

## What is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)?

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a COVID-19 relief package that provides \$1.9 trillion in mandatory funding, program changes and tax policies aimed at mitigating the continuing effects of the pandemic.

[Summarized Nonprofit Impacts](#)

[ARPA Section by Section Analysis](#)

## How much is North Dakota Receiving?

The total money North Dakota was allocated is split between several recipients.

The State of North Dakota received \$1.007 billion.

The Counties of North Dakota received \$148 million. ([view county by county allocation](#))

Metropolitan Cities of North Dakota (Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks) received \$41 million.

Other smaller towns and cities received \$53.2 million. Tribes received separate distributions.

North Dakota also received [\\$113 million for capital projects](#) aimed at expanding broadband infrastructure, which was appropriated during the 2021 Legislative Session. In the 2021 Legislative Session the Legislature also authorized \$310 million of its funding to be used for infrastructure.

### State Fiscal Recovery Funds

As of Sept. 2021, the North Dakota Legislature has \$697 million of unobligated ARPA funding. [SB 2290](#), passed in the 2021 Legislative Session, restricted the amount of federal funds the Emergency Commission can approve to \$50 million and special/other funds to \$5 million. Gov. Burgum released his [recommendations](#) for how the remaining funds should be used on Sept. 30.

ARPA funding is expected to be appropriated by the Legislature during the Nov. 2021 Special Session and the remainder will be appropriated during the 2023 Legislative Session. All funds must be obligated to specific projects by Dec. 31, 2024, and all funds must be spent and projects completed by Dec. 31, 2026.

NDANO is working with Legislators on a proposal which would use ARPA funding to provide grants to nonprofits.

### Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Local North Dakota entities received \$337 million in funding, which have already been distributed to counties/municipalities, but have not necessarily been obligated yet.

One of the defined uses of the ARPA funding is to support nonprofits, but the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program does not have a uniform process or specific criteria for selecting projects and awarding funds. Additionally, the state government has no authority to oversee or designate uses of this funding.

The [Treasury's Interim Final Rules](#) provides information on priority areas and eligible uses for Fiscal Recovery Funds ([see related fact sheet](#)). However, Treasury does not have the capacity to review all projects for eligibility prior to awards and reserves the right to recoup funding if a project is determined to be ineligible.

Municipalities are responsible for determining eligibility, accounting and reporting as well as ensuring transparency throughout the selection and allocation processes.

ND [Legislative Council](#) has addressed eligible uses of ARPA funding. Assistance to small business and nonprofits includes, but is not limited to:

- Loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship such as declines in revenues or impacts of periods of business closure, for example by supporting payroll and benefits costs, costs to retain employees, mortgage, rent, or utilities costs, and other operating costs;

- Loans, grants, or in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, such as physical plant changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers or partitions, or COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or contact tracing programs; and
- Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs

Federal ARPA Funding/Grants are also available through:

- [Economic Development Administration Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#) - Deadline Oct. 19, \$3 billion
- [Economic Development Administration Good Jobs Challenge](#) - Deadline Jan. 26, 2022, \$500 million
- [National Endowment for the Arts/ND Council on the Arts](#) - \$700,000
- Capital Projects - ND
- [SBA Shuttered Venue Operating Grant](#) (closed)- \$16 billion
- [USDA Emergency Rural Healthcare Grants](#) - Deadline Oct. 12, \$500 million
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$1.5 billion
- Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$1.5 billion
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program - \$21,550 billion
- Homeowner Assistance Fund - \$9.9 billion

## A Menu of Options for Supporting Nonprofits

Community nonprofits can help cities and towns recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Below are some examples of programs for which regional groups and local governments can contract with community nonprofits, which will help in North Dakota's recovery.

### *General*

- Marketing Campaigns to tell the public how to get help from area nonprofits. Funding can also support other forms of engagement with residents and communities.
- Capital Projects: The pandemic has drained many nonprofits of resources, including funding they may have saved for capital projects that would increase the efficiency of their programs. Investments in these projects – one-time expenditures – frees up nonprofit dollars that can be used for services and to improve the community in which they work.
- Transportation: In some parts of the state it is difficult for people to get to programs that can help them. This is especially important in times of peak stress, such as the pandemic and its aftermath.
- Grief counseling for people who have lost loved ones due to COVID-19 (or other reasons during the pandemic).
- Arts venues often need to make structural changes and, having been closed, need funding to make those improvements. They may also need funds to subsidize performances and exhibits which, due to social distancing, cannot draw large enough crowds to support all the related costs.

### *Community Health*

- Funding for existing mobile crisis teams designated by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) (Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services) to add crisis clinicians to respond to community needs and which could be imbedded with police.
- Programs for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. People with substance use disorders are more likely to catch COVID, get seriously ill or die from COVID and are more likely to become homeless. Substance use has been increasing during the pandemic not to mention 2020 had the most overdose deaths since those statistics were recorded.

- Mental Health First Aid: Similar in concept to CPR, Mental Health First Aid trains people in the community in ways to respond to mental health and substance abuse crises, e.g., training for trauma care.
- Funding is needed for Triage Therapists in outpatient clinics to handle increased caseloads and for psychiatrists and APRNs for medication management in clinics. Funding for regular clinical services will be needed due to the increased stresses brought by the pandemic.
- Assistive Technology evaluations to identify needs for people with disabilities.
- Prison Reentry - People are returning from prison faster due to the COVID-19 risks, programs helping people transition out of prison may be eligible

## Advocating with Local Leaders

Mayors, first selectpersons and town managers are developing their Fiscal Recovery Fund allocation plans now. **You should contact your municipal officials, ask about their process and suggest a portion of the recovery funding is dedicated to nonprofits.** Below is a brief template message to get the conversation started:

Dear Mayor/Town Manager,

As a leader of [nonprofit name] in our community, I would like to meet with you to share ideas on effective ways to use federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that could have a significant community impact in [city/town]. We employ [number] residents, purchase [number] goods and services locally and improve the quality of life for [number] of people in our town.

North Dakota nonprofits are a major economic driver for North Dakota, employing 15 percent of ND's private sector payroll. COVID-19 has dramatically increased the need for local services from North Dakota nonprofits, yet many programs like [our nonprofit] that strengthen community wellness and economic vitality for people across North Dakota are struggling to stay afloat.

As you develop the Local ARPA Recovery Fund allocation plan, please:

- Offer grants for nonprofits so they can address the increased demand for services and make key investments for future service delivery that may have been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Convene local stakeholders, including nonprofits, government officials, businesses and community leaders to engage in a dialogue about needs, resources, and priorities in the recovery. Otherwise, money allocated could be spread thin over uncoordinated priorities.
- Prioritize short-term investments with lasting benefits. For example, supporting upgrades in information technology would allow more organizations to provide telehealth programs that could support more people as well as supporting one-time capital projects, like ventilation system enhancements to help arts and cultural venues reopen safely.
- Ask nonprofits to serve on Long-term Recovery Committee, to help guide strategic investments of recovery funds and monitor the impact.

Community nonprofits like [your organization] want to and can help [city/town] recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please let us know if you have any questions. I look forward to working with you and your team.

Best regards,

[Your Salutation]

Special Thanks to the Connecticut Nonprofit Alliance, Nonprofit Association of Oregon, the Foraker Group, the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, and the National Council of Nonprofits for the information and research that was compiled into this Toolkit.