



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)
CORONAVIRUS STATE & LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
REQUEST FOR IDEAS (RFI)
INSTRUCTIONS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Date of Opening: February 14, 2022

Idea Submission Deadline: March 13, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EST

Updates to the instructions have been made in **BLUE**. (version 2)

Updates to this document have been made in **ORANGE**. (version 3)

UPDATE on 3/4/2022: Organizations may now submit multiple forms as a lead agenda. Please submit ONE project per form.



American Rescue Plan Act Background

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021 to provide \$350 billion in direct relief to eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Guilford County has been awarded \$104,339,752 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. This infusion of federal resources is intended to help bring the pandemic under control and address its economic fallout by strengthening support for vital public services, helping to retain jobs, and providing economic stabilization for households and businesses.

Funding Purpose and Requirements

The U.S. Department of Treasury has identified five focus areas for use of ARPA funding, and submissions must include at least one of these required uses of funds. Within these broad categories, applicants have flexibility to decide how to best use funding to meet the unique needs of our community.

1. Support the public health response and/or expenditures (*e.g. funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, behavioral healthcare, certain public health & safety staff*);
2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency (*e.g. economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector*);
3. Replace lost public sector revenue (*e.g. funding to provide government services that experienced reduction in revenue due to the pandemic*);
4. Provide premium pay for essential workers (*e.g. additional support to those that bear the greatest health risk because of their service in critical sectors*);
5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (*e.g. necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, expand access to broadband internet*).

The U.S. Department of Treasury has issued guidance on how ARPA funds can be spent, recipients' compliance and reporting responsibilities, and other instruction on management of these funds. To be eligible for a Guilford County ARPA award, idea proposals must clearly demonstrate eligibility under ARPA guidelines. Please refer to the below resources to review this guidance.

- [ARPA Final Rule](#)
- [Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#)
- [Overview of the Final Rule](#)

All Guilford County ARPA Funding Ideas must include a completed idea form, a complete project budget, and any supplemental information to support the project. Submissions with incomplete information or those received after the due date will not be considered for funding.



Funding Principles

Guilford County is committed to the following principles as it invests these funds in the community:

- **Center on community voice** in decision-making
- **Honor County values** of equity/inclusion, accountability, service excellence, and transparency/communication
- **Build on foundation** of existing County and regional efforts
- **Maximize funding** by cross-mapping initiatives against more restrictive funding streams and State/Federal opportunities
- **Invest in best practices** by adding capacity, infrastructure, and expertise early
- **Focus on sustainability** with one-time uses or by establishing a path to sustainability

Timeline

The table below shows the *intended* schedule for this Request for Ideas (RFI). The County will make every effort to adhere to this schedule.

Event	Responsibility	Date and Time
Issue RFI	County	February 14, 2022 at 8 a.m.
RFI Virtual Workshop*	County	February 22, 2022 at 4 p.m.
Submit Idea Proposals	Ideator/Submitter	Idea proposals will be due by March 13, 2022 by 11:59 p.m. EST
Award Contracts/Subawards	County	Guilford County intends to review awards on a case-by-case basis. If awarded, the contract term will vary depending on project.

*A virtual workshop will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This workshop is *optional*. During the workshop, staff will provide information about the RFI and answer questions from participants. All questions and responses from the session will be posted afterwards, and a recording of the session will be published.

Submittal Requirements

Well-thought out idea proposals should be submitted via the form at arpaRFI.guilfordcountync.gov. Idea proposals will only be accepted electronically through this form. Proposals will be received until **11:59 p.m. EST on March 13, 2022**.

Guilford County requests collaborative proposals for projects to assist the community with both near-term and long-term growth and recovery and response to COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts. A collaborative proposal may be defined as one that involves a partnership which includes the County and/or other community stakeholders such as non-profit service providers, private industry, foundations, educational institutions, or other county municipalities. An intentional focus on compliance, risk and project outcomes will be heavily weighted when considering proposals. Impact evaluation, and any associated costs, should be included in the proposal and should run from project inception to project completion with regularly scheduled reporting intervals.



Guilford County is committed to investing near-term growth and recovery funding in collaboratively proposed projects.

