

PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF MANSFIELD

The Mansfield Town Council will hold a public hearing at 7:00 PM at its regular meeting on March 14, 2022 regarding the Town of Mansfield's proposed uses of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allocation.

At this hearing, persons may address the Town Council and written communications may be received. Information regarding the request is on file and available at the Town Clerk's office: 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield and is posted on the Town's website (mansfieldct.gov).

Dated at Mansfield, Connecticut this 4th day of March 2022.

Sara-Ann Chaine
Town Clerk

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT – PROPOSED USES OF FUNDS
(Prepared for March 14, 2022 Town Council Public Hearing)

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Overview

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 is a sweeping federal rescue package designed to facilitate the United States’ recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ARPA includes \$1.9 trillion in funding to individuals, schools, businesses, and areas suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, a part of the American Rescue Plan, delivers \$350 billion to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- 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 million 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)
- A municipality must obligate all (100%) of its ARPA funds for eligible uses by December 31, 2024. Additionally, a municipality must have spent all of its ARPA funds on eligible uses by December 31, 2026. Funds that were not obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026 must be forfeited back to the U.S. Treasury.



Eligible Uses of ARPA Funding

The Coronavirus SLFRP provides substantial flexibility for municipalities to meet local needs within the following four separate eligible use categories:

- **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 storm water infrastructure and provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access

Ineligible Uses of ARPA Funding

The Coronavirus SLFRP does, however, impose multiple restrictions/prohibitions on use of ARPA funds. These include:

- Funds may not be used for **deposits into a pension fund**
- Funds may not be used for **debt service or replenishing financial reserves**
- Funds may not be used for a **program, service, or capital expenditure that conflicts with or contravenes the statutory purpose of ARPA**

- Funds may not be used in a manner that constitutes a **violation of the conflict-of-interest requirements contained in the Award Terms and Conditions, including any self-dealing or violation of ethics rules**

TOWN OF MANSFIELD DELIBERATIVE PROCESS (TO DATE)

In August/September of 2021, the Town published a web-based survey designed to solicit public feedback relative to priority ARPA investments in our community. This community feedback was shared with the Town Council as part of its future deliberations. The survey was open for approximately one month and garnered roughly 400 responses from community members. Survey findings suggest strong community support for a wide range of eligible uses of the funding, including financial assistance to small businesses and social services agencies, replacing lost municipal revenue, and improving high-speed internet access. Responses also indicated a strong preference for using ARPA funding to support municipal projects, initiatives and/or services as opposed to projects, initiatives, and/or services administered by private organizations in the community. In the ensuing weeks, Town staff consulted extensively on ARPA funding possibilities and the Town Manager ultimately presented initial ARPA funding recommendations to the Town Council in November 2021. The Town Council subsequently engaged in deliberations on ARPA funding proposals on multiple occasions in December, January and February. A public hearing to solicit additional feedback on the Town Council's preliminary ARPA funding proposals is scheduled for March 14, 2022. The Council will then continue its deliberative process in the weeks ahead.

PROPOSED USES OF ARPA FUNDS (SORTED BY ELIGIBLE USE CATEGORY)

Based on a careful review and consideration of the information, feedback, and recommendations that have been submitted to the Town administration and Council for consideration relative to ARPA funding, the Town Council is presently contemplating the following uses of the federal funds.

Supporting Public Health Response (\$1,614,500)

- Mansfield Public Library Facility Improvements (\$353,000): The biggest component of this proposed project is **upgrades to the library's Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system**. The facility's current system is nearing the end of its useful life. We have problems with maintaining proper air balance and good humidity in the high humidity months. We are able to keep within the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards at the high end but it would be better if we could improve to get to the middle of the standard range. These upgrades will also provide public health benefits with respect to reducing potential for spread of airborne viruses.

The proposed funding also includes a **wireless access pavilion**. The new exterior pavilion will improve the library's ability to support workforce development and community resilience. This 14'X24' pavilion will be equipped with tables and chairs, and an electrical charging station for devices such as phones and laptops. Patrons can sit socially distanced while accessing library Wi-Fi, borrow laptops or Chromebooks, and access staff assistance as needed. The pavilion will be available for use during daylight hours except in the depths of winter. Community members may access internet resources and receive professional staff assistance with activities such as processing government application forms and searching the internet for information, including

education, health, and workforce development sites. The pavilion will also be available when the library is not open, allowing people to work independently on their own schedule. With a Wi-Fi-accessible outdoor shelter, patrons can more comfortably work on their own, or receive assistance from staff, as we plan regular instructional sessions for our patrons.

