Equity in Local Budgets:
How are California’s Local Governments Implementing the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funds?

Webinar & Discussion
Wednesday June 29, 2022 10:30am-12pm PT
Hello and welcome!
Before we start...

- **Get comfy:** grab some water or snacks
- **Be mindful in the shared virtual space:** e.g. mute your audio when not speaking
- **Let tech work for you:** use the chat box to introduce yourself, & post questions, comments and resources; feel free to stay on or off camera
- **No notepads no worries:** Slides and a recording of the session will be made available after
Your presenters:

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Alexis Castro, MPA (He/him)
Imperial Valley Equity & Justice Coalition
ivequityjustice@gmail.com
Today’s Goals

- Gain a baseline understanding of the American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Program and its impact on California’s disadvantaged communities
- Learn about the successes, gaps and challenges with local governments’ performances in using the funds
- Learn how you can get involved with your county or city’s ARPA process
- Get excited about taking some action steps!!
Today’s Agenda  (10:30am-12:00pm)

- **5min** Welcome and introduction
- **20min** Background: what is ARPA, why do we care, and what’s at stake?
- **20min** Research: how did CPEHN audit and grade 11 California counties? what did we find?
- **20min** Story of a successful local ARPA campaign in Calexico City
- **10min** Tools and resources: how can I get involved?
- **15min** Q&A
What is ARPA? Why do we care? And what’s at stake?

Background
Quick Facts on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021

• The 6th COVID-19 recovery measure U.S. Congress has passed since March 2020

• Signed into law on March 11, 2021 by President Joe Biden

• $1.9 trillion COVID relief package (HR 1319; PL 117-2)

• The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF): sends 350 billion unprecedented, flexible, direct aid to state, local and Tribal governments

https://lao.ca.gov/Government/COVID19
How much money (and time)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Source</th>
<th>ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Signed March 11, 2021)</th>
<th>CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (Signed March 27, 2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funds to California state government</td>
<td>$27 billion</td>
<td>$9.5 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funds to California counties and cities</td>
<td>$16 billion</td>
<td>$5.8 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covered period</td>
<td>March 3, 2021-January 1, 2027</td>
<td>March 1, 2020-December 31, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16 California counties* have each received over $100 million from the SLFRF program
Why do we care about ARPA?
Our vision: ARPA is a public health and racial equity bill

“American Rescue Plan is a down payment on an equitable America”

Richard Besser, President/CEO, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

“...Comprehensive legislation that provides a more robust federal response to the continuing challenges of an under resourced public health system, long-standing health disparities and systemic racism that have only exacerbated within the past year”

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, E.D, American Public Health Association
What is the money for?

• Guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury on the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)
  • Final Rule, effective Apr 1, 2022
  • Interim Final Rule, effective until Apr 1, 2022
  • Compliance and Reporting Guidance

• Both Final and Interim Final Rules: Providing “assistance to individuals and communities in greatest need, particularly communities that have been historically disadvantaged or underserved and have experienced disproportionate impacts of the COVID–19 crisis.”

• Interim Final Rule: Urging governments to “engage their constituents and communities in developing plans”...and “reflect the importance of public input, transparency, and accountability”...
What is the money for?

**Eligible (or, encouraged) uses according to the Final Rule**

1. Responding to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic;
2. Providing premium pay to essential workers;
3. Providing government services to the extent of revenue loss due to the pandemic; and
4. Making necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure

**ONLY non-eligible/illega** use: Deposit into any pension fund
What are the opportunities?

• Bolstering ongoing pandemic response and meeting the urgent health, social, economic needs of underserved communities

• Strengthening governmental and non-governmental public health and social services systems (e.g. workforce, data collection, funding CBOs)

• Investing in long-term, structural reforms towards equity including piloting innovations (e.g. addressing systemic racism, funding public safety alternative solutions)

• Rethinking local budget making, improving public accountability & co-creating budget and strategic priorities with directly impacted communities
What’s at stake?

“Local health disparities stem from legacies of white supremacy and racial capitalism entrenched in governmental policies and resource allocation.” – CPEHN’s People Power for Public Health project

Evidence shows that significant federal COVID-19 relief dollars have been funneled to the criminal-legal system on local levels (through “hero pay”, overtime, new equipment/vehicles, specialized COVID police units, etc)

The prison industrial complex (PIC) is a term to describe the overlapping interests of government and industry that use surveillance, policing, and imprisonment as solutions to economic, social and political problems.
A timeline: balancing urgency with deliberation

- ARPA signed into law: March 2021
- 1st payment: May 2021
- 2nd payment: May 2022
- Deadline to obligate the funds: December 2024
- Deadline to spend the funds: December 2026
How did CPEHN audit and grade 11 California counties? What did we find?

