

Questions and Answers from “Planning Strategically for ARPA Funds” webinar session, 7/13/2021

The following questions were submitted by participants and answered by the collection of presenters during the live webinar session. Questions and answers have been lightly edited for clarity.

What was the website that included the summary of provisions?

<https://www.nlc.org/resource/american-rescue-plan-act-of-2021-summary-of-provisions/>

We can use ARPA funding to cover SPLOST approved projects? I just want to make sure I heard correctly.

It depends. If you have revenue loss as defined in the interim final rule, then yes. If not, then it is not an allowable use of ARPA funds.

What is the date for Treasury to issue the final rule?

The deadline to submit comment on the interim final rule is July 16, 2021. They have not provided a timeline on when the final rule will be available.

Can ARPA funds be used to add more alternatives to in-person payment of services and fines? The thought is lowering the risk of infection through in-person contact.

For specific questions like this one, I'd like to direct you to our page of additional resources:

<https://cviog.uga.edu/arpa-resources.html>. Of particular interest, see the sections on the Interim Final Rule, Frequently Asked Questions, Terms and Conditions. Additionally, I will point you to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget's website on the American Rescue Plan: <https://opb.georgia.gov/covid-response/american-rescue-plan> - there's a contact link that will put you directly in touch with OPB's grants manager.

Can you send the link for the Department of Homeland Security grants for Fire Departments?

It is through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). ARPA has allocated an additional 90 Million in funding for this grant. <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters>

Follow-up to above question: Thanks, I looked and all of the opportunities are closed.

Any idea on when they will open applications for the ARAP funds?

It will open up later this year. It will be part of the regular AFG grant guidance and timelines.

Can I get additional information on DDA funding?

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs has information on their website about DDA funding. Additionally, look at the Georgia Downtown Association website for additional information on DDA funding available for projects.

Can ARPA funds be used for employee bonuses?

Not, bonuses...but premium pay, YES!

How do we submit a comment to the interim final rule?

Info available here: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>