



Eric D. Batista
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

Attachment for Item #TBD

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February 28, 2023

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL
COUNCILORS:

I respectfully submit the following update on the administration of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the information of your Honorable Body. Since our last update submitted to the City Council on November 29, 2022, significant progress has been achieved. I first want to express appreciation for the hard work of our staff and members of the community, including the Executive Office of Economic Development, the Department of Administration & Finance as well as Auditing, the Law Department, the community members volunteering on the ad hoc committees, and our community partners that have engaged in the process and helped to provide outreach and communications to the residents and business owners of the city.

Community Projects & Programs (CP&P)

As you know, staff in the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) have been working with the CP&P ad hoc committee over the last several months on the review, evaluation, and recommendations for funding under the CP&P category. In our last update, we shared information about the significant volume of applications received through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process. In summary, 140 completed applications were received requesting over \$40 million of funding, competing for the \$10 million that was allocated to this program. Non-profit organizations were able to request up to \$250,000 per application for Programmatic purposes, and up to \$1,000,000 for Capital Project purposes. Some organizations also submitted multiple applications.

The applications received reflect the deep, lasting negative impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on members of our community. I am proud of our community-based organizations for their identification of these needs, their willingness to step up and address these needs, and the hard work put into the development of their applications. I

am especially grateful for the thoughtful review process of these applications that has occurred over the last several months. As you can see from the attached letter authored by the ad hoc committee, they have worked diligently in collaboration with EOED staff to come up with funding recommendations that are aligned with the goals and priorities of the ARPA legislation for projects and programs that will help respond to the negative impacts of the pandemic and address needs of our community. With so many meaningful proposals received, it is a difficult task to make these selections. **As such, I have decided to increase the amount of dollars allocated to this program to provide additional funding in support of these critical projects and programs.** The letter from the ad hoc committee described a sliding scale of the awards based on the results of the evaluation, compared with the funding amount requested (ranging from 100% to 80% award levels), as an attempt to stretch the funding to reach more organizations. Part of the additional funding I have dedicated has allowed that sliding scale range to increase, reflecting a 100% to 90% range. I've also added some additional awards for proposals that were close to the threshold funding cutoff. Enclosed with this report is an updated ARPA budget breakdown. Primarily, the reallocation comes from funds set aside for broadband related purposes.

The awards for this program listed below are representative of the priorities identified in the community input sessions, with a particular focus on projects and programs that will benefit populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Program Awards (Social and Human Service Activities)

Lead Organization	Partnering Orgs	Program Nature	Award
Abby's House	Several local service providers	Support Services	\$175,000
African Community Education	MassHire, Adult Learning Center, Area Behavioral Health Agencies	Career Development	\$212,500
AIDS Project Worcester	CMHA, Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester, Eliot Community Services	Food Security	\$101,700
Boys and Girls Club	Great Brook Valley, Plumley Village	COVID Recovery Program	\$145,000
Boys and Girls Club	City Div. of Youth Opportunities, DCF, Red Cross, YOU Inc., Together for Kids Coalition	Worcester Cares 4 Kids	\$95,000
Central MA Agency on Aging		Food Security	\$50,000
Central MA Area Health Educ.	Pernet, LAHA, UMass Memorial, Kennedy Health Center, Centro, Open Sky, Planned Parenthood, CHL, CMAA	Health Education	\$136,529
Central Mass Housing Alliance	Worcester Housing Authority	Housing Stability Vouchers	\$153,284
Centro	Several community-based organizations serving diverse populations	Homeownership Center	\$161,657

Children's Friend	MA Dept. of Early Education, Seven Hills, DCF, Family Services of Central MA, Center for Childcare Careers	Children Pandemic Response	\$112,731
Community Legal Aid	Central Mass. Agency on Aging, Friendly House, SEACMA, Worcester Senior Center, Ascentria Care Alliance	Case Management	\$118,422
Dismas House of Mass		Clinical Support	\$126,000
Edward Street Child Services	Guild St. Agnes, YWCA	Preschool / Disability Services	\$250,000
El Buen Samaritano	Worcester County Food Bank, Lovin Spoonfuls	Food Security	\$207,306
Family Service Organization	RCAP, CMHA, Legal Aid, WHA	FSCM Mediation	\$81,227
Friendly House	CMHA, WHA, DHCD, Legal Aid, CHL, WCAC, DCF, TCB	Community / Social Services	\$128,567
Genesis Club House	Worcester Interfaith, Abby's House, Ascentria Care Alliance, Renaissance Medical Group, Area Colleges and WPS	Young Adult Services	\$166,143
Legendary Legacies	WCFB, APW, Pernet Family Health Services, Jeremiah's Inn, Yes We Care	Food Security / Delivery	\$225,000
Living in Freedom Together		HARBOR	\$237,500
Lovin' Spoonfuls	Several area non-profits will receive and distribute food	Food Security	\$136,917
Multicultural Wellness Center	WPS, Legendary Legacies	Mobile Outreach	\$225,000
OurStory Edutainment	The Village, YMCA, YWCA	Community Event Support	\$50,000
Pernet Family Health Service	Worc.Healthy Babies Collab., Family Health Center, Kennedy Community Health Center, UMass Mem., St. V's	Universal Newborn Visit Prgm	\$228,858
Revive of the USA, Inc.	Faith House, Beryl's House, The Haven Detox, Blue Hills Recovery, Lake Ave Recovery, Veterans Inc, YMCA Greendale	Substance Use Treatment	\$225,000
Shine Initiative	Worcester Public Schools	Mental Health in Schools	\$190,000
Southeast Asian Coalition MA	WPS, REC, MGCC, DPH	Employment Program	\$225,000
The Village Afrocentric Cultural Ct	MSCDC, Beacon-Brightly Assoc, Taproot Treasures, Holistic Healing Practitioners	Healing Room Collective	\$50,000
UMass Medical School	Worcester community centered coalitions and workgroups	Lifeline for Kids Program	\$225,000
Worc. Community Action Council	YOU Inc, Worcester Community Connections Coalition, Friendly House, Catholic Charites	Universal Basic Income	\$250,000
Worc. Com. Housing Resources	CMHA, Open Sky, area Landlords	Affordable Housing	\$197,543
Worcester Earn-a-Bike	The Village, OurStory Edu, REC, WHA	Staff support	\$25,000
Worc Evening Free Medical Serv.	St. Anne's, St. Peter's, Worc Islamic Center, Akwaaba Health, Quest Diagnostics	Free Care Programs	\$49,230
Worcester Housing Authority	Renaissance Medical Group	Food Security / Delivery	\$224,997
Worcester Youth Center	Friendly House, YOU Inc., UMass	Youth Violence Prevention	\$236,543
Yes We Care	Worcester County Food Bank, Lovin' Spoonfuls	Food Security	\$207,306
YOU, Inc.	Health and human service agencies	System Navigators	\$108,031

