

TOWN OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

Special Meeting Notice



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1. When prompted for participant or meeting ID enter: **883 5001 5900**
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**AGENCY:** Town Council

**DATE:** August 2, 2021

**PLACE:** Hybrid Meeting - via Zoom and In-person at Town Hall in Council Chambers

**TIME:** 6:00 PM


**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. \*Overview and Discussion regarding American Rescue Plan funding.
3. Adjournment

## Agenda Item Summary

Date: August 2, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Overview of American Rescue Plan Act Funding

### Background

The town will be directly receiving federal funds over the course of the next two years through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This is a unique opportunity for our community to work together to meet a variety of needs created by the far reaching pandemic.

Staff has continued to review the interim final rule / guidance from the US Treasury related to program rules and eligible uses. Although the US Treasury has ended its comments period on the interim rule and a final rule is not expected to be published until later this summer, it is appropriate for discussions to begin regarding a framework and process for determining allocation of the funding.

In July, the Town Council decided to hold a Council Workshop to discuss the overall program guidelines, eligible use categories, potential public input components and next steps.

### Discussion/Analysis

At a very high level, the American Rescue Plan Act includes overall eligible use categories such as:

- Support a range of public health expenditures (e.g. COVID mitigation efforts, physical and behavioral healthcare)
- Address negative economic impacts to workers, households, small businesses
- Provide premium pay for essential workers
- Replace lost public sector revenue to maintain or restore government services
- Investments in water, sewer, storm water and broadband infrastructure

The funding will be provided to the town over a two year period with the expected amount to be approximately \$8.5M. Funds need to be expended or committed by the end of calendar year 2024. In some cases, such as capital projects, funds need to be committed by that date but not fully expended until 2026.

In reviewing the interim final rule and other guidance from the US Treasury, there appears to be a degree of flexibility in eligible uses. For example, funds can be used for capital expenditures related to ventilation improvements at key facilities (e.g. schools, community centers). Eligible uses could include increased or enhanced programs to address substance abuse/prevention, crisis intervention, and physical health. Directed job training, home repair and weatherization programs also are possible under the program guidelines.

Recipients are allowed greater latitude in use of the funds beyond the overall use categories to support “government services” based on a formula that calculates projected loss of municipal revenue due to the economic impacts of the pandemic. Staff will review the formula calculations as part of the workshop presentation.

Financial Impact

None

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

This item is being presented as an overview of the American Rescue Plan funding and to provide an opportunity for the Town Council to discuss outlining a possible framework/parameters, use categories, elements of a public engagement process as well as a general timeline for next steps.

Attachments

None