



## **American Rescue Plan (ARP) Allocation & Accountability Process**

The Mayor is taking the necessary steps to ensure that the City of Milwaukee acts swiftly, responsibly, and equitably as soon as funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) becomes available. The process will involve engagement with residents, the Common Council, City Departments, the State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, and other community stakeholders to maximize the benefits of ARP assistance to the Milwaukee community.

### **Leadership Team**

The ARP Leadership Team is comprised of City managers from the Department of Administration (DOA). DOA is the chief administrative agency for the City of Milwaukee and provides planning, policy and management functions that assist the Mayor, Common Council and City departments with delivering high quality, valued services. Through these efforts, DOA works to advance the City's mission delivery and service goals including promoting racial, social, and economic equity for all city residents. As the City department responsible for fiscal management, grants management, administration, and monitoring, it is prudent to have DOA assume a leadership role.

The leadership team includes:

- Sharon Robinson, Director, Department of Administration
- Dennis Yaccarino, Director, Budget and Management Division
- Steve Mahan, Director, Community Development Grants Administration Division
- Kimberly Montgomery, Director, Intergovernmental Relations Division
- Nikki Purvis, Chief Equity Officer/Director, Office of Equity and Inclusion

### **Leadership Team Responsibilities**

- 1) Identify all funding opportunities contained in the ARP including:
  - a. Direct assistance to the City of Milwaukee (\$406 million).
  - b. Formula and other funding opportunities in the ARP, including aid and funding through the State of Wisconsin.
- 2) Track ARP developments on spending requirements, allowable uses, and reporting uses.
- 3) Seek community input on ARP priorities.
- 4) Link prioritized opportunities and efforts that meet allowable uses to all available funding.
- 5) Identify potential areas for ARP funding and coordinate with other government officials and agencies to ensure that all dollars are spent wisely and efficiently. Those officials include:
  - a. Governor, State of Wisconsin
  - b. Mayor, City of Milwaukee
  - c. Common Council, City of Milwaukee
  - d. County Executive, County of Milwaukee

The Leadership Team will work to leverage ARP and other funding from other recipients, such as the State and the County. The Team will also work to identify partnerships, avoid duplication, and ensure the most efficient use of available funds. Identifying and developing partnerships will be essential to maximizing available funds for the

Milwaukee community from all funding sources. The Leadership Team will also ensure that prioritization of efforts prioritizes equity and inclusion.

The Budget and Management Division will compile all the information into a Work Plan to ensure the City seizes every opportunity to secure ARP dollars and maximize the impact of the funding. The plan will be adjusted as needed as further details on opportunities and spending guidelines are released, as additional funds become available, and as partnerships develop.

The Budget and Management Division will work with the City Attorney and Comptroller to ensure the Work Plan complies with ARP rules and regulations, and that accounting and financial reporting requirements are met. DOA worked closely with the City Attorney and the Comptroller on the CARES Act and anticipates a similar working relationship with ARP. There will be substantial financial reporting and audit requirements which will require the assistance of the Comptroller.

The Department of Administration will be responsible for ARP reporting to the Common Council. Regular reporting to the Council will be augmented by a public dashboard to keep both residents and the Council informed on ARP activities and progress.

### **Mayor's Priority Areas**

The Mayor's goal is to use the ARP funds to enable the City and community to recover from the pandemic, while improving long-term resiliency by addressing key priority areas. The priority areas include:

- 1) Early Education
- 2) Stable and Affordable Housing
- 3) Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention
- 4) Lead Abatement
- 5) Broadband/Internet Access
- 6) Critical Infrastructure
- 7) Workforce Development
- 8) Economic Development
- 9) Small Business Development
- 10) Public Health

These priority areas reflect on-going needs in the community that can be addressed through the effective use of ARP funds. The ARP provides an unprecedented opportunity to address these issues in a more comprehensive manner.

### **Decision-Making Guidelines/Criteria**

The Mayor has set preliminary guidelines/criteria for prioritizing ARP spending. Efforts must:

1. Meet federally defined regulations and requirements for allowable uses of ARP funds.
2. Increase housing options, economic growth, and employment opportunities for city residents.
3. Meet the City's racial equity and inclusion goals.
4. Improve a major infrastructure replacement cycle or service level deficiency.
5. Avoid unsustainable future costs or increase structural deficits.

The efforts will contribute to the immediate recovery from the pandemic and will provide a foundation for Milwaukee's long-term resilience.

The COVID pandemic had a negative impact on government revenues, which hinders the ability to provide services to the community. One priority of the ARP is to allow recipient governments to replace revenue lost because of the pandemic. The ARP work plan will identify how much funding is allocated to offsetting the City's revenue loss.

The Leadership Team will immediately begin to create a work plan and update it based on the forthcoming guidelines from the federal government. These guidelines are essential to finalize and implement the ARP funds.

### **Public Engagement**

The ARP allows us to reimagine and invigorate the work the City is doing to improve the lives of Milwaukee residents and solve community problems. To make sure the funds positively impact all people and neighborhoods throughout the city, residents will be engaged in the process.

In addition to utilizing this year's Public Engagement in Budgeting process to educate residents on the ARP and seek input on priorities based on allowable uses, the Administration Director will engage a local business (preferably a certified SBE) to assist with broader outreach efforts. The entity will provide direct outreach to raise awareness about the ARP and seek the input of residents on what they view should be funding priorities (i.e., through social media, focus groups, surveys, etc.). Special efforts will be made to connect with residents through the Office of Equity and Inclusion and the Office of African American Affairs. Outreach will also involve public education on allowable uses and available funding.

The City will also create a user-friendly ARP dashboard on its website to communicate information to the public on funding. Content that will be featured on the dashboard will include:

- Factsheets on different components of the ARP legislation
- References and contacts for individuals and businesses related to ARP resources and funding.
- Accurate information on assistance available for families, individuals, and businesses, including eligibility requirements.
- Links to surveys and other public engagement tools and results.
- The ARP work plan.
- Timely data on ARP expenditures and performance.
- Maps showing where ARP funded efforts are occurring.

The dashboard will function as a clearinghouse on all data and information related to the ARP.

### **Reporting to Council**

The Leadership Team will regularly report to the Council on implementing the work plan, including expenditures and performance. While information will be readily available to the Council through the ARP dashboard, regular communications will be provided both formally at Committee meetings and through individual meetings. If adjustments or changes to the work plan are needed, these will be communicated in a timely manner to the Council. The Leadership Team will be available as needed to work with the Council.