



# **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)**

## ***Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)***

### **Overview**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the ***American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)*** into law. Under the Act, \$350 billion was provided for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF) and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF). The funds are designed to assist governments in responding to the pandemic, addressing its economic impact, and establishing a foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

### **How much will the Town of Colmar Manor receive?**

Under ARPA, the Town will receive \$1,313,675 over two payments from the Federal Government through the State of Maryland.

### **How may the funds be used?**

The Town may use the funds in the following four categories:

- To respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.
- To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the recipient, or by providing grants to eligible employers who have eligible workers who performed essential work.
- For the provision of government services to the extent of a reduction in revenue by the recipient due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

### **What are some examples of responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency?**

- Expanding access to public health services.
- Assisting with the cost of healthcare.
- Expanding access to behavioral health services.
- Expanding health services for residents in congregate settings.
- Personal protective equipment.

### **What are some examples of responding to COVID-19's negative economic impacts?**

- Expanding job training opportunities.
- Providing assistance to households (rent, mortgage, utilities, etc.).
- Providing assistance to small businesses and nonprofits (revenue losses, rising costs, etc.).
- Providing assistance to access childcare services.

### **What are some examples of government services?**

- Hiring additional Town staff to improve services.
- Paving roads and streets.
- Making improvements to Town buildings and facilities.
- Hiring additional police officers.
- Enhancing code enforcement activities.
- Improving parks and community facilities.

### **What are some examples of water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure?**

- Green infrastructure (green roofs, rainwater harvesting collection, permeable pavement)
- Stormwater projects.
- Expanding internet access.
- Urban tree canopy.

### **Are there any restrictions on the use of funds?**

Funds cannot be used:

- 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.
- To make a deposit to a pension fund.
- To fund debt service costs, legal settlements, or judgements.
- To make deposits into a “rainy day” fund or financial reserves.

### **How long does the Town have to use the funds?**

Expenditures must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

### **How can the community participate in the process?**

The Town has created a survey to receive feedback from the community in spending the ARPA funds. To access the electronic survey, please click on one of the links below:

English - [Town of Colmar Manor ARPA Survey \(English\)](#)

Spanish - [Town of Colmar Manor ARPA Survey \(Spanish\)](#)

For a hardcopy, please stop by the Town’s Office at 3701 Lawrence Street.

### **Where can I find additional information about ARPA?**

For additional information on ARPA, please see the links below to publications developed by the U.S. Department of Treasury:

- Overview of the Final Rule - [US Treasury - Overview of the Final Rule](#)
- Introduction to the Final Rule - [US Treasury - Introduction to the Final Rule](#)

### **How will I know what the Town is using the funds on?**

As the ARPA spending plan is being developed and eventually adopted by the Town Council, the meetings will be conducted in public. Thus, the community will be able to see what programs, services, and/or projects are being funded with ARPA funds.

The Town will also be providing periodic updates on the implementation of the ARPA spending plan to the community. Further, the Town will also be reporting annually to US Treasury by April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year on actual ARPA spending.