



Staff Report

May 17, 2021 Council Workshop

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

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BACKGROUND: This presentation is to review the American Rescue Plan Act funding and begin the discussion of potential uses for the funds.

SUMMARY: The United States Congress approved the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) on March 11, 2021 to provide a \$1.9 trillion package to provide direct relief to states, counties, cities and towns as well as public utilities, libraries and transit agencies. As a community of 50,000 or less, the City of Camas will receive a distribution of these funds over four years from the Washington State Department of Commerce. It is currently estimated Camas may receive approximately \$5 million.

The funds can be used for:

- To respond to public health emergency caused by COVID-19,
- To provide assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits related to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19,
- To aid impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality,
- For premium pay (hazard pay) up to \$13/hour, not to exceed \$25,000 to any individual employee, to eligible government essential workers,
- For grants to eligible private employers to provide hazard pay to essential workers,
- To provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such cities/counties due to COVID-19 relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency (for cities in Washington, the baseline would be the calendar year 2019 budget),
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Staff will provide a presentation updating Council on the most recent information regarding ARPA.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS: What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item? The intent of the presentation is to provide City Council on ARPA status and uses.

What's the data? What does the data tell us? The US Treasury has provided high level guidance. As the City receives information, staff will update Council.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement? Not at this point, since the information is not defined enough but the intention of staff is to develop a public engagement component to the allocation of funds.

Who will benefit from, or be burdened by this agenda item? This agenda item is intended to benefit citizens and the community to offset the negative impact the pandemic has had the economy.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences? Staff is monitoring for updates on ARPA daily and will plan accordingly.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact. Yes, this agenda item helps all communities the City serves.

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibilities for people with disabilities? N/A

What potential hurdles exists in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)? As will any funding, it is difficult to ensure all needs are met and as a result some prioritization will need to occur.

How will you ensure accountabilities, communicate, and evaluate results? The Finance Department will provide updates of the ARPA to City Council.

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy, or other adopted resolution? This item is intended to bridge financial gaps due to loss revenue during the pandemic which impact ability to maintain service levels.

BUDGET IMPACT: The estimated revenue to the City is approximately \$5.3 million over two years and to be spent in four.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is for Council information only.