



North Carolina
Association of
County Commissioners

ARPA Funding Resources

Historic Federal Funding Requires Thoughtful Planning and Deliberate Investment

- When Congress enacted the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) March 2021, it provided \$350 billion in federal assistance to state, local, and Tribal governments to support response to and recovery from the COVID public health emergency.
- In the months since ARPA was passed, states and local governments have been navigating all the complex requirements to ensure they follow the eligibility and accountability rules the program calls for.
- The state budget, enacted on November 17, 2021, directed North Carolina's \$5.4 billion allocation of ARPA funding. As the state continues to roll out guidance on the state's ARPA investments, many counties plan to leverage state programs to maximize the reach of their local investments.
- Just this past January, U.S. Treasury issued its long-awaited Final Rule on ARPA fiscal recovery funds, which fully describes how they may spend the funds.
- Anticipating greater flexibility, many North Carolina counties wanted to see the Final Rule before making certain ARPA expenditure decisions and have a better view on circumstances that could lead to recoupment.
- Now that counties have clearer guidance on how they can spend ARPA funds, they are making strategic investment decisions and getting projects off the ground.
- This thoughtful and deliberate planning process looks a little different from county to county according to the needs of each, with some deciding early on how to spend the funds and others taking more time.
- Several counties are required by U.S. Treasury to include detailed information on their efforts to conduct community engagement, so many counties are still in the process of gathering feedback from local stakeholders to help guide their expenditure decisions.
- Counties have until December 31, 2024, to commit their ARPA funds and all funds must be spent by two years after that – December 31, 2026.
- In the meantime, counties are required to submit regular reports to U.S. Treasury to help ensure accountability and transparency.
- Counties are collaborating with state, local, and other partners to ensure their communities make the most of ARPA funds and effectively navigate the complexities that come with it.
- Take some time to review the "[American Rescue Plan Act: Key Milestones](#)" timeline to learn more and email arpquestions@ncacc.org for more information.