



## **Notice of Funding Availability**

### **American Rescue Plan Act**

### **Community Resilience Programs**

Release Date: February 24, 2022

**Applications Due: April 7, 2022 by 2:00 pm**

The County of Sonoma (the “County”) is pleased to announce the availability of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) funds to support community resilience programs that address the community needs identified as a result of COVID-19.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), signed into law on March 11, 2021, provides federal resources to local governments to “change the course of the pandemic and deliver immediate relief for American workers.” One of the legislation’s top priorities includes addressing systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic on certain populations.

COVID-19’s impact across the nation and in our community has disproportionately harmed certain communities. To meet the intent of this legislation and to drive our community’s equitable recovery, the County has analyzed data and sought input from the community to understand what needs continue to exist. As a result, the County is prioritizing community investments that address disproportionality in burdens and need and ensure accountability to the equity principles in the ARPA legislation, in the [County’s Racial Equity & Social Justice Strategic Plan Pillar](#), and in the [Portrait of Sonoma County: 2021 Update](#).

#### **I. EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND COLLECTIVE IMPACT**

The County supports fair, accessible, and relevant services for families and individuals that promote equity and social justice. Proposers’ approach to service provision should demonstrate: a commitment to self-reflection and lifelong learning; recognition of power as an undeniable factor in relationships and acknowledgment of the expertise of each individual or community group as leader and educator on the content and nature of their culture/experience. Proposers should understand how the intersectionality of social categorizations such as gender, race, socio-economic status, immigration status, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, family structural identities, religion, age, mental disability, physical disability, mental illness, and physical illness can create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination and disadvantage; and have a commitment to suspending judgment and promoting equitable access to public health protections, advancements, and economic recovery.

The County values collective impact and seeks to fund integrated approaches between community and local government working toward a common goal. The collective impact approach is premised on the belief that no single policy, government department, organization or program can tackle or solve the increasingly complex social problems we face as a society. The approach calls for multiple organizations or entities from different sectors to work together in favor of a common agenda, shared goals, and alignment of effort. Examples include strengthening identification of resources within Sonoma County, leveraging the strengths and skills of County staff and community members, and deepening data collection and analysis approaches with community members impacted by the County's policy decisions. In times of critical need, the County's priority is to identify effective and sustainable systems-level solutions.

## **II. ELIGIBLE PROPOSERS**

Eligible proposers include private for-profit and public or private non-profit agencies as well as County Departments and other governmental entities. Multiple contracts will be funded to provide the services described in this document.

Applicants may choose to deliver services alone; however, in order to adequately address community needs and comply with federal funding requirements, partnerships are highly encouraged and may receive additional points per the review and scoring mechanism. If multiple agencies apply as a consortium, a single agency must serve as the lead agency and should include in their program budget the cost for this increased oversight; capacity building, if applicable; support; and coordination, including adequate staffing and operating costs. The lead agency will function as the fiscal agent and as a coordinator of services among agencies, providing oversight, information exchange, and administrative and fiscal support and monitoring. A lead agency should establish formal agreements with the other service providers included in the application. A lead agency must demonstrate its capacity to oversee collaborative projects by either showing past success or clearly outlining a plan for oversight.

Private non-profit and for-profit organizations determined to be subrecipients must be in good standing with the Secretary of State and are encouraged to register in the federal System for Award Management ([sam.gov](http://sam.gov)). An agency DUNS number will be required.

## **III. FUNDING**

The County has estimated that approximately \$34.1 million will be available through December 31, 2024, to address negative economic impacts and disparities in public health outcomes.

*A minimum award amount has been set at \$250,000 for the total grant period.*

Contracts funded through this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) are expected to begin July 1, 2022 and end June 30, 2023, and may be renewed through December 31, 2024, depending on service provider performance.

#### IV. SCHEDULE

February 24, 2022	Notice of Funding Availability Released
<b>March 3, 2022, 10:00 am</b>	<a href="#">Technical Assistance Workshop</a>
Through March 25, 2022	Applicants Submit Questions
Every Friday through April 1, 2022	Questions and Answers Published
<b>April 7, 2022</b>	<b>Applications Due by 2:00 pm</b>
April 11 – April 29, 2022	Review Committees score applications
May 24, 2022	Board of Supervisors Meeting to Award Funds
July 1, 2022	Contracts Start

#### V. COMPLIANCE WITH AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT REQUIREMENTS

Awarded agencies must comply with the requirements listed in the [Department of the Treasury Final Rule](#) and the [Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#).

#### VI. FEDERAL CONTRACT PROVISIONS

Recipients of ARPA funds are subject to required federal contract provisions. A sample of the required supplementary conditions can be found in Attachment A: Sample County Contract including ARPA Exhibit. These supplementary conditions are subject to change.

#### VII. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

ARPA funds will be used to address the disproportionate public health and economic impacts of the crisis on the hardest-hit communities, populations, and households in Sonoma County. *Providers must verify that program participants have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency and fall within one of the eligible beneficiary groups. Verification documentation will be determined during contract negotiations depending on the type of program/beneficiary.*

##### A. Prioritized Activities

As a result of a series of ARPA community engagement efforts including virtual Town Halls, Community Surveys, and convening an ARPA Equity Workgroup, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has prioritized the funding of *specific* ARPA-eligible activities for the County that address the negative economic impacts and the disparities in public health outcomes as a result of the pandemic. These activities include:

- Assistance to Households/Basic Needs
- Childcare and Childcare Facilities
- Educational Disparities
- Community Health Workers & Public Benefits Navigators

- Housing and Shelter
- Mental Health Services
- Assistance to Workers
- Small Business & Nonprofits
- Premium Pay
- Culturally Responsive COVID-19 Disaster Response and Long-Term Recovery

Specific information on these activities can be found in Attachment B: Prioritized ARPA Activities.

