

The following policy was approved at the January 18, 2022, Board of Commissioner’s meeting.

Cumberland County

Section I – Board Approved Policies

Subsection 10: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Policy No. 10-2.10: Aid to Nonprofit Organizations Serving Residents Affected by COVID-19 Impacts

1.0 PURPOSE

Cumberland County has received an allocation of funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA/CSLFRF). The Board of Commissioners approved allocating ARPA funding to nonprofit organizations that conduct programs and projects that help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19 and its negative impacts and to aid in a strong and equitable recovery.

2.0 SCOPE

The County will seek proposals from nonprofit organizations for projects or programs to help the Cumberland County community respond to and recover from COVID-19. Proposals should align with the priorities of ARPA funding and further the County Board of Commissioners’ goals. Collaborative proposals are welcome and collaborating nonprofit organizations should select a lead entity for application submission and contracting purposes.

Funded projects must:

- Meet the eligible use of funds for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, per [U.S. Treasury guidance](#)
- Meet the eligible use of funds per the [Federal Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance](#).
- Meet a public purpose and fall within County authority to fund per NC General Statutes, to be affirmed and reviewed by the Cumberland County legal department prior to execution of a contract or funding agreement.
- Identify and directly address a need or negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Provide performance reporting regarding use of funds and project impact
- Comply with all provisions of the funding contract, including expenditure tracking and federal subrecipient monitoring include costs incurred no earlier than March 3, 2021
- All funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024
- Complete all work and fully expend all funds by December 31, 2026

3.0 STATEMENT OF THE POLICY

Cumberland County will solicit funding requests through a competitive Request for Proposal process. Proposals will be assessed by members of the Cumberland County ARPA Staff Committee using a scoring tool. Proposals need to clearly demonstrate eligibility under ARPA guidance and must include a budget utilizing the Budget Template for ARPA Projects form.

Programs must be reasonably connected to a legitimate aim of government and the ultimate gain must be in the public's interest, not that of the private entity. Recommendations will be presented to the commissioners' ARP Committee. The ARP Committee funding recommendations will go to the full Board of Commissioners for approval. Once grants are awarded, contracts will be established in compliance with the Fiscal Recovery Compliance and Reporting Guidance and general federal subrecipient requirements.

The ARPA Staff Committee will review, analyze, and rank all submittals based on their response to the information requested. The selection process will include the following criteria in the evaluation of proposals.

- Amount of Funds Requested
- Recovery Fund Eligible Category
- Project Plan
- Statement of Need
- Link to COVID-19
- Population Served
- Results
- Evaluation
- Equity Impact
- Project Partners
- Organizational Capacity
- Budget
- Special Considerations
- Federal, State or Local Assistance Related to COVID-19 previously applied for and/or received

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION

The Assistance to Nonprofit Organization program will be implemented internally by the County. A Cumberland County ARPA Staff Committee will vet the requests for proposals using a scoring instrument.

Recommendations for funding will be presented to the ARP Committee with final approval coming from the Board of Commissioners. A contractual relationship will be established between the County and the nonprofit to ensure compliance with county, state and federal guidelines.

Implementation and enforcement of this policy shall be the responsibility of County Administration, Finance, and Legal.