

GOAT HILL FINAL REPORT

2023 Special Session on State ARPA Funds



Members of the Alabama County Family,

On March 16, 2023, the Alabama Legislature concluded a special session during which lawmakers were directed by the Governor to appropriate the State's second truncate of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Throughout the session, members of the County Family worked hard to convince lawmakers of the importance of securing State ARPA grant funds for local stormwater infrastructure. And in the final days of the session, lawmakers saw fit to amend the legislation to make funds available for such critical projects. Lawmakers also utilized their time together to direct nearly \$60 million in excess dollars in the State's General Fund budget toward repayment of the remaining balance of funds borrowed from the Alabama Trust Fund about 10 years ago.

In regard to stormwater grants, work is already underway with County Engineers to determine the most efficient and effective approach for counties to apply for, secure and expend these grant funds ahead of the quickly approaching ARPA deadlines. The ACCA staff will keep county leaders updated on the stormwater grant initiative moving forward.

Sincerely,
Your Association Staff

Enacted Legislation from the 2023 Special Session

Act 2023-1 by Rep. Rex Reynolds

This law directs the State's second truncate of funds provided under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be appropriated for fiscal year 2023 as follows:

- \$100 million in matching grants for investments in water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure projects;
- \$100 million in statewide matching grants for investments in water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure projects in which grant recipients can provide 35% or more in matching funds;
- \$195 million in grants for water and sewer systems for high-need projects;
- \$5 million in grants for wastewater improvements in the Black Belt;
- \$260 million for the improvement and expansion of broadband network access and the modernization of cybersecurity and new broadband infrastructure;
- More than \$339 million for the delivery of healthcare and related services, including \$200 million for hospitals and nursing homes, \$5 million for veteran hospitals, \$25 million for mental health programs and services, and \$9 million for telemedicine;
- \$55 million for eligible programs or services in response to the negative economic impacts of the public health emergency;
- \$5 million for State expenses resulting from conducting hearings related to coronavirus unemployment benefits; and
- \$1,006,797.72 for State costs from the administration, auditing and reporting associated with the fiscal recovery funds.

Effective March 16, 2023.

Act 2023-2 by Sen. Greg Albritton

This law appropriates a final payment of \$59,997,772 from the Alabama General Fund budget to the Alabama Trust Fund to satisfy obligations under "The Peoples Trust Act" of 2012. "The Peoples Trust Act" was approved by Alabama voters during an economic downturn to allow a set amount of funding to be transferred from the Alabama Trust Fund to the General Fund in order to maintain essential state services. Effective March 16, 2023.