

American Rescue Plan Act Guiding Principles & Priorities for the City of Missoula March 2021

The American Rescue Plan Act presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the City of Missoula to advance its strategic priorities, which are a product of community values expressed in the City's strategic plan and updated through the late winter and spring of 2021 by the City's leadership team.

The City memorializes the following guiding principles as its leaders work with the City Council, community and institutional partners to deploy these resources most effectively:

- City government must be sustainable and prepared for new emergencies to ensure the community thrives in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. We will use resources appropriately to balance the City's budget through Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023.
- People come first in every investment we make, whether in sustaining local government, maintaining, improving or building new infrastructure to serve residents and visitors, supporting middle-class and low-income Missoulians, providing assistance to small business and addressing the pressing challenges of a post-pandemic environment.
- We will clearly communicate our reasons for spending ARPA funds and be exceptional stewards of these resources, ensuring that we account for expenditures in a thorough, understandable, accurate and timely manner.
- We will seek opportunities to combine existing resources and programs to stretch ARPA dollars.

Based on these principles, we will take the following actions:

- Assemble an internal ARPA working group to establish a process for deployment of resources and implement that process.
- Assemble an external team comprised of community partners, including Missoula County, Missoula County Public Schools, the University of Montana, the Montana Department of Transportation and other government agencies and institutions with a stake and resources to deploy.
- Assemble a communications team to establish and engagement and public information plan. This team will also be accountable for implementing the plan.

Based on these principles and actions, we will quickly engage in the following:

- Each department leader will identify lost revenue related to the pandemic and quantify eligible expenses. Because we need to sustain local government first, recovering lost revenue is our first priority.

- We will continue to fund activities eligible under CARES and ARPA, including salaries and eligible overtime for police, fire and other public-safety employees. We will also replenish supplies of personal-protective equipment needed to maintain employee and public safety. We will invest in necessary changes to our built environment to accommodate best practices in containing the spread of the virus.
- We will review our strategic priorities in light of ARPA funds to establish a list of short-, medium and long-term projects.
- We will begin to anticipate additional resources from the State of Montana, a new, robust infrastructure act likely to be approved by Congress and align our priorities accordingly.
- We will establish a timeline of projects and priorities and measure ourselves against that timeline.