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How Communities are Investing American Rescue Plan Funds With the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker.

In the 10 months since the passage of the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), cities and counties have been working to prioritize and execute investing of their portion of the act's $350 billion in flexible State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) dollars. And as recent Treasury Department guidance made clear, local leaders have myriad options to use these resources to address the direct health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to confront the underlying challenges that exacerbated the pandemic's negative effects on vulnerable individuals, businesses, and communities.

To illuminate the many options at communities' disposal, we are introducing the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker, a joint project of Brookings Metro, the National Association of Counties (NACo), and the National League of Cities (NLC). This tool adds to other important efforts to understand local ARPA implementation, including Results for America's ARP Data and Evidence Dashboard, and the Treasury Department's analysis of highlights from initial SLFRF reports.

Communities have until 2024 to fully plan for and commit their funds, and until 2026 to spend them. Local governments' initial SLFRF expenditure reports contain useful roadmaps on where they are heading with ARPA funds; large cities and counties (those with populations of at least 250,000) have also delivered the first in a series of annual plans that outline their intended and actual uses of SLFRF dollars. Together, these reports detail thousands of projects across dozens of eligible expenditure categories and form the data behind the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker.

Continue reading.

The Brookings Institution

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