Program Total: \$5,925,626**Project Awards (Capital Improvement Activities)**

Organization	Project Nature	Award Amount
AIDS Project Worcester	HVAC/Equipment for Food Pantry	\$38,638
Community Health Link	Facility Renovations	\$500,000
Creative Hub	2 Ionic Ave Renovations	\$750,000
Jeremiah's Inn	282 Highland Street Renovations	\$196,553
Main South CDC	Affordable Commercial Condo Dev.	\$900,000
Mustard Seed	Pavilion Construction	\$238,640
Regional Environmental Council	Facility Infrastructure	\$1,000,000
South Middlesex Opp. Council	Shelter Renovations	\$1,000,000
The Village Afrocentric Cultural Ctr.	Facility Renovations	\$150,000
Urban Misionaries of Our Lady of Hope	Facility Infrastructure	\$37,650
YMCA of Central MA	Fuller Family Park Improvements	\$999,975

Project Total: \$5,811,456**Combined Total: \$11,737,082**

As described in the attached letter from the ad hoc committee, the review process was thorough, thoughtful, and conscientious, centered on equity, fairness, and balanced representation.

The City Administration, led by EOED with support from Administration & Finance and the Law Department, will immediately commence the contracting process. The standard form contract for this program has already been created, but staff will work directly with the organizations awarded to adapt the standard form and its exhibits to reflect the project or program awarded. We look forward to this milestone in the process and seeing the projects and programs launch.

Creative Economy

The EOED and the City's Cultural Development Division have been working with the Creative Economy ad hoc committee and the Worcester Arts Council respectively on the launch and administration of the four programs supported through ARPA funding.

Community / Cultural Festivals and Events

This program launched in October and applications have been accepted on a rolling basis. The program has a budget of \$250,000 to assist organizations that sponsor and coordinate community and/or cultural festivals, parades and events in the city of

Worcester that are outdoor, free and open to the public. Over the past two years, a number of these events were canceled due to the state of emergency and/or out of an abundance of caution. These events not only benefit city of Worcester residents, but also contribute to the travel, tourism, and hospitality industry which has been specifically cited by the federal government as an eligible ARPA activity.

Organizations funded through this program will receive grant assistance for covering costs related to implementing the event, which can be a barrier or a burden for these community-centered activities. Grants of up to \$10,000 for eligible costs will be awarded, and events involving primarily disproportionately impacted populations will be eligible for up to \$12,500.

The EOED has reviewed the applications received to date with the ad hoc committee and the following awards have been recommended to date:

Organization	Event	Award Amount
Authentic Caribbean Foundation	Caribbean American Festival	\$12,500
Casita Cultural Latina	Dia de los Muertos	\$12,500
Central Mass Housing Alliance	Walk for Homeless	\$12,500
Centro	Latin American Festival	\$12,500
Creative Hub	StART on the Street	\$10,000
Cultural Exchange Through Soccer	Worcester World Cup	\$12,500
Downtown Worcester BID	Winter Festival	\$10,000
Edward Street Child Services	Day of Play	\$12,500
Hanover Theatre	Carroll Plaza Block Party	\$10,000
Love Your Labels	Pride Festival	\$12,500
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel / Loreto	Italian Festival	\$10,000
Preservation Worcester	Door to Door	\$3,042
Regional Environmental Council	Earth Day Event	\$12,500
St. Patrick's Parade Committee	St. Patrick's Day Parade	\$10,000
St. Spyridon Cathedral	Grecian Festival	\$10,000
Worc. Caribbean American Carnival Assoc.	Caribbean American Carnival	\$12,500
Worcester Center for Crafts	Hot Night in the City	\$10,000
Worcester Hip Hop Congress	All in Together Now Vol. 2	\$12,500
Worcester Public Library Foundation	WPL Block Party	\$10,000

Total: \$208,042

Worcester Arts Council

The \$300,000 of ARPA funds leveraged the \$250,000 received by the Worcester Arts Council (WAC) from the National Endowment of the Arts to support local creatives who were negatively impacted by the pandemic. A total of 106 applications were received for

\$875,000 in requests. Awardees recommended by the WAC represent a wide range of creative disciplines and diverse populations. Administration of grant agreements is ongoing, and a full list of awardees will be provided in the next ARPA update transmitted to City Council.

