

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Frequently Asked Questions

Is Norfolk required to submit a spending plan to the federal government? If so, is there a deadline to submit the plan?

Norfolk is not required to submit a spending plan to the federal government and there is not deadline by which the city must determine how it will spend its stimulus funds. City's with a population greater than 250,000 must submit a spending plan to the federal government. City's with less than 250,000 are only required to submit project and expenditure reports.

According to the 2020 Census Norfolk's population is 238,005. As a result, the city is required to submit quarterly project and expenditure reports. The first report is due by January 31, 2022, and covers all spending that occurred through December 31, 2020. If no funds have been spent during the reporting period, the city will submit a report showing zero expenditures. The following is the language from The U.S. Dept of the Treasury's most recent Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – Compliance and Reporting Guidance:

“States, territories, metropolitan cities, and counties with a population that exceeds 250,000 residents will also be required to publish and submit to Treasury a Recovery Plan performance report (“Recovery Plan”).”

“The Recovery Plan will provide the public and Treasury information on the projects recipients are undertaking with program funding and how they are planning to ensure program outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner.”

“Metropolitan cities and counties with a population below 250,000 residents that are allocated more than \$10 million in SLFRF funding are required to submit quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports.

“For these recipients the initial quarterly Project and Expenditure Report will cover three calendar quarters from March 3, 2021 to December 31, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by January 31, 2022. The subsequent quarterly reports will cover one calendar quarter and must be submitted to Treasury within 30 calendar days of the end of each quarter”.

How will my input be shared with City Council, and senior city staff?

The city is seeking public comments through a variety of channels, including in-person meetings and online platforms. All public comments will be compiled and sent via email to city council and senior city staff. Residents that provided an email address at sign in at the public input meetings will also receive a copy of the comments. All public comments will be published on the city's ARPA website on the ARPA public input dashboard as well as printed out and distributed to libraries across the city.



Does the city have a timeline for approval of ARPA funding?

There is no formal deadline by which the city must decide how it will use the funds. Based on public input, the city is reassessing the timeline. More information will be forthcoming shortly.

How can I engage in the ARPA approval process?

As the city finalizes the approval timeline, it will include details about additional opportunities for public engagement. In the meantime, opportunities for public engagement remain available through the following channels:

Online Survey – Use this survey to tell the city your top priorities and ideas for investing ARPA funds: [American Rescue Plan Act Survey of Resident Funding Priorities \(office.com\)](#)

Prioritize – An online interactive engagement tool. Review, select, and rank projects as well as write-in plans you have for the investment plan. <https://norfolkva.abalancingact.com/arpa>

Council Meetings – Register to speak at a City Council meeting. City Council meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. To register to speak on agenda items or new business please contact 757-664-4268 by 3pm the day of the meeting. Norfolk.gov/4869/Public-Meetings

Council Members – All residents are directly represented by three council members; ward, superward, and the mayor. Contact your council representatives to share your ideas about eligible uses for ARPA funds. Norfolk.gov/200/City-Council

City's ARPA website – Continue to check the city's ARPA website for updates to the ARPA timeline and shared public input in how the funds should be invested. norfolk.gov/5129/American-Rescue-Plan-Act-ARPA

Email Us – Email city staff directly about your ARPA priorities at the following email: ARPACommunication@norfolk.gov

Drop Boxes – Write a comment and leave it at one of drop boxes throughout the city. The drop boxes and comment cards are located at; Pretlow Library, Jordan Newby Library, Tucker Library, Berkley Recreation Center, EOY Recreation Center, Lambert's Point Community Center, Norview Community Center, Huntersville Multi-Service Center, Calvert Square Envision Center, and People First office.



What will the format for future ARPA public meetings be?

Due to a rapid increase in COVID – 19 case counts locally and nationally, the upcoming January ARPA public engagement meetings have been cancelled.

City Council will hold a public hearing once they have received the City Manager's Proposed Plan.