic Development – [click here to view](#)

#4: Families and Quality of Life – [click here to view](#)

#5: Workforce Development and Training – [click here to view](#)

#6: Arts and Culture – [click here to view](#)

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