Cultural Plan Implementation & Creative / Cultural Organization Grants:

These remaining two programs under the Creative Economy category will be launched this spring. The EOED is engaging with the ad hoc committee on the program parameters and application forms in preparation for the launch.

Small Business Safety Net

This program provides grants to for-profit small businesses that were impacted by the pandemic. Grants range from \$5,000 - \$11,500 based on the program guidelines. The initial deadline for applications has passed. The total amount budgeted for this program was \$2,500,000. The program was designed to target and prioritize business owners from disproportionately impacted communities. This includes minority-owned businesses, low-to moderate-income owners, and businesses located in Qualified Census Tracts.

In total, 297 applications were received. The applications were reviewed and confirmed for eligibility by EOED staff and then presented to the ad hoc committee for award recommendations. Due to the volume of applications, this is being done in batches. **To date, EOED staff together with the ad hoc committee have approved and recommended 206 applications for \$2,088,850 in funding.**

Demographic information is a voluntary disclosure and as such, was not a required field in the application form. Demographic information shared for those approved and recommended:

27% Hispanic Owned	43% Women Owned
24% White Owned	41% Men Owned
17% Black / African American Owned	17% No Response
9% Asian Owned	
3% Other	
20% No Response	

67% are located within a Qualified Census Tract, which is also a consideration for the ARPA definition of disproportionately impacted communities.

Of those 206 applications, 146 grant agreements have been executed with \$901,000 in funding disbursed to date. Once all the awards are finalized, the committee will then discuss recommendations related to the balance of funding from the \$2,500,000 budget. The recommendation will be shared with the City Manager’s Office and then with City Council.

Small Business Technical Assistance

This program will provide grants to community-based organizations, nonprofits or community collaborations to provide targeted assistance to small business COVID-19 recovery. Applicants can request up to \$100,000 based on the program guidelines. The total amount budgeted for this program was \$1,000,000.

In total, 8 applications were received. Applications are being reviewed for eligibility by EOED staff and will be shared with the ad hoc committee in March to begin recommending awards.

Housing

The Housing Development Division in EOED continues to administer the programs dedicated to housing development and housing needs in the community. These programs accept applications on a rolling basis:

Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Eligible projects must be housing development proposals resulting in the creation of new affordable housing units for rent or ownership. The amount of funding is up to \$150,000 per unit, totaling no more than 25% of the total development cost. Projects receiving funds must also adhere to a minimum requirement of 10% accessible units. Due to the critical needs of the community relative to accessible housing, as well as affordability for households at or below 30% of Area Median Income (AMI), bonus funding of \$25,000 per unit will be provided for any accessible units above the minimum 10% requirement as well as any units restricted to 30% AMI.

Two projects have conditional commitments to date:

Developer	Project	Award Amount
WinnCompanies	Lincoln Sq. Boys Club	\$1,750,000
WHA / Trinity	Curtis Apartments	\$2,000,000

Total: \$3,750,000

Sustaining Housing First Solutions

In 2018, the City of Worcester created the Sustaining Housing First Solutions Taskforce. The taskforce was charged with taking an in-depth look at the community needs, assessing valuable resources, and developing a long-term, sustainable plan for permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless. The ARPA funding dedicated to this program supports projects aligned with the goals and priorities of the Sustaining Housing First Solutions principle:

Five projects have conditional commitments to date:

Developer	Project	Award Amount
WHA/Building Futures	38 Lewis Street	\$1,856,165
Abby's House	Crown Street	\$700,000
Civico / East Side CDC	Stafford St. Tiny Homes	\$500,000
SMOC	30 Winfield Street	\$500,000
SMOC	237 Chandler Street	\$350,000

Total: 3,906,165

Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab

This program provides grants to owner-occupied properties to assist in addressing building or sanitary code violations. EOED staff and Inspectional Services have developed a referral system and communication strategy to best inform eligible owner-occupants of the assistance available to them. Grant amounts are up to \$30,000 per eligible unit. **To date, ten (10) applications have been approved or in process totaling \$480,000 in funding.**

Lead Paint Abatement

This program will provide grants to property owners to abate lead paint hazards in residential properties built prior to 1978. Grant amounts are up to \$15,000 per eligible unit. **To date, seven (7) applications representing ten (10) housing units have been approved. The total funding amounts based on estimated costs is \$165,000.**

Flood Insurance Assistance

This program is designed to assist owner-occupied properties that are located in a flood zone. Grants are provided in amount of 50% of the annual flood insurance premium cost. **To date, seventeen (17) applications have been approved totaling approximately \$14,868.** The Housing Development Division has also done a second round of outreach

letters to property owners in the flood plain because we expect somewhere between 100 and 200 owners to be eligible for the assistance.