The Mansfield Library wireless access pavilion will add to the library's already robust community services. This investment in our community will make a difference by offering safe support and resources to the citizens of Mansfield and the surrounding area in a convenient and accessible space.

Finally, proposed funding includes the **installation of quiet study pods**. In order to improve its support of workforce development and continuing education, library leadership proposes the purchase of two self-contained study pods for installation in the main library building. These pods will provide quiet study space, with motion-activated ventilation and lights to ensure safety, and sound blocking materials to ensure privacy. This will increase the ability of community members to access library resources in a quiet, safe environment, while having the opportunity to receive professional staff assistance with activities such as processing government application forms and searching the internet for information, including education, health, and workforce development sites. There are currently no designated quiet study spaces in the library.

- Mansfield Community Center Facility (MCC) Improvements (\$91,500): The following facility upgrades are proposed at the Mansfield Community Center to support an improved public health response:
 - **Providing alternative programming** with use of computer laptops, microphones, cameras and video screens for instructors in providing virtual programming options to assist in containing and mitigating COVID-19 and other viruses.
 - Replace 4-foot cubicle divider walls with 6-foot partitions for separation of **five close-work spaces** in the MCC administrative office suite to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. The project would also improve work efficiency and privacy needs. Funding estimates include installation charges.
 - **Replace shared microphones** and synchronize with two receiver bases with individual microphones for instructor use. Currently, fitness instructors share head/body microphones. Individual use microphones would help contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses.
 - **Acquisition of two 20'X40' canvas event tents** (pole, cross cable or pagoda). Allows for continuation of community programs and associated revenue during pandemics and serves as an option to help contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. Tents can be used for programming for all age groups and utilized a minimum of nine months of the year. Tents could be shared with other departments when not in use by the Parks & Recreation Department.
 - **Installation of Wi-Fi service at two town parks** (Bicentennial Park and Southeast Park) actively used by families.
 - **HVAC, air balancing and ductwork upgrades**
 - **Additional facility upgrades to the Mansfield Community Center** that improve member/guest experiences (i.e., installation of dedicated kiosk registration station, digital daily sign-in system, enhanced outdoor seating area).

- Mansfield Municipal Offices (Town Hall) HVAC Upgrades (\$45,000): The existing HVAC equipment/system in the Council Chambers (the Town's primary hearing room/Emergency Operations Center) is outdated and inadequate. **This project would entail updating the current equipment in the Council Chambers to include better filtration of air and better control of the HVAC equipment.** The current system has a design flaw in the placement of its hot water coil that can cause freeze-ups, and it is past its useful life. The HVAC is a standalone unit. It would benefit the air quality of the Chambers to update to a state-of-the-art system.
- Fire Station 307 Upgrades to Sleeping Quarters and Lockers (\$130,000): The Town's primary fire station, Fire Station 307, presently offers personnel inadequate sleeping quarters, bathrooms, and locker room facilities. The plan for the upstairs room would allow for better separation of the sleeping quarters. In times of a pandemic, such as now, sleeping two or three people together increases the potential to pass contagions between one other. **This project would take the current space allocated for sleeping and change the separation of rooms such that the larger multi-people rooms would be converted into separated (single occupant) sleeping spaces.** The project would include removing some walls and installing new walls, and the furnishings would be updated. With respect to the downstairs, **funding would be used to construct proper locker room spaces as locker units are presently located in communal hallways/corridors adjacent to administrative spaces. These funds would be used to add conditioned air with exhaust to improve indoor air quality.**
- DPW Garage Sleeping Quarters and Restroom Upgrades (\$200,000): The Public Work Department spends up to 48 hours away from their homes and families addressing weather-related events including hurricanes and blizzards. The existing sleeping facilities at the DPW Garage are inadequate especially in light of the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, it was common for up to 20 people to sleep in approximately 300 square feet of area. In order to accommodate the crew during the pandemic, workers were split up amongst five different facilities throughout Town, most of which do not have shower facilities. The locker room and shower area at the DPW garage was constructed in the 1980s where an all-male crew was common. At this time, co-ed crews are becoming more commonplace and as such, reconfigured facilities become necessary. **The proposed project includes extending the existing building on its southeast-facing wall approximately 25 feet. Within this expansion and reconfiguration, individual shower stalls, women's restroom, and additional sleeping quarters would provide facilities to accommodate a co-ed crew.** This reconfiguration will also allow for office space for the Roads Foreman. The existing septic system is a cesspool and non-compliant by the public health code. With the proposed expansion, the septic system would be relocated and upgraded for code compliance and improve effluent water quality.
- Municipal Facilities Schematic Design Project (\$150,000): This will represent the next phase of a project that began with a comprehensive needs assessment and programmatic use study of 12 different municipal facilities (being funded in FY 21/22 using CIP funds). More specifically, the findings of this needs assessment (ongoing) will guide the prioritization of necessary upgrades to municipal facilities to ensure that facilities are effectively meeting the current and projected future needs of the Town. Facilities that will be the focus of this conceptual design and cost estimation project include Town Hall, Mansfield Senior Center, Department of Public Works (DPW)

