

US Treasury Guidance – All Potential Eligible Uses

A recipient or potential recipient should consider whether and how the use would respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Identify the need or negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency AND identify how the service, program or other intervention addresses the need or impact.

Assess the connection between the negative health, public health, public safety, and/or economic harm and the COVID-19 public health emergency, the nature and extent of that harm, and how this use of funding would address such harm.

Treasury encourages recipients to provide assistance to those households, businesses, small businesses, and non-profits in communities most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. It is identified that the pandemic has had a more severe impact on low-income workers and communities and people of color.

Treasury encourages recipients to consider funding uses that foster a strong, inclusive, and equitable recovery, especially uses with long-term benefits for health and economic outcomes.

The President, along with Congress, intends for state and local governments to use these funds to promote “equity for all,” including people of color and others who have been historically marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

Organizations cannot be barred from receiving federal or state funds.

NC Statutory Authority to Provide Services – Local Government Requirements

In evaluating proposals submitted by applicants, the County must not only consider whether the project is eligible under ARPA guidance, but at its root, is the project or program one that the County has authority to undertake or fund under NC General Statutes.

In evaluating proposals submitted by applicants, the County must consider whether the project has a public purpose, as defined by NC General Statutes.

Responding to the Public Health Emergency – Mental and Behavioral Health

Public health can include, but is not limited to: treating depression, anxiety, mental health, substance misuse, access to domestic violence prevention programs, meeting other childhood vaccination needs, behavioral health hotlines, overdose prevention, infectious disease prevention, and behavioral health primary/preventative care.

Responding to Economic Impacts of the Pandemic – Eligible Uses

Assistance can extend to workers unemployed due to the pandemic or who were already unemployed when the recession began and remain so due to pandemic.

Assistance to households include: food, rent, mortgage, utility, counseling or legal aid to prevent homelessness, home repairs or weatherization, internet access or digital literacy, job training due to a worker's occupation or level of training.

Assistance to small businesses and non-profits include: loans to mitigate financial hardships, costs to retain employees, in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, technical

assistance to assist with business planning, and assistance to businesses or non-profits serving disadvantaged communities.

Enable safe resumption of tourism, travel, and hospitality services, such as ventilation, physical barriers, signage, development of safe reopening plans, and planned expansions or upgrades of hospitality facilities delayed due to the pandemic.

Must report the assistance provided AND how the aid provided responds to the impacts.

Responding to Economic Impacts of the Pandemic – Ineligible Uses

Assistance or aid to individuals or businesses that did not experience a negative economic impact from the public health emergency would not be an eligible use under this category. Additionally, responses must be proportional to the extent and type of harm experienced.

A general infrastructure project is not eligible unless it is responding to a specific public health need or negative economic impact. In other words, your infrastructure project must be related to a program you are initiating or expanding due to the pandemic – and you must be able to demonstrate that.

Restoration or Improvement of Government Services (capturing lost revenue through ARPA) – Eligible Uses

Government services include but are not limited to: maintenance or funding of infrastructure, including roads; cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and critical infrastructure; health services; environmental remediation services; school or educational services; police, fire, and other public safety services.

Restoration or Improvement of Government Services (capturing lost revenue through ARPA) – Ineligible Uses

An ineligible use of funds includes a direct or indirect offset or reduction in net tax revenue due to a change in law, regulation or administrative interpretation.

US Treasury Guidance for Projects in HUD-Designated Qualified Census Tracts

HUD-designated census tracts must have at least 50% of households with income below 60% of the Area Median Income or have a poverty rate of 25% or more. The County has 24 HUD-designated census tracts; the County has identified 10 additional census tracts with similar characteristics.

Recipients may provide these services to other populations, households, or geographic areas that were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, provided that recipients should be able to support that the pandemic resulted in disproportionate public health or economic outcomes.

Qualifying types of programs include: funding community health workers to gain access to services to address the social determinants of health; funding public benefit navigators to assist community members with navigating and applying for public assistance; housing services; evidence-based community violence prevention programs.

Qualifying types of programs include: supportive housing and access to stable, affordable housing among the unhoused; affordable housing developments to increase supply; housing navigation assistance to neighborhoods with economic mobility.

Qualifying types of education programs include: new, expanded or enhanced early learning services; evidence-based educational services (tutoring, summer school, after school and enrichment programs); evidence-based social, emotional and mental health services for students.

Qualified childhood environment programs include: high-quality, safe childcare; home visitation programs to assist pregnant women and families with young children to navigate economic, health, and child development needs; enhanced child welfare programs such as positive parenting, mental health and substance abuse programs.

General Requirements for Organizations Awarded Funding

1. The County expects recipients of funding to (a) Set Goals, (b) Measure Success, and (c) Analyze Outcomes.
2. Organizations awarded funding will be required to work with County Finance to complete a risk assessment to determine specific level of monitoring and reporting, and to determine whether agreement will be in the form of a subrecipient agreement, subaward agreement or a contract.
3. All funds subject to provisions of Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal awards.
4. Costs must be incurred by 12/31/2024, or "obligated" based on Federal Uniform Guidance. The period of performance will run through 12/31/2026.
5. US Treasury, and therefore the County, will collect information on eligible uses on a quarterly basis.
6. County has to submit/update Recovery Plan Performance report, which will include project that recipients are undertaking and how they are planning to ensure outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner.
7. Entity receiving funding must retain records for five years after the performance period (i.e., could be required to retain records through 12/31/2021).