



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SPENDING PROPOSAL

November 2022

OVERVIEW

ARPA

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a \$1.9 trillion federal rescue plan designed to help communities recover from the economic and health impacts of COVID-19. The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, a part of the American Rescue Plan, delivers \$350 billion to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

INVESTMENT

The City of Chillicothe has received \$2,275,403.00.

OBJECTIVES

The SLFRF program provides governments across the country with the resources needed to:

- Fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with public health and economic impacts
- Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue resulting from the crisis
- Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity

ALLOWABLE USES

Respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic

- Support the health of communities, and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries, nonprofits, and the public sector recover from economic impacts

Provide premium pay for essential workers

- Offering enhanced compensation for workers performing essential work.

Replace lost public sector revenue

- Funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue lost due to the pandemic

Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure

- Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, to support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand affordable access to broadband internet

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

In 2021, the City went through a year-long process through the Bloomberg Harvard Leadership Initiative to redesign the transit system. The program taught the team to apply human-centered design to big challenges in the city. In 2022, the city's first comprehensive planning process kicked off with a focus on strategies for the next ten years. Both efforts were heavily focused on the engagement of the community in the decision-making process. Following the announcement of ARPA funds, the Administration identified several areas of high need from regular community feedback, existing plans, and local data to facilitate the conversation on how to best spend the ARAP funds.

FIRST ROUND OF ENGAGEMENT

Over the summer, the City Administration hosted four, two-hour in-person brainstorming sessions called Think Big, Chillicothe. Residents were asked to share their ideas on how to improve the community as it related to education, economic development, housing, parks and public spaces, city infrastructure and services, and health.

300+

Ideas generated from
the Think Big,
Chillicothe Sessions

During those in-person sessions, more than 300 ideas from community residents were collected. Those in attendance were asked to vote for their favorite ideas of the night.



SECOND ROUND OF ENGAGEMENT

The top 15 ideas from the Think Big, Chillicothe sessions will be shared in detailed on the City's new online engagement platform, Engage Chillicothe. The community will be asked to prioritize spending around these projects through a participatory budgeting exercise. The platform will also allow residents to ask questions and comment on the top 15 ideas engaging with city staff and other community members.

The top 15 ideas being presented include:

- City Park Upgrades
- Reentry Program Support
- Improved City Communication Efforts
- Downtown Recycling Bins
- Addressing Homelessness
- Affordable Housing
- Home Repair Program



- Mental Health Support
- Sidewalk Repair Program
- Improved Lighting in Parks/Public Spaces
- Basic Life Skills Education

- City Pool Scholarships for Kids
- Amphitheater
- Armory Revitalization & Programming
- Become a Blue Zone City

697

Unique Visitors to Engage
Chillicothe Dashboard

282

Unique Registered Users

176

Engage specifically with
ARPA Project

CONSIDERATIONS

The City has sought to provide both direct financial support of our community as well as coordinating with partners in local, state, and federal government. In addition to eligibility guidance, to determine this spending proposal the following contributing factors were considered:

Internal Infrastructure Needs

Community Input and Priorities

Local Data

Other Funding Sources/Opportunities

Comprehensive Plan Alignment

Impact & Sustainability

The following pages outline the specific projects funds will be allocated towards with details describing which of the above considerations made it a priority project. Actions in the Comprehensive Plan were referenced, if those actions were identified as priority actions, it is designed by “Priority”, local data/studies are referenced, and engagement rankings identifying priority projects from the public.

PROJECT PROPOSALS - Infrastructure

Stormwater Infrastructure*

Investment: \$250,000

Comprehensive Plan: Action 4.9: Develop a Capital Improvement Plan

Internal Infrastructure Need

***Existing allocation*

Sidewalk Repair Program

Investment: \$300,000

*Comprehensive Plan: Action 6.13: Develop a street and sidewalk maintenance schedule and asset management program. **Priority Action.***

***Data:** 34.7% of Chillicothe's adults reported being physically inactive in the past 30 days; 42.8% of Chillicothe's adults report being obese;*

***Engagement Ranking:** 2/3 out of 15*

MARCS Radios for Fire Department

Investment: \$150,000

Comprehensive Plan: Action 4.9: Develop a Capital Improvement Plan

Internal Infrastructure Need

Total Infrastructure: \$700,000

PROJECT PROPOSALS – Public Spaces

City Park Upgrades

Investment: \$300,000

Comprehensive Plan: Action 4.5: Develop a streetscape and gateway improvement program.

Action 4.8: Improve Yoctangee Park with outdoor event space.

Action 4.9: Develop a Capital Improvement Plan

Site Plan – Yoctangee Park Entrance + Connection to Riverside District

Data: 34.7% of Chillicothe's adults reported being physically inactive in the past 30 days;

42.8% of Chillicothe's adults report being obese

Engagement Ranking: 5 out of 15

Improved Lights in Parks & Public Spaces

Investment: \$200,000

Comprehensive Plan: Action 4.9: Develop a Capital Improvement Plan

Data: 34.7% of Chillicothe's adults reported being physically inactive in the past 30 days;

42.8% of Chillicothe's adults report being obese

Engagement Ranking: 6 out of 15

Amphitheatre & Armory (HOLD)

Investment: \$500,000

Comprehensive Plan: Action 4.8: Improve Yoctangee Park with outdoor event space. **Priority Action.**

Engagement Ranking - Amphitheater: 10 out of 15

Engagement Ranking Armory: 14 out of 15

Total Public Spaces: \$500,000 + \$500,000 Hold

PROJECT PROPOSALS - Housing

Homelessness Assistance

Investment: \$200,000

Comprehensive Plan: Action 3.5 Support organizations in creating halfway housing and shelter locations. **Priority Action.**

Action 5.4: Develop an entrepreneur mentorship/partnership program.

Data: 26.7% of Chillicothe's households have an excessive housing cost; Affordable Housing Study

Engagement Ranking: 1 out of 15

Affordable Housing

Investment: \$150,000

Comprehensive Plan: Action 3.4: Encourage housing diversity in residential development through zoning. **Priority Action.**

Action 3.8: Market to provide market rate housing.

Action 5.11: Engage with Ross County Land Bank

Data: 26.7% of Chillicothe's households have an excessive housing cost; Affordable Housing Study

Engagement Ranking: 9 out of 15

Home Repair Program

Investment: \$150,000

Comprehensive Plan: Action 3.1: Create a residential rehabilitation program. **Priority Action.**

Data: 26.7% of Chillicothe's households have an excessive housing cost; Affordable Housing Study

Engagement Ranking: 13 out of 15

Total Housing: \$500,000

PROJECT PROPOSALS - Other

Basic Life Skills Program

Investment: \$50,000

Comprehensive Plan: Action 5.1: Establish a workforce strategy built around advocating for national development and quality of place initiatives.

Action 5.4: Develop an entrepreneur mentorship/partnership program.

Data: 6.1% of Chillicothe's labor force is unemployed; 25.5% of Chillicothe's children are in poverty

Engagement Ranking: 2/3 out of 15

Total Other: \$50,000