



COUNTY OF DUKES COUNTY

MARTHA'S VINEYARD & ELIZABETH ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

Dukes County Update Regarding American Recovery Plan Act Funds

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is providing \$5.1m to Martha's Vineyard and Gosnold, of which \$1.6m is going to the towns to utilize as they choose within provided guidelines, and \$3.5m is designated to Dukes County to do the same.

The County Commissioners are committed to ensuring that these funds will be allocated for the island in a fully collaborative and open manner and have formed a Steering Committee of three members of the County Advisory Board (Jeff Kristal, Skipper Manter and Bill Rossi) and three County Commissioners (John Cahill, Don Leopold, and Peter Wharton) to invite input and applications, and to make recommendations to the Dukes County Commission.

The Act defines four general categories of eligible uses of these funds:

1. To respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts (including assistance to households, businesses, and nonprofits);
2. To provide premium pay to employees providing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency;
3. To provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

The Steering Committee has developed criteria it will use to evaluate potential fund allocations:

1. Demonstrated need from COVID-19 impact
2. Ability to mitigate such impacts
3. Ability to multiply/leverage ARPA investment, through matching funds, grants, state aid, etc.
4. Potential Return on Investment (to-be-defined)
5. Opportunity to make fundamental change on a county-wide level

If you would like more information about the ARPA funding please go to Dukes County website:

<https://www.dukescounty.org/home/news/arpa-funding-informational-page>.

Please submit your questions, comments and letter of interest/application form via e-mail to:

ARPAfunding@dukescounty.org

We are very excited about utilizing these funds to benefit the island and look forward to input from our community on their best uses.

Christine Todd, Chair, Dukes County Commission

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