



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING: TOWN MANAGER RECOMMENDATIONS



Mansfield Town Council Meeting

November 22, 2021



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) - OVERVIEW

- **\$1.9 trillion in funding** to individuals, schools, businesses, and areas suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Of that total at the national level, **CT municipalities are slated to receive \$2.55 billion** (\$1.56 billion to general government / \$995 million to schools)
- **The Town of Mansfield will receive a total allocation of ~ \$7,543,000** that is disbursed via two equally sized “tranches” (\$3.771 million in 2021; \$3.771 million in 2022)
 - This amount does not include ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund allocations received by Mansfield Public Schools (\$754,781) or Regional School District #19 (\$835,051)



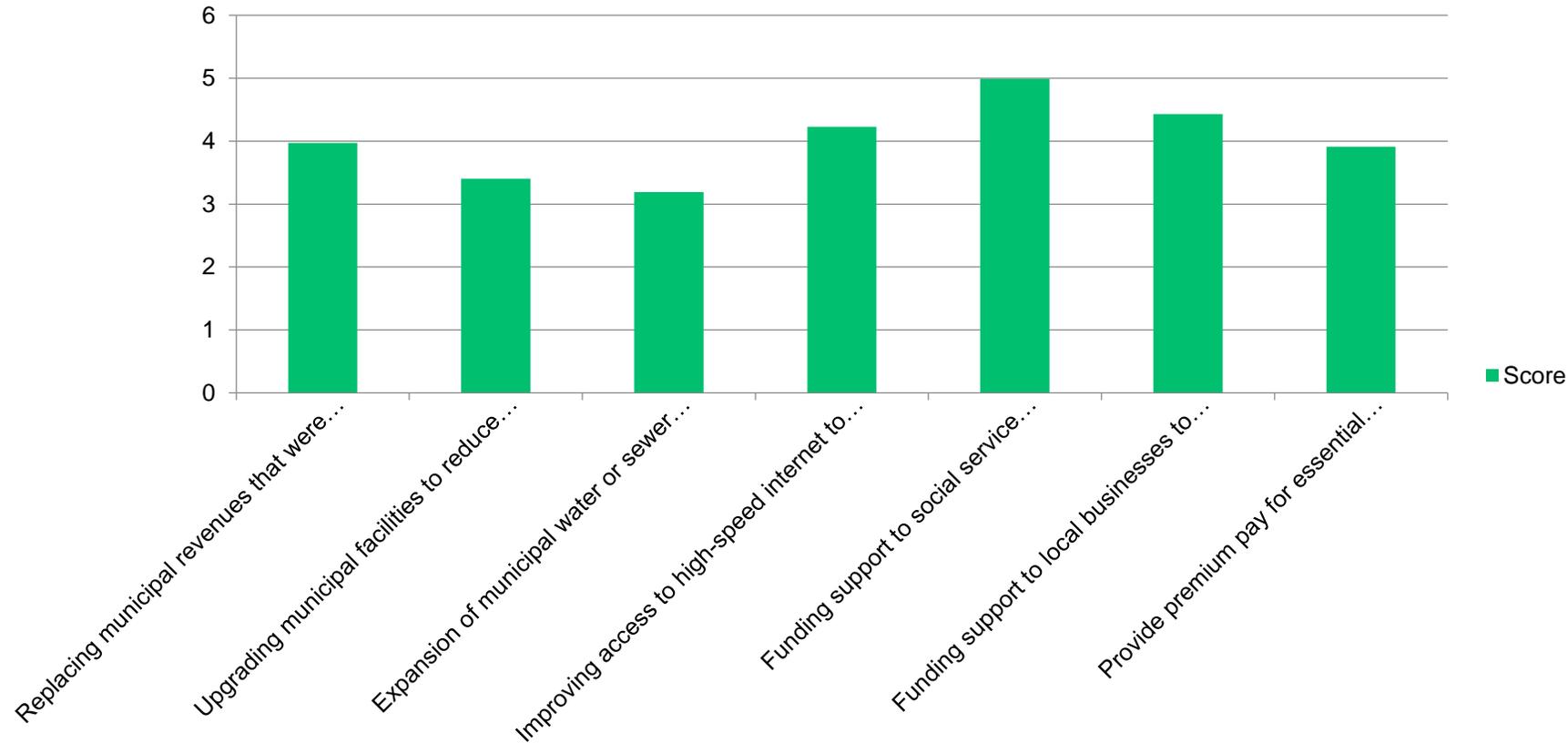
ELIGIBLE USES OF ARPA FUNDING

- **Support public health response:** Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare and certain public health and safety staff
- **Address negative economic impacts:** Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, and nonprofits, or impacted industries and re-hiring of public sector workers
- **Replace public sector revenue loss:** Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic
- **Premium pay for essential workers:** Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure
- **Water, sewer and broadband infrastructure:** Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access



COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY – LEVELS OF SUPPORT FOR DIFFERENT ELIGIBLE USES

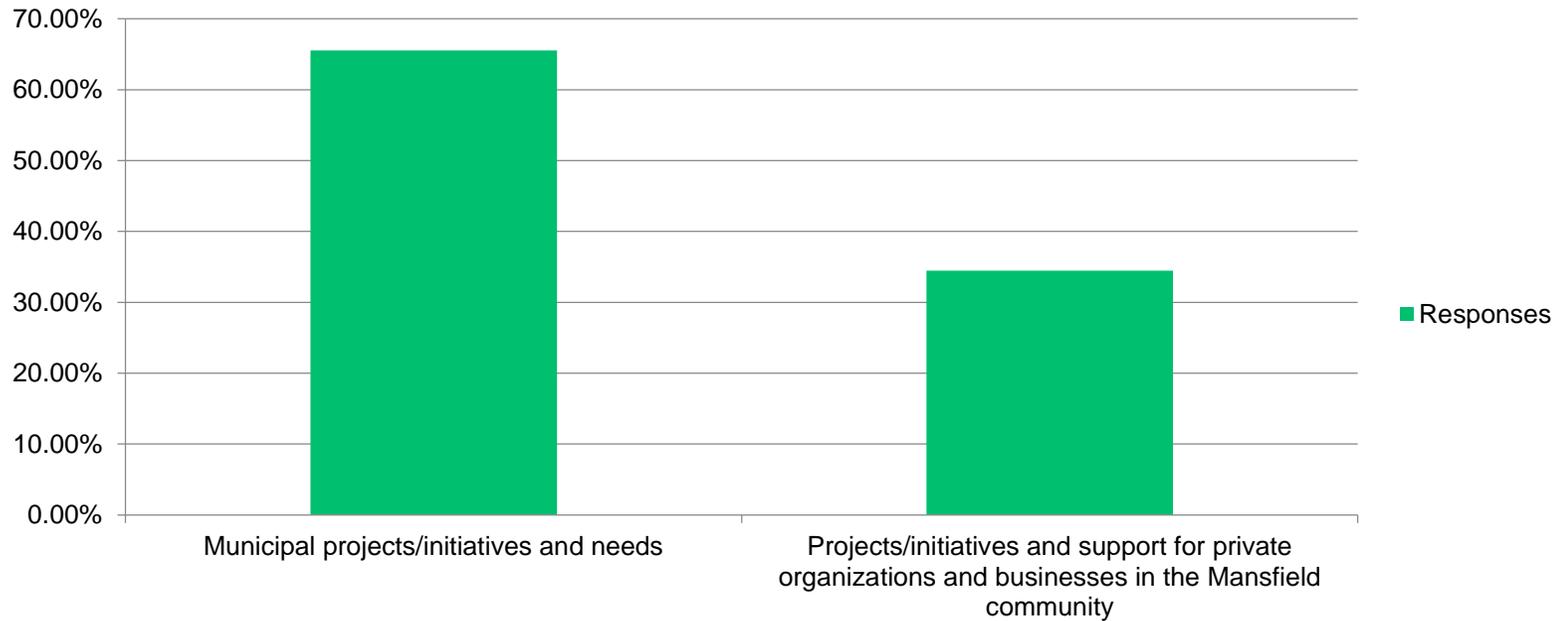
Q1: Please rank the following potential eligible uses of ARPA funds in order of importance where the top item is the highest priority use and the bottom item is lowest priority use.