CPEHN’s Research Project
CPEHN’s ARPA Scorecards for Counties

• Our research goals are to investigate and reveal counties’ performance in equitably implementing these recovery funds and to lift up best practices/efforts as well as gaps and limitations across 11 counties

• For community organizations: to encourage and support your local advocacy with your county

• For county officials: to strengthen accountability and to sparkle curiosity and growth
CPEHN’s ARPA Scorecards for Counties: METHODS

Metric

- Designing a racial equity scoring system with 51 questions

County Analyses

- Researching public reports, meetings, websites, etc
- Scoring the county

Reviews

- Interviewing a local CBO
- Adjusting based on county responses

Comparative Analyses

- Grading each county on a curve
- Additional analyses across all counties
CPEHN’s ARPA Scorecards for Counties: METHODS

- Examining ARPA SLFRF implementation “in a vacuum” - a *reflection* of the county’s ongoing COVID-19 recovery efforts
- Turning qualitative data into quantifiable points and *comparable* grades; weighting reflects CPEHN’s values
- Investigation period: March 2021 – February 2022
- Our assessment is as good as how well the county has documented and shared information publicly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equity Metric Areas</th>
<th>51 Questions &amp; 100 Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uses of Funds</td>
<td>22 questions, 40 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Racial Equity</td>
<td>12 questions, 36 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
<td>7 questions, 14 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transparency, Accessibility, Accountability</td>
<td>10 questions, 10 points</td>
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</tbody>
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FRESNO COUNTY

HIGHLIGHTS: Besides conducting some community surveys in 2021, Fresno County has still not allocated any SLFRF monies towards specific projects as of early 2022. The county has failed to acknowledge or address racial inequities in its SLFRF plans. The county did set up a comprehensive, easy-to-navigate ARPA website to host relevant information for the public to view.

Total ARPA SLFRF allocated: $194,063,657
First tranche received in 2021: $97,031,828.5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>BEST EFFORTS</th>
<th>GAPS AND LIMITATIONS</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of Funds</td>
<td>As of February 2022, Fresno County has just begun to propose a general funding framework for the total SLFRF allocation, including 58% of funds proposed for “Public Health and Economic Impacts.” The county earmarked some funds to support key local health infrastructure, including community clinics and its public health department. Fresno county set aside $37 million SLFRF for “sub-recipients” and opened an online portal in early 2022 to receive applications from community and private entities. Despite urgent health and social needs in the community, Fresno County has still not allocated any ARPA SLFRF monies towards specific projects as of early 2022. The county’s proposed premium pay program was only available for county employees, which included sheriff, probation and jails. There was no additional support for low-income essential workers including the county’s agricultural worker population.</td>
<td>Fresno County conducted a community survey in English, Spanish and Hmong as well as some webinars to announce sub-recipient funding for private entities and community organizations. Fresno county’s internal SLFRF decisions through an “ad-hoc committee” failed to include directly impacted communities. County outreach efforts focused on informing the community, rather than proactive education or co-creating funding priorities. The community outreach survey only asked basic questions about funding priorities.</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting Racial Equity</td>
<td>The county’s sub-recipient selection policy for community-based organizations proposing ARPA-funded projects mentioned prioritizing projects designed with “equity” in mind. Fresno County’s compliance reports as well as stated “Board Priorities” and “Guiding Principles” for the use of SLFRF all failed to mention or address racial equity. There have been no explicit considerations of racial equity in its funding allocation criteria or outcomes evaluation.</td>
<td>Fresno County has set up a dedicated public-facing ARPA page to house relevant spending information. The website has listed comprehensive information, including reference documents from the Treasury, a timeline of the county’s actions around SLFRF, and a public listener to disseminate information. Despite having a public ARPA website and a listserve, the county provided limited public information on the ARPA spending decision-making processes and it was unclear whether or not community organizations who served impacted communities were adequately informed.</td>
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RELEVANT LINKS

- County ARPA website: [www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/county-administrative-office/american-rescue-plan](http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/county-administrative-office/american-rescue-plan)
- 2021 Interim Report: [apps.treas.ca.gov/sfcrp/p/t0000000O7DAC/L/1000001em0DB/KHKLl400kOIC日报记者OgqRh5ax0gsbQztq090eX9mwcS0UY](http://apps.treas.ca.gov/sfcrp/p/t0000000O7DAC/L/1000001em0DB/KHKLl400kOIC日报记者OgqRh5ax0gsbQztq090eX9mwcS0UY)
- 2022 January Project and Expenditure Report: N/A

