

PUBLIC FORUM ON AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA)

BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS OF AUGUST 18TH



OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- Brief Remarks Senator Brownsberger and Representative Rogers
- Summary of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
- Distribution of Funding to Date
- Identify Needs of the Town and School
- Public Input

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was signed into law March 11, 2021
- Includes \$362 B in support for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial fiscal recovery funds
- Recovery funding for municipalities with populations of less than 50K (i.e. Belmont) are funded by the US Treasury but administered through the states.
- Belmont funding eligibility period March 2021 to December 2024
 - \$7.8 M - **Coronavirus Local Stability Fund** (*in two allocations Direct Municipal and County*)
 - \$1.0 M - **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund III (ESSER III)**
- US Treasury and the states Division of Local Services continues to issue guidance on grant funds.
- Funds do not need to be appropriated at Town Meeting.
- Funds cannot be used to restore stabilization funds, pension funds, debt service, borrowing costs, or as a match for federal grants.

ELIGIBLE USES OF ARPA FUNDS

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund III (\$1.0 M estimated cap):

1. 80% for general school support
2. 20% for learning loss (summer school, extended day, calendar)

Four Categories of Eligible Uses (\$7.8 M estimated cap):

1. **Address the public health expenditures and/or negative economic impacts**, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff; including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector;
2. **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;
3. **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,
4. **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.

ARPA DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING

ARPA Town funds are divided into two allocations:

Direct Municipal Allocation	\$2.8M
County Allocation	<u>\$5.0M</u>
Totaling	\$7.8M

- On 06/02/21 the Town directly applied to the state in order to receive the Direct Municipal portion.
- Massachusetts has a unique county structure, and the county portion was applied to by Middlesex County, therefore has a different receivable date.

- \$1.3 Million Direct Municipal**, July 1st Town received its first partial payment of our Direct Municipal Allocation. The second Direct Municipal Allocation (\$1.3M) is anticipated on July of 2022.
- \$2.5 Million County**, on August 16th the Town received \$2.5M its first partial payment of our County Allocation. The second County Allocation (\$2.5M) is anticipated on August of 2022.

TOWN'S PROCESS TO IDENTIFY USE OF FUNDS

Federal funding is **one-time** in nature and should not be used to fund recurring expenses

■ **FY21**

- Identified COVID-related expenses (Town and Schools) since March 3, 2021 and utilize federal funds to provide reimbursement for expenses.
- ***ESSER Funding covered FY21 COVID related expenses in Schools.***
- ***CARES Funding covered FY21 COVID related expenses for the Town and Schools.***

■ **FY21 Certified FREE CASH**

- The Town & Schools was able to capitalize on Federal Funds in FY21 to free up dollars that will flow to Free Cash.
- The balance sheet was submitted last week and the Town will be working with the Department of Revenue (DOR) to certify Free Cash, sometime in late September to early October.

TOWN'S PROCESS TO IDENTIFY USE OF FUNDS

- **FY22**

- Identify COVID-related expenses in FY22 Operating Budget and utilize federal funds to cover expenditures.
- Identify one-time, unfunded COVID-related needs *outside* of the FY22 Operating Budget (e.g. vaccination clinics, tents, extra social worker support for transition, etc.) and utilize federal funds to cover expenditures.

- **FY23**

- Identify one-time COVID-related expenses (if any) for FY23 Operating Budget and utilize federal funds.
- Model the use of ARPA and FY21 Free Cash, given the structural deficit in FY23.

FY22 & FY23 DOLLARS IDENTIFIED FOR TOWN & SCHOOLS

➤ FY23 OPERATING BUDGET/ADDRESS STRUCTURAL DEFICIT

- Projected Deficit for FY23 \$6M-\$8M

➤ FY22 & FY23 Schools

- Match School ESSER III Funding \$1.4M
- Additional COVID Needs \$978k

➤ Health Department

- Contract Tracers \$94K
- Contract Public Health Nurse \$89K
- Contract Health and Food Inspectors \$32K

