

# What is ARP?



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- The **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**, also called the **COVID-19 Stimulus Package** or **American Rescue Plan**, is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, to speed up the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the ongoing recession.
- ARP includes 362.05 billion in fiscal assistance for state, local, municipal, tribal, and territorial governments.

# Allowable Uses for Recovery Funds

- “The intent of this legislation is to shore up business and government stability, preserve jobs, and get people back to work; plan your spending with this in mind.” ([National Assoc. of Cities](#))
- Respond to or mitigate the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19 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. These examples are intended to clarify congressional intent that these activities are eligible. However, state and local activities are NOT limited only to these activities. ([National Assoc. of Counties](#))

# Non-Allowable Uses for Recovery Funds

- No funds shall be deposited into any pension fund.
- Any local government, including counties, that fail to comply with the federal law and related guidelines shall be required to repay the federal Treasury.
- **States** are not allowed to use the funds to either directly or indirectly offset a reduction in the net tax revenue that results from a change in law, regulation or administrative interpretation during the covered period.

# Temporary Nature of ARP Funds

- ARP funds are non-recurring so their use should be applied primarily to non-recurring expenditures.
- Care should be taken to avoid creating new programs or add-ons to existing programs that require an ongoing financial commitment.
- Replenishing reserves used to offset revenue declines during the pandemic should be given high priority to rebuild financial flexibility/stability and restore fiscal resiliency.
- Use of ARP funds to cover operating deficits caused by COVID-19 should be considered temporary and additional budget restraint may be necessary to achieve/maintain structural balance in future budgets.
- Investment in critical infrastructure is particularly well suited use of ARP funds because it is a non-recurring expenditure that can be targeted to strategically important long- term assets that provide benefits over many years. However, care should be taken to assess any on-going operating costs that may be associated with the project.
- Source: Government Finance Officers Assoc. [ARP Guiding Principles](#)

# How much and by when?

- The bill currently indicates that funds can be applied to any reductions in revenue **based on the most recent full fiscal year** and the deadline to spend these funds is December 31, 2024
- [City](#) estimated allocations
- [County](#) estimated allocations
- [State](#) estimated allocations
- National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities: ARP includes \$135 million apiece for the NEA and NEH. These funds will support arts and cultural organizations to address layoffs, budget cuts, and implementation of public health protocols to safely reopen with 40% to SAAs.

# How can we make an ask for local/state funding from ARP?

- Start the Conversation with your elected officials now – they are making plans already. <https://bit.ly/ARPBGCreative>
- Build your case – data and storytelling
- Come with ideas and a plan ready to go
- Get a resolution from your city council/board of supervisors to allocate federal funds to arts & culture (see [ArtForLA toolkit](#))
- Reach out to your arts community/ecosystem and make a coalition ask
- Connect with your statewide/regional arts advocacy organizations

