

Maine
Cumberland **County**

Cumberland County ARPA Advisory Committee
Proposal for Committee Formation
December 2021

Purpose

In accordance with the County's ARPA Community Engagement Plan, Cumberland County has formed the Cumberland County Citizen ARPA Advisory Committee (AAC). The ACC will be responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to the County Manager, and County Commissioners regarding the use of County ARPA funds.

Role of Advisory Committee: The Advisory Committee will meet to review applications and rank them according to the criteria outlined in the Department of Treasury's Reporting & Compliance Guidance. The AAC will be responsible for determining how the County SLFRF projects will best address equity based on the County's scoring system. The AAC will present their award recommendations to the County Commissioners.

Formation of SLFRF Cumberland County Citizen Advisory Committee:

The Cumberland County Commissioners shall solicit committee applications from the public within the County of Cumberland. One applicant will be selected from each of the five districts and three County Staff appointed by the County Manager for a total of 8 Advisory Committee

Committee membership is strictly voluntary. The structure of the committee will follow Maine Meeting Law. The length of the appointment will be 18 months. The Committee shall have a Chair and Vice-Chair. The duty of the Chair is to approve agenda items and to preside at meetings. The duty of the Vice-Chair is to perform the duties of the Chair when the Chair is not present.

Goals of County ARPA Funding

The goal of the ACC is to utilize ARPA funds to support community-driven solutions to recovery that deliver equitable outcomes and target communities with the greatest need. County ARPA project applications will be tiered based on the following structure and ranked according to the established scoring criteria:

- a. **Tier 1&2** - Projects and programs that will have the most immediate impact, are "shovel-ready," and highly important.
- b. **Tier 3&4** - Projects and programs that are highly important but may not be as urgent or ready to address immediately (may make more sense for the 2nd tranche).

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- c. **Beyond Tier 4** - Projects that may not directly qualify for the intent of ARPA funds, may not be considered feasible within the timeframe, and/or should be considered through other funding sources.

Eligible Use Categories:

1. Public Health - COVID-19 Expense, Mental Health Services, Substance Use Services
2. Negative Economic Impacts - Household Assistance, Aid to Nonprofits
3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities - Education Assistance, Healthy Childhood Environments, Lead Remediation, Affordable Housing Support
4. Infrastructure - Broadband, sewer/water

The County Commissioners in being intentional about how the County invests ARPA funds have created the following prioritization for County Staff to use when reviewing Applications Submissions. These Prioritizations are outlined below:

Project Prioritization:

1. Shovel Ready Housing/ Homelessness Units – Capacity gain
2. Mental Health & Substance – Capacity Building
3. New American Job Training & Work Opportunities
4. Food Insecurity
5. Childcare
6. Infrastructure - Water and Sewer

Application Scoring Criteria:

1. Project Description, Eligibility/ Project Evaluation
2. Complexity – How long to implement
3. Cost- Funding/Budget
4. Community Benefit / Community Partnerships
5. EQUITY
6. Evidence Of Sustainability
7. Due Diligence Companion Funds - matching funds and sources of funds to include financial support to allow for more points to groups that demonstrate significant financial support from other sources.
8. Census Track Eligibility
9. Infrastructure – Does this align with our community goals as outlined by the public process? *Optional would this align with the federal legislation?
10. Regional Benefit and Need For The Project.

Date Approved: 12/13/2021

Signature of Chair: _____

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Stephen Gorden
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Stephen F. Gorden, Chair of Cumberland County