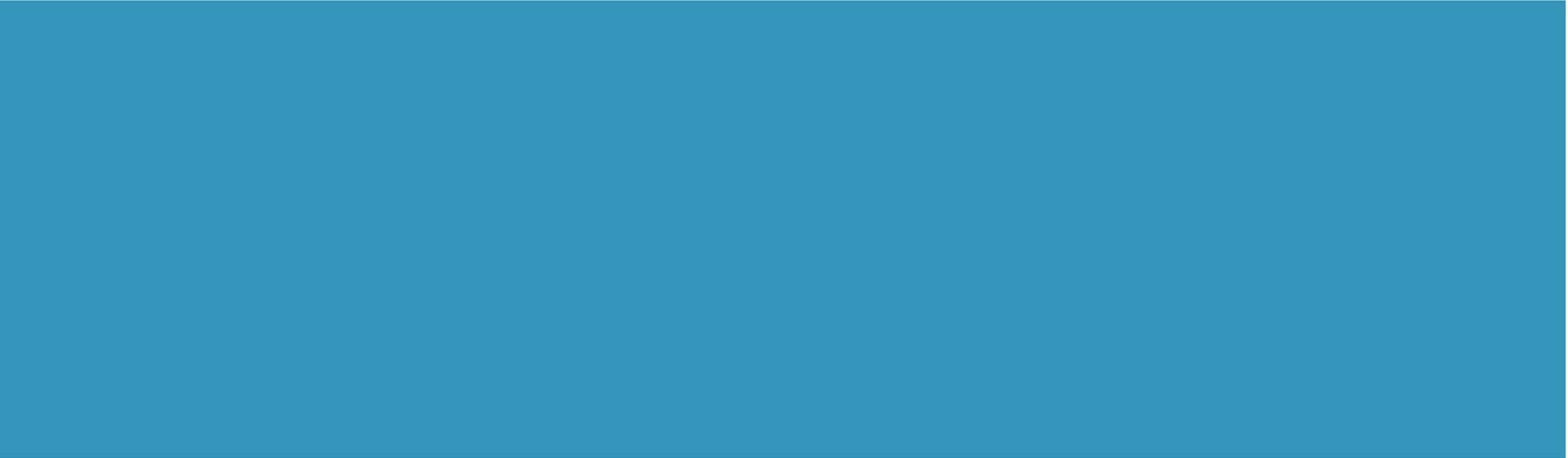
FY22 & FY23 DOLLARS NOT IDENTIFIED FOR TOWN & SCHOOLS

- Board of Health (Town and Schools)
 - Additional Costs for Town Wide Testing and Vaccines in Schools and Community
- Facilities (Town and Schools)
 - Ventilation Improvements
 - Deep cleaning of town and school buildings
- Council on Aging
 - Outreach to Seniors
- OTHER POTENTIAL USES
 - Personnel Costs
 - Election Costs
 - Capital Discretionary (Including Roads)
 - Affordable Housing
 - High School Building Project COVID Expenses
 - Business Relief



FY22 FEDERAL ESSER II, III BUDGET PROPOSAL 4.0

UPDATE TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE – AUGUST 10, 2021



FY22 BUDGET ESSER II, III FUNDING PRIORITIES

Prioritization COVID needs:

- Academic recovery
- Mental health and social-emotional recovery
- Equity, access, and supports for under served students
- Professional development for staff

GOALS FOR FEDERAL FUNDING

- 1. To utilize ESSER II & ESSER III funds, in partnership with Town federal funding, to support a 2-year plan that addresses the prioritized needs of the BPS.
- 2. To establish a list of potential needs, pending the pandemic impact to the district (COVID Parking Lot), that may need a federal funding source from the Town.

