



# SEKRPC

SOUTHEAST KANSAS REGIONAL  
PLANNING COMMISSION

**American Rescue Plan Funds Guidance for Funding Applications**

Within these overall categories, Treasury’s Interim Final Rule provides guidelines and principles for determining the types of programs and services that this funding can support in seven overall categories, together with examples of allowable uses that recipients may consider. As described below, Treasury has also designed these provisions to take into consideration the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on those hardest-hit by the pandemic.

While filling out your application for ARPA funding for your project, please select one of the seven overall categories listed below that is relative to your project. Please provide detailed information on why you believe your project fits in the category selected.

### **1. Supporting the public health response**

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 continues to require an unprecedented public health response from state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources to meet these needs through the provision of care for those impacted by the virus and through services that address disparities in public health that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Consider how the project would respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and how your program, service or other intervention addresses the identified need or impact. Recipients may use this funding to address a broad range of public health needs across COVID-19 mitigation, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and public health resources.

Consider how the project would respond to COVID-19 public health emergency. Identify a negative impact of COVID-19 and identify how your program, service, or other intervention addressed the identified need or impact.

Adaptions and responses can include capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs and to include COVID – 19 mitigation tactics.

COVID-19 Health Emergency Responses Include:

- ✓ Covid -19 Mitigation and Prevention
- ✓ Medical Expenses
- ✓ Behavioral Health Care
- ✓ Public Health and Safety Staff
- ✓ Expenses to Improve the Design and Execution of Health and Public Health Programs
- ✓ Address Disparities in Public Health Outcomes
  - Funds to facilitate access to resources that improve health outcomes, including services that connect residents with health care resources and public assistance programs and build healthier environments, such as; Community Health Workers, Public Benefit Navigators, Housing Services, Remediation of lead paint and Evidence -based Community violence intervention programs.

## 2. Negative Economic Impacts

Eligible uses must respond to the negative economic impacts of the public health emergency and the program must be designed to address an economic harm.

- ✓ Assistance to Unemployed Workers
- ✓ State Unemployment insurance trust funds
- ✓ Assistance to households
- ✓ Expenses to improve efficacy of economic relief programs
- ✓ Small business and non-profits
- ✓ Rehiring state and local government staff
- ✓ Aid to impacted industries

## 3. Service to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

While the pandemic has affected communities across the country, it has disproportionately impacted low-income families and communities of color and has exacerbated systemic health and economic inequities. Low-income and socially vulnerable communities have experienced the most severe health impacts.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allow for a broad range of uses to address the disproportionate public health and economic impacts of the crisis on the hardest-hit communities, populations, and households. Eligible services include:

- **Investments in housing and neighborhoods to build stronger communities**, such as services to address individuals experiencing homelessness, affordable housing development, housing vouchers, and residential counseling and housing navigation assistance to facilitate moves to neighborhoods with high economic opportunity.
- **Addressing educational disparities** through new or expanded early learning services, providing additional resources to high-poverty school districts, and offering educational services like tutoring or afterschool programs as well as services to address social, emotional, and mental health needs; and,
- **Promoting healthy childhood environments**, including new or expanded high quality childcare, home visiting programs for families with young children, and enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth.

## 4. Providing premium pay for essential workers

Premium pay may be provided to eligible workers performing essential work during the public health emergency. These are workers who have been and continue to be relied on to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors. Workers allowed to telecommute are not included. The wage can be an additional \$13 an hour not to exceed \$25,000.

- ✓ Staff at nursing homes, hospitals and home care settings
- ✓ Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants
- ✓ Janitors and Sanitation Workers
- ✓ Public health and Safety staff
- ✓ Childcare workers, educators, and other school staff
- ✓ Social service and human service staff

## 5. **Infrastructure**

Assists in meeting the critical need for investments and improvements to existing infrastructure in water, sewer, and broadband. Included projects are required to maintain a level of service that, at least, meets applicable health-based standards, considering resilience to climate change, or establishes or improves broadband service to unserved or underserved populations to reach the adequate level to permit a household to work or attend school.

Infrastructure projects are to avert disruptive and costly delay and promote efficiency. Treasury encourages recipients to use strong labor standards that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions. Treasury will expect reporting from recipients on their workforce plans and practices related to infrastructure projects.

- Water and Sewer Infrastructure
- Broadband Infrastructure – Projects are expected to be designed to deliver, upon project completion, services that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps.

## 6. **Revenue Replacement**

Counties can demonstrate that they have lost revenue generated from economic activity and replace those funds with ARPA funds.

7. **Administrative** County administrative costs including grant management and personnel.

**\*\* For more detailed information on all the above please see the updated Interim Final Rule\*\***

## **Ineligible Uses**

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial resources to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments manage the public health and economic consequences of COVID-19. Recipients have considerable flexibility to use these funds to address the diverse needs of their communities.

To ensure that these funds are used for their intended purposes, the American Rescue Plan Act also specifies two ineligible uses of funds:

- **States and territories may not use this funding to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue due to a change in law from March 3, 2021 through the last day of the fiscal year in which the funds provided have been spent.** The American Rescue Plan ensures that funds needed to provide vital services and support public employees, small businesses, and families struggling to make it through the pandemic are not used to fund reductions in net tax revenue. Treasury’s Interim Final Rule implements this requirement. If a state or territory cuts taxes, they must demonstrate how they paid for the tax cuts from sources other than Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds—by enacting policies to raise other sources of revenue, by cutting spending, or through higher revenue due to economic growth. If the funds provided have been used to offset tax cuts, the amount used for this purpose must be paid back to the Treasury.
- **No recipient may use this funding to make a deposit to a pension fund.** Treasury’s Interim Final Rule defines a “deposit” as an extraordinary contribution to a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability. While pension deposits are prohibited, recipients may use funds for routine payroll contributions for employees whose wages and salaries are an eligible use of funds.

Treasury’s Interim Final Rule identifies several other ineligible uses, including funding debt service, legal settlements or judgments, and deposits to rainy day funds or financial reserves. Further, general infrastructure spending is not covered as an eligible use outside of water, sewer, and broadband investments or above the amount allocated under the revenue loss provision. While the program offers broad flexibility to recipients to address local conditions, these restrictions will help ensure that funds are used to augment existing activities and address pressing needs.

