



LRCOG

Dedicated to Regional Excellence

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lumber River Council of Governments Board of Directors
Region N Mayors
Region N Managers
Region N Clerks

FROM: David Richardson, LRCOG Executive Director
Jean Klein, LRCOG Planning Director
Sonya Johnson, LRCOG Clerk to the Board

SUBJECT: The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)

DATE: May 13, 2021

As you may be aware the US Department of Treasury has released its initial interim guidance on how the American Rescue Plan Act funds may be utilized. Your LRCOG staff is currently working to digest and understand this guidance from the US Department of Treasury, which may be found at the following link: [Interim Final Rule \(treasury.gov\)](https://www.treasury.gov) and we will provide you with additional information in the coming days and weeks. Based upon the interim final rule and the initial fact sheet [SLFRP-Fact-Sheet-FINAL1-508A.pdf \(treasury.gov\)](https://www.treasury.gov) the following five areas will be allowable expenditure categories.

- 1) Support for public health expenditures,
- 2) Addressing negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency,
- 3) Replacement of lost public sector revenue,
- 4) Premium pay for essential workers, and
- 5) Investment in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

The fact sheet provides several examples of allowable expenditures in each of these categories. In addition, in several of these categories direct action appear to be targeted at specific qualifying census tracts, which may be found through the following link: [2020 and 2021 Small DDAs and QCTs | HUD USER](https://www.huduser.gov).

We are also expecting that the US Department of Treasury will release additional guidance for non-entitlement units of government, which would be all of the municipalities within our region and are hopeful that this guidance will be more beneficial to our municipal members.

Member Governments

BLADEN COUNTY

Bladenboro • Clarkton • Dublin
East Arcadia • Elizabethtown
Tar Heel • White Lake

HOKE COUNTY

Raeford

RICHMOND COUNTY

Dobbins Heights • Ellerbe • Hamlet
Hoffman • Norman
Rockingham

SCOTLAND COUNTY

Gibson • Laurinburg • Wagram

ROBESON COUNTY

Fairmont • Lumber Bridge • Lumberton
Marietta • Maxton • McDonald
Orrum • Parkton • Pembroke
Proctorville • Red Springs • Rennert
Rowland • St. Pauls

In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to make sure that your municipality is taking the following steps as requested by the NC Pandemic Recovery Office, through its pre-contracting checklist, which may be found here: [PreContracting-Checklist-Template Local-Government-FINAL.pdf \(nc.gov\)](#). You may find links to several helpful videos from the NC Pandemic Recovery Office at the following address: [NC.gov: ARPA Information and Resources](#).

The key items to provide to the NC Pandemic Recovery Office, through its portal which should be live in the next few days, and ideally by May 18, 2021, which are discussed in the checklist are the following:

- 1) Obtaining a DUNS number for your community.
 - a. If you don't know your DUNS number you may look it up through this link: [System for Award Management \(sam.gov\)](#).
 - b. If you don't have a DUNS number you may request it through this link: [Step 1: Obtain a DUNS Number | GRANTS.GOV](#).
- 2) Confirm an active SAM registration. You may use this link: [www.sam.gov](#).
- 3) Complete a vendor electronic payment form and submit to the NC Pandemic Recovery Office through its portal. The form is available through this link: [Vendor Electronic Payment Form \(nc.gov\)](#).
 - a. Please ensure that your financial information is correct and that the form has been signed by the authorized individual.
 - b. It is **highly recommended** that you establish a separate account for these funds to allow for an easier audit trail.
- 4) Complete a W-9 form and submit to the NC Pandemic Recovery Office through its portal. The form is available through this link: [XX-XX-W-9-NC-Form.pdf](#).
 - a. Please make sure that you include your DUNS number.
 - b. Please make sure that you have used your full nine digit zip code. If you don't know your full nine digit zip code you may find it through this link: [ZIP Code™ Lookup | USPS](#).
 - c. Please make sure that include a voided check or letter from the bank with the routing information.
 - d. On question 12, please mark other and list the name of your municipality on the line.
 - e. On question 13, please mark NC local government.
 - f. Please ensure that the form is signed by the appropriate individual.
- 5) Determine what your total budget was for the fiscal year that includes January 27, 2020.
- 6) If your council requires the approval to receive funds, ensuring that it has been scheduled for approval during a council meeting.

Currently, it is anticipated that you will have **until December 31, 2024** in order to spend these funds, but this may change. Therefore, at this point please continue to receive your community input about how these funds can best be utilized as we are awaiting additional guidance for non-entitlement entities from the US Department of Treasury.

The LRCOG staff will continue to provide our members with updated information as it becomes available. Please feel free to reach out to Jean Klein, jean.klein@lrcog.org, Sonya Johnson, sonya.johnson@lrcog.org, or David Richardson, david.richardson@lrcog.org, if we can be of assistance.