First-Time Homeownership Development

This program will provide grant funding to enable eligible developers to build first-time homeownership opportunities in the 16 census tracts with less than a 30% homeownership rate. Grant amounts up to \$100,000 are available to eligible 1-4 unit homeownership projects. **To date, one application for 17 Lodi Street has been approved with a conditional commitment of \$100,000.**

Mental Health

Since our last update, the EOED finished the development of the Mental Health RFP in collaboration with the ad hoc committee. The Mental Health RFP was launched in January and proposals are now being accepted. The deadline for proposals is Friday, March 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

The EOED held a technical assistance session on Wednesday, February 8th. The session was recorded and is posted with the RFP under the program details at www.worcesterma.gov/arpa.

Job Training

Since our last update, the EOED and MassHire finished the development of the Job Training RFP in collaboration with the Worcester Jobs Fund committee. The Job Training RFP was launched in January and proposals are now being accepted. The deadline for proposals is Friday, March 17th at 5:00 p.m.

The EOED and MassHire held a technical assistance session on Thursday, February 16th. The session was recorded and is posted with the RFP under the program details at www.worcesterma.gov/arpa.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eric D. Batista
City Manager

City of Worcester
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)
BUDGET UPDATE
February 2023

Description	Previous Budget	Change +/-	Proposed Budget
Community Based Initiatives:			
Housing:			
Housing - Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF)	\$ 15,000,000.00		\$ 15,000,000.00
Housing - Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab	2,500,000.00		2,500,000.00
Housing - First-Time Homeownership Development	2,500,000.00		2,500,000.00
Housing - Sustaining Housing First Solutions	4,000,000.00		4,000,000.00
Housing - Lead Program	1,500,000.00		1,500,000.00
Housing - Down Payment Assistance	1,500,000.00		1,500,000.00
Housing - Worcester Housing Authority	750,000.00		750,000.00
Housing - Home Flood Insurance Assistance	250,000.00		250,000.00
Total Housing	\$ 28,000,000.00		\$ 28,000,000.00
Local Business Assistance & Marketing:			
Business Safety Net & COVID Improvements	\$ 2,500,000.00		\$ 2,500,000.00
Technical Assistance for Underserved Business	1,000,000.00		1,000,000.00
Minority / Woman Business Enterprise Fund	550,000.00		550,000.00
Marketing / DCM	1,950,000.00	(430,000.00)	1,520,000.00
Total Local Business Assistance & Marketing	\$ 6,000,000.00	(430,000.00)	\$ 5,570,000.00
Creative Economy:			
Worcester Arts Council Grants	\$ 300,000.00		\$ 300,000.00
Cultural Plan Implementation	1,000,000.00		1,000,000.00
Creative/Cultural Organizations and Facilities Grants	2,950,000.00		2,950,000.00
Community/Cultural Festival Support/Other	250,000.00		250,000.00
Total Creative Economy	\$ 4,500,000.00		\$ 4,500,000.00
Job/Skills Training (Worcester Jobs Fund)	\$ 1,200,000.00		\$ 1,200,000.00
Worcester Regional Food Hub	\$ 1,000,000.00		\$ 1,000,000.00
Mental Health Services	\$ 2,000,000.00		\$ 2,000,000.00
WPS ADA Compliance Integration	\$ 10,000,000.00		\$ 10,000,000.00
Community Projects & Programs	\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ 1,737,082.00	\$ 11,737,082.00
Utility Assistance	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00
Total Community-Based Initiatives	\$ 62,700,000.00	\$ 2,307,082.00	\$ 65,007,082.00
Public Health:			
HUB Navigator	\$ 273,000.00		\$ 273,000.00
COVID -19 Vaccine Freezer Generator	\$ 58,500.00		\$ 58,500.00
Senior Center Virtual Programming	\$ 300,000.00		\$ 300,000.00
Library Lockers and Book Vending Machines	\$ 1,002,000.00		\$ 1,002,000.00
ESOL Programs	\$ 1,050,000.00		\$ 1,050,000.00

Other			
DPH-Software	\$ 54,495.00		\$ 54,495.00
DPH/HHS Technology	24,500.00		24,500.00
DPH - Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester	75,000.00		75,000.00
COVID Testing Contract	300,000.00		300,000.00
Emergency Public Health Initiatives	2,000,000.00		2,000,000.00
Total Other	\$ 2,453,995.00	\$ -	\$ 2,453,995.00
Total Public Health Initiatives	\$ 5,137,495.00	\$ -	\$ 5,137,495.00
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Public Asset & Infrastructure Improvements:			
DCU Center Improvements (Electrical Vault)	\$ 2,000,000.00		\$ 2,000,000.00
Green Worcester Plan Implementation	\$ 2,500,000.00		\$ 2,500,000.00
Public Facility Improvements			
City Hall Touchless Facilities	\$ 180,000.00		\$ 180,000.00
RECC HVAC Upgrades	250,000.00		250,000.00
Total Public Facilities Improvements	\$ 430,000.00		\$ 430,000.00
Park Improvements			
Park Capital Improvements (QCT)	\$ 10,525,000.00	\$ 1,350,000.00	\$ 11,875,000.00
Total Parks Improvements	\$ 10,525,000.00	\$ 1,350,000.00	\$ 11,875,000.00
Water/Sewer Related Infrastructure Improvements			
Water/Sewer Infrastructure	\$ 22,500,000.00		\$ 22,500,000.00
Total Water/Sewer Related Infrastructure Improvements	\$ 22,500,000.00		\$ 22,500,000.00
Total Public Asset & Infrastructure Improvements	\$ 37,955,000.00	\$ 1,350,000.00	\$ 39,305,000.00
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Technology Improvements:			
Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP)	\$ 12,966,624.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 14,966,624.00
Technology Improvements	5,960,000.00	(5,671,582.00)	288,418.00
Total Technology Improvements	\$ 18,926,624.00	\$ (3,671,582.00)	\$ 15,255,042.00
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Administrative Overhead:			
Staffing, Indirect Rate, Other	\$ 3,625,963.00		\$ 3,625,963.00
Total Administrative Overhead	\$ 3,625,963.00	\$ -	\$ 3,625,963.00
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Revenue Recovery:			
General Fund	\$ 4,349,498.00	\$ 7,246,960.87	\$ 11,596,458.87
DCU Center	9,086,807.00	(6,746,961.00)	2,339,846.00
Parking	2,353,218.00	(499,999.87)	1,853,218.13
Total Revenue Recovery	\$ 15,789,523.00		15,789,523.00
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Premium Pay:			
General Fund	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 2,514,500.00
Total Premium Pay	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 2,514,500.00
Total	\$ 146,634,605.00	\$ -	\$ 146,634,605.00