Garage, DPW Maintenance Shop, Animal Shelter, and Fire Stations. Cost estimation services will include construction, and other cost factors (i.e., engineering/design work needed to prepare construction level drawings, land acquisition, and site work) that need to be considered for the purpose of establishing an appropriate project budget for a bond referendum. The total estimated project cost is approximately \$225,000, proposing that 25% (\$75,000) be paid from the Town's CIP/capital budget.

- Fire & Emergency Services Apparatus and Equipment Upgrades (\$415,000):
The Mansfield Fire & Emergency Services uses a three-year cycle for replacement/upgrading of the department's ambulances. The ambulances are the workhorses of the department, responding to approximately 60 to 65% of the overall calls for service in the community as well as mutual aid to our surrounding communities. Ambulance 707 is scheduled for replacement in FY 2023/2024 budget cycle. Ambulance 707 is a 2013 GMC with 117,680 miles on the vehicle. With the age of the vehicle coming up on 10 years, there is a need per the schedule for replacement. As with any vehicle, the repair maintenance and costs increase as the vehicle gets older. Ambulance 707 has cloth seats which makes it very difficult to decontaminate after emergency responses. Also, the patient compartment is outdated and there are areas that are not ergonomically friendly for the Firefighter/EMT teching the call and offering patient care. Finally, Ambulance 707 is a van-style chassis that is two-wheel drive which makes it difficult to operate during the winter season.

This request would also provide funding to replace equipment used on emergency medical calls for service including defibrillators, CPR LUCAS devices and stair chair devices that are carried on ambulances and emergency vehicles. The plan is to also replace defibrillators placed in town buildings that have reached their life expectancy. In addition to emergency vehicles, defibrillators are mandated by state law in schools, fitness centers and other public buildings. This equipment is part of the American Heart Association's chain of survival for cardiac arrest victims. CPR LUCAS devices, stair chairs, and other equipment would be replaced as they meet the end of their service life. Finally, the proposed funding would be used to replace/upgrade extrication equipment on Squad 307. The existing extrication equipment is outdated and cumbersome. The goal is to replace/upgrade to the latest technology including going from power/fuel-operator to battery-operator. This will decrease the Fire Department's repair and maintenance costs because the unit will be powered by battery and not require a small engine to power the unit for operations. Also, the new unit is lighter in weight which will reduce potential firefighter injury. Finally, the new unit will allow for more flexibility because the unit will not require hydraulic attachments to operate.

- Human/Social Services Mobile Outreach (\$60,000): Human Services, in cooperation with the Mansfield Board of Education (MBOE), is proposing to **purchase a van and materials needed to offer mobile human/social service outreach** and positive youth development services to Mansfield families. With transportation identified among key barriers to accessing services, this vehicle would allow both the MBOE and Human Services to bring the services directly to the locations most in need of these services and programs. This would include, but not be limited to: (1) sign-up for social services and entitlement programs; (2) educational materials; (3) psycho-social presentations; (4) mental health and wellness services; (5) adventure-based and positive youth development programs, and; (6) information and referral services.