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Scorecard for Fresno County

For more information, visit [www.CPEHN.org/ARPA_scorecards](http://www.CPEHN.org/ARPA_scorecards)

May 2022
## CPEHN’s ARPA Scorecards: FINDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Uses of funds</th>
<th>Promoting racial equity</th>
<th>Community Engagement</th>
<th>Transparency Accessibility Accountability</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego County</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Bernardino County</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacramento County</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fresno County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ventura County</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Joaquin County</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanislaus County</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco City and County</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
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</table>
Findings – *uses of funds*

• **Overall**, how quickly and efficiently counties are setting up projects and spending money vary. Much is still on the table to be negotiated, especially in the Central Valley.
  • **Popular investments**: housing and homelessness services (82%), water & sewage infrastructure improvement (82%), COVID vaccinations (73%), mental & behavioral health services (64%), funding/contracts to CBOs (64%)

• **Gaps & limitations**: Many counties funneled significant funds to sheriff, probation, jails, etc, through personnel premium pay, payroll & overtime support, and data system improvements: San Diego, Orange, Sacramento, Fresno, Kern, Ventura, San Joaquin, San Francisco City and County

• **Best efforts**: Los Angeles County has a comprehensive spending plan, including $47 million towards its "Care First, Jails Last" Initiative
Findings—promoting racial equity

• **Best efforts:**
  • Most counties acknowledged racialized COVID health disparities (73%)
  • A few counties leveraging existing racial equity infrastructure to implement funds
    • **Los Angeles County:** Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative
    • **San Bernardino County:** Equity Vision Element Workgroup
    • **Ventura County:** Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
  • A few counties using data to identify health disparities and guide equity strategies
    • **Los Angeles County:** ARPA Equity Dashboard
    • **Orange County:** Orange County Equity Map

• **Gaps & limitations:**
  • Most counties fell short in securing or expanding capacity to operationalize racial equity (27%) and building in evaluation (27%)
  • **Fresno & Kern Counties:** no mentioning of racial equity at all
  • Counties need technical assistance!
Findings—community engagement

• **Overall**
  • Almost all counties announced this program with the public (91%) and about half hosted educational workshop or conducted surveys to gather input (55%)

• **Best efforts:**
  • **Ventura:** engaging COVID-19 and Census CBO workgroup in ARPA conversations
  • **Orange:** public comment portal on website
  • **Los Angeles:** all departments have to submit an equity and community engagement plan

• **Gaps & limitations:**
  • Sacramento: $1.16 million to contract Deloitte to do a community survey without collecting demographic data
  • Kern, Stanislaus, San Francisco: little evidence of community engagement
Findings—transparency, accountability and accessibility

• Best efforts:
  • All 11 counties posted their 2021 annual recovery plans (required by the Treasury); many referenced the Treasury's guidance language in their compliance reports or websites (73%)
  • Easy-to-navigate public websites that hosts ARPA information: Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura, Orange, Fresno, Sacramento
  • Multi-lingual ARPA outreach: Ventura county

• Gaps & limitations:
  • Few posted 2022 January spending report (27%); only half of the counties have a dedicated contact email/phone for ARPA inquiries (45%); only Orange county had a grievance or public comment process
  • San Francisco City & County: no public accounting of spending information
The American Rescue Plan Act Act
Access the COVID-19 Resources and Services You Need
Visit RecoversVentura.gov

Overview

The American Rescue Plan Act, signed into law on March 2021, provides $350 billion in funding for state and local governments to build an equitable economic recovery from the devastating economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. Department of the Treasury specifically states that the goal of these State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds is "to promote and streamline the provision of assistance to individuals and communities in greatest need, particularly communities that have been historically disadvantaged and have experienced disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic." The Treasury also indicated that these funds are intended for "substantial" grants.

American Rescue Plan Act Overview

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into federal law. Included in this $1.9 trillion stimulus bill was the $350 billion Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) to assist state, local, and tribal governments with pandemic recovery efforts.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), signed into law in March 2021, is a federal stimulus plan that provides $350 billion of funding to states and local governments. It supports a robust economic recovery from the economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The share expected to be recovered by the County of Ventura is approximately $342 million. For more information about the American Rescue Plan Act, please see Treasury guidance here.

Take the community survey by May 1, 2022

The County of Ventura wants to hear from community members about how the County should prioritize using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The County Board of Supervisors will consider community feedback as community projects are funded.