SURVEY RESULTS: QUESTION 9

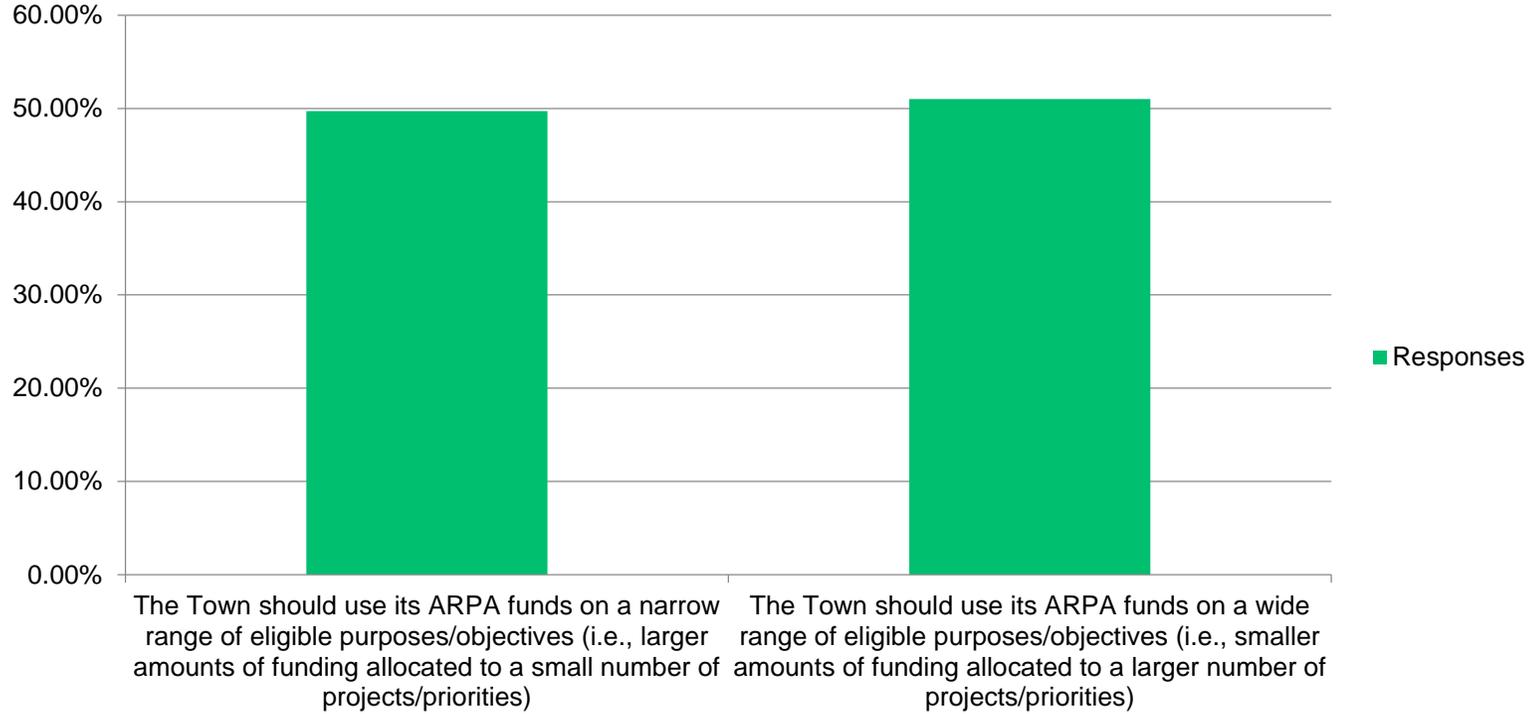
Q9: Do you generally feel that it is more important for the Town to use its ARPA allocation to fund municipal projects/initiatives and needs or projects/initiatives and support for private organizations and businesses in the Mansfield community?