- Enhanced Funding for Human Services Programs (\$150,000): The feedback from the ARPA Community Input Survey indicated public support for enhanced investment in the area of human/social services. For the purposes of this discussion, monies specifically being recommended for allocation to “external” social service organizations are reflected in the “Addressing Negative Economic Impacts” funding area (see below). The funds recommended in this section would be allocated by the Town of Mansfield’s Human Services Department. Part of what this would include is **expanded nutrition programming for seniors** who are most at risk for food insecurity and social isolation. Enhanced nutrition programming would include development of a grab-and-go lunch/dinner program, expansion of café to four days weekly, and monthly community educational dinners. It would also **expand transportation** options to enable access to health care and town services and programs. Additional improvements to the program would include electronic/touchless registration and payment for all services and programs, assistance with tutoring seniors in the area of technology, adding an additional part-time on demand driver to increase transportation availability, providing some part-time per diem staff to assist with food programs at the senior center so we can expand our fresh prepared and café program to meet demand, and covering the costs associated with additional part-time per diem mental health services and programs at the senior center.

Additionally, this funding would be used to **support the Mansfield Farms to Family (MFFP) program**, which was created to broaden access to the fresh, local food sources in our community. To date, this has been accomplished by connecting 15 identified households with local farms through a sponsored CSA share program, and serving an estimated additional 100 households during the growing season with four or more food box distributions each to include fresh produce and dairy. The participating Mansfield residents have reported they enjoy the variety, the high-quality products from local CSA’s, and the increased access to healthier fresh foods. Many have also stated they would not have the ability to participate in a CSA share without this program and are grateful for the opportunity. The project supports the local economy by purchasing goods directly from local farm businesses while providing increased access to fresh produce for households who would otherwise encounter prohibitive economic barriers to this service. The following outlines the projected MFFP costs associated with this effort over the next two fiscal years:

- \$20,000: Purchase of 50 Partner Shares (up to \$400 each) among five local participating farms with CSAs programs.
- \$20,000: Purchase of in-season, locally grown produce to assemble into bags/boxes to be distributed to Mansfield households. (Approximately 800 bags/boxes distributed to 100 Asset-Limited Income-Constrained Employed (ALICE) households four times per year). Each bag/box will include approximately a \$30 value of local produce including a gallon of milk. This would also include a flyer highlighting the farms where the food was produced.
- \$10,000: For the purchase of 400 certificates or vouchers to locally grown farm stands or markets which would allow patrons the choice to choose fresh produce. Each certificate or voucher would be a \$25 value.
- \$2,000: reusable bags/boxes, printing, paper and marketing costs.
- \$22,500: Project Coordinator (Consultant - 1099) for 10 hours per week x \$25 per hour x 45 weeks per year for a two-year period.
- \$600: Van rental \$19.95 plus .59 cents per mile (approximately 20 miles round trip \$11.80), \$20 for replenishing gas, \$11 for insurance, or approximately \$35 delivery fee from local farm if delivery available.

- COVID-19 Direct Response Efforts (\$20,000): Funding support for the acquisition and distribution of test kits, PPE, associated personnel costs, public education, and other items/activities specifically related to the ongoing public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing Negative Economic Impacts (\$3,525,000)

- Funding Support for Area Social Service Agencies (\$350,000): In recent months, the Town Council expressed a desire to see a robust portion of the Town of Mansfield's ARPA allocation be programmed for **funding support to area social service agencies that are presently providing valuable services to residents of our community**. This desire seemed to be shared by the community at large based on the results of the ARPA Community Input Survey that was administered in late-summer. Recipients/award amounts should be informed by formal recommendations transmitted to the Town Council by the Mansfield Human Services Advisory Committee. Organizations to be awarded funds will also need to be held accountable for the use of the funds and the application process should establish clear/measurable objectives for how the allotted funding will be used to maximize benefit to the community.
- Funding for Affordable Housing (\$500,000): This funding will help with the implementation of the Town's newly adopted Affordable Housing Plan through creation of more affordable/workforce housing units in Mansfield, and increasing access to a high opportunity community. The Affordable Housing Plan identifies several strategies for increasing access to affordable and workforce housing in Mansfield, including the **creation of a housing trust fund** (which the Town Council recently approved). Funding could be used for a variety of initiatives to **assist low- and moderate-income residents, including down payment assistance, mortgage assistance for homeowners who fell behind during the pandemic, and creation/construction of affordable/workforce units**. Potential projects include: acquisition of land to facilitate development of affordable/workforce housing; contribution to the Eagleville Green project to help leverage other funds; and acquisition/renovation/sales of units to income-qualifying families.
- Local Business Assistance, Marketing and Economic Vitality (\$400,000): **Many local businesses have experienced an economic hardship as a direct result of the pandemic**. In some cases this has manifested itself in loss of revenue from a declining customer base, an inability to recruit or retain employees, and/or the need to put off previously developed plans for business launch/expansion. Furthermore, we are aware that **UConn's decision to delay the return of students to its Storrs campus resulted in additional economic hardship to local businesses that rely heavily on college students as part of their core customer base**. With this in mind, the Town has been actively collaborating with the Mansfield Downtown Partnership to begin development a process and framework for how ARPA funding support could best be used to help local businesses through these unprecedented times. One objective of this allocation is to **provide one-time relief for Mansfield businesses**. Possibilities include: 1) direct grant to businesses through an application process (first come, first served) (individual awards would be capped, i.e., \$10,000); 2) personal property tax credit relief, which would provide a direct financial benefit to eligible business without changing the tax rate (and this benefit would go directly to the business owners instead of the landlord/property owner in the case of a leased space); 3) façade improvement grants; 4) providing

