



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Health Impacts RFA 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

Posted 6/17/2022

Q. Are these grants different from the last ARPA grants by the Administrative Office?

A. These ARPA grants come from the same funding source as those recently given by the Administrative Office. However, this specific allocation for Public Health Emergency funding is meant to “manage response measures to protect the public from the direct and indirect consequences and health implications of the global coronavirus spread.” (See RFA, pg. 1 Section 2. Source and Founding Amount).

While the majority of the emergency funding went to direct COVID-19 response and mitigation costs (like testing and vaccine efforts), the remaining \$5.9 million will be used for these grants to help address disparities in the community that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, in one of the four critical health impact areas.

Q. What is the definition of “contribute” to one or more of the critical health impact areas?

A. Projects and programs will be judged by their potential impact on one or more of the four [critical health impact areas](#):

- Access to Care
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- Food access
- Healthy Aging

The project must directly or indirectly impact at least one of these areas.

Q. Will the proposal evaluation and selection process be the same as the last round of ARPA grants?

A. Public Health ARPA grants have their own process for overseeing ARPA funding. SLO Health Counts, composed of a Leadership Council and a Steering Committee, will oversee the process of receiving, reviewing, evaluating and selecting this round of ARPA grants. These committees include representatives from local nonprofits, businesses, hospitals and universities.

Q. Can Public Health ARPA grants be used to fund ongoing expenses?

A. ARPA funding is a one-time award. If the project or program expects to continue after the ARPA funds are exhausted, please include future plans for project funding in your application.

Q. Can an organization submit more than one proposal for different ideas?

A. Yes, an organization can submit more than one proposal if they have several projects that meet one or more of the four [critical health impact areas](#). Make sure you are not duplicating any efforts when you're submitting multiple applications from the same organization.

Q: The RFA notes that housing and homelessness will not be considered for funding. Can organizations that work in homeless and housing services submit an application for a project that addresses an eligible critical health impact area?

A: Yes. While direct housing and homelessness services will not be considered for funding, organizations that serve these populations may still apply for another service or project they provide if it aligns with [an eligible critical health impact area](#).

Q. What is the term of this grant?

A. The timeline is found on page 5 of the RFA document and reads as follows: "Funds must be obligated by 12/31/2024 and expended by 12/31/2026."

"Obligations are orders placed for property and services, contracts and subawards made, and similar transactions during a given period that require payment by the non-Federal entity during the same or a future period." [See 2 CFR § 200.71 – Obligations under Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards].

Q. How long do we have to expend the funds?

A. Funds must be expended by 12/31/2026.

Q. Do technology (tablets, computers) and equipment purchased with this grant need to be returned at the end of the grant period?

A. No, technology and equipment purchased with this grant will not need to be returned after the grant period.

Q. Can we use this Public Health ARPA grant to conduct COVID testing?

A. No, COVID testing does not address one of the four [critical health impact areas](#) and would not be eligible for this award.

Q. Is the 10-page narrative expected to be single spaced?

A. There is no specific spacing requirement for the grant narrative.

Q. Can subcontractors include indirect costs in their budget?

A. Yes, contractors can include indirect costs of up to 10%.

Q. Should we include the background and financials for the entire agency or just from the department requesting the ARPA grant?

A. The background and the financials should be from the department presenting the project and requesting the grant

Q. Are the funds requested per year or the requested amount should be for all years combined?

A. The requested amount should be calculated for the entire project/program.

Q. When does the PH-ARPA grant takes effect?

A. The PH-ARPA grants take effect at the moment the contract is fully executed between the organization and the County.

Q. Can I get further explanation of the budget expenditure timeline?

A. The deadline for the award to be acquired (which means obligated) is December 31, 2024, as specified in the ARPA statute and Treasury. December 31, 2026 is specified as the end of the period of performance in order to provide a reasonable amount of time for recipients to liquidate obligations incurred by the statutory deadline.

Q. Can two related non-profits with a shared program apply for this funding?

A. Yes. Collaborative projects are welcomed. If there is a collaborative application, they will need to designate a lead applicant that is going to be responsible for the contract with the County.

Q. Is there a consideration being given for an extension of the application submission deadline?

A. No, the deadline for the Public Health ARPA grant application cannot be extended.

Q. What information should be provided if don't have DUNS number?

A. All the applicants must present proof of status. This could be an IRS determination letter, current status from Secretary of State and Attorney General Office, or SAM (CCR) Status check from SAMS.gov, depending on the type of organization.

Q. Appendix A asks for DUNS numbers for "partners, owners, officers or other persons occupying a position of authority or responsibility". What if they don't have one?

A. A DUNS number is not required but must be listed if the entity has one.

Q. I see that projects must be a minimum of \$50,000 for a capital expense project (e.g., vehicles, equipment, or other one-time purchases) or a minimum of \$200,000 for a program project. Does this mean that capital and program requests need to be separate proposals?

A. Applications are project based. If the capital and operating expenses are part of the same project, then only one application is required (and it would need to be over \$200K). If the capital expense is for a separate project, then a separate application would be needed (and the minimum amount would be \$50K).

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Q. Could the ARPA grant be used to pay staff salaries between 1/1/2025 and 12/31/2026?

A. Salaries & Benefits cost for the San Luis Obispo County Staff cannot be funded with ARPA fund beyond December 31, 2024. Contractors applying for these Public Health ARPA grants can include their staff cost up until December 31, 2026. These cost will be obligated through the contract and purchase order process