City of Worcester
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)
EXPENDITURE TRACKER
as of January 31, 2023

Description	Budget	Expenditures	Balance
Community Based Initiatives:			
Housing:			
Housing - Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF)	\$ 15,000,000.00		\$ 15,000,000.00
Housing - Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab	2,500,000.00	(1,590.00)	2,498,410.00
Housing - First-Time Homeownership Development	2,500,000.00		2,500,000.00
Housing - Sustaining Housing First Solutions	4,000,000.00	(108,723.45)	3,891,276.55
Housing - Lead Program	1,500,000.00	(2,295.00)	1,497,705.00
Housing - Down Payment Assistance	1,500,000.00		1,500,000.00
Housing - Worcester Housing Authority	750,000.00		750,000.00
Housing - Home Flood Insurance Assistance	250,000.00	(13,552.66)	236,447.34
Total Housing	\$ 28,000,000.00	(126,161.11)	\$ 27,873,838.89
Local Business Assistance & Marketing:			
Business Safety Net & COVID Improvements	\$ 2,500,000.00	(604,000.00)	\$ 1,896,000.00
Technical Assistance for Underserved Business	1,000,000.00		1,000,000.00
Minority / Woman Business Enterprise Fund	550,000.00		550,000.00
Marketing / DCM	1,520,000.00	(492,059.66)	1,027,940.34
Total Local Business Assistance & Marketing	\$ 5,570,000.00	(1,096,059.66)	\$ 4,473,940.34
Creative Economy:			
Worcester Arts Council Grants	\$ 300,000.00	(67,450.00)	\$ 232,550.00
Cultural Plan Implementation	1,000,000.00		1,000,000.00
Creative/Cultural Organizations and Facilities Grants	2,950,000.00		2,950,000.00
Community/Cultural Festival Support/Other	250,000.00		250,000.00
Total Creative Economy	\$ 4,500,000.00	(67,450.00)	\$ 4,432,550.00
Job/Skills Training (Worcester Jobs Fund)	\$ 1,200,000.00		\$ 1,200,000.00
Worcester Regional Food Hub	\$ 1,000,000.00		\$ 1,000,000.00
Mental Health Services	\$ 2,000,000.00		\$ 2,000,000.00
WPS ADA Compliance Integration	\$ 10,000,000.00		\$ 10,000,000.00
Community Projects & Programs	\$ 11,737,082.00		\$ 11,737,082.00
Utility Assistance	\$ 1,000,000.00		\$ 1,000,000.00
Total Community-Based Initiatives	\$ 65,007,082.00	\$ (1,289,670.77)	\$ 63,717,411.23

Public Health:

HUB Navigator	\$ 273,000.00	(69,980.21)	\$ 203,019.79
COVID -19 Vaccine Freezer Generator	\$ 58,500.00	(161,500.00)	\$ (103,000.00)
Senior Center Virtual Programming	\$ 300,000.00		\$ 300,000.00
Library Lockers and Book Vending Machines	\$ 1,002,000.00		\$ 1,002,000.00
ESOL Programs	\$ 1,050,000.00	(9,384.25)	\$ 1,040,615.75

