

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Board of Selectmen's Prioritization Criteria for ARPA Implementation in the Town of Marblehead

ARPA funding will be used strategically to assist the Town and community to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ARPA funding will adhere to the requirements provided by the US Treasury's Interim Final Rule related to eligible expenditures under ARPA.

ARPA funds are non-recurring, so their uses are to be applied to non-recurring expenditures and one-time capital expenditures, from highest to lowest priority as follows:

1. **Expenses for ongoing COVID-19 public health and safety** needs especially in instances that serve vulnerable populations. Priority will be given to sustainable capital expenditures and programs with demonstrable COVID-19 interventions.
2. **Replenishing reserves** used to offset Town revenue declines during the COVID-19 pandemic to rebuild Town's long-term financial flexibility/stability and restore fiscal resiliency.
3. **Economic recovery programs and initiatives** for hard-hit industries and small businesses. Priority will be given to sustainable capital expenditures and programs focused on providing assistance to the business community at-large in their COVID-19 recovery efforts.
4. **Investment in infrastructure** with long-term benefit to the Town. Priority will be given to projects that (i) do not have alternative funding or access to funding readily available and (ii) support the economic development and recovery priorities of ARPA.
5. **Temporary operating deficits caused by COVID-19.** Funding of operating deficits should be considered temporary only; therefore, priority will be given only to those uses with clear demonstrable capacity to achieve/maintain structural balance in future budgets.

In all cases, no new programs, hiring new staff, or add-ons to existing programs will be undertaken that require an ongoing financial commitment unless there is a commitment made in advance of the expenditure of funds to guarantee these new programs, staff, or program add-ons will exist only for the duration of the three-year period of which ARPA funding is available.