

American Rescue Plan Act

*** LOCAL ***

Awards to Vermont Municipalities

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Vermont League of Cities and Towns

- 
- VLCT
 - Local ARPA
 - Standard Allowance
 - Federal Funding Assistance Program



VLCT

HOUSING

Increase opportunities for housing development including funding, state and local regulatory reform, housing incentives, and integrated support service.

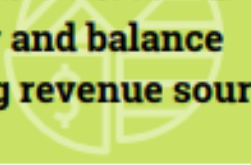
CAPACITY

Expand municipal capacity to find, apply for, and manage state and federal funding.



REVENUE

Set up municipal revenue sharing to provide reliable annual funding, authority to adopt Local Option Taxes, and Tax Reform to ensure sustainability, equity and balance among revenue sources.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Implement new ways to recruit, train, and retain law enforcement and EMS personnel and increase accountability.



2023-2024 MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES & TOWNS

OPEN MEETINGS

Make fully remote meetings a permanent, voluntary option under Open Meeting Law.



COMMUNITY

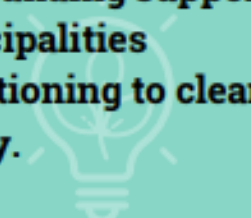
Supplement the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program with a project-based TIF accessible to smaller communities.



VLCT.ORG/
PRIORITIES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Empower municipalities to reduce emissions, increase resiliency to climate change, and ensure that federal and state funding supports municipalities transitioning to cleaner energy.



- Membership association for **all 247 cities and towns** in Vermont.
- Follow **~300 bills** that would affect local government.
- **Why so many?** We are a strong Dillon's Rule state.
- **What does this mean** for Vermont municipalities?
 - Only **powers** are those **granted** to them by the **Legislature** through statute.
 - Must **seek permission** from the Legislature to do anything not already in statute.
 - **Limited** in the ways they can generate additional revenue besides property taxes.
 - **Disparity** for those communities that do not have the capacity to organize for meaningful change.
- Is there a solution to consider?
 - We think so - **revenue sharing**. Communities in other states are benefiting from it ([ME](#), [NH](#), [MA](#), [CT](#), [NY](#)...).
- Does it work?
 - **We think so.** Let's look at local ARPA as an example....



Local ARPA - Vermont's Share

- Allocated to states based on population using 2019 Census data
- “Metro cities” (based on HUD definitions)
 - Burlington (pop. 42,819) & South Burlington** (pop. 19,509)
 - Received funding directly from Treasury
 - Largest awards in VT = \$27,176,144.49 and \$5,654,533, respectively
 - More rigid, quarterly reporting requirements
- “NEUs” (non-entitlement units)
 - Everyone else
 - Received funding from Treasury distributed through the SOV
 - Largest award = Colchester (pop. 17,127), \$5,120,335
 - Smallest award = Victory (pop. 63), \$18,956
 - Simpler, annual reporting requirements
- Local ARPA works out to be ~\$300/Vermonters
- How much did your community get? Click [HERE](#).

Local ARPA Funds:	
Metro Cities	\$20,721,902
Non-Entitlement Units of Government (NEUs)	\$58,788,245
Counties*	\$121,202,550
TOTAL Local ARPA Funds:	\$200,712,697
State of Vermont**	\$1,049,287,303
TOTAL VERMONT ARPA:	\$1,250,000,000

*County money has been reallocated to municipalities.
 **South Burlington has since been recategorized since they are not an entitlement community.



- Unlike any other federal grant program
- Not competitive; no application process; one-size-fits-all “grant agreement”
- No public process requirement
- Cash up front in two tranches, one year apart (summer 2021, summer 2022)
- Protracted timeline to plan & spend (12/31/2026)
- How many eligible Vermont municipalities accepted these federal funds?
ALL except one.*
- The best part....the “Standard Allowance” (enter: revenue sharing)



*Based on feedback from Treasury, VT had the highest success rate in the nation for % of towns certified and % reporting accurately and on time as of April 30, 2022. This is directly attributable to VLCT receiving funding for the ARPA Assistance and Coordination Program.

Local ARPA – A Rare & Beautiful Thing



 **277 TOWNS**
WERE CERTIFIED TO ACCEPT ARPA FUNDS

 **65 TOWNS**
WILL RECEIVE MORE THAN \$750,000 EACH

 **97 MUNICIPALITIES (35%)**
RECEIVED MORE THAN \$500,000

 **186 MUNICIPALITIES (67%)**
RECEIVED MORE THAN \$250,000

 **249 MUNICIPALITIES (90%)**
RECEIVED MORE THAN \$100,000

The “Standard Allowance”

- The “[final rule](#)” was issued January 6, 2022.
- Included a provision called the “[standard allowance](#).”
- Allowed up to **\$10M** to be treated as “lost revenue” (no need to demonstrate, calculate or document).
- What can these funds be spent on? The “[provision of government services](#).”
- What does that mean? Anything a government typically spends money on.
- How many municipalities in Vermont have local ARPA awards <\$10M? **ALL** of them except one (Burlington).
- Are these funds considered revenue sharing by Treasury? Yes (Final Rule, Section IV.G.).
- This means local ARPA awards can now be used as required grant match (“local share”) for other grants, even federal ones*!

*Excluding the state’s Medicaid and CHIP programs.



Let's Say That Again With Feeling.....

*Local ARPA can
be used as grant
match for other state
and federal grant
programs*



Take your time. Be patient. Think bigger.

(\$200 million in opportunity)

Planning Framework for Maximum Impact and Best Use of Municipal ARPA Funds



1. PRIORITIZE GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Convene all Stakeholders & Build