Other

DPH-Software	\$ 54,495.00	(1,220.00)	\$ 53,275.00
DPH/HHS Technology	24,500.00		24,500.00
DPH - Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester	75,000.00		75,000.00
COVID Testing Contract	300,000.00		300,000.00
Emergency Public Health Initiatives	2,000,000.00	(187,578.87)	1,812,421.13
Total Other	\$ 2,453,995.00	\$ (188,798.87)	\$ 2,265,196.13
Total Public Health Initiatives	\$ 5,137,495.00	\$ (429,663.33)	\$ 4,707,831.67
Public Asset & Infrastructure Improvements:			
DCU Center Improvements (Electrical Vault)	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ (1,842,957.86)	\$ 157,042.14
Green Worcester Plan Implementation	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ (187,152.74)	\$ 2,312,847.26
Public Facility Improvements			
City Hall Touchless Facilities	\$ 180,000.00		\$ 180,000.00
RECC HVAC Upgrades	250,000.00	(53,327.57)	196,672.43
Total Public Facilities Improvements	\$ 430,000.00	\$ (53,327.57)	\$ 376,672.43
Park Improvements			
Park Capital Improvements (QCT)	\$ 11,875,000.00	\$ (663,934.70)	\$ 11,211,065.30
Total Parks Improvements	\$ 11,875,000.00	\$ (663,934.70)	\$ 11,211,065.30
Water/Sewer Related Infrastructure Improvements			
Water/Sewer Infrastructure	\$ 22,500,000.00		\$ 22,500,000.00
Total Water/Sewer Related Infrastructure Improvements	\$ 22,500,000.00		\$ 22,500,000.00
Total Public Asset & Infrastructure Improvements	\$ 39,305,000.00	\$ (2,747,372.87)	\$ 36,557,627.13
Technology Improvements:			
Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP)	\$ 14,966,624.00	\$ (6,333,706.19)	\$ 8,632,917.81
Technology Improvements	288,418.00		288,418.00
Total Technology Improvements	\$ 15,255,042.00	\$ (6,333,706.19)	\$ 8,921,335.81
Administrative Overhead:			
Staffing, Indirect Rate, Other	\$ 3,625,963.00	\$ (105,025.43)	\$ 3,520,937.57
Total Administrative Overhead	\$ 3,625,963.00	\$ (105,025.43)	\$ 3,520,937.57
Revenue Recovery:			
General Fund	\$ 7,096,458.98	\$ (7,096,458.98)	\$ -
DCU Center	6,339,846.02	(2,339,846.00)	4,000,000.02
Parking	2,353,218.00	(1,853,218.13)	499,999.87
Total Revenue Recovery	\$ 15,789,523.00	\$ (11,289,523.11)	\$ 4,499,999.89
Premium Pay:			
General Fund	\$ 2,514,500.00	\$ (2,514,500.00)	\$ -
Total Premium Pay	\$ 2,514,500.00	\$ (2,514,500.00)	\$ -
Total	\$ 146,634,605.00	\$ (24,709,461.70)	\$ 121,925,143.30

February 21, 2023

City Manager Eric Batista
Worcester City Hall
455 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

Dear City Manager Batista:

The City of Worcester's ARPA Community Projects and Programs Ad Hoc Committee respectfully submits this report of our work and our recommendations.

Process:

The ARPA Community Projects and Programs Ad Hoc Committee initially met on June 30, 2022. At this initial meeting, we discussed the background of the ARPA funds, the RFP timeline and our roles as committee members, and term limits. The committee members reflected the diversity of the city in which we live and work, of our 7 committee members, 4 are BIPOC. We worked with assistance from City staff, Greg Baker and Jared Sas (later Susan Daly), for support surrounding the process that was to come with the design of the RFP, expectations, and a tentative timeline. We discussed the importance of maintaining professionalism and order within the committee and recusing ourselves from evaluating any proposal where there was a conflict of interest.

The committee then met several times in July to review and make recommendations to the RFP Process. We reviewed each question in detail and made specific suggestions or recommendations which were considered by the City staff working with the committee. We paid particular attention to ensuring the questions asked on the RFP were equitable and that all sizes, types, and make-ups of nonprofits would feel comfortable with applying for these ARPA funds. There was agreement among all committee members that the final RFP released was equitable and asked questions that would provide us with the proper information to make qualified recommendations.

The Committee continued to meet in August to review the scoring mechanism. We spent time looking at, not only how we would score each application, but what point value would be assigned to each criterion. Once again, we spent time ensuring the scoring could be done in a fair manner and that all types and sizes of nonprofits would have an equitable opportunity in our scoring process.

The committee made the decision early on that each member of the committee would read and score each application, apart from any where there would be a conflict. While we are not

an official commission, we requested and were provided information about conflict of interest and signed the City's Conflict of Interest form.

Once the RFP was released, Greg Baker and Susan Daly kept the committee informed as to what was happening with the receipt of applications. Because the number of responses received was much larger than initially anticipated, the committee deferred meeting until the City could ensure we had completed applications and needed documents in place. In October, the committee met and was oriented to Neighborly, then we were provided the login and scoring instructions.

