What We’ll Cover:

- Background
- Vermont’s Share
- Final Rule Basics
- Spending
- The “Standard Allowance”
- Planning Framework
- ARPA In Vermont
- VLCT and RPCs
• **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** - $1.9 trillion stimulus package signed into law March 11, 2021

• **Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds** (“CSLFRF” or “ARPA”) - $350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial and Tribal governments

• **Purpose** – To support governments in their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency

• **U.S. Department of the Treasury** (“Treasury”) will distribute the funding

• **Final Rule**, issued by Treasury on January 6, 2022 (replaces the “interim final rule”) lays out the requirements of CSLFRF/ARPA funding
### Local ARPA Funds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metro Cities</td>
<td>$20,721,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Entitlement Units of Government (NEUs)</td>
<td>$58,788,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties*</td>
<td>$121,202,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL Local ARPA Funds:** $200,712,697

**State of Vermont** $1,049,287,303

**TOTAL VERMONT ARPA:** $1,250,000,000

* County money has been reallocated to municipalities. Payments (local and county) can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

** Only half the State money has been allocated. The remaining half will be allocated during the 2022 legislative session.
Issued January 6th, it took effect April 1, 2022, and replaces the Interim Final Rule, which has been in effect since May 17, 2021.

The award period of performance ends December 31, 2026; all funds must be expended by this date.

The Recipient is the ultimate arbiter of how funds will be spent; there is no higher authority or approval process.

All municipalities will be required to report on their spending directly to Treasury using an online portal.

All municipalities, excluding Burlington, have an annual reporting schedule, due by April 30th each year, 2022-2027.
What You **CAN NOT** Spend $ On

Changes Between the Interim Final Rule and the Final Rule

You still cannot “directly” fund:

- “Extraordinary” deposits into pension funds
- Contributions to rainy day funds, reserve funds, or satisfaction of a settlement or judgement
- Outstanding Debt service

But now you **can** fund this:

- Non-Federal Match is now allowed, explicitly for IIJA/BIL programs, but also generally as it is included under Section G., page 368 of the final rule, up to the amount of the recipient’s reduction in revenue; there is a new Expenditure Category for it – 6.2 Non-Federal Match for Other Federal Programs.

(Why do we love this change? Because it allows towns to stretch their local ARPA awards!)
What You CAN Spend $ On

For most Vermont towns, all spending will fall under this Expenditure Category.......
• Recipients made “a one-time, irrevocable election to utilize either the revenue loss formula or the standard allowance” during the April 30, 2022, reporting period

• For NEUs, the entire amount of your municipality’s ARPA award may be taken as “lost revenue”

• Treasury “presumes” this amount is revenue loss – there is no need to calculate, demonstrate or document it

• EC 6.1 Government services generally include any service traditionally provided by a government

• All spending of ARPA funds up to the amount of revenue loss, regardless of purpose, will be reported under EC 6.1 Government Services.
Your decisions should prepare your community for the next disaster, position future generations for success, and, whenever possible, help grow your Grand List.

As you make plans to spend your ARPA award, think of these as your guide:

- Use existing tools.
- Don’t reinvent the wheel.
- Stretch your ARPA dollars.
Use Existing Tools.

With so much flexibility in spending ARPA funds now, how do you prioritize? Here are some ideas to help establish selection criteria. Does/Is the use:

- Follow the intent of CSLFRF/ARPA?
  - Fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with its public health and economic impacts
  - Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue resulting from the crisis
  - Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity

- Comply with the Town Plan?
- Included in a Master Plan or any other plans, studies or reports?
- Included in a Capital Improvement Plan, if one exists?
- Set a precedent that will be difficult for the Town to fulfill for others in the future?
- Create an ongoing unfunded expense, after ARPA is exhausted?
- Have broad community benefit, or does it benefit just a few?
- Bring long-term value to the community for generations to come?
- Leverage other grant funds?
- Duplicate benefit - already funded through an existing program (State or other)?
Don’t Reinvent the Wheel.

✓ **Assistance to Individuals and Households:**
  - [Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Program (VERAP)] - $110 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds - Assistance to renters for rent and utilities.
  - [Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program (VT HAP)] – $50 million State ARPA - Assistance with overdue mortgage payments, homeowners’ association fees, property taxes, and/or utilities.
  - [Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)] – $14 billion, federally - Assistance for internet service.

✓ **Assistance to Businesses:**
  - [VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD)] - There have been numerous COVID-19 economic relief & recovery programs for business as well as existing programs.
  - [Regional Development Corporations (RDCs)] – There are twelve RDCs throughout VT. They serve as “satellites” of the VT Dept. of Economic Development and provide local knowledge and facilitate assistance to support businesses in their communities.

More resources can be found here:
[Housing Resources for Vermonters in Need](#)
[ACCD Grant Opportunities Inventory Dec 2021](#)
Stretch Your ARPA Dollars.

There are billions of federal dollars pouring into Vermont – more than we will ever see again in our lifetimes. Use your ARPA dollars as grant match to leverage other programs for:

- Water and sewer
- Broadband
- Repair/rebuild roads and bridges
- Safe Streets
- EV Charging Stations
- Improvements to municipal buildings
Improvements in communication with the public and delivery of services:
- Hybrid meeting equipment
- Website improvements
- Digitizing land records
- IT upgrades; cybersecurity
- Connection to broadband

Capital improvements to municipal buildings:
- Ventilation and energy
- ADA accessibility, general code improvements

Creating formal capital plans

Based on the hundreds of municipal inquiries VLCT has received to date regarding local ARPA funding, here is a non-exhaustive list of items that many communities throughout Vermont are considering in their spending plans...

Investments to improve *municipal business operations*:
- Cybersecurity, IT Upgrades, town websites
- Hybrid meeting equipment
- Connect public buildings to broadband
- Digitize land records
- Capital improvements to municipal buildings:
  - Ventilation and energy
  - ADA accessibility, fire protection, general code upgrades
- Create a formal Capital Plan
- Seeding positions to help advance local priorities and projects
Investments that **revitalize a community**, making it a better and safer place to live for existing residents and to help in attracting new ones:

- Outdoor recreation (trails, parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, etc.)
- Diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI)
- High-quality affordable childcare
- Measures to support housing development
- Bike and pedestrian safety
- Community gathering spaces
- Broadband
- Support for local non-profits
ARPA Assistance and Coordination Program

- Guidance and project eligibility analysis
- Webinars, targeted trainings, technical assistance, best practices
- In-person and virtual meetings with local officials and staff
- Answer questions (arpa@vlct.org)
- Guidance with compliance, reporting, and transparency
- Collaboration/partnerships with RPCs, SOV, RDCs, statewide non-profits, private consultants, etc. to ensure needs of municipalities are met related to project ideation, implementation and management

www.vlct.org/arpa
Regional Planning Commission Assistance

- Identify needs and top priorities for designing and building projects that are consistent with existing State, regional and local plans.

- Respond to inquiries on eligibility to facilitate local discussions among stakeholders on specific projects.

- Provide other assistance as needed from local communities in coordination with VLCT.

- Work with VLCT, regional development corporations, and private consultants working with municipalities to ensure needs of local communities are met, especially related to project development and management.

- For more information on the State of Vermont’s 11 Regional Planning Commissions visit: www.vapda.org