OKLAHOMA

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

TALKING POINTS

The federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 provides $1.9 trillion in relief funds to state, local, and Tribal governments to enable them to continue to support the *public health response and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable economic recovery.*

- Oklahoma received at least **$11 billion total**, most of which went directly to state agencies.
- Oklahoma counties, cities, and municipalities received **$1.32 billion.**
    - Counties = $768,595,226
    - Municipalities = $315,826,918
    - Non-entitlement units = $238,432,979
- The State of Oklahoma was apportioned **$1.87 billion**.

These funds are designed to respond to the pandemic and its negative economic impacts. **Eligible uses of the funds include:**

1. Supporting public health response efforts
    a. Examples: COVID mitigation and containment, medical expenses, behavioral health care, public health and safety staff, expenses to improve public health programs
2. Addressing negative economic impacts
    a. Examples: Assistance to unemployed workers, assistance to households, expenses to improve economic relief programs, assistance to small businesses and nonprofits, aid to impacted industries
3. Replacing public sector revenue loss
    a. Recipients may use these funds to replace lost revenue in governmental services
4. Offering premium pay for essential workers
    a. Provide premium pay directly, or through grants to private employers, to a broad range of essential workers
5. Water and sewage infrastructure
    a. Examples: improving wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems, clean drinking water, replacement of lead service lines
6. Broadband infrastructure.
    a. Focus on underserved or unserved areas, affordability, and last-mile connections

➢ And consistent with the state strategic plan

These funds are **limited, one-time** use monies and must comply with guidance from the U.S. Treasury.

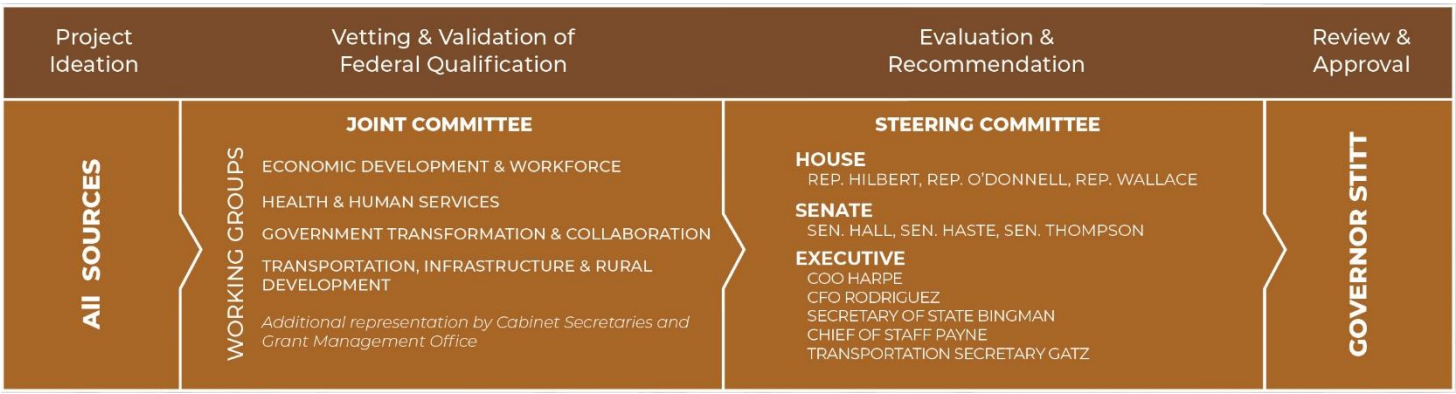
PROCESS

The Legislature has formed the Joint Pandemic Relief Funds Committee tasked with supporting the state planning of impacts of the pandemic and priorities for the uses of the relief funds.

The committee will receive and evaluate proposals through a robust working group vetting process and engagement with stakeholders, including members of the executive branch, state agencies, community organizations, and public submissions.

Project proposals and ideas can be submitted online beginning October 1.

1. Proposals will first be examined to ensure it meets the requirements set forth by the U.S. Treasury.
2. Next, projects may be assigned to a legislative working group to thoroughly vet and evaluate. Focus areas include **Economic Development & Workforce, Health & Human Services, Government Transformation & Collaboration,** and **Transportation, Infrastructure & Rural Development.**
3. Working groups will send recommendations to the full Joint Pandemic Relief Funds committee for further evaluation.
4. The committee will forward its recommendations to the Steering Committee, a group of six legislators and five executive branch officials, who will formally score and send high-scoring priorities to Governor Stitt, who will make the final allocation of funds.



TIMELINE

Use of funds must be determined by December 2024. Reporting to the U.S. Treasury will occur quarterly with performance reporting occurring annually. Reports will be made available online. The submission form for proposals will be available online by October 1.

MORE INFORMATION Visit Oklahoma American Rescue Plan Act for more information, reports, and proposal submission form. Click the **American Rescue Plan Act** button.

Sample email response to constituents:

Thank you for reaching out to our office regarding the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The Legislature has formed the Joint Pandemic Relief Funds Committee tasked with supporting the state planning of impacts of the pandemic and priorities for the uses of the relief funds.

The committee will receive and evaluate proposals through a robust working group vetting process and engagement with stakeholders, including members of the executive branch, state agencies, community organizations, and public submissions.

The Legislature's first goal is to hear from constituents across the state to learn how the pandemic affected Oklahomans and to identify the state's needs. Throughout the month of September, the committee will be conducting a comprehensive needs assessment. Once needs are identified, we will begin accepting ideas and proposals for the use of funds. A submission form will be available online at https://oklahoma.gov/arpa.html beginning October 1.

More information on the process, timeline, and eligible uses of the funds can be found here: https://oklahoma.gov/arpa.html

Thank you for your interest in this process. Together, we can create an environment for a robust recovery in Oklahoma.