technology to vendors at the Mansfield Farmers Market to allow them to accept credit card payments, SNAP payments, and “Farm Bucks”; 5) payment of food service license fees, and; 6) property owner relief akin to what was extended via the “Hart Lift” program administered by the Hartford Chamber of Commerce. This proposal also includes **funding for the *Four Town Action Plan for Economic Vitality*** that was completed in 2020. A steering committee and several subcommittees are working on implementation of some of the key initial initiatives. Marketing of the region is a key focus. The towns of Coventry, Tolland and Bolton have indicated an intention to put money into their respective FY22-23 budgets for implementation. The funding requested would supplement their efforts. The funding would be invested in a website/landing page for the four towns, a logo, and other marketing tools. This would also complement the grant application submitted in recent months by the four towns for \$200,000 in FEMA funding to assist in implementation of the action plan.

- **Direct Financial Assistance to Economically Distressed Individuals (\$150,000):** **The Town’s Planning and Development Office has recently seen staggering utility bills provided as documentation of residency for the Helping Hand program, and ARPA funds may be a reasonable means for us to directly aid economically distressed residents in the short-term.** The Department of Housing also specifically precluded the Town from providing any type of mortgage assistance in addition to the rental assistance they removed from our portfolio. Per the ARPA final rule, eligible uses under this category include but are not limited to the following (as well as covering certain associated administrative expenses born by the Town in the course of administering this assistance):
 - Rent
 - Rental arrears
 - Utility costs or arrears (can be made through direct payments/bulk payments to utility providers to assist multiple consumers at one time)
 - Reasonable accrued late fees (not already included in arrears)
 - Mortgage payment assistance
 - Financial assistance to allow a homeowner to reinstate a mortgage or to pay other housing related costs related to a period of forbearance, delinquency or default,
 - Mortgage principal reduction
 - Facilitating mortgage interest rate reductions,
 - Counseling to prevent foreclosure or displacement
 - Relocation expenses following eviction or foreclosure, such as rental security deposits, application/screening fees
 - Assistance to households for delinquent property taxes to prevent tax foreclosures on homes
 - Emergency assistance for individuals experiencing homelessness, including individual-level assistance as well as group services such as expansion of existing shelter options, including transitional shelters

- **Digital Inclusion Initiative (\$300,000):** The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the **critical importance of broadband access.** The Town of Mansfield has relied on technology to work, learn, receive a wide range of services (health, government, and business), and continue social and emotional connections. Digital access was a vital component of maintaining the wellbeing, livelihoods and daily lives of Mansfield’s residents. Unfortunately, in many cases, members of our community were literally disconnected from vital services and opportunities during the pandemic. Whether it was

lack of sufficient broadband service, unreliable personal devices, confusion about how to operate technology, or websites that were difficult to navigate, these barriers isolated many of our residents. While in-person interactions are again more accessible, the reality is that the pandemic has accelerated our society's reliance on Internet based resources across all sectors. Our businesses, our employers, our schools, our governments, our medical providers, and our social groups are continuing to use technology more than ever before. Digital access is not a luxury--we now know post-pandemic that all citizens need reliable and robust online access.

Our proposal leverages ARP funding to expand broadband for Mansfield's residents by reducing barriers to digital access through:

- **Affordable, reliable, and sufficiently robust Internet access.**
- **Internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user.**
- **Digital literacy training and support.**
- **Accessible and participatory online access to local government meetings, activities/programming, and services for inclusive use of broadband access.**
- **Applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation, and collaboration.**

The goal of this project is to **promote digital equity for citizens of Mansfield**. Digital Equity is a condition in which individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Digital Equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.

