

Matrix of equity choices in local ARP, Fiscal Recovery Fund allocations

Local Fiscal Recovery Fund allocations to county and municipal governments in North Carolina can power equitable outcomes for community members, ensuring that everyone has what they need to get through this pandemic and its public health and economic harm. To address the greater harm experienced by Black, Indigenous, and other persons of color due to COVID-19, local policymakers must design investments and solutions that center these communities' experiences. During COVID-19, systemic failings made these communities more vulnerable to the loss of life, income, and well-being. By centering equity, local leaders will restore communities so they can reach their greatest potential, which will benefit all North Carolinians.

US Treasury guidance



Address the economic effects of the pandemic



Pay essential workers

Address the economic effects of the pandemic



Address the economic effects of the pandemic

Driving dollars to secure equitable outcomes in recovery

- Establish an excluded worker fund to ensure that all workers who have lost jobs receive wage replacement
- Provide cash assistance to households who have lost income or to people who live in qualified census tracts based on persistently high poverty rates
- Provide a monthly transportation stipend to cover the costs to travel to work and school and to participate in the community
- Provide a voucher for child care costs for people who are income eligible
- Subsidize the wages of workers in essential industries through a grant program designed after a local Earned Income Tax Credit
- Establish a living wage certification program, and engage industries with wages below \$13 per hour, the premium pay rate identified by U.S. Treasury
- Provide a Back to Work payment to cover employment expenses
- Fund a campaign to certify eligible businesses as Historically Underutilized Businesses
- Establish a small business incubator or accelerator that engages Historically Underutilized Businesses to support their growth and connection to public contracts
- Provide grants to Historically Underutilized Businesses with revenue losses
- Commit to providing a certain share of public contracts to Historically Underutilized Businesses

US Treasury guidance



Support public health expenditures



Address the economic effects of the pandemic



Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure



Replace lost local government revenue

Engage community input

Driving dollars to secure equitable outcomes in recovery

- Supplement existing funding for additional school nurses, counselors, and social workers to expand COVID-19 surveillance and vaccination efforts, as well as to support the public health, mental health, and other areas necessary for learning
- Fund incentives for community members to receive COVID-19 vaccinations and booster doses
- Expand services for mental health and substance use disorder through public agencies and nonprofit organizations
- Bolster funding for personal protective equipment in high-risk settings, including congregate living facilities (group homes, jails, shelters, retirement communities, and more) and educational settings (child care, K-12 schools, colleges, and universities)
- Strengthen food assistance programming for seniors
- Acquire housing in Qualified Census Tracts and create infill affordable housing in more communities to meet the need
- Establish or add to an affordable housing trust fund to develop new units at 30 percent Area Median Income or below
- Provide direct funding for legal assistance for residents who face eviction
- Fund housing navigators to support local residents in seeking rental assistance, alternate housing, eviction prevention, diversion services, legal services, and more
- Provide local funding for emergency utility assistance
- Build water and sewer infrastructure in communities that have not been reached by city or county services
- Pay the missed payments on water and sewer for customers with low incomes
- Subsidize the cost of broadband access
- Prioritize disaster mitigation and resiliency for communities historically impacted by major disasters, including hurricanes, through investments in water and sewer infrastructure
- Fund grassroots infrastructure and community connections to ensure all households have information from trusted sources about available programs and services
- Create various channels to gather input from community on the allocation of American Rescue Plan funds

For more information about the American Rescue Plan and equitable economic development, visit:

- AHEAD NC at www.aheadnc.org.
- Southern Economic Advancement Project at www.theseap.org/arp.