



## COVID-19 Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2 – COVID-19 Recovery Priority Recommendations

As part of its commitment to public engagement, the City of Albany and the COVID Recovery Task Force are seeking input on the City’s use of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds. Signed into law by President Biden in March 2021, the ARP has provided funding to states, local governments, and other entities to help replace lost revenues, cover COVID-related expenses, and reverse the economic impacts of this pandemic. The City of Albany was allocated approximately \$80.7 million as part of [President Biden’s American Rescue Plan](#).

On March 12, 2021, Mayor Sheehan announced the creation of a COVID Recovery Task Force to ensure the City of Albany equitably and strategically maximizes the resources available to our residents, businesses, and community organizations thanks to the American Rescue Plan to restart Albany and build back better. For more information on the Task Force, visit: <https://www.albanyny.gov/1924/COVID-Recovery-Taskforce>.

The 41 experts who make up the Task Force represent a wide cross-section of community, educational, healthcare and commercial sectors, and will draw from their experience to provide information on trends and impacts in their industries, while representing the populations they serve. As the Task Force’s work progresses, it is important for the City to obtain input from the public on local needs and priorities to ensure local needs are being well-represented. The City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force will be working with their constituents directly and will conduct two public surveys to meet these needs.

To address the challenges identified in each of these Impact Areas during the Needs Assessment, diverse project and program solutions will be required. (Please see a more detailed description of the project and program areas [HERE](#).) While the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force will not be allocating funding or awarding projects/programs, the final report will help future decision makers assess project and program proposals as well as to advocate for additional resources beyond the American Recovery Plan.

This final survey focuses on prioritizing recommendations – general overall priorities, level of urgency and level of assistance needed. Please take a few minutes to complete the questions below by Tuesday, July 20. The survey is 17 questions estimated at 15 minutes to complete!

Thank you!

### 1) Which of the following describes you? (Select all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Albany Resident          | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Caregiver                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Region Resident          | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Provider                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Employee                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Artist                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Business Owner             | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Education Administrator    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit/Agency Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Commercial Property Owner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Student                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (identify): _____            |

**2) Which sector do you work in or represent?** (Select all that apply)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & Entertainment    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banking & Finance       | <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurants                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care              | <input type="checkbox"/> Retailers & Other Small Businesses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development    | <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce Development              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education               | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Hospitality              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government              | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial & Light Manufacturing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare              | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social & Human Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate & Commercial             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (identify): _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Labor & Construction    |   |

**3) The American Rescue Plan allows for funding to address the following COVID-19 recovery needs. Rank these Impact Areas in order of priority for recovery assistance.** (Where 1 is most important and 5 is least important)

<i>Impact Area</i>	<i>Priority Order</i>
Supporting the Public Health Response	
Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services	
Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization	
Small Business Support	
Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery	

**4) Please describe why you ranked the Impact Areas in the selected order above.** (optional)

<i>(250 word max)</i>

**5) Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Supporting the Public Health Response” project and program areas:** (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

<i>Programs and Projects that...</i>	<i>High Need</i>	<i>Moderate Need</i>	<i>Low Need</i>
Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals			

Support mental and emotional health			
Retain, develop, and attract a qualified and diverse workforce			
Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education			
Mitigate public health risk for essential workers			

**6) Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services” project and program areas:** (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

<i>Programs and Projects that...</i>	<i>High Need</i>	<i>Moderate Need</i>	<i>Low Need</i>
Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband access throughout the City of Albany			
Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources			
Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic			
Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce and emerging/expanding industries and job opportunities			
Create efficiency for or sustainability of existing programs producing impactful results			
Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options			

**7) Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization” project and program areas:** (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

<i>Programs and Projects that...</i>	<i>High Need</i>	<i>Moderate Need</i>	<i>Low Need</i>
Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies			
Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods			
Encourage use of and spending at local businesses			
Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce			
Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources			
Improve public safety			
Support quality, affordable and diverse housing opportunities			
Support local real estate development that advances community revitalization goals			
Enhance alternative transportation use and increase accessibility and equity in transportation options			

**8) Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Small Business Support” project and program areas:** (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

<i>Programs and Projects that...</i>	<i>High Need</i>	<i>Moderate Need</i>	<i>Low Need</i>
Provide flexible financial assistance, technical assistance, and access to information for a diverse array of small business needs			
Support entrepreneurship opportunities and start-up businesses, particularly for individuals unemployed due to the pandemic			
Focus on financial support for businesses with ongoing reopening challenges			
Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce			
Stabilize inventory costs resulting from supply chain disruption/market gaps			
Encourage use of and spending at local businesses			
Develop and embrace existing supportive and flexible legislation, regulations and code (i.e. federal façade program, to-go alcohol)			
Improve the quality of place in Albany’s commercial districts, including gateways and all connecting streets			

**9) Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery” project and program areas:** (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

<i>Programs and Projects that...</i>	<i>High Need</i>	<i>Moderate Need</i>	<i>Low Need</i>
Provide flexible financial assistance and technical support for hospitality, arts & cultural entities			
Increase awareness of and equitable access to existing hospitality, arts & cultural destinations for residents of all ages			
Focus on marketing and financial support for businesses and organizations with ongoing reopening challenges			
Enhance the connectivity and navigability from destination-to-destination and promote public safety			

**10) Please assist us by identifying specific projects and programs that can have significant positive impacts in the areas above:**

<i>Please identify local or other examples that should be used as best practices or models for new initiatives (250 word max)</i>

**11) Select which of the following project and program areas have the most immediate urgency** (Please limit your selection to 10 program/project choices. Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE.](#))

- Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals
- Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education
- Mitigate public health risk for essential workers
- Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband access throughout the City of Albany
- Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources
- Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic
- Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce and emerging/expanding industries and job opportunities
- Create efficiency for or sustainability of existing programs producing impactful results
- Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options
- Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies
- Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods
- Encourage use of and spending at local businesses
- Improve public safety
- Support quality, affordable and diverse housing opportunities
- Support local real estate development that advances community revitalization goals
- Enhance alternative transportation use and increase accessibility and equity in transportation options
- Provide flexible financial assistance, technical assistance, and access to information for a diverse array of small business needs
- Support entrepreneurship opportunities and start-up businesses, particularly for individuals unemployed due to the pandemic
- Stabilize inventory costs resulting from supply chain disruption/market gaps
- Develop and embrace existing supportive and flexible legislation, regulations and code (i.e. federal façade program, to-go alcohol)
- Improve the quality of place in Albany’s commercial districts, including gateways and all connecting streets
- Provide flexible financial assistance and technical support for hospitality, arts & cultural entities
- Increase awareness of and equitable access to existing hospitality, arts & cultural destinations for residents of all ages
- Focus on marketing and financial support for businesses and organizations with ongoing reopening challenges
- Enhance the connectivity and navigability from destination-to-destination and promote public safety

**12) What additional thoughts do you have regarding COVID-19 recovery recommendations for the City of Albany?**

<i>Please identify additional thoughts below (250 word max)</i>

**13) What is your current employment status?**

- Employed for wages
- Self-employed
- Out of work and looking for work
- Out of work, but not currently looking for work
- A stay-at-home parent/caregiver
- A student
- Military
- Retired
- Unable to work
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**14) What gender do you identify as?**

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to answer
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**15) What is your ethnicity?**

- White
- Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American
- Native American or American Indian
- Asian / Pacific Islander
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**16) What is your age?**

- Under 18
- 18-34
- 35-54
- 55-74
- 75 and Over
- Prefer not to answer

**17) What is your zip code?**