Staff in the Information Technology Department have furnished a detailed project funding request and associated justification. Please see separately enclosed document.

- Hunting Lodge Road Neighborhood Plan (\$150,000): The Hunting Lodge Road neighborhood is one of just a few pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods in Mansfield. Its proximity to UConn, affordable and senior housing, open space and trails as well as access to public transportation provides the foundation to create a diverse and sustainable community. This neighborhood has experienced significant conversion of single-family housing to rental housing primarily marketed to students, which has in many cases reduced investment in housing upgrades and declining exterior property maintenance. The availability of sewer and water infrastructure makes this area prime for redevelopment. The rental/homeowner imbalance and loss of a civic anchor with the closing of Goodwin School further threaten the stability of this neighborhood. **To ensure that future development/ redevelopment meets neighborhood needs and aligns with the goals outlined Mansfield's 2015 POCD, a comprehensive neighborhood plan for the Hunting Lodge Road area, as well as associated regulatory tools and design standards, will need to be developed to restore stability to this area.** The neighborhood plan will involve extensive community outreach to build consensus around desired development patterns and identify needed investments. This planning is needed to position the Town for future grant applications to fund neighborhood improvements.
- Arts Relief Fund (\$75,000): This represents **funding support to local arts organizations**. The Connecticut Arts Alliance has suggested a few ways including partnering with regional arts council (Cultural Coalition represents Mansfield) or local

community foundation to re-grant funds to Mansfield, or provide direct grants to local arts organization. The Alliance is suggesting that 1% of a community's ARPA funds go toward arts, and this proposed amount roughly equates to that. This would include both direct relief to artists/organizations as well as support of public art. Such an expansion would potentially assist artists outside of Mansfield, but also offer public benefits. Public art could be part of beautification efforts in different commercial areas as well as the new school. One possible geographic focus area is the Four Corners. Town officials recently learned that street trees cannot line the sidewalk in front of the proposed Standard multi-family housing development project (proposed by Haven Communities) due to the potential for root intrusion into the sewer pipe. It may be possible to substitute public art pieces for trees in the interest of promoting quality aesthetics. Public art could also be used to enliven public spaces in Downtown as well as other areas, which appears to be consistent with several of the recommendations flowing from the work recently completed by a strategic planning consultant focusing on the Downtown area.

- Parks & Recreation Master Planning and Improvements to Open Space Assets (\$850,000): Mansfield has a unique park system that needs improvement and study in order to meet future needs. It is common for municipalities to conduct a facility study and master plan for parks in order to create a strategic plan to prioritize improvement projects and determine needs for future use. **This funding would support the hiring of a consulting firm that specializes in this field to guide the creation a master plan (with stakeholder input) for Mansfield's park system** and building upon the Mansfield 2020 vision of community wellness, outdoor activity and environmental stewardship. **The remainder of the proposed funding (~\$750,000) would then be used to fund investments in priority enhancements to existing recreation and/or parks/open space assets as identified in the master plan.**
- Eagleville Green Project Funding Support (\$750,000): Eagleville Green is a proposed 42-unit mixed-income multi-family residential project located at 113-121 South Eagleville Road. As of November 15, 2021¹, 74% of the proposed units would be designated affordable, with the remaining units available to be rented at market rate. As currently presented, the **project would include 22 units affordable to households at 50% of median income, 7 units affordable to households at 60% of median income, and 2 units affordable to households at 80% of median income**, with the remaining units being market rate. The overall project budget is in excess of \$14 million, and applications for project funding are currently pending with the Connecticut Department of Housing, the Connecticut Housing Finance Agency, and a newly propped up program (being funded by the state with federal funds) called the CT Communities Challenge Grant program being offered through the CT Department of Economic and Community Development. The proposed use of ARPA funding (\$750,000) would specifically **support the replacement of existing sewer main and installation of a new main to connect to the pump station at Wright's village**. The Assistant Town Engineer has identified an alternative design that would allow for elimination of the on-site pumping station, which would reduce the applicant's initial construction costs for on-site infrastructure and on-going operational costs; however, redesign of the on-site sewer system would be required. The alternative design would result in a deeper installation depth in South Eagleville Road as well as a longer pipe run due to the depth change. While the public improvements would be more costly than the original design, the