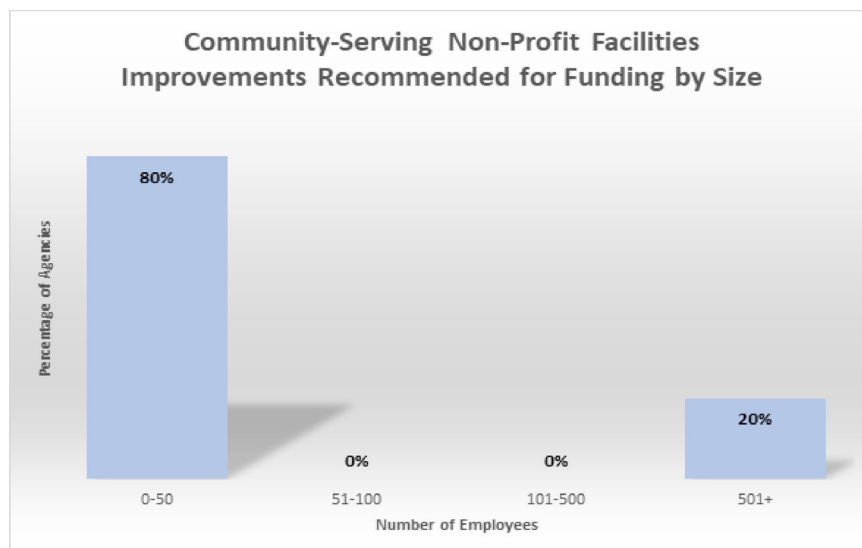
Following the introduction to Neighborly, we committee members were each provided a binder with all the applications with supplemental information provided by applicants, such as financial information and budgets. We developed a calendar for review in November 2022 and began meeting weekly to review each application. We had in-depth discussions about each application at our review meetings regarding whether applications met the RFP criteria, the completeness of applications, and ability of each organization to implement the program or project based on the applicant responses. If we had any questions that could impact our scoring, Susan noted any inquiries and contacted the appropriate nonprofits for the answer to ensure we had all information needed to score fairly and equitably. In total, 28 agencies were contacted with questions from the committee. Because the dollar amount requested from all applicants far exceeded the funds available, the committee recommends funding projects on a sliding scale based on the overall score. This will allow more agencies to receive ARPA funds. Committee members dedicated a significant amount of time to the over 140 applications that were submitted; over 560 hours in individual work was dedicated to reviewing each application, including time outside of the over 28 hours' worth of meetings dedicated by committee members to reviewing applications. The City staff also dedicated significantly more hours to compiling applications, organizing average scores, and ensuring that all appropriate correspondences were made, all documents were reviewed, and every application was given thoughtful consideration.

Recommendations:

The amount of funds requested through this process was \$42,311,607.54, which was substantially more than the \$10 million available.

Given these constraints, the committee's starting point was to realize that funding all applications would not be possible. No process is perfect, but as evidenced by our thoughtful process, we believe we have taken our responsibilities very seriously in reviewing every RFP and we thank you for the opportunity to let residents offer input throughout every step of the ARPA funding process. We as a committee were deliberate in doing our due diligence in ensuring that the grant-funded agencies chosen for recommendations served across cultures that were most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The following awards amount to a total number of **104,176** unduplicated clients expected to benefit from projects supported by ARPA money.

Furthermore, we were careful in ensuring we felt that agencies recommended for awards had the organizational capacity to manage the awarded funds, that funded projects would be sustainable after ARPA funds were exhausted, and that the funds allocated support a wide and diverse representation of the community. When an organization made more than one request for funds, we awarded funding to the project we felt would have most impact in the community. During this process, we also recognized that some organizations were made whole by other governmental agencies or entities throughout the evaluation process, and this information was considered in ensuring our choices were equitable to all who applied. The diversity in awarded agencies reflects the equity we sought to offer in creating guidelines that were attainable for all sizes of organizations, as seen in the tables below.



The City of Worcester ARPA Community Projects and Programs Ad Hoc Committee would like to submit the following recommendations for funding for your review after following the above process with all program and capital requests. Please see the following list with the agencies we recommend for funding, the project for which they submitted an RFP, and the amount we recommend for funding. As you can see, the amount of funds recommended exceeds the \$10 million of funds allocated, the committee recommends the overage be covered by using other City funds.

NON-PROFIT HUMAN SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Agency/Organization	Project	Amount Recommended	Unduplicated Clients to Benefit from Award
Worcester Community Action Council	Universal Basic Income	\$250,000.00	43
Edward Street	Preschoolers with Disabilities	\$250,000.00	272
Lovin' Spoonfuls	Food Rescue and Distribution	\$136,917.00	25,422
Boys and Girls Club of Worcester	COVID Recovery Program	\$145,000.00	977
Friendly House	Social Services	\$128,566.80	435
Worcester Evening Free Medical Service Program	Worcester Free Care Collaborative Programs	\$49,230.00	384
The Shine Initiative	Mental Health Education in School	\$190,000	9,088
Worcester Community Housing Resources	Increasing Affordable Rental Units	\$197,542.52	76
Pernet Family Health Service	Universal Newborn Visit Program	\$228,857.85	345
Worcester Youth Center	VINN (Violence is Not Normal)	\$236,542.99	475
YWCA Central Massachusetts	Clinical Counseling Support	\$187,634.50	116
Boys and Girls Club	Worcester Cares 4 Kids	\$95,000	200
Family Service Organization of Worcester	FSCM Mediation	\$81,226.27	209
Living in Freedom Together (LIFT)	HARBOR Program	\$237,500	370
YOU, Inc.	Two System Navigators	\$102,028.67	75
OurStory Edutainment	Major Activities for Holidays/Events	\$50,000	300
African Community Education Program	ACE Career Development Program	\$212,500.00	158
Worcester Earn-a-Bike	Paid Staff	\$25,000	283

