

RESOLUTION 23-2281

ELIGIBLE USE POLICY FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS BY TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH

WHEREAS the Town of Carolina Beach, has received an allocation of funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP/CSLFRF); and

WHEREAS US Treasury is responsible for implementing ARP/CSLFRF and has enacted a Final Rule outlining eligible projects; and

WHEREAS the funds may be used for projects within these categories, to the extent authorized by state law.

1. Support COVID-19 public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation and prevention efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, preventing and responding to violence, and certain public health and safety staff;
2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to households, small businesses, non-profits, impacted industries, and the public sector;
3. Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;
4. Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,
5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet; and

WHEREAS the ARP/CSLFRF are subject to the provisions of the federal Uniform Grant Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200 (UG), as provided in the Assistance Listing; and

WHEREAS US Treasury has issued a Compliance and Reporting Guidance v.4.1 (June 17, 2022) dictating implementation of the ARP/CSLFRF award terms and compliance requirements; and

WHEREAS the Compliance and Reporting Guidance states on page 6 that

Per 2 CFR Part 200.303, your organization must develop and implement effective internal controls to ensure that funding decisions under the SLFRF award constitute eligible uses of funds, and document determinations.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Carolina Beach hereby adopts and enacts the following Eligibility Determination Policy for ARP/CSLFRF funds.

Duly adopted this 11th day of April, 2023

Albert L. Barbee, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberlee Ward, Town Clerk

Eligibility Determination Policy for American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

This policy defines the permissible and prohibited uses of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP/CSLFRF) funds. It also outlines the procedures for determining how Town of Carolina Beach will spend its ARP/CSLFRF funds.

I. PERMISSIBLE USES OF ARP/CSLFRF FUNDING

US Treasury issued its **Final Rule** regarding use of ARP funds on January 6, 2022. (The Final Rule is effective as of April 1, 2022. Until that date, a local government may proceed under the regulation promulgated by US Department of the Treasury in its **Interim Final Rule** or the Final Rule.) The Final Rule (and the Interim Final Rule) identify permissible uses of ARP/CSLFRF funds and certain limitations and process requirements. Local governments must allocate ARP/CSLFRF funds no later than December 31, 2024 and disburse all funding no later than December 31, 2026. Failure of an entity to expend all funds by December 31, 2026 will result in forfeiture of ARP funds.

ARP/CSLFRF funds may be used for projects within the following categories of expenditures:

1. Support COVID-19 public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation and prevention efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, preventing and responding to violence, and certain public health and safety staff;
2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, non-profits, impacted industries, and the public sector;
3. Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;
4. Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and
5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet; and

II. PROHIBITED USES OF ARPA FUNDING

The ARP/CSLFRF and US Treasury's Final Rule prohibit certain uses of ARP/CSLFRF funds. Specifically, ARP/CSLFRF funds may not be used for projects within the following categories of expenditures:

1. To make a deposit into a pension fund that constitutes an extraordinary payment of an accrued, unfunded liability (Note that routine contributions as part of a payroll obligation for an eligible project are allowed.);
2. To borrow money or make debt service payments;
3. To replenish rainy day funds or fund other financial reserves;
4. To satisfy an obligation arising from a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restricting in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding (There is an exception to this prohibition if the settlement or judgment requires the Town of Carolina Beach to provide services to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts or to provide government services, then the costs of those otherwise ARP/CSLFRF-eligible projects are allowed.);
5. For a project that includes a term or condition that undermines efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 or discourages compliance with recommendations and guidelines in CDC guidance for stopping the spread of COVID-19;
6. In violation of the conflict-of-interest requirements imposed by the award terms and 2 CFR 200.318(c).
7. For any expenditure that would violate other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

The Town of Carolina Beach, and any of its contractors or subrecipients, may not expend any ARP/CSLFRF funds for these purposes.

III. PROCEDURES FOR PROJECT APPROVAL

The following are procedures for ARP/CSLFRF project approvals. All Town of Carolina Beach employees and officials must comply with these requirements.

1. Requests for ARP/CSLFRF funding, must be made in writing and include all the following:
 - a. Brief description of the project
 - b. Identification of ARP/CSLFRF Expenditure Category (EC) (A list of ECs in in the Appendix to the US Treasury Compliance and Reporting Guidance.)
 - c. Required justifications for applicable projects, according to the requirements in the Final Rule. Employees or any applicant seeking ARP funding should review the Final Rule and Final Rule Overview prior to submitting a proposal.
 - d. Proposed budget, broken down by cost item, in accordance with the Town of Carolina Beach's Allowable Cost Policy.
 - e. A project implementation plan and estimated implementation timeline (All ARP/CSLFRF funds must be fully obligated by December 31, 2024, and fully expended by December 31, 2026.)
2. Requests for funding must be submitted to the Town Manager for approval. All requests will be reviewed by the Project Manager for ARP/CSLFRF compliance and by the Finance Director for allowable costs and other financial review.

3. No ARP/CSLFRF may be obligated or expended before final written approval by the Finance Director who will determine if board approval or budget amendments will be required.
4. If a proposal does not meet the required criteria, it will be returned to the requesting party for revision and resubmittal.
5. Following approval, employees responsible for implementing the project must conform actual obligations and expenditures to the pre-approved project budget. Changes in project budgets must be approved by the Town Manager and may require a budget amendment before proceeding. Any delay in the projected project completion date shall be communicated to the Project Manager immediately.
6. The Finance Director must collect and document required information for each EC, for purposes of completing the required Project and Expenditure reports.
7. The Finance Director must maintain written project requests and approvals, all supporting documentation, and financial information at least until December 31, 2031.