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CANDIDATE BULLETIN: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Can Help Nonprofits

Candidates for municipal office can help community nonprofits recover from the operational and financial challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic with ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The CT Community Nonprofit Alliance (The Alliance) urges municipalities to dedicate a portion of their local Fiscal Recovery Funds to making grants to nonprofits, thus supporting essential services in your community.

Background

The ARPA provides \$2.2 billion¹ for Connecticut's municipal and tribal governments as well as regional planning groups. An additional \$1.1 billion was designated for local school districts. With over \$2.7 billion to be distributed locally over the next four years, **there is an unprecedented opportunity for cities and towns to make key investments in community nonprofit programs and services necessary to help people recover from the pandemic.**

One of the defined uses of ARPA funding is to support nonprofits, which continue to face financial and operational challenges, such as the significant increase for services while incurring additional costs to protect current clients and staff. Some pandemic-related costs were not reimbursed by state or federal resources and some larger organizations did not qualify for relief funding. Yet most are seeing an enormous demand for services, which requires additional support.

Examples of Nonprofit Programs & Services to Support

The Alliance, in partnership with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) ARPA Advisory Committee, compiled a [list of examples of programs for which local governments can contract with community nonprofits](#), which will help in Connecticut's recovery. Many of these recommendations are also included in [CCM's ARPA Toolkit](#):

General

- Marketing, Capital Projects, Transportation, Grief Counseling, Arts Venues

Community Health

- Mobile crisis, substance use treatment, mental health first aid, assistive technology, reentry centers

Community nonprofits want to and can help cities and towns recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendations:

- **Offer grants for nonprofits**, so they can address the increased demand for services and make key investments for future service delivery.
- **Convene local stakeholders**, to engage in a dialogue about needs, resources and priorities in the recovery.
- **Prioritize short-term investments with lasting benefits.** For example, one-time capital projects like ventilation system enhancements to help arts and cultural venues reopen safely.

¹ The number includes [\\$691 million in funding](#) intended for county government.

Schools

- School-based mental health clinics, special education, social-emotional learning, family outreach, professional development

The Alliance is the statewide association of community nonprofits. Community nonprofits deliver essential services to more than half a million people each year and employ almost 14% of Connecticut's workforce.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions or for more information.

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