ARPA/CARES Act Reports

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Reports

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) into law. The $1.9 trillion package is intended to support communities in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, address economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong recovery. The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF), under ARPA, allocates $350 billion in funding for eligible state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, replace lost revenue, and strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs; support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; and address public health and other economic challenges. Under ARPA, funds are allocated based on state and local needs. The CSLFRF provides substantial flexibility for each government to meet local needs. All funds must be obligated within the period between March 1, 2021 and December 31, 2024, and expended to cover such obligations by December 31, 2026.

The County of Orange was allocated $616.8 million in CSLFRF. The legislation requires the funds be distributed in two equal portions. The first transfer of $388.4 million was released on May 21, 2021. The second transfer of $388.4 million is anticipated to be released no sooner than 12 months from the first payment, or no earlier than May 21, 2022. For additional information, please refer to the reports included in the section below.

Press Releases

- Feb 15, 2022: County of Orange Shares Public-Private Partnership Details for ARPA
- Feb 14, 2022: Public Workshop on County’s Strategic Fiscal Recovery Plan, Budget Development Processes, and ARPA
- Feb 14, 2022: Public Workshop on County’s Strategic Fiscal Recovery Plan, Budget Development Processes, and ARPA
Story of a successful local ARPA campaign in Calexico City
American Rescue Plan Act

Alexis Castro, MPA
Community Organizer
Social Determinants of Health

Imperial's COVID-19 death rate is more than double the next highest California county.

Source: Worked to death: Latino farmworkers have long been denied basic rights. COVID-19 showed how deadly racism could be.

Source: Salud America! Health Equity Report Card

COVID-19 Deaths

Imperial County has 917 total confirmed COVID-19 deaths as of 05/10/2022. The local mortality rate is 504.33 per 100,000 population, which is MORE than the state average of 229.06.
Our Calexico coalition successfully advocated for 7.2 million in equitable projects for Calexico residents and workers.
Our coalition

- Imperial Valley Equity & Justice Coalition
- C.U.A.C
- LATINO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- CONITE CIVICO DEL VALLE, INC
- ACLU
- San Diego and Imperial Counties
- Brown Bag Coalition
- Justice in Practice
- Imperial Valley Social Justice Committee
- Brawley Feed the Need
- One Community One Heart
- California Pan-Ethnic HEALTH NETWORK
- Calexico Wellness Center
- UFCW LOCAL 1167
How did we make this happen?
**APPROVED EXPENSES/GASTOS REALIZADOS**

**OCTOBER 6, 2021 - $1,278,000**

- City Council adopted resolution approving the city’s use of ARPA funds for the replacement of public safety vehicles and authorizing the issuance of a request proposal.

- Fire Department: Two (2) Fire Rescue Ambulances, Three (3) Utility Vehicles

- Police Department: Six (6) Ford Explorer Equipped Patrol Vehicles, Two (2) Pickup Trucks Equipped Patrol Vehicles

**NOVEMBER 3, 2021 - $1,020,396**

- City Council adopted a resolution approving the city’s use of ARPA funds to provide up to $7,000 per full time and par time eligible employee.

- At the approved date, eligible employees must be employed (active) full time and part time employees who worked between March 17, 2020, and June 30, 2021.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Use</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Facilities I/T Upgrades</td>
<td>$850,000</td>
<td>$6,378,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Broadband Infrastructure</td>
<td>$450,000</td>
<td>$5,928,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Ventilation/Filtration for City Facilities</td>
<td>$650,000</td>
<td>$5,278,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Infrastructure</td>
<td>$750,000</td>
<td>$4,528,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Park Infrastructure</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$3,528,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library/Recreation Infrastructure Projects</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$3,178,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response Equipment</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$2,178,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Sewer Replacement Projects</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$1,178,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport Terminal Repair</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$1,078,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Remaining Funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1,078,591</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,228,591.00</strong></td>
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</table>
## Proposed Plan B:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Use</th>
<th>Detail</th>
<th>Budget Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Complete Downtown Rehabilitation          | - Shade structures and plants  
- Seating/eating structures  
- Additional Restrooms  
- Water stations. Drinking fountain/bottle refill  
- Min. 1 Public Cooling Station  
- Beautification elements  
- Trash Bins  
- Establishment of sanctioned homeless encampment and safe parking lot | $3,000,000       |
| Essential Worker Relief Program           | Direct Payment to essential workers: grocery, pharmacy, farmworkers, etc. (As defined by council) | $1,000,000       |
| Outreach Specialist                       | (1) Full-time for 3 years, helps individuals and businesses navigate relief programs at all levels. Works with SBDC to promote new post-pandemic business opportunities. | $180,000        |

### Proposed Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Use</th>
<th>Detail</th>
<th>Budget Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response Equipment</td>
<td>Fire/Ambulance</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Public Facilities I/T Upgrades            | - Includes a Downtown free WI-FI zone as priority for commercial/social growth  
- Free WI-FI areas from public facilities as allowed by allotted funds | $1,048,591      |
| City Broadband Infrastructure             | Capacity to support I/T and public WI-FI projects                      | $450,000        |
| Emergency Park Infrastructure             | Park Restroom and Water Access                                         | $500,000        |

**Estimated Cost of Plan B:**

$7,178,591
Exhibit 2. Do you agree that essential workers in Calexico like health care, hospital, clinic, pharmacy, grocery, and farmworkers should benefit from the COVID-19 relief funds?