ESSER UPDATE

- What is the amount of federal funding?
 - ESSER II - \$456,001
 - ESSER III - \$1,002,359
- ESSER II submission deadline: 7/30/21
 - Submitted on 6/25/21 *
- ESSER II funds must be expended by 9/30/23
- ESSER III submission deadline: 10/4/21
 - Submitted on 7/16/21 *
- ESSER III funds must be expended by 9/30/24

- The expenditures were put into two areas of need:
 - What we need next year to support students academically and from a mental health perspective
 - What we MAY need next year to respond to any future COVID need

STRATEGY FOR EXPENDING FEDERAL FUNDS

Option 1

FY22: • Expend \$700K from ESSER II, III Grants
• Expend \$700K from ARPA funds

FY23 : • Expend \$700K from ESSER II, III Grants
• Expend \$700K from ARPA funds

Option 2

FY22: • Expend \$1.4M from ESSER II, III Grants
• Expend \$0 from ARPA funds

FY23

Scenario A

• Expend \$1.4M from ARPA funds

Scenario B

• Expend \$0 from ARPA funds
• Eliminate ESSER Positions/Recovery/PD
• Use ARPA funds for other purposes

POTENTIAL NEEDS (COVID PARKING LOT)

<u>What we may need</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
Tents *		\$123,175	Needed for alternative space due to COVID mitigation. Cost reflects usage for Sep. & Oct. 2021.
Vaccination and Testing Site, Staffing and Coordination - Cost pending proposal from Health Team	K-12	\$225,000	As we move to next year and receive updated guidance from the CDC, DPH and our local board of health we may be better served in having funds available for testing and/ vaccination clinics on site.
PPE, Filters, Cleaning *	K-12	\$200,000	Continuation of purchasing supplies as needed for the 21/22 SY.
Home and Hospital Learning Services	K-12	\$150,000	In preparation for a possible increase in services for students in home and hospital settings. Funds may be requested to support costs if they exceed budgeted funds for this purpose.
2.0 Tech Integration Specialists (2 & 3 of 3) (Not funded by ESSER II, III Grants)	K-12	\$160,000	Lifts the capacity of our teachers, redefining our ability to create, support and connect and in ways previously inconceivable.
4.0 RTI Para Prof. Math / ELA (Not funded by ESSER II, III Grants)	Elem.	\$120,000	Use assessment data to inform and provide individualized and small group math instruction, helping our struggling students fill in gaps in their mathematical learning. This is an important part of a Multi-Tiered System of Support.

Subtotal - What we may need	\$978,175
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*Tents and PPE items have already been purchased and charged to the School and Facilities Department FY22 general fund budgets, respectfully. Some or all of these costs may be reclassified to be charged against Town federal funds later in FY22. TBD.

ESSER II GRANT – APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO DESE 6/25/21

FTE	Description	Level	ESSER II Grant
	Academic Recovery – Summer 2021	K-12	\$75,000
1.0	Social Worker / Adjustment Counselor (1 of 2 at BHS)*	BHS	\$80,000
1.0	Social Worker / Adjustment Counselor (1 of 2 at CMS)*	CMS	\$80,000
2.0	Math Specialist *	Elem.	\$160,000
	McLean Hospital Mental Health Consultation (continuation)	K-12	\$30,000
	Professional Development Trauma Informed Instruction	K-12	\$2,201
	*Required MTRS Charge (9% of regular salaries)		\$28,800
4.0			\$456,001

ESSER III GRANT – APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO DESE 7/16/21

FTE	Description	Level	ESSER III Grant
	Academic Recovery (During the day and After school)	K-12	\$148,560
1.0	Nurse	DW	\$80,000
1.0	Tech Integration Specialists (1 of 3)	K-12	\$80,000
	Professional Development Trauma Informed Instruction	K-12	\$27,799
	Professional Development MTSS for Academic Recovery Work	K-12	\$30,000
2.0	Para Professionals to Support METCO Students	K-12	\$60,000
1.0	Social Worker / Adjustment Counselor (2 of 2 at CMS)	CMS	\$80,000
1.0	Social Worker / Adjustment Counselor (2 of 2 at BHS)	BHS	\$80,000
1.0	Transition Room Educator	BHS	\$80,000
0.4	Elementary Assistant Principal	K-12	\$36,000
* 2.0	Para Professionals to Support METCO Students	K-12	\$60,000
* 8.0	Building Substitutes	K-12	\$240,000
17.4			**\$1,002,359

*Note: \$300K in one-time positions are yet to be implemented, per School Committee feedback at its 6/29/21 meeting.

**Note: On 7/12/21 DESE increased the District's grant by \$705 from the original amount of \$1,001,654 to \$1,002,359.

PUBLIC INPUT & NEXT STEPS

