



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAYETTE COUNTY LAYS FOUNDATION FOR 'ARPA' FUNDING

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County stands to receive up to \$25 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021.

County officials recently began working with financial consultants to develop plans for the funding's future use.

Primarily designed as an immediate relief package for American citizens, ARPA also aims to help local governments recover from losses incurred during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic through its State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program (SLFRF). Current county funding eligibility spans three years, from 2020-22.

More flexible than past economic recovery programs, ARPA funding uses span a variety of categories, including:

- **Infrastructure** - treatments, transmission and distribution for water and sewage systems; stormwater improvements; watershed pilot projects; water conservation; broadband projects designed to serve households and businesses; and other eligible projects under the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.
- **Negative economic impact** - assistance for households, small businesses, nonprofits and the public sector; technical assistance; counseling or other services to assist with business planning and more.
- **Public health** - vaccination programs; medical care; testing; contact tracing; support for isolation or quarantine; and other programs to address COVID-19's impact on public health.
- **Services to disproportionately impacted communities** - services to address health disparities and social determinants of health (i.e. community health workers, public benefits navigators, etc.); supportive housing and other services for individuals; development of affordable housing; programs addressing educational disparities exacerbated by COVID-19 and more.

According to ARPA reports from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the pandemic caused "severe economic damage."

"While the economy is on track to a strong recovery, much work remains to continue building a robust, resilient and equitable economy in the wake of the crisis, and to ensure that the benefits of this recovery reach all Americans," the report states.

Fayette County officials will seek public input on the ARPA funds as planning progresses. For more information about ARPA, visit <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus>.

For more information about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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