



THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Town of Durham

The American Rescue Plan (ARPA) is a landmark investment targeted to delivering direct relief to the American people, rescuing the American economy, and containing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan was signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11th, 2021 - and established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, which together make up the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program. This program is intended to provide support to state, territorial, local, and tribal governments in responding to the negative economic and public health impacts of COVID-19 on their communities, residents, and businesses.

In total, \$350 billion in emergency funding was set aside nationally for eligible state, local, territorial, and tribal governments. Of that total, the SLFRF provided municipalities and school districts in Connecticut with \$2.55 billion in funding. Durham's SLFRF funding award was \$2,120,485.94.

In response to questions from public officials on the eligibility of American Rescue Plan allocations, the United States Treasury released an updated set of spending guidelines in January 2022. The modified guidelines significantly expanded the opportunities to invest ARPA funds into community recovery initiatives, infrastructure investments, and improvements to public services as General Government Services.

These funds must be used before December 31, 2024. However, for certain infrastructure projects, funds must be obligated prior to December 31, 2024, with project completion and fund expenditure no later than December 31, 2026

The SLFRF program provides governments across the country with the resources needed to:

- Support public health expenditures.
- Address the negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency.
- Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue resulting from the crisis.
- Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity.
- Provide premium pay for essential workers.
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

The funds may not be used to fund pension funds, to compensate for lost tax revenue, to reduce debt or to replenish “rainy day” funds. The intent of ARPA is to look forward and not backward – in other words, funding should be used for new projects, not to reimburse projects already funded through other sources. Municipalities are urged to identify pre-pandemic inhibitors to growth when considering eligible projects, and to ensure that investments will result in lasting benefits.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs within the eligible use categories. Within these general categories, the Town of Durham will have broad flexibility to decide how best to use the Recovery Funds to meet the needs of our community while providing a unique opportunity for Durham to complete projects and programs that will have a transformative and lasting impact on town’s services and the community.

In the initial discussion of how to best use the ARPA funds in the Town of Durham, The Board of Selectman (in conjunction with the ARPA funding guidelines) discussed some working parameters as to how the funds should be best used for our town. In general, it was agreed that since ARPA funds are non-recurring, their use should be applied primarily to non-recurring expenditures.

In this vein, investment in critical infrastructure were determined to be particularly well-suited for the use of ARPA funds because infrastructure improvements are a non-recurring expenditure that can be targeted to strategically important long- term assets that provide benefits over many years. However, it was also noted care should be taken to assess any new on-going operating costs that may be associated with these projects.

The complete set of working parameters are as follows:

- Allocate one-time ARPA dollars to projects or programs with a defined funding period that do not create an ongoing fiscal obligation for the town.
- Care should be taken to avoid creating new programs or add-ons to existing programs that require an ongoing financial commitment.
- Prioritize shovel-ready infrastructure projects that can be completed within the defined funding period.
- Pursue projects or programs that solve an ongoing problem and make a long-term and sustainable difference in the community.

When ARPA funding was announced in July of 2021, the Board of Selectmen met formally and informally with a working group comprised of Town employees, town officials and first responders to discuss the goals of ARPA and the needs of the town. Among this group included the Health Director (public health response); Economic Development Commission Chair (negative economic impacts and aid to small business); The Town’s Recreation Committee (review outdoor parks and walking paths used frequently during the public health emergency); The Town Social Services Director (aid to families); as well as the Emergency Management Director, Fire Company Trustees and the Fire Chief (all relating to public safety). These groups were chosen in order to advise the Board of Selectman on town needs in their respective areas consistent with the provisions of ARPA. The working fund categories developed from these meetings are as follows:

- Community and Economic Development (Addresses public health emergency and supports long term growth opportunities both allowed under ARPA)
- Public Park Enhancements (Addresses outdoor areas and activities needed in a public health emergency)
- Public Safety Projects (Supports public health expenditures allowed under ARPA)
- Broadband-Information Technology Upgrades (Investment in broadband infrastructure encouraged under ARPA)
- Infrastructure-Community Center/Public Safety Complex (Maintaining Vital Public Services needed in a public health emergency)

The result of these and other meetings are that we now have a preliminary list of recommended projects. Please note, many of these projects are still evolving. As such, some of the costs below are based on preliminary quotes of the project listed; and some of the costs are based solely on estimates of similar projects undertaken by the Town.