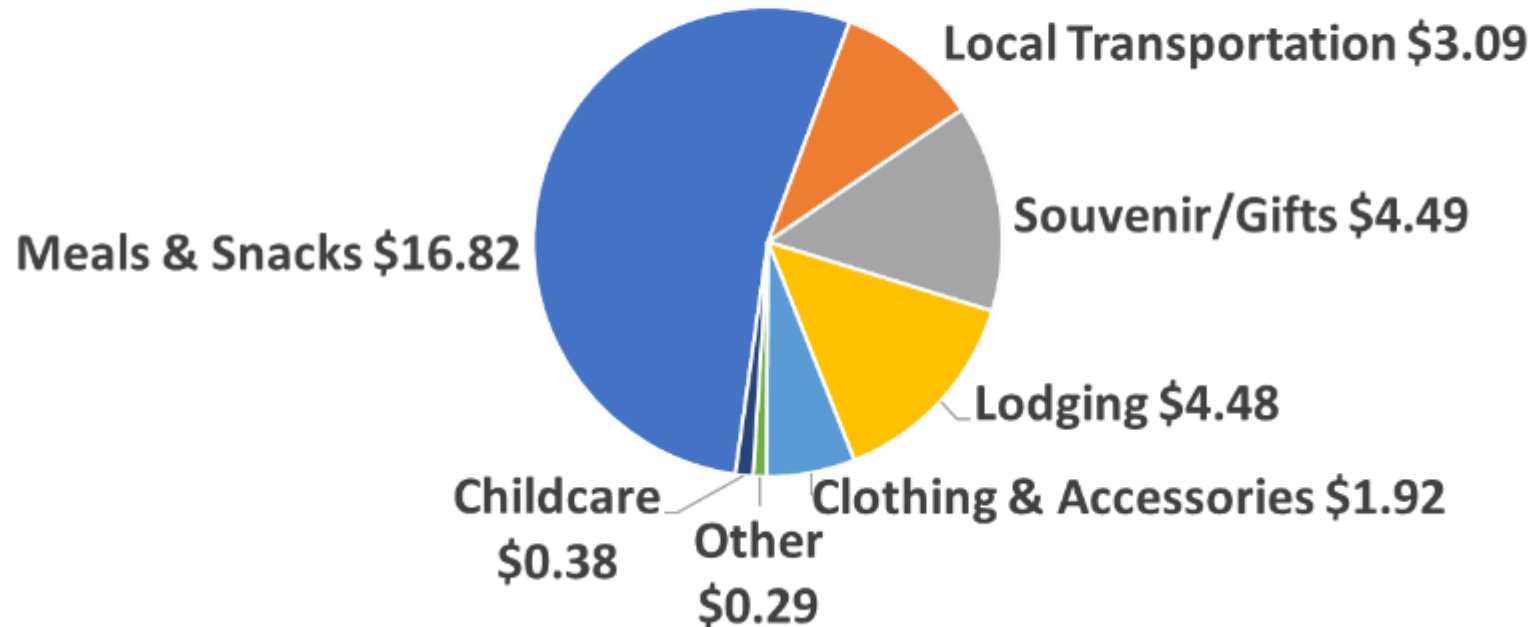
# How should creative economy be framed for local/state asks?

- **Our local economies will benefit from a healthy arts and culture sector**  
Economic impact to every community and the domino effect. A healthy arts and culture corridor benefits all businesses and aids in recovery for all. (tourism, restaurants, lodging, retail etc.)
- **The impact of COVID closures on the creative industries in our cities has been severe.** Arts and culture are small businesses/nonprofits that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID and [will take longer to recover.](#)
- **Creative Jobs are Critical to the Future of Work.** Innovation is crucial to competition, and creativity is integral to innovation. According to 2019 LinkedIn behavioral data, creativity is the most in-demand soft skill in short supply.. [Forbes article.](#)
- **Arts and creativity improve health and well-being** Invest in a workforce that will help bring social and emotional wellness, community cohesion, jobs and economic benefit to every community. Univ of FL [arts and health research](#)



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[Attendees Spent \\$31.47 Per Person, Per Event](#), Source AFTA



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- **JOBS CREATION:** We create jobs – arts workers are real workers. Arts are labor. (show data)
- **Artists are second responders** – we are essential workers.
- **We are an industry that has long been undercapitalized.** Now is the time to invest in a future that prioritizes racial and cultural equity, to tell the stories that have traditionally not been told or funded and to create an equitable vision for American culture.
- **We are a valuable social service** and should be funded and contracted as we do other social services.
- **Artists provide value:** Embed and employ artists and arts workers across government agencies and in Corps programs

# Some Resources

- Tips for Communicators <http://bit.ly/ARPARTComms>
- Memo: Planning for Creative Response with ARP funds (Art-Train)  
<http://bit.ly/ARPBGCreative>
- [Art-Train](#)
- NASAA Research: <https://nasaa-arts.org/research/>
- [Americans for the Arts Research](#)
- [Art-Train](#)
- <https://www.creativeworkers.net/>
- [Sample letter](#) to BOD/City Council for ARP funds