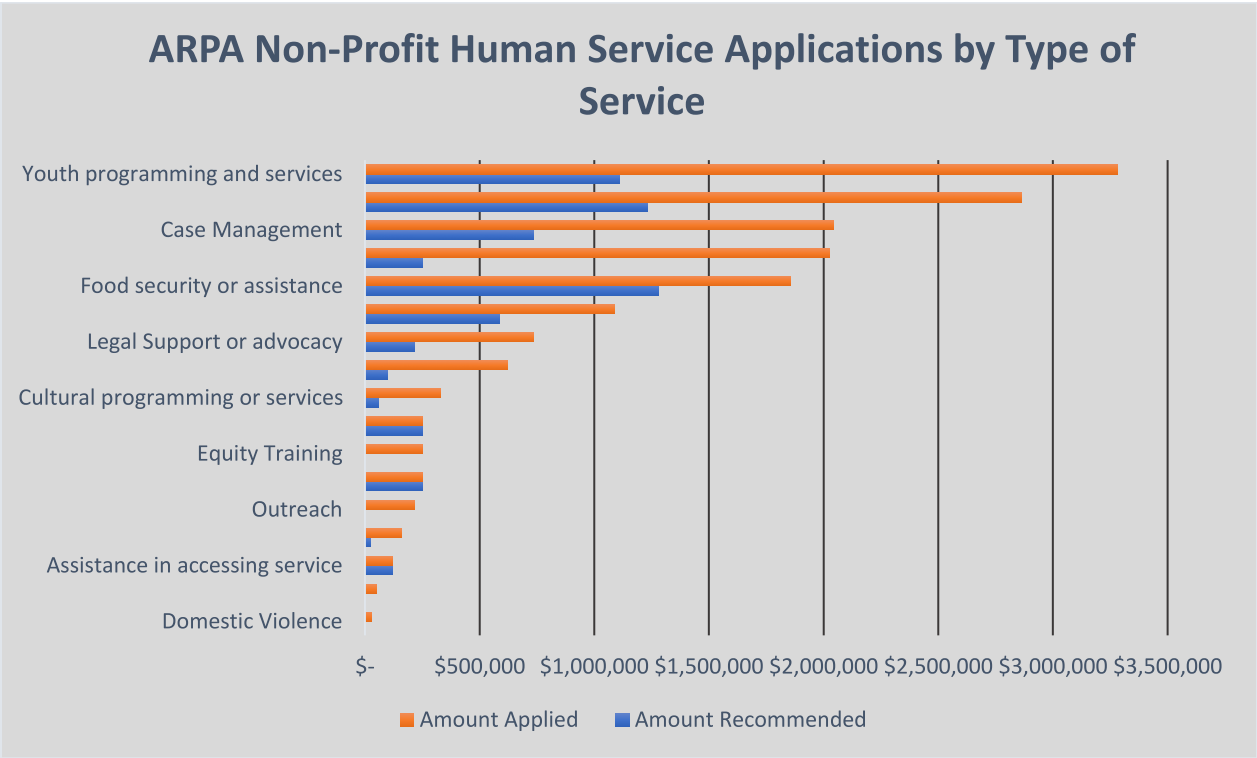
Central Massachusetts Area Health Education Center	HHS-Based Trainings	\$128,943.80	149
Community Legal Aid	CLA Case Manager	\$111,843.00	75
Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance	Housing Stabilization Voucher	\$144,767.75	30
Centro Las Americas	Home Ownership Center	\$152,675.67	275
Children's Friend	Collaboration to Address Children's Needs Due to Pandemic	\$106,468.11	7
Dismas House of Massachusetts	Clinical Support Manager – Two Years	\$119,000	37
Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging	Culturally Competent Meals for Seniors	\$50,000	1,350
Yes We Care	Add Capacity Food Distribution	\$195,789.00	394
El Buen Samaritano Food Program	Transition From Volunteer-Run to Paid Staff/Equipment	\$157,726	2,227
Multicultural Wellness Center	Mobile Outreach	\$212,500.00	1,240
University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School	Expand Lifeline for Kids Program	\$212,500	5,990
Genesis Club House	Young Adults Services	\$156,912.55	254
Worcester Housing Authority	Food Matters Delivery Program	\$199,996.80	157
Legendary Legacies	Food Pickup and Delivery	\$200,000	51,859
Revive of the USA	Substance Use Treatment	\$200,000	904
	TOTAL	\$5,152,669.28	104,176

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Agency/Organization	Project	Amount Recommended
Abby's House	Shelter Renovation	\$489,500.00
Main South Community Development Corporation	Main South Affordable Commercial Condominiums	\$900,000.00
Mustard Seed Catholic Worker Community Inc.	Pavilion construction	\$238,640.00
YMCA of Central MA	Fuller Family Park Reno	\$999,975.00
AIDS Project Worcester Inc.	HVAC, equip. for food pantry	\$38,638.00

Jeremiah's Inn, Inc.	Recovery Residence - Reno 282 Highland	\$196,552.65
The Village Afrocentric Cultural Center inc.	various projects to building	\$150,000.00
Regional Environmental council	Infrastructure Improvements	\$1,000,000.00
Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope	Paving/Drainage project	\$37,650.00
South Middlesex Opportunity Council	Rehab of shelter	\$1,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$5,050,956.65
	Combined total of recommended Non-Profit Human Service Activities & Facility Improvement Projects	\$10,203,625.93

As you can see, these recommendations closely track the overall requests for funding which we feel is also indicative of the community needs.



The above represents the cumulative efforts of the committee to score all the applications fairly and with the needs of the community in mind. We thank you for the opportunity to serve on

this committee, and if you are in need of any additional information please do not hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude,

The City of Worcester ARPA Community Projects and Programs Ad Hoc Committee

Eliana Agudelo

Meg Coffin

Moses Dixon

Scott Galbraith

Darshia Lugo

Fariana Nguyen

Joel Wallen