These projects and their expected costs are as follows:

PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS

The amount denoted with (***) below denotes an estimated cost of the project.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Youth and Family services portion of this specific category provides additional funding for mental health services for youth/students and families.

DMYFS

\$ 20,000

(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)

In the town of Durham, our Youth and Family Services are managed by a local not-for-profit organization formally known as the Durham/Middlefield Youth and Family Services (DMYFS). Durham's cost for this operation is currently \$92,000 per year. A majority of this cost was being picked up by various grants, reducing the cost to the town by roughly \$60,000 per year. In that the grant period has expired, DMYFS is asking the towns of Durham and Middlefield to fill the gap of these lost grants until replacement funds can be found. The town of Middlefield has already decided to utilize ARPA funds to fill their gap. The town of Durham is now considering this same approach for FY 2023-2024.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development Category focuses funds to facilitate the town of Durham's community economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to respond to future public health and climate challenges. These proposed funds fall into two distinct categories.

Business Outreach/Marketing
(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)

\$ 30,000

The first category involves the request by the Durham Economic Development Commission to fund a marketing and mapping project in order to help bring in more businesses and further enhance the town's grand list.

Small Business Acceleration Grants

\$ 50,000

The second economic development category responds directly to the small businesses that the Economic Development Commission is looking to both draw into our community or help grow. This grant is designed to bolster local small businesses and entrepreneurs by providing financial assistance to overcome challenges, stimulate growth, and create new employment opportunities within the community. Eligible small businesses based in Durham can apply for funding to support various initiatives, such as infrastructure improvements, technology upgrades, workforce expansion, and marketing endeavors. By allocating ARPA funds to help small businesses thrive, the Town of Durham aims to foster economic resilience, stimulate local job growth, and enhance the overall quality of life for its residents. A further overview and proposed application language is included in Addendum A of this document.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOTAL:

\$100,000

PUBLIC PARK/CONNECTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS

The Park Enhancement Category focuses funds on planning and capital improvements that enhance opportunities for the town's community to access upgraded facilities and the new community center. This category combines needed upgrades to playground equipment for ADA compliance, as well as connectivity improvements between Main Street and the Community center, and a second sidewalk between Allyn Brook Park and the community center.

ALLYN BROOK PARK:

New playground equipment.
(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)

\$200,000

The playground equipment at Allyn Brook is at the end of its useful life and in need of replacement. There have been many changes to both ADA and public safety regulations since the equipment was first installed over 20 years ago. Furthermore, the equipment is showing signs of wear, and since the warrantee has expired, will need to be repaired directly by the town going forward. This new project will enhance the park and playground area for children and turn the park into a destination for families. A playground will be installed with ADA compatible surfaces, the benches will be upgraded, and the sidewalks will be expanded in the other two projects detailed further in this section. (For an example of the type of playground equipment the town is considering please see Addendum B).

Connectivity sidewalk between Allyn Brook Park and Korn.

\$ 75,000 ***

With the purchase of the adjacent community center, the BOS are proposing to provide funding to construct a walkway at the park on Picket Lane to the Community Center in order to restore and expand outdoor community gathering and prevent social isolation with a safe outdoor walkway.

Extend sidewalk from Main Street to Community Center. **\$500,000 *****
(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)

In order to improve safety on this busy road, the BOS is proposing a safer pedestrian loop from Main Street down Picket and around to the Community Center. (For further details of the sidewalk projects, please see Addendum C).

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) **\$60,000**
(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)

This project is proposed to fund RRFBs at four (4) crosswalks on Main Street. RRFBs are placed on both sides of a crosswalk below the pedestrian crossing sign and above the diagonal downward arrow plaque pointing at the crosswalk. Studies suggest the RRFB are particularly effective at multilane crossings with speed limits less than 40 miles per hour, as exists on Main Street. Research suggests RRFBs can result in motorist yielding rates as high as 98 percent at marked crosswalks with RRFBs.

