

Transforming County Government with ARPA Funds

Hon. Randy Vest, Morgan County

Immediate Past President

Association of County Commissions of Alabama



American Rescue Plan Act

The American Rescue Plan Act provides relief to address the continued impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.



American Rescue Plan Act

- **March 11, 2021:** American Rescue Plan Act signed into law.
- **May 10, 2021:** Treasury releases the Interim Final Rule for ARPA expenditures.
- **August 31, 2021:** Interim reports filed by all counties.
- **January 6, 2022:** Treasury releases the Final Rule, which allows counties to claim a standard allowance of up to \$10 million in revenue replacement.
- **April 30, 2022:** All counties file Project and Expenditure reports.



American Rescue Plan Act

Enumerated Uses of ARPA Funds

- Replace **lost public sector revenue**.
- Respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic **impacts of the pandemic**.
- Provide **premium pay** for essential workers.
- Invest in **water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**.



American Rescue Plan Act

ARPA Funds Allocated to Alabama's 67 Counties

\$954,831,475



ARPA Funded Projects by Alabama's 67 Counties



Premium Pay

- Providing premium pay for eligible county workers is an enumerated use specified by the Act.
- Counties implementing premium pay programs: **37.**
- Estimated total of **\$22,237,685** in planned expenditures.



Ventilation Upgrades

- Ventilation upgrades help to mitigate COVID-19 by providing enhanced air filtration to improve indoor air quality.
- Estimated **40 projects** in planning or preparation.
- Up to **30 more projects** under consideration.
- Most ventilation projects are focusing on courthouses and jails.



➤ Water/Sewer Infrastructure

- Improvements to water and sewer infrastructure is an enumerated use in the Act.
- Water/sewer projects in progress: **35**.
- Current obligations for these projects: **\$19,284,926**.

Emergency Services

- Treasury's Final Rule allows up to \$10 million in revenue replacement funds to be used for government services.
- At least **5 counties** are designating funds to rescue squads or volunteer fire departments to enhance the response time and emergency service coverage in underserved areas.
- Expected obligation: **\$2,692,850**

Emergency Communications

- ARPA revenue replacement funds can be used to improve communications across the county.
- More than **\$5 million** has been allocated for the purchase or upgrade of emergency communications systems such as P-25 radios and E-911.



Support to Nonprofits

- Many nonprofits like food banks and animal shelters suffered losses in donations or staff due to the pandemic.
- ARPA funds allow counties to help support these groups.
- Counties have made **\$2 million** in obligations to nonprofit entities including mental health facilities, community medical clinics, and indigent care systems.



Roads and Bridges

- Revenue replacement funds can be used to provide the counties' government services, including road and bridge repair and replacement.
- Almost **\$25 million** has been allocated to road and bridge projects.



Cybersecurity and Networking

- To be able to provide its essential services, counties need secure, up-to-date systems.
- Cybersecurity and networking projects in the works: **8**
- Estimated obligation: **\$1,499,200.**



Heavy Equipment

- Revenue replacement funds can be used to purchase equipment that allows the county to provide government services.
- Almost **\$8.5 million** allocated for heavy equipment purchases, including road equipment, emergency vehicles, and mowers.



Broadband

- Broadband infrastructure is an enumerated use provided by the Act.
- Plans for broadband expenditures are dependent upon passage of Amendment 2 in November's election.
- At least **6 counties** have expressed interest in pursuing broadband projects.




**Alabama's 67 counties are
doing great things with
their ARPA funds!**



Questions?



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