

Overview of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program

- ARPA signed into law March 11, 2021
- Town of Chester will receive \$1,246,840 in ARPA funds (half already received)
- Funds must be used for projects that meet ARPA guidelines

Key ARPA Documents and Town Activities

Released in 2021

- Compliance and Reporting Guidance (33 pages)¹
- Interim Final Rule (39 pages)²

Released in January 2022

- Overview of Final Rule (44 pages)
- Final Rule (437 pages)
 - Effective beginning on April 1, 2022

Special Town Meeting on December 15, 2021 included brief discussion and voting on 7 ARPA proposals

Concerns about lack of transparency and citizen involvement were expressed during and after the Dec 15 meeting

In January 2022, our First Selectwoman recommended formation of a committee of citizens to develop and evaluate ARPA proposals

Point to Consider

The Town of Chester, as a recipient of ARPA funds, is required to:

Describe how the “planned or current use of funds incorporates written, oral, and other forms of input that capture diverse feedback from constituents, community – based organizations, and the communities themselves”

ARPA Committee in Old Lyme

From the Town Website (oldlyme-ct-gov):

“The Town of Old Lyme is determining how to spend its designated federal funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”), and wants to hear from Old Lyme residents, business owners, and organization leaders how the pandemic affected their lives, as well as their preferences for how the Town spends its ARPA funding.”

“The American Rescue Plan Committee was created by the Board of Selectman in September 2021. The mission statement of the committee is: “The ARPC will develop and recommend a strategy to the Board of Selectman for the allocation of ARP funds that benefits the Old Lyme community, which has been impacted by the COVID pandemic.”

“The committee will strive to operate in a transparent and objective manner and consider input from the community at large. The group’s goal is that their recommendation for fund deployment will, when carried out, maximize benefits for those living and working in Old Lyme. The ARPC will provide regular updates to the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance with the goal of submitting final recommendations prior to June 30, 2022.”

Highlights of Eligible Uses of ARPA Funds

Replacement of lost public sector revenues

- Providing government services up to the amount of revenue loss during the pandemic

Supporting the COVID-19 public health and economic response

- Responding to COVID-19's public health impact, along with its economic harms

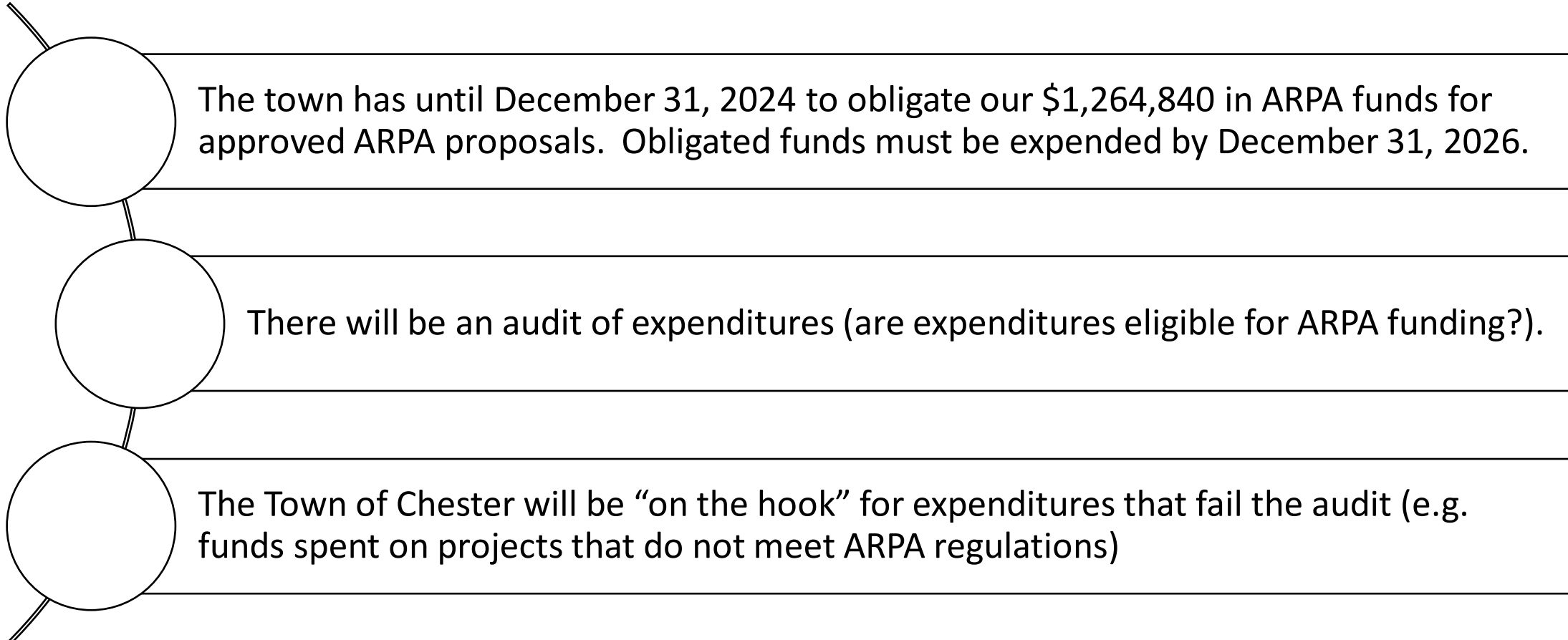
Provision of premium pay for essential workers

- Offering additional support to workers who bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors

Water, Sewer & Broadband Infrastructure

- Providing funding to critical water and sewer projects, along with high-speed broadband infrastructure

Points to and Consider



The town has until December 31, 2024 to obligate our \$1,264,840 in ARPA funds for approved ARPA proposals. Obligated funds must be expended by December 31, 2026.

There will be an audit of expenditures (are expenditures eligible for ARPA funding?).

The Town of Chester will be “on the hook” for expenditures that fail the audit (e.g. funds spent on projects that do not meet ARPA regulations)

Projects up for Vote at the December 15, 2021 Special Town Meeting

Project	Cost	Result of Vote
A full service generator at Chester Town Hall	\$120,000	Tabled
Expanding services at Tri-Town Youth	\$44,820	Tabled
Sewer system repair/replacement/upgrading sewer system	\$93,000	Tabled
Shoreline Soup Kitchen food truck contribution	\$10,000	Passed
New Fire Boat for Chester Hose Company	\$70,000	Passed
Technology upgrades at Chester Town Hall and Meeting House	\$60,000	Tabled
A 2-year contracted social services human support person	\$50,000	Tabled

Relevant Questions About Previous and Future Proposals

Previous proposals

Who made the proposal?

Who reviewed the proposal?

What proposals were reviewed but not put up for vote at Dec 15 Town meeting?

Are there individual proposal documents that can be reviewed?

New proposals

How does someone submit a proposal?

Is there a preferred format that should be used for proposals?

How should community engagement in the development of an ARPA spending plan be obtained/documentated?