

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Authorization of Finance Director to Apply for State ARP Funds

DATE: 8/12/2021

(X) RECOMMENDATION

() POLICY DISCUSSION

BUDGET INFORMATION:

() STATUS REPORT

ANNUAL-

() OTHER

CAPITAL-

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: August 16, 2021

PURPOSE: To request BOC approval to authorize the Finance Director, with approval from the County Manager, to submit various Grant Applications for Projects eligible for the State of Georgia's American Recovery Program (ARP) Funding, and if awarded, appoint the Finance Director as the Program Designee, and authorize the Chairman to execute all related application and award documents. As a restriction, any matching funds must be provided from Habersham County's local share of ARP grant funds.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY: The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, will provide \$2.4 billion to the state of Georgia. These funds are meant to be a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild stronger, more equitable economy as the country recovers. Recipient use of the funds must fall under one of the following approved categories, however they have broad flexibility in deciding how to best use these funds to meet the needs of their communities:

- Support public health expenditures.
- Replace lost public sector revenue.
- Provide premium pay for essential workers.
- Invest in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

The state must obligate all funds by December 31, 2024. To facilitate the distribution, they are employing a competitive application process. The small window of time for applying for these funds is August 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021. The department heads are working diligently to identify areas where these funds may be utilized and gather all the necessary information together for the application process. We are requesting that the Board of Commissioners authorize Finance Director, Tim Sims, with County Manager approval, to submit grant applications for state ARP funding with the restriction that any matching funds be provided from Habersham County's local share of ARP grant funds.

FACTS AND ISSUES:

- 1st portion of State Fiscal Recovery funds was received by Georgia on May 20th for \$2.4 billion dollars.
 - Use of funds must fall under an approved category, but there is broad flexibility within the category as to how the funds are used.
 - If a county share is required, Local ARP funds may be used to cover it.
 - Department heads are in the process of identifying uses for these funds and gathering information needed for applying.
 - Commission approval is necessary for applying for these funds.
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- The application period for these funds is August 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021.
 - If given authorization by the Commission, Finance Director Tim Sims can submit grant applications for projects eligible for State ARP funding with the restriction that any matching funds be provided from Habersham County's local share of ARP grant funds.
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OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve authorizing Finance Director, with County Manager approval, to submit grant applications for state ARP funding using local ARP funds as match.
 - 2) Deny authorizing Finance Director to submit grant applications for state ARP funding.
 - 3) Commission defined alternative.
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RECOMMENDED SAMPLE MOTION: I move to authorize the Finance Director with the approval of the County Manager to submit the following grant applications for projects eligible for State ARP funding with the restriction that any matching funds be provided from Habersham County's local share of ARP grant funds:

_____ Grant
_____ Grant
_____ Grant

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by: Brandalin Cames

Director: ____ County Manager & Commission _____

ADMINISTRATIVE

COMMENTS: _____

_____ **DATE:** _____

County Manager



Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The American Rescue Plan will deliver \$350 billion for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and bring back jobs.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Funding Objectives

- **Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts** to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control
- **Replace lost public sector revenue** to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs
- **Support immediate economic stabilization** for households and businesses
- **Address systemic public health and economic challenges** that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic

Eligible Jurisdictions & Allocations

Direct Recipients

- States and District of Columbia (\$195.3 billion)
- Counties (\$65.1 billion)
- Metropolitan cities (\$45.6 billion)
- Tribal governments (\$20.0 billion)
- Territories (\$4.5 billion)

Indirect Recipients

- Non-entitlement units (\$19.5 billion)



Support Public Health Response

Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff



Address Negative Economic Impacts

Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector



Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic



Premium Pay for Essential Workers

Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors



Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure



Broadband Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access



For More Information: Please visit www.treasury.gov/SLFRP

For Media Inquiries: Please contact the U.S. Treasury Press Office at (202) 622-2960

For General Inquiries: Please email SLFRP@treasury.gov for additional information



Example Uses of Funds



Support Public Health Response

- **Services to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19**, including vaccination, medical expenses, testing, contact tracing, quarantine costs, capacity enhancements, and many related activities
- **Behavioral healthcare services**, including mental health or substance misuse treatment, crisis intervention, and related services
- **Payroll and covered benefits** for public health, healthcare, human services, and public safety staff to the extent that they work on the COVID-19 response



Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

- **Ensure continuity of vital government services** by filling budget shortfalls
- **Revenue loss is calculated** relative to the expected trend, beginning with the last full fiscal year pre-pandemic and adjusted annually for growth
- **Recipients may re-calculate revenue loss** at multiple points during the program, supporting those entities that experience revenue loss with a lag



