



American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Rhode Island Local Governments

In addition to the \$1.2 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Funds coming to the state, close to \$537 million in Fiscal Recovery Funds will be directed to Rhode Island’s local governments. Rhode Island’s six largest (Providence, Pawtucket, Cranston, Warwick, Woonsocket, East Providence) receive most of their funds directly from the United States Treasury Department, with some additional funding passing through the state. Funds for the other municipalities all pass through the state. Regardless of the different flow of funds, all spending decisions remain with the local government authorities.

These funds can be used for the following purposes: to support the public health response to the pandemic; to respond to the adverse economic effects of the pandemic; to offer extra pay for essential workers; to improve water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure; and to replace local revenue lost due to the pandemic. These funds will be delivered in two tranches and must be allocated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

Here are relief fund amounts by municipality:*

| Municipality | Total ARPA Funds | Municipality | Total ARPA Funds |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Providence | \$166,314,129.10 | Burrillville | \$5,037,775.74 |
| Pawtucket | \$58,270,160.87 | Barrington | \$4,798,351.21 |
| Cranston | \$42,592,330.15 | Middletown | \$4,749,031.68 |
| Warwick | \$39,431,837.39 | Tiverton | \$4,681,478.73 |
| Woonsocket | \$36,388,236.33 | Narragansett | \$4,587,920.93 |
| East Providence | \$27,785,912.31 | East Greenwich | \$3,921,657.62 |
| Cumberland | \$10,540,351.60 | North Smithfield | \$3,760,845.75 |
| Coventry | \$10,407,636.94 | Scituate | \$3,207,270.30 |
| North Providence | \$9,770,068.69 | Warren | \$3,141,809.60 |
| South Kingstown | \$9,071,224.47 | Glocester | \$3,085,615.22 |
| Johnston | \$8,809,083.23 | Hopkinton | \$2,409,189.05 |
| West Warwick | \$8,656,939.63 | Charlestown | \$2,339,244.85 |
| North Kingstown | \$7,868,124.48 | Richmond | \$2,313,837.77 |
| Newport | \$7,273,598.74 | Exeter | \$1,948,573.62 |
| Westerly | \$6,689,833.76 | West Greenwich | \$1,909,117.93 |
| Lincoln | \$6,572,064.50 | Jamestown | \$1,643,389.74 |
| Bristol | \$6,550,543.00 | Foster | \$1,418,312.92 |
| Smithfield | \$6,545,162.89 | Little Compton | \$1,038,402.32 |
| Central Falls | \$5,849,008.88 | New Shoreham | \$307,874.03 |
| Portsmouth | \$5,148,969.01 | | |

Rhode Islanders can make their voices heard with local policymakers who will be making important decisions as to how to spend these relief funds. It will be important not only to influence spending, but also to monitor the allocations once they are made. The six largest municipalities will need to report to Treasury quarterly their project expenditures, while the other 33 must submit annual reports.

For EPI’s infographic on all ARPA funds, both targeted and more flexible funds, see <http://www.economicprogressri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ARP-Flow-Chart-FINAL.pdf>.

* ARPA funding amounts calculated by Andy Boardman, an economic policy researcher, from U.S. Treasury and U.S. Census Bureau data.