94% (n=106) Yes
6% (n=7) No

Exhibit 3. How do you think Calexico COVID-19 recovery funds should be used?

COVID-19 Relief Fund Community Priorities

- Bonus pay for essential workers
- Downtown rehabilitation
- Public health projects
- Water and sewer replacement projects
- Information technology (IT) upgrades
- City broadband infrastructure
- Indoor ventilation for city facilities
- Emergency park infrastructure

Community survey
Organize

- Create an escalation plan
- Build your base
- Use all tools at your disposal
  - News/Media
  - Research
  - Policy Advocacy
  - Narrative and Storytelling
  - Strategy and Tactics
  - Powermap
Actions to consider

- Send a joint advocates letter to the County Board of Supervisors asking for ARPA allocation for equitable uses
- Attend city council or board of supervisor meetings and make public comment about ARPA
- Submit joint proposals for equitable projects
- Publish op-eds (see ours here)

- Get involved in ARPA advocacy in your city
- Ask County/City boards to increase transparency, accountability, and public input when making decisions about ARPA
- Join coalitions and other groups in the advocacy for equitable uses
- Highlight alternate funding opportunities/grants
Feel free to reach out to us at info@ivequityjustice.org @IVEquityJustice with questions or comments
How can I get involved with my county or city’s ARPA process?
How to get involved:

1. Understand what your county or city is currently doing with their ARPA funds

2. Assess how your city or county is engaging communities in their ARPA decisions

3. Create a list of demands that reflect your community needs and wants
   • Connect with your local budget coalitions and/or build your coalition
   • Advocate for a people’s ARPA spending plan
1. Understand what your county or city is currently doing with their ARPA funds

Frequently asked:
• How much money is left undecided?
• What programs or projects has my local government decided to spend money on?

Where to find:
• The Treasury: all spending information up until January 2022 has been posted on the Treasury’s ARPA landing page
  • Upcoming: 2022 Annual Recovery Plans are due on July 31, 2022
• Your local government:
  • Check to see if the city/county has an ARPA website or posted any ARPA information
  • Review Board of Supervisors/City Council meeting minutes
  • Reach out directly: controller/auditor, CEO office
• CPEHN’s county scorecard analyses: https://www.cpehn.org/ARPAscorecards/
2. Assess how your city or county is engaging communities in using their ARPA funds

**Has your local government done these?**

(refer to questions #35-41 on CPEHN [equity metric](#)

- Setting up an ARPA website
- Setting up a dedicated ARPA contact email or phone number
- Posting spending and compliance reports
- Hosting educational workshops (outside of regular BOS or Council meetings)
- Conducting multi-lingual community surveys
- Opening a public comment period on existing decisions
- Directly reaching out to CBO stakeholders
- Leveraging existing COVID-19 and other community workgroups with CBOs
3. Advocate for a people’s ARPA spending plan

• Create a list of demands that reflect your community needs and wants
• Connect with your local budget coalitions and/or build your coalition

**CPEHN is here to support you with technical analyses, best practices, advocacy letters/templates, brainstorming solutions, etc**

• An example of the letter we sent to Calexico City Council:
  • https://app.box.com/s/znojlxz0ksi8vj3zkydhc21voy67kiqp
• Get in touch! wzhang@cpehn.org
Resources to Advocate for a people's ARPA spending plan

Topics:
- **ARPA** (Collected Resources)
- Building a Framework: Defunding/Divesting from Policing and Investing Community Safety & Resources
- Putting it into Practice: Budget Advocacy/Participatory Budgeting Toolkit
- City/County Budget Advocacy
  - People’s Budget Coalitions in California: [LA](#), [Sacramento](#), [Long Beach](#), [Orange County](#)
  - [Redwood City](#), [Bakersfield](#), [Oakland](#), [Vallejo](#), [Hayward](#), [San Jose](#), [Merced](#), [Central Valley Empowerment Alliance](#)
Questions?

Q&A
Thank You!