Water & Sewer Infrastructure

- **Includes improvements to infrastructure**, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems
- **Eligible uses aligned to Environmental Protection Agency project categories** for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund



Equity-Focused Services

- **Additional flexibility for the hardest-hit communities and families** to address health disparities, invest in housing, address educational disparities, and promote healthy childhood environments
- **Broadly applicable** to Qualified Census Tracts, other disproportionately impacted areas, and when provided by Tribal governments



Address Negative Economic Impacts

- **Deliver assistance to workers and families**, including support for unemployed workers, aid to households, and survivor's benefits for families of COVID-19 victims
- **Support small businesses** with loans, grants, in-kind assistance, and counseling programs
- **Speed the recovery of impacted industries**, including the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors
- **Rebuild public sector capacity** by rehiring staff, replenishing state unemployment insurance funds, and implementing economic relief programs



Premium Pay for Essential Workers

- **Provide premium pay to essential workers**, both directly and through grants to third-party employers
- **Prioritize low- and moderate-income workers**, who face the greatest mismatch between employment-related health risks and compensation
- **Key sectors include** healthcare, grocery and food services, education, childcare, sanitation, and transit
- **Must be fully additive** to a worker's wages



Broadband Infrastructure

- **Focus on households and businesses** without access to broadband and those with connections that do not provide minimally acceptable speeds
- **Fund projects that deliver reliable service** with minimum 100 Mbps download / 100 Mbps upload speeds unless impracticable
- **Complement broadband investments** made through the Capital Projects Fund



Ineligible Uses

- **Changes that reduce net tax revenue** must not be offset with American Rescue Plan funds
- **Extraordinary payments into a pension fund** are a prohibited use of this funding
- **Other restrictions apply** to eligible uses

The examples listed in this document are non-exhaustive, do not describe all terms and conditions associated with the use of this funding, and do not describe all the restrictions on use that may apply. The U.S. Department of the Treasury provides this document, the State and Local contact channels, and other resources for informational purposes. Although efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided, the information is subject to change or correction. Any Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds received will be subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement entered into by Treasury and the respective jurisdiction, which shall incorporate the provisions of the Interim Final Rule and/or Final Rule that implements this program.



State Fiscal Recovery Fund

- 1st Tranche received May 20: **\$2.4 billion**
- Period of performance from 3/3/2021 – 12/31/2026
- State must obligate all funds by December 31, 2024

To facilitate the distribution of these funds, the state will employ a competitive application process

- August 1-August 31, 2021
- Committee Review



Eligible Uses for 1st Tranche

Committee Focus Areas:

- Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

The Committees will be looking for an emphasis on broader community/industry impact.



Eligible Entities

Government Organizations

- State Agencies
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments

Georgia Professional Associations and Organizations

- Industry Trade Associations
- Business Organizations
- Trade or Professional
- Non-Profit Organizations



How To Apply



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A Greeting from Kelly Farr, OPB Director

OPB's primary responsibility is providing the Governor and his office with the administrative support needed to make decisions regarding budget development and fiscal management of the state.

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GEORGIA GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

Current COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

[Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund II](#)

[Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund](#)

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How To Apply

State Fiscal Recovery Fund

Applying For State Fiscal Recovery Funds

The application period for the State Fiscal Recovery Funds will be August 1-August 31, 2021. Applicants can apply via the Georgia Grants Portal.

Click on the icon for eligibility and application requirement information.



[Click Here For
Application
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Georgia Grants Application Portal

Ready to apply?

Click below to access the Georgia Grants Portal. This application allows applicants to view current grant opportunities, apply, and check the status of grant applications.

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How To Apply

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Grant Opportunities

Broadband Infrastructure

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used to invest in broadband infrastructure. Treasury's Interim Final Rule provides that investments in broadband be made in areas that are currently unserved or underserved—lacking a wireline connection that reliably delivers minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

Using these funds, applicants generally should propose broadband infrastructure projects with modern technologies in mind, specifically those projects that deliver services offering reliable 100 Mbps download and 100 8 Mbps upload speeds, unless impracticable due to topography, geography, or financial cost. In addition, applicants are encouraged to pursue fiber optic investments. In view of the wide disparities in broadband access, assistance to households to support internet access or digital literacy is an eligible use to respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, as detailed above.

Treasury's Interim Final Rule encourages recipients to ensure that broadband projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions.