¹ The affordability levels are subject to change based on requirements of potential funding agencies such as the Connecticut Department of Housing and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority.

alternative design would also support future connections to properties located across the street from the subject property (108-128 South Eagleville Road, including Oakwood Apartments). Additionally, one of the issues noted by CTDOH in its initial review of the application for state bond funds is the minimal funding committed to the project by non-state agencies. The **proposed funding would present significant leverage and help to make the project more competitive.**

Replacing Revenue Loss (\$1,125,000)

- Municipalities are able to compute revenue loss by comparing actual revenue to an alternative amount representing what could have been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic or a “standard allowance” amount equal to \$10 million or 100% of the municipality’s total ARPA allocation (whichever is less). The final federal rule issued by the U.S. Treasury enables municipalities to claim considerably higher revenue losses than was permitted under the interim rule, and municipalities have greater flexibility in how these funds are ultimately used (“general government services” = any service traditionally provided by a government) with only a few exceptions explicitly identified by the Treasury. The current recommendation is to **allocate \$1 million in ARPA funds to replace lost revenue.** The lion’s share of this would go to the General Fund to replenish funds that were transferred to the Parks & Recreation Fund over the last two years to cover operating deficits exacerbated by COVID-19. An additional \$25,000 is being recommended to retain a qualified financial consulting services **firm to work with the Parks & Recreation Department on a financial sustainability action plan** for the Mansfield Community Center. Finally, an additional \$100,000 is being recommended for the installation of additional electric vehicle (EV) charging stations (combination of Level 2 and Level 3) at various municipal facilities that would be available for use by employees and residents. To the extent any other ARPA funding priorities identified by the Council may subsequently be deemed as incompatible with an eligible use category articulated in the final rule, it is possible to utilize the revenue loss replacement approach to authorize funding for these purposes.

Water, Sewer & Broadband Infrastructure (\$1,250,000)

Public Water System Extension to Mansfield Middle School (\$1,250,000): Currently, Mansfield Middle School is served by three drilled wells. This is considered a small water system with the State. There are frequent problems with the system, with most of these being water quality issues. Having the **school served by a community system by extending the public water system is prudent.** It would also provide the added safety with constant monitoring of water quality by the utility company. This would also alleviate ongoing security concerns regarding the potential for someone to tamper with the current system. The Town’s Facilities Department is also recommending that upgrades to existing interior plumbing/piping be undertaken concurrently with this project with the goal of eliminating potential future water quality issues/concerns associated with possible deterioration of any existing lead solder in pipe joints. The total estimated project cost – inclusive of upgrades to interior piping/plumbing that are estimated to be approximately \$250,000 – is \$2.75 million. As such, it would be necessary to mobilize an additional \$1.5 million (which could come from a variety of sources, including cost support from CT Water, assessments on property owners in the immediate area, or grant funding from one of the programs being established via the recently enacted

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) in order to complete the project. This project has long been viewed by Town/MBOE staff as advantageous to pursue, but, there was not previously a federal funding stream to make it cost-effective to pursue.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED INVESTMENTS

Eligible Funding Use Category	Amount
Supporting Public Health Response	\$1,614,500
Addressing Negative Economic Impacts	\$3,525,000
Replacing Revenue Loss	\$1,125,000
Water, Sewer & Broadband Infrastructure	\$1,250,000
TOTAL	\$7,514,500
Town of Mansfield ARPA Allocation	\$7,543,000
Residual/Contingencies	\$28,500

REMAINING PROCESS/PROCEDURE

- Mid-March 2022: Public Hearing to Obtain Resident/Stakeholder Input on Town Council Preliminary ARPA Funding Plan
- Late-March/Early-April 2022: Town Council Finalizes ARPA Funding Plan
- April 30, 2022: Town Submits Initial “Project and Expenditure Report” Required of all ARPA *State and Local Fiscal Relief Fund* Recipients for its first “tranche” (~\$3.77 million) of federal funding
- May 2022: Development and Finalizations of Implementation Policies and Procedures Relative to ARPA-Funded Programs
- Spring/Summer 2022: Commencement of ARPA-Funded Projects/Initiatives/Services
- Remainder of 2022: Ongoing Town Council Deliberation Relative to Use Unobligated ARPA funds (i.e., monies appropriated via the second “tranche” of federal funds)