PUBLIC PARK/ CONNECTIVITY TOTAL **\$ 775,000**

PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS

FIREHOUSE BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS:

In addition to fighting fires, the Fire Department also responds to community medical emergencies and supports the Health Department's efforts in managing Durham's COVID-19 response. The added burden of the pandemic made the infrastructure shortfalls at the firehouse obvious and repair necessary. ARPA expressly allows provisions for funding police, fire, and other public safety services.

Firehouse Plumbing issues **\$200,000**
(Allocated 9/12/22 at Special Town Meeting)

Firehouse Plumbing issues – (new) to cover shortfall of prior allocation **\$100,000**
(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)

The first \$200,000 allocation was approved at a Special Town Meeting on September 12th, 2022. The cost of the project has grown due to the increasing cost of materials since the pandemic. This shortfall is now estimated to be close to \$100,000 shown above.

Firehouse Improvements 41 Main (\$25,000 for 3 years) **\$ 75,000**
(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)

The fire trustees had proposed in their capital budget the needed replacement of the original deteriorating doors and windows, as well as relocating domestic drinking water pipes that are located in the attic of the structure, which freeze routinely.

Firehouse Improvements 37, 51 Main (paint and repairs only) **\$ 50,000 *****
(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)

These two houses are also in deteriorating condition, as they have been left untouched for the past 30 years. This proposal just addresses the "public view and public way" aspects of the repairs per the town's existing blight ordinance. The future use (or sale) of these properties will be determined in the immediate future.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

Durham’s Fire Department and EMS emergency response to COVID-19 produced an overwhelming amount of wear and tear on much of its medical and safety equipment. Certain types of equipment have been aged at an accelerated rate due to the amount of decontamination required after treating and transporting COVID-19 patients. The pandemic created an increase in critical patient transports and the application of disinfectant solutions required after each has depreciated the equipment. The deterioration has significantly reduced the service life of the equipment, hastening the need for replacement.

Turnout gear for firefighters **\$110,000**
(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)

This project will fund 20 sets of turn-out gear for the Fire Department and their EMS personnel including Bunker Coats, Bunker Pants, Helmets, Boots, Hoods, and Gloves (Please see Addendum D for further detail).

PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL **\$595,000**

BROADBAND-INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

COMMUNICATIONS/ IT SUPPORT/ENHANCEMENTS:

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used to make necessary investments in broadband infrastructure, which has been shown to be critical for work, education, healthcare, and civic participation during the public health emergency. The final rule broadens the set of eligible broadband infrastructure investments that recipients may undertake.

Communications shortfall EOC Console (\$61,000 in reserve) **\$100,000**
(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)

The Emergency Management Director has made recommendations on improvements to Communications infrastructure. The recommendation includes upgrades to the broadband services at the Korn facility as well as replacing the end-of-life dispatch console.

The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) responds to the community’s fire, medical, and natural disaster emergencies and supports the Health Department’s efforts in managing Durham’s COVID-19 response. The EOC needs improved technology to better the communication between dispatch and the response personnel, which in turn improves the service that the first responders can provide to the community. This project will update the communications console tied to Valley Shore system as well as the system in all of Durham’s Fire Department, Public Works, and ambulance vehicles.

IT Upgrades/Korn Meraki Firewall, 6 Ruckus wireless access points, Meraki switch, 3 Zoom rooms) **\$ 60,000**
(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)

Along with broadband upgrades, ARPA expressly allows provisions for funding police, fire, and other public safety services. The relocation of emergency operations to the Community Center, an opportunity to upgrade the communication speed of the center’s broadband needs, as well as providing

higher broadband speeds to the general public visiting the community center. These upgrades will also allow for uninterrupted streaming of up to three separate “Zoom Rooms”, allowing the public to participate in town meetings remotely.

BROADBAND-INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TOTAL **\$160,000**

INFRASTRUCTURE:

COMMUNITY CENTER/PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX:

ARPA provides for funding government services, including infrastructure. These proposed projects will ensure security of both the Community Center as well as the Public Safety Wing, allowing for controlled door access. It will replace building data cabling and fiber where needed and provide wireless access where possible. Proximity card reads will be installed at all external doors at the community center, which will allow for remote or after-hours access to be granted to those authorized to be in the building. There will also be an update to the uninterruptible power supplies and generators to ensure continuity of operations to aid in disaster & emergency preparedness/readiness. The final component of this category will be for the installation of a solar array, the placement of which will be determined.

