

Spanish. A full breakdown of demographics can be found on pages 65 through 70 of the [Community Feedback report](https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/budget/info/ARPA%20Community%20Feedback_4.30-5.13.pdf). <https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/budget/info/ARPA%20Community%20Feedback_4.30-5.13.pdf>

Findings

The survey asked two quantitative questions to inform strategy on how to consider distribution of the ARPA funds across categories. Staff have used the results of the following two questions to weigh project proposals.

1. If it were up to you (and assuming each costs about the same), how would you allocate \$100 among each of the following service areas? *(Note, the aggregated responses below are shown as percentages rather than dollar amounts)* Business Recovery & Workforce 14.01% Economic Recovery 23.64% Housing 12.35% Human Services 25.37% Health and Social Services 13.01% CIP 51.00% Cultural Art, History and Events 9.63% Infrastructure 19.65% Technology 11.89% Emergency Services 8.50% Government efficiency 4.71% City facility improvements 6.24%

2. In your opinion, should the City prioritize projects that... Percent Responses Focus on those projects that directly relate to an issue or challenge that was created or exaggerated by COVID-19 16.70% 220 Focus on projects that are a critical investment for the City's future, regardless of their connection to COVID-19 31.20% 410

There should be a balance between those projects that related to the impacts of COVID-19 and those that are a critical investment for the City's future 52.10% 684 **Total 1,314**

The survey included one open-ended question, allowing survey takers to provide their thoughts and ideas on how the funds should be used. The results were wide-ranging, covering topics that included: • Workforce • Arts, History, and Events • Taxes and Finance • Businesses • Housing • Health & COVID-19 • Mental Health • Domestic Violence • Equity • Assistance Programs • Family Care/Enrichment • Schools • Environment, Open Space, and Recreation • Transportation and Mobility • Technology • Stormwater • City Facilities • Emergency Services • Government Efficiency and Services • City Employees Each individual comment is captured in the [ARPA Community Feedback Report](https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/budget/info/ARPA%20Community%20Feedback_4.30-) <https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/budget/info/ARPA%20Community%20Feedback_4.30-, available on the City's website. City staff used the information gathered through the community feedback to either make changes to a previously developed proposals or to develop new proposals.

Project and Program Proposals

As previously discussed with Council in fall 2020, in anticipation of possible future federal funding planning for recovery was initiated at the staff level with the establishment of two staff level groups, the Economic Recovery group and the Coordinated Community Recovery Plan group. In March, the City Manager assigned these teams and additional subject matter experts from various City Departments to an ARPA Staff Team.

The team divided to work in three overlapping areas: 1) review of regulations, 2) creation of a proposal submission and evaluation system, and 3) development of the community engagement process. Together, the team has followed the process below to gather and consider almost ninety program or project proposals:

1. This process began by Departments submitting potential projects and programs that had previously gone through a stakeholder vetted planning process and had been unfunded or planned for in the out years. 2. Departments then added to the list programs and projects that will address issues exacerbated by COVID-19. 3. Following the community engagement period, Departments then refined and/or added proposals based on the feedback. 4. Once the Treasury Department issued the Interim Final Rule, the ARPA Team further refined the list to ensure that proposals met the regulations. 5. The proposals were then categorized as “*human services programs or projects*” to be reviewed by staff that had previously served on the Coordinated Community Recovery Team, “*economic recovery programs or projects*” to be reviewed by staff that served on the Economic Recovery Team, and “*capital improvement project*” to be reviewed by the CIP Steering Committee. The City’s Office on Race and Social Equity reviewed all of the proposals. Through the review process, the staff teams considered whether the project and programs were feasible within the timeframe, had gone through a community process, furthered equity criteria, thoroughness of cost estimates and scalability, and potential any red flags. 6. Based on these considerations, the proposals were then prioritized to fit within four quadrants (see Attachment 1), as shown below: • Tier 1&2 - Projects and programs that will have the most immediate impact, are “shovel-ready,” and highly important. • Tier 3&4 - Projects and programs that are highly important but may not be as urgent or ready to address immediately (may make more sense for the 2nd tranche) • Beyond Tier 4 - Projects that may not directly qualify for the intent of ARPA funds, may not be considered feasible within the timeframe, and/or should be considered through other funding sources. The proposals do not show costs at this time because many of the programs and projects are scalable and can be adjusted based on City Council discussion and consideration of priorities. The intent of this Council review is to focus on need and proposed solutions. However, the projects do show cost by ranges. 7. These four tiers of prioritization represent the thinking of the staff committees informed by the community input, but do not represent a final City Manager set of recommendations which will be prepared for the July 6 Council meeting. **FISCAL IMPACT:** In order to have the food distribution programs, eviction prevention programs, and other emergency safety net programs that have continued in place since the federal CARES funding ended at the end of 2020, be able to continue, City Council approved a second \$1 million allocation of City interim bridge funding in February. The first allocation of \$1 million in interim bridge funding approved by Council last December was expended in March. Council approved a second allocation of \$1 million enabling both the food and eviction prevention programs to be able to stay in place through May. At that time, the origin of the second \$1 million allocation was planned from the City’s budgeted subsidy of WMATA which will be underspent in FY 2021. However, the ARPA explicitly states that funding can be used for programs beginning March 3, 2021. Therefore, the City can recoup one of the two \$1 million allocation amounts through the ARPA funds. On March 26, 2021, City Council approved \$450,000 of the ARPA funds to serve as bridge funding to for the period covering April 1 through July 6, 2021 to respond to the continuing food insecurity and basic needs of residents, particularly those who do not qualify for existing federal programs, nor the ARPA categorical funding. Funding is also being used to ensure that all eligible individuals and landlords are enrolled and accessing the rental assistance resources that are currently available through navigation and outreach efforts. In addition, on May 25, 2021, City Council approved \$200,000 of the ARPA funds to be allocated towards hiring a second housing justice attorney through Legal Services of Northern Virginia and to support ongoing eviction prevention data analysis and planning. As a result of these three funding allocations totaling \$1,650,000, the available ARPA funds in the first tranche will be \$28,050,000. The federal funds do not require a match and would be expended on programs that largely do not represent ongoing obligations once the federal funds are fully expended. In that these federal funds are intended to stimulate the

economy, and the City's investment of these funds would be aimed at making the recipients and beneficiaries more self-sufficient, there should be a positive fiscal, economic, and tax generation impact on the City over the long term. Some of the capital projects recommended for ARPA funding are currently fully or partially funded in the City's 10-year CIP. If ARPA funds were to be used for these projects they would accelerate project timelines or allow for the redirection of planned funding to other areas of community need. It should be noted that some of these ARPA funds will continue to be needed for pandemic related costs that the City has incurred since March 3, 2021 and will likely continue to incur through the end of December 2021. **NEXT STEPS:** Between June 9 and early July, staff will further develop the draft ARPA spending plan into a specific list of funding recommendations for the first \$29.7 million tranche of funds. City Council will consider this proposed spending plan for approval on July 6, 2021. Staff will develop the plan for the second tranche in parallel with the FY23 budget or bring forward an allocation plan in the late fall. The second tranche plan will consider proposals that did not get funded in the first spending plan, in addition to new proposals. **ATTACHMENTS:** (1) List of proposals by quadrants and Descriptions (2) Presentation (forthcoming) **STAFF:** Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager Kendel Taylor, Director of Finance Dana Wedeles, Special Assistant to the City Manager Meghan McGrane, Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget Beth Murdock, Performance Analyst, Office of Performance Analytics James Bryant, GIS Analyst, Information Technology Services