SURVEY RESULTS: QUESTION 10

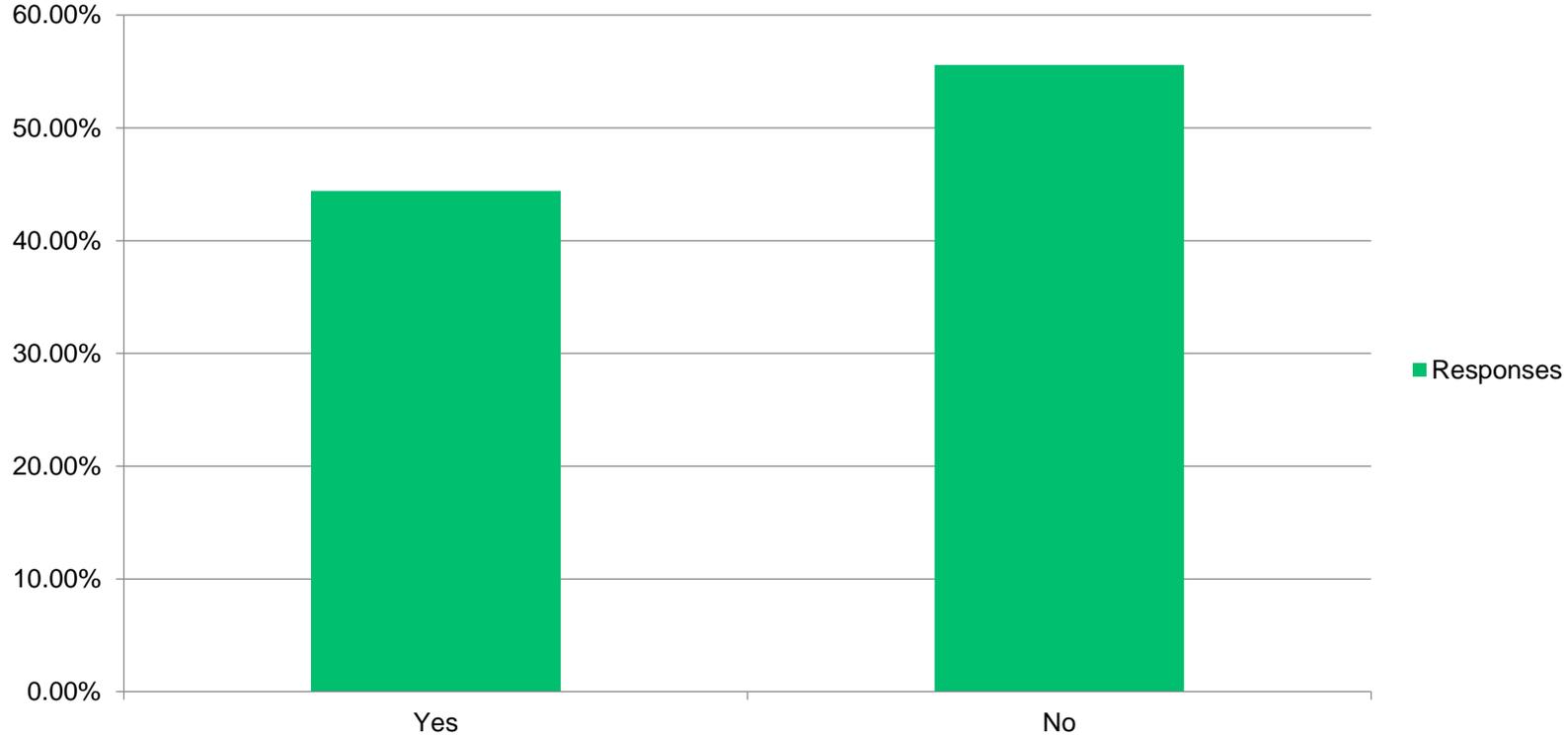
Q10: Which of the following best describes your preference with respect to how municipal ARPA funding should be apportioned (check only one):





SURVEY RESULTS: QUESTION 12

Q12: Would you be interested in participating in future community forums about how ARPA funds will be invested in our community?





SURVEY SUMMARY: OBSERVATIONS & TAKEAWAYS

- Total number of responses (389) is reasonably robust for a survey of this type
- Many indications that the *sample was not necessarily representative* and the views expressed may not be consistent with Mansfield's resident population as a whole
- Responses show that there is *public support (albeit variable) for all seven ARPA eligible use categories* (nothing should be entirely ruled out based on survey results)
- Respondents were evenly *split between dedicating larger amounts of \$ for a smaller # of uses vs. dedicating smaller amounts of \$ for a larger # of uses*
- Results suggest there is *strong support for using ARPA funds to provide funding support to external organizations* (i.e., social service orgs and local businesses)
- Results suggest there is a *strong preference for ARPA funds being invested in municipal projects/initiatives vs. private organizations* (2:1 margin)
- It will be inherently necessary to *confront tradeoffs* and make some difficult decisions



PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENTS/STAKEHOLDERS

Department/Functional Area	Amount
Public Works	\$1,925,000
Facilities	\$9,300,000
Human Services	\$410,000
Library/Information Technology	\$353,000
MDP/Planning & Development	\$4,812,500
Parks & Recreation	\$47,500
Revenue Loss Replacement	\$4,000,000
Other	\$225,000
TOTAL	\$21,073,000
Overage (Amounts Allocated Less Amounts Requested)	(\$13,530,000)



RECOMMENDATIONS (1 OF 5)

SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

- **Municipal Facility Upgrades - \$392,000**
 - Mansfield Public Library - \$350,000
 - Mansfield Community Center/Parks & Recreation - \$42,000
- **Human/Social Services Mobile Outreach - \$60,000**
- **Human Services Programs - \$110,000**

TOTAL - \$562,000



RECOMMENDATIONS (2 OF 5)

ADDRESSING NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- **Funding Support for Area Social Service Agencies - \$400,000**
 - Recipients/award amounts informed by Human Services Advisory Committee recommendations
- **Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) “Seeding” - \$500,000**
 - Eligible uses of these funds are laid out in the newly adopted AHTF Ordinance
- **Eagleville Green Project Support - \$750,000**
 - Funding for this project (\$15 million in total) is being derived from many public/private sources
- **White Oaks Condominiums Wastewater System - \$200,000**
 - Would require WOC to agree to AH deed restrictions on a TBD # of units
- **Business Relief, Façade Improvement Funds, Marketing - \$150,000**
- **Arts Relief Fund - \$75,000**

TOTAL - \$2,075,000



RECOMMENDATIONS (3 OF 5)

REPLACING REVENUE LOSS

- Municipalities are able to compute reduction in revenue by comparing actual revenue to an alternative representing what could have been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic
 - Analysis begins with the last full year prior to the pandemic and projects forward at either (a) the recipient's average annual revenue growth over the three full years prior to the public health emergency or (b) 4.1%, the national average state and local revenue growth rate from 2015-18
- The Finance Department has produced a conservative estimate of revenue loss replacement for 2020 and 2021 → \$2.5 million
- **Recommendation: Allocate \$2 million to replace lost revenue for 2020 & 2021**, with the lion's share going to the Parks & Recreation Fund; program an additional \$25,000 for MCC financial consulting services

TOTAL - \$2,025,000



RECOMMENDATIONS (4 OF 5)

PREMIUM PAY FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

- Since the start of the pandemic, many municipal and school workers have put their physical wellbeing at risk to meet the Town's needs
- Premium pay is one means by which the Town can acknowledge municipal and school employees for stepping up during these unprecedented times
- Although ARPA authorizes municipalities to administer premium pay to essential workers in multiple sectors (i.e., including the private sector), it would be financially prohibitive and logistically/administratively infeasible for the Town to do this, and it is not clear to what extent private sector employers may have already taken this action with federal funds they were directly allocated
- **Recommendation: Allocate \$150,000 in ARPA funds to provide a modest financial award (potentially in the form of gift cards to local businesses) to eligible municipal, MBOE, and Region 19 employees**

TOTAL - \$150,000



RECOMMENDATIONS (5 OF 5)

WATER, SEWER & BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Expansion of the Four Corners Water & Sewer Service Area - \$2,250,000**
 - Total Estimated Project Cost → ~\$3,000,000
 - Requires 25% Match (\$750,000) in the Form of Assessments and/or Other Grants
 - **Broadband Digital Inclusion Initiative - \$300,000**
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TOTAL - \$2,550,000



DEFERRED PROJECTS (not an exhaustive list)

- DPW/Public Safety/General Government Vehicle Wash Facility - \$1,000,000
- Regional Wastewater System Study - \$TBD
- Redevelopment Planning for Goodwin & Vinton Schools and Southern Gateway - \$TBD
- Wastewater Pump Station Replacement - \$225,000
- Culvert Replacements - \$700,000
 - Birch Road - \$500,000
 - Puddin Lane - \$100,000
 - Hunting Lodge Road - \$100,000
- Water Utility System Extensions - \$7,500,000
 - Mansfield Middle School - \$2,500,000
 - Mansfield Elementary School - \$3,000,000
 - Vinton School - \$2,000,000
- Southeast Baseball Lighting Upgrades – \$500,000-\$1,000,000



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED INVESTMENTS

Eligible Funding Use Category	Amount
Supporting Public Health Response	\$562,000
Addressing Negative Economic Impacts	\$2,075,000
Replacing Revenue Loss	\$2,025,000
Premium Pay for Essential Workers	\$150,000
Water, Sewer & Broadband Infrastructure	\$2,550,000
TOTAL	\$7,362,000

Town of Mansfield ARPA Allocation	\$7,543,000
Residual/Contingencies	\$181,000



NEXT STEPS:

Town Council Review, Deliberation and
Decision-making on Potential Projects
(December/January)