Sprinkler expansion into various S-1 and B areas <i>(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)</i>	\$ 50,000
Install access control for many doorways <i>(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)</i>	\$ 20,000
Install new emergency generator and necessary electrical connections.	\$ 50,000 ***
ADA Building & Accessibility Upgrades <i>(Allocated 5/8/23 at ATBM)</i>	\$ 11,500
Solar Initiative/Community Center	<u>\$300,000</u> ***
CATEGORY TOTAL	\$431,500

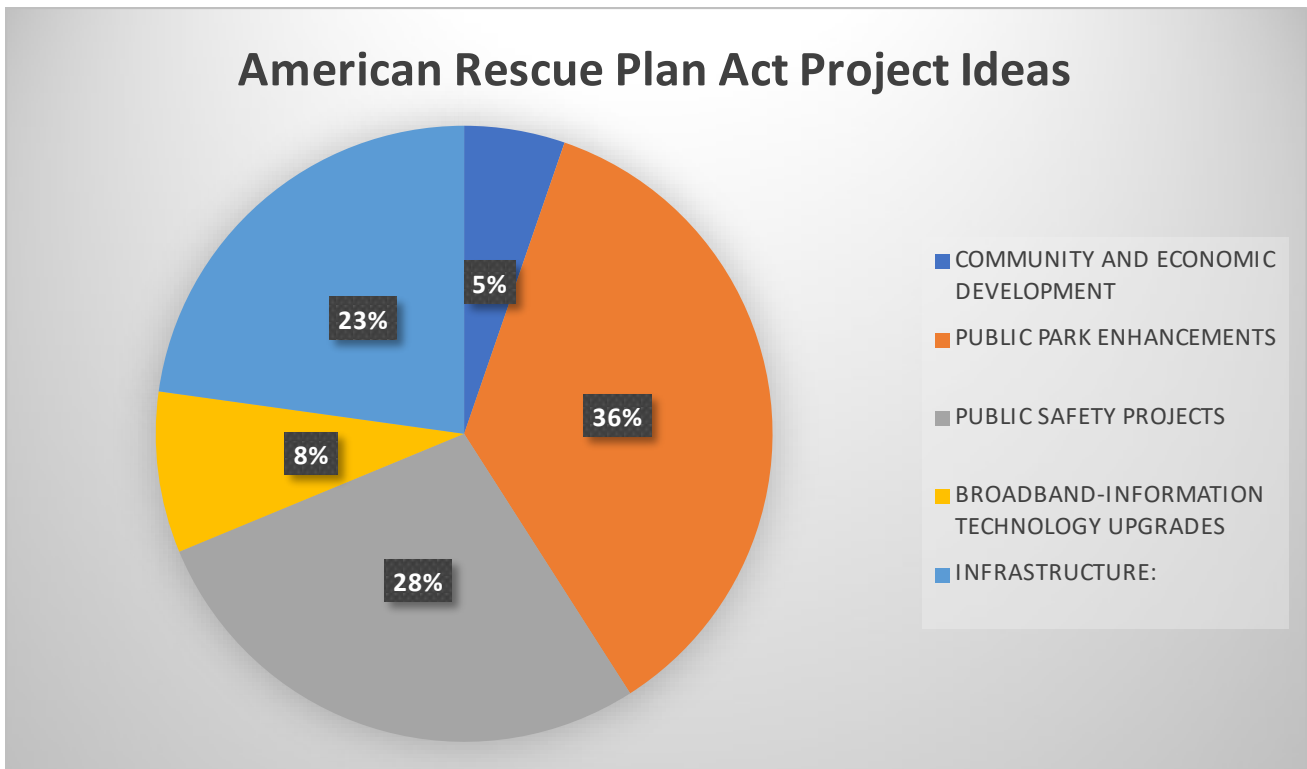
NON-FEDERAL MATCH OR COST-SHARE REQUIREMENTS

SLFRF funds beyond those that are available under the revenue loss use category may not be used to meet the non-federal match or cost-share requirements of other federal programs, other than as specifically provided for by statute. In that regard, SLFRF cannot be used to meet the 20% match required for the \$3,400,000 federal grant to expand the town’s water supply into areas B-C-D. As such, this project has been left off the ARPA proposed spending list.