Apply Now

Governor's Emergency Education Relief 2

1. Provide emergency support through grants to the LEAs that the State educational agency (SEA) deems to have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such LEAs to continue to provide educational services to public and non-public school students and to support the on-going functionality of the LEA;
2. Provide emergency support through grants to IHEs serving students within the State that the Governor determines have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the ongoing functionality of the institution; and
3. Provide support to any other IHE, LEA, or education-related entity within the State that the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students for authorized activities described in section 18003(d)(1) of the CARES Act or the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), the provision of childcare and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs.

Apply Now

Negative Economic Impact

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allow states to support industries that were particularly hard-hit by the COVID-19 emergency and are now beginning to mend, helping them to address financial challenges caused by the pandemic and to make investments in COVID-19 prevention and mitigation tactics. The Negative Economic Impact grant will aid in speeding the recovery of the tourism, travel, hospitality sectors, as well as other industries.

Apply Now

Water/Sewer Infrastructure

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used to invest in necessary improvements to water and sewer infrastructures, including projects that address the impacts of climate change. Applicants may use this funding to invest in an array of drinking water infrastructure projects, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems, including the replacement of lead service lines.

Applicants may also use this funding to invest in wastewater infrastructure projects, including constructing publicly owned treatment infrastructure, managing and treating stormwater or subsurface drainage water, facilitating water reuse, and securing publicly owned treatment works. Treasury's Interim Final Rule encourages recipients to ensure that water and sewer projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions.

Apply Now

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Register for a new local account

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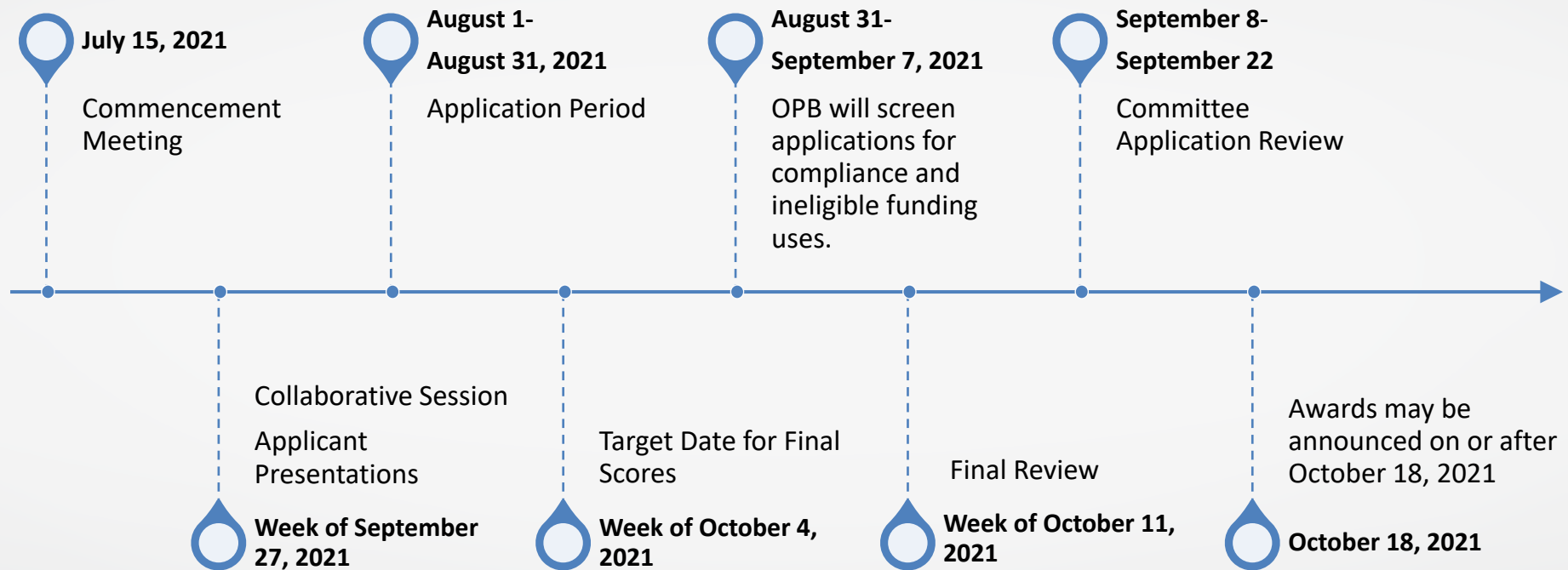
Scoring Criteria

1. Description of the Issue (15%)
2. Project Design and Implementation (30%)
3. Capabilities and Competencies (15%)
4. Performance Measures (10%)
5. Budget (15%)
6. Matching Funds (15%)

ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Fund awards may be used as match



Timeline for Grant Awards





Governor's Office of
PLANNING AND BUDGET
THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Questions

email:grants@opb.georgia.gov

phone:404-656-3820