The ARPA Equity Workgroup Summary of Community Needs can be found at <http://upstreaminvestments.org/ARPA/>

Findings related to the impacts of the pandemic on our local economy can be found on the Sonoma County Economic Development Board's website at [Special Reports | Sonoma County Economic Development Board \(sonomaedb.org\)](http://sonomaedb.org/Special%20Reports%20-%20Sonoma%20County%20Economic%20Development%20Board)

#### B. Adversely Impacted Populations

The community needs assessment revealed that the following socially and economically underrepresented and/or historically excluded populations have been hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic in Sonoma County. In accordance with ARPA guidelines, proposers are encouraged to describe how their programs will help eliminate or reduce disparities experienced by adversely impacted populations, including, but not limited to:

- Essential workers, including farm workers
- BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) students
- BIPOC-owned businesses and non-profit organizations
- High school students who graduated during virtual learning
- Populations with the highest rates of COVID-19 (cases per 100,000) in Sonoma County by race/ethnicity, including but not limited to:
  - Hispanic/Latino
  - American Indian/Alaska Native
  - Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander
  - Black/African American

Specific information on eligible beneficiaries under ARPA can be found in Attachment C: ARPA Eligible Beneficiaries.

#### C. Sonoma County Qualified Census Tracts

The legislation has defined households, small businesses, and non-profits located in HUD Qualified Census Tracts as having been Disproportionately Impacted by the pandemic.

To further define areas of focus, the County also relied on the Human Development Index (HDI) scores revealed in the [Portrait of Sonoma County: 2021 Update](#) and [COVID-19 Case Data for Sonoma County](#) related to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on specific populations.

A map of these tracts can be found in Attachment D – Map of Sonoma County Qualified Census Tracts.

## **VIII. PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Transparency and public accountability for the use of ARPA are critical to upholding program integrity and public trust. Program and Fiscal Performance will be publicly reported. Technical assistance will be provided.

### **A. Results-Based Accountability**

Selected recipients (lead agencies) will partner with the County to develop a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) Plan to show how the proposed program/project will be structured to achieve agreed-upon outcomes, including measurement of how beneficiaries are better off as a result of the proposed program/project.

Contractor will apply, document, and report quarterly on performance measures and activities, including demographic data detailed in the RBA Plan. These reports will be submitted in an electronic format to be determined.

### **B. ARPA-Specific Reporting**

Additional reporting will be required under ARPA, including but not limited to monthly fiscal claims that will contain information regarding project status and project demographic distribution. These reports will be submitted in an electronic format to be determined. Additional information regarding the ARPA reporting requirements can be found in the [Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#).

## **IX. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP**

All potential applicants are *strongly encouraged* to attend the Technical Assistance Workshop as indicated in the Schedule above. County staff will review the requirements of the NOFA and accept written questions.

## **X. WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

All questions related to the services listed in this NOFA must be submitted via email to [arpa@sonoma-county.org](mailto:arpa@sonoma-county.org) through the due date indicated in the Schedule found above. *Please include "NOFA Question" in the subject line of your email.* Questions will not be accepted by phone and potential applicants should not contact any County staff for additional information during the procurement period. Written answers will be posted weekly on the [ARPA NOFA website](#), ending on the date indicated in the Schedule above.

## **XI. APPLICATION SUBMITTAL**

**One (1)** copy of the ARPA Application Form must be submitted **per proposed program** via email to [arpa@sonoma-county.org](mailto:arpa@sonoma-county.org) by the date and time listed in the

Schedule above. *Please include "NOFA Application" in the subject line of your email.*

## **XII. SONOMA COUNTY APPLICATION REVIEW AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

The review committee will consist of neutral parties, who will score and make funding recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. When applications are being scored and funding recommendations are being made, the review committee can only base their scoring and subsequent recommendations on the information contained in the applications. The review committee members cannot make assumptions, nor consider their personal knowledge or experience regarding the proposing agencies and/or proposed services. In order to ensure that all proposing agencies are reviewed in a fair and equitable manner, and to ensure that no agency is given unfair advantage, the scores and recommendations are based solely on the applications that are submitted and the manner in which those applications address the requirements of the Notice of Funding Availability.

## **XIII. EVALUATION AND SCORING**

A proposal evaluation system, including a point system for rating each application, will ensure uniformity in evaluating proposals and will identify the rationale for funding recommendations.

Each application will be evaluated within the criteria identified below.

- A. Program Design and Approach – 60 points + 10 additional bonus points
- B. Organizational Capacity – 15 points
- C. Fiscal Qualifications and Budget – 25 points

The ARPA Program Application breaks down the points available per response.

## **XIV. FORMS AND ATTACHMENTS**

### A. Required Forms

ARPA Program Application

### B. Attachments

Attachment A – Sample County Contract including ARPA Exhibit

Attachment B – Prioritized ARPA Activities

Attachment C – ARPA Eligible Beneficiaries

Attachment D – Map of Sonoma County Qualified Census Tracts