American Rescue Plan Act Project Ideas

<u>COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMT</u>	\$100,000
<u>PUBLIC PARK ENHANCEMENTS</u>	\$775,000
<u>PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS</u>	\$595,000
<u>BROADBAND-INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES</u>	\$160,000
<u>INFRASTRUCTURE:</u>	<u>\$431,500</u>

Total listed above: \$2,051,500
Funds available: \$2,120,485
Allocated to date: \$1,586,500



Addendum A:

Request for Applications (RFA) - Durham Small Business Acceleration Grant

I. Overview: The Town of Durham, Connecticut, invites applications for the Small Business Acceleration Grant, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The objective of this grant program is to support local small businesses and entrepreneurs in overcoming challenges, promoting growth, and generating new employment opportunities within the community. The Town of Durham aims to strengthen economic resilience, stimulate local job growth, and enhance the overall quality of life for its residents.

II. Eligibility Criteria To be eligible for the grant, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a registered small business located within the Town of Durham, Connecticut.
2. Demonstrate a clear need for financial assistance to support business growth, job creation, or community impact.
3. Provide a detailed plan outlining how the funds will be utilized for projects such as infrastructure improvements, technology upgrades, workforce expansion, or marketing initiatives.

III. Application Requirements Applicants must submit the following materials in their application package:

1. Completed application form (available on the Town of Durham website).
2. Brief description of the business, including its history, mission, and impact on the local community.
3. A detailed project proposal outlining the objectives, timeline, budget, and anticipated outcomes of the proposed initiative.
4. Financial statements or documentation demonstrating the need for funding and the capacity to manage funds responsibly.
5. Proof of business registration and compliance with local regulations.

IV. Application Deadline All applications must be submitted electronically by [INSERT DATE] at 11:59 PM Eastern Time. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

V. Review Process and Selection Criteria Applications will be reviewed by a committee comprising local business leaders, economic development experts, and Town of Durham representatives. The following criteria will be used to evaluate applications:

1. Demonstrated need for financial assistance.
2. Potential for business growth, job creation, and community impact.
3. Feasibility, clarity, and comprehensiveness of the project proposal.
4. Financial stability and capacity to manage funds responsibly.

VI. Award Information Successful applicants will receive grant funding ranging from [INSERT MINIMUM AMOUNT] to [INSERT MAXIMUM AMOUNT], depending on the proposed project's

scope and requirements. Grant recipients will be required to submit periodic progress reports and a final report outlining the project's outcomes and impact on the local community.

VII. Contact Information For questions or additional information about the Small Business Acceleration Grant, please contact [INSERT CONTACT NAME] at [INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS] or [INSERT PHONE NUMBER].

VIII. Submission Instructions Please submit your completed application package electronically to [INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS] by the application deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Addendum B:

Below is an artist rendition of the type of ADA surfaces and the type of replacement equipment the town is considering for Allyn Brook Park



Addendum C:

Below represents two sidewalk concepts. The sidewalk in orange would connect Allyn Brook Park with the new Community Center; while the sidewalk in yellow connects Main Street with the new Community Center.



Addendum D:

Below are the actual costs of new turn-out/safety gear for the Volunteer Fire Company

Durham Volunteer Fire Company

Turn Out Gear Quote

Supplier	Common Cents					
P/N	Description		Qty	Pricing	Total	Lead Time
LTO 62BG	Morning Pride Bunker Coat		20	\$ 2,287.57	\$ 45,751.40	6 weeks
LTO 62BG	Morning Pride Bunker Pant		20	\$ 1,664.75	\$ 33,295.00	6 weeks
CAICTRD71Ma1221-XXX	Cairns 1044 Helmet		20	\$ 399.00	\$ 7,980.00	4 weeks
507101-XX	Fire Hero Leather Boots		20	\$ 483.65	\$ 9,673.00	4 weeks
Halo-Hood	Majestic Hood		20	\$ 99.00	\$ 1,980.00	Stock
MFA72-76-XX	Structural Fire Gloves		20	\$ 119.70	\$ 2,394.00	Stock
					\$ 101,073.40	

Deputy Chief Hall
23-Mar-23

Note - We are currently purchasing Globe Turn Out gear from Fire Matic.
Lead Times for Globe is 26 weeks