

SUMMARY OF GUIDANCE ON ARP (8 JUNE 2021)

4 Main Categories

1. To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality
2. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
3. For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency
4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Guidance

Identify a need and a negative impact, then identify how the program, service, or other intervention addresses the identified need or impact.

Categories

Category 1A: Respond to the Public Health Emergency

Sub-category 1a: Covid-19 Mitigation and Prevention

- including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits and aid to impacted industries, such as tourism, travel, and hospitality
- vaccination programs;
- medical care;
- testing;
- contact tracing;
- support for isolation or quarantine;
- supports for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services;
- public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring case trends, genomic sequencing for variants);
- enforcement of public health orders;
- public communication efforts;
- enhancement to health care capacity, including through alternative care facilities;
- purchases of personal protective equipment;
- support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities (e.g., nursing homes, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, group living facilities) and other key settings like schools;
- ventilation improvements in congregate settings, health care settings, or other key locations;
- enhancement of public health data systems; and other public health responses
- capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs, such as physical plant improvements to public hospitals and health clinics or adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics

Sub-category 1b: Medical Expenses

- need to continue to provide care and services to address near-and longer-term health care needs

Sub-category 1c: Behavioral Health Care

- mental health treatment
- substance misuse treatment
- other behavioral health services
- hotlines or warmlines
- crisis intervention
- overdose prevention
- infectious disease prevention
- services or outreach to promote access to physical or behavioral health primary care
- preventative medicine

Sub-category 1d: Public Health and Safety Staff

- payroll and covered benefits expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees, to the extent that their services are devoted to mitigating or responding to the COVID–19 public health emergency

Sub-category 1e: Expenses to Improve the Design and Execution of Health and Public Health Programs

- engage in planning and analysis in order to improve programs addressing the COVID19 pandemic
- use of targeted consumer outreach
- improvements to data or technology infrastructure
- impact evaluations
- data analysis

Sub-category 1f: Eligible Uses to Address Disparities in Public Health Outcomes (Qualified Census Tract, see attached map)

- Funding community health workers to help community members access health services and services to address the social determinants of health
- Funding public benefits navigators to assist community members with navigating and applying for available Federal, State, and local public benefits or services
- Housing services to support healthy living environments and neighborhoods conducive to mental and physical wellness
- Remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards to reduce risk of elevated blood lead levels among children
- Evidence-based community violence intervention programs to prevent violence and mitigate the increase in violence during the pandemic

Category 1B: Responding to Negative Economic Impacts

In considering whether a program or service would be eligible under this category, the recipient should assess whether, and the extent to which, there has been an economic harm, such as loss of earnings or revenue, that resulted from the COVID-19 public health emergency and whether, and the extent to which, the use would respond or address this harm.

Sub-category 1g: Assistance to Unemployed Workers

- job training to accelerate rehiring of unemployed workers; these services may extend to workers unemployed due to the pandemic or the resulting recession, or who were already unemployed when the pandemic began and remain so due to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic

Sub-category 1h: Assistance to Households

- food assistance
- rent, mortgage, or utility assistance
- counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness
- emergency assistance for burials, home repairs, weatherization, or other needs

- internet access or digital literacy assistance
- job training to address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker's occupation or level of training
- cash assistance – a cash transfer program may focus on unemployed workers or low-and moderate-income families, which have faced disproportionate economic harms due to the pandemic. Cash transfers must be reasonably proportional to the negative economic impact they are intended to address

Sub-category 1i: Expenses to Improve Efficacy of Economic Relief Programs

- data analysis
- targeted consumer outreach
- improvements to data or technology infrastructure
- impact evaluations

Sub-category 1j: Small Businesses and Non-profits

- 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
- Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs

Sub-category 1k: Building Stronger Communities through Investments in Housing and Neighborhoods

- Services to address homelessness such as supportive housing, and to improve access to stable, affordable housing among unhoused individuals
- Affordable housing development to increase supply of affordable and high-quality living units
- Housing vouchers, residential counseling, or housing navigation assistance to facilitate household moves to neighborhoods with high levels of economic opportunity and mobility for low-income residents, to help residents increase their economic opportunity and reduce concentrated areas of low economic opportunity

Sub-category 1l: Addressing Educational Disparities (BOE)

- New, expanded, or enhanced early learning services, including pre-kindergarten, Head Start, or partnerships between pre-kindergarten programs and local education authorities, or administration of those services
- Providing assistance to high-poverty school districts to advance equitable funding across districts and geographies
- Evidence-based educational services and practices to address the academic needs of students, including tutoring, summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs
- Evidence-based practices to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students

Sub-category 1m: Promoting Healthy Childhood Environments

- New or expanded high-quality childcare to provide safe and supportive care for children
- Home visiting programs to provide structured visits from health, parent educators, and social service professionals to pregnant women or families with young children to offer education and assistance navigating resources for economic support, health needs, or child development
- Enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth to provide support and training on child development, positive parenting, coping skills, or recovery for mental health and substance use challenges

Category 2: Premium Pay for essential work involving regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others.

Worker Categories:

- Staff at nursing homes, hospitals, and home care settings
- Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants
- Janitors and sanitation workers
- Truck drivers, transit staff, and warehouse workers
- Public health and safety staff
- Childcare workers, educators, and other school staff
- Social service and human services staff

Premium Pay in an amount up to \$13 per hour in addition to wages or remuneration the worker otherwise receives and in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$25,000 per eligible worker.

- Retroactive pay may be considered.

Category 3: Revenue Loss

- Reduction in revenue is measured relative to the general revenue collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency
- For purposes of measuring revenue growth in the counterfactual trend, recipients may use a growth adjustment of either 4.1 percent per year or the recipient's average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, whichever is higher

Sub-category 3a: Provision of Government Services

- maintenance or pay-go funded building of infrastructure, including roads
- modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure
- health services
- environmental remediation
- school or educational services
- the provision of police, fire, and other public safety services

Category 4: Investments in Infrastructure

- PLAs encouraged

Sub-category 4a: Water and Sewer Infrastructure

- Projects are aligned with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- CWSRF projects eligible include projects to:
 - construct, improve, and repair wastewater treatment plants
 - control non-point sources of pollution
 - improve resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events
 - create green infrastructure
 - protect waterbodies from pollution
- DWSRF projects eligible include projects to:
 - water infrastructure capital improvements
 - including the installation and replacement of failing treatment and distribution systems
 - States must give priority to projects that ensure compliance with applicable health and environmental safety requirements
 - address the most serious risks to human health

- and assist systems most in need on a per household basis according to State affordability criteria
- Specifically identified projects
 - building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems,
 - replacement of lead service lines
 - cybersecurity needs

Sub-category 4b: Broadband

- eligible projects are expected to be designed to deliver, upon project completion, service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps
- integrate affordability options into their program design