

CITY OF ALBANY COVID-19 RECOVERY TASK FORCE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW OF THE INITIATIVE

Timeline

- Announced March 12, 2021
- Convened April 23, 2021
- Draft Report Complete July 31, 2021
- Report Released August 2021

Task Force

- Diverse, 41-member group of public, private, nonprofit and institutional community leaders
- Affiliated with 108+ local organizations representing a cross-section of the Albany community
- 12+ sectors represented
- 5 Working Groups aligned with ARP impact areas
- Appointed by Mayor Sheehan

Activities

- 17 Task Force and Working Group meetings
- 2 public surveys
- 1,000+ survey respondents
- 60+ direct meetings with community members/ stakeholder groups

Results

- 5 impact-area needs assessments
- 66 top challenges/inequities
- 16 model programs
- 32 impact area strategic recommendations
- 245 programmatic recommendations
- 8 guiding principles
- 4 implementation principles
- Final report (in progress)

TASK FORCE'S CHARGE

- Obtain a shared understanding of how the American Rescue Plan can help the City of Albany
- Identify the needs of the City of Albany residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations that cannot be covered by other funding sources
- Equitably and strategically maximize resources available to our residents, businesses, and community organizations to restart Albany and build back better
- Engage every sector of the City of Albany to ensure we get resources where they are needed to restart Albany, re-open businesses, prevent evictions, and strengthen our not-for-profit organizations

ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR ARP

- \$80.7 million total funding to City of Albany
- Albany County, The City of Albany School District and the Capital District Transportation Authority have received an additional \$94.5 million
- **Must be used to:**
 - Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control;
 - Replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs;
 - Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; and,
 - Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic on certain populations.
- Must be spent between 2020 and 2024
- To be monitored for compliance through 2026

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK



COVID-19 Impact

addressing community needs arising from or exacerbated by the pandemic.



Guiding Principles

addressing universal, foundational priorities to ensure resources are maximized



Strategic Impact

addressing programmatic recommendations outlined as priorities by the community

TOUCHSTONE PRINCIPLES

Guiding Principles

- * Equity
- * Impact
- * Collaboration
- * Sustainability
- Leverage
- Innovation
- Engagement
- Scale

Implementation Principles

- Capacity
- Engagement
- Flexibility
- Compliance

Recommendations Summary

	Recommendation	Top Priority	Urgent Need	Need Level	Direct C-19 Response*	Cross-sector
Public Health	Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals	*	!	+++	C	
	Support mental and emotional health	*	!	++	C	X
	Retain, develop, and attract a qualified and diverse workforce	*	!	++	C	X
	Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education		!	+		
	Mitigate public health risk for essential workers			+	C	
Ed./W/force/Hum Svc	Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband access throughout the City of Albany	*	!	+++	C	
	Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources			++		X
	Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic		!	++	C	X
	Retain/develop/attract a qualified and diverse workforce for emerging/expanding industries and job opportunities	*	!	++	C	X
	Create efficiency for or sustainability of existing programs producing impactful results	*	!	+++		
	Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options	*	!	++	C	X
Housing/Transp/Comm. Revitaliz	Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies		!	++	C	X
	Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods	*	!	+++	C	X
	Encourage use of and spending at local businesses		!	+		
	Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce		!		C	X
	Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources			+		X
	Improve public safety		!	+		
	Support quality, affordable and diverse housing opportunities	*	!	+++	C	
	Support local real estate development that advances community revitalization goals	*		+++	C	X
Small Business	Enhance alternative transportation use and increase accessibility and equity in transportation options	*	!	++	C	
	Provide flexible fin. assistance/tech. assistance/access to information for a diverse array of small business needs	*	!	+++	C	X
	Support entrepreneurship opportunities/start-up businesses, particularly for individuals unempl. due to pandemic			++	C	
	Focus on financial support for businesses with ongoing reopening challenges			+	C	
	Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce		!	++	C	X
	Stabilize inventory costs resulting from supply chain disruption/market gaps			++	C	
	Encourage use of and spending at local businesses			+		
Arts/Hosp...	Develop/embrace existing supportive/flexible legislation, regulations and code	*		++		
	Improve the quality of place in Albany's commercial districts, including gateways and all connecting streets	*	!	+++		X
	Provide flexible financial assistance and technical support for hospitality, arts & cultural entities	*	!	+++	C	
	Increase awareness of/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			+	C	X
	Enhance the connectivity and navigability from destination-to-destination and promote public safety	*	!	++		

* Indicates that the recommendation was specifically listed among program examples in ARP fact sheets and other guidance. Lack of designation in this column does not mean that a recommendation is not responsive to COVID-19 impacts

“COVID was a once-in-a-century pandemic. We should spend the money on once-in-a-century investments.”

- Public Survey Respondent
July 2021

SUGGESTED TIMELINE

TASK FORCE REPORT
results of needs assessments and priority recommendations released from 43-member Task Force

ARP FUNDS BUDGETED
program categories and funding amounts for 2022 identified in City Budget and discussed/approved by Common Council

ROUND 1 PROGRAMS FUNDED
agencies with 2022 budget allocations will release program guidelines and solicit proposals for funding, making awards to programs/projects addressing needs/priorities outlined in Report

ADDITIONAL FUNDING ROUNDS COMPLETE
agencies release final programs and final solicitations for funding

ARP FUNDS SPENT 50%
all ARP program funds must be spent down and all funded projects/programs must be complete or self-sustaining

MONITORING COMPLETE
final program report due to Federal government



PROGRESS REPORTS DUE
progress reports, including proof of payments made and results achieved, due quarterly and annually to Federal government, and bi-annual progress reports due to the Task Force