Near-Term Idea Proposal

A near-term idea or proposal is defined as one that can be ready to execute **immediately** with a completion date of no later than December 31, 2023.

- Align to County values, priorities, and community needs
- Align with already identified eligible uses
- Serve residents that have been impacted or disproportionately impacted
- Support equitable outcomes for impacted or disproportionately impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a near-term deployment and delivery with a lasting impact

Long-Term Idea Proposal

A long-term idea or proposal is defined as one that triggers a profound, ripple effect of positive, multi-dimensional change in ways that fundamentally improve our county. The proposal deliberately targets an important problem the county faces and contributes to tackling it. It leads to a positive chain-reaction.

- Align to County values, priorities, and community needs
- Serve residents that have been impacted or disproportionately impacted
- Support equitable outcomes for impacted or disproportionately impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Center on place-making by capitalizing on community assets and inspiration

Eligible Uses

Figure 1 is provided below as a quick reference of eligible uses already identified in the funding guidance to date.

Figure 1: Eligible Uses

American Rescue Plan Eligible Uses

<p>Public Health</p> <p>Support public health response: Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare and certain public health and safety staff.</p>	<p>Premium Pay</p> <p>Premium pay for essential workers: Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure. Funds can be used retroactively back to January 27, 2020.</p>
<p>Water & Sewer</p> <p>Water and sewer infrastructure: Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.</p>	<p>Revenue Loss</p> <p>Replace public sector revenue loss: Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.</p>
<p>Broadband</p> <p>Broadband infrastructure: Make necessary investments to improve broadband infrastructure provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access.</p>	<p>Economy</p> <p>Address negative economic impacts: Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, and nonprofits, or impacted industries and re-hiring of public sector workers.</p>

Guilford County Government

Ineligible Uses

The figure below is provided as a quick reference for some ineligible uses of the funding.

Figure 2: Ineligible Uses

American Rescue Plan Ineligible Uses

<p>Rainy Day</p> <p>Deposits to rainy day funds or financial reserves because this would create savings for future spending rather than responding to immediate pandemic and recovery needs.</p>	<p>General</p> <p>General infrastructure spending outside of those in the eligible uses.</p>
<p>Pension</p> <p>Deposits into defined benefit pension funds unless for routine payroll contributions to pensions for employees whose wages are an eligible use.</p>	<p>Legal</p> <p>Legal settlements or judgements except for any services that would respond to the public health emergency.</p>
<p>Debt Service</p> <p>Funds cannot be used for paying any debt incurred prior to March 3, 2021.</p>	<p>Matching</p> <p>Non-Federal matching funds for Federal programs.</p>

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Idea/Proposal Eligibility

Proposals will be accepted from any municipal corporation or other public body, and bodies politic and corporate of the State of North Carolina as well as nonprofit organizations and tax-exempt organizations whose principal place of business is in Guilford County. If an organization does not meet this criterion, it may partner with another organization to serve as fiscal agent for the purposes of administering grant funding.

~~Organizations may submit up to one (1) project proposal each.~~ Organizations may submit more than one form. One form should be completed per project! However, municipalities should also submit multiple forms; one form per project.

Collaborative submittals are welcome and should select a lead entity for submission and contracting purposes. Subawards are allowable, meaning passing through funding to subrecipients to carry out a part of the work. In these cases, the lead entity would be responsible for ensuring all award guidelines, compliance and reporting expectations are met.

Proposal Combination

In the interest of increasing efficiency, collaborative partnership work, and the chances of sustainable project or program outcomes, the County reserves the right to reach out to proposers that are submitting similar or like proposals to consider combining the asks.

Evaluation Criteria

Following the deadline of March 13, 2022, pandemic recovery staff will review the submitted proposals based on responses to information requested. All ideas/proposals will be assessed for risk and ability to comply with Federal Treasury guidelines, as well as capacity to achieve outcomes. All proposals that satisfy the requirements will be evaluated for alignment to community and board priorities.

Contract Terms

Guilford County intends to make awards on a case-by-case basis, and the contract term will vary depending on project. For near-term ideas/proposals, all work must be completed, and funds fully expended by December 31, 2023. For long-term ideas/proposals, all must be completed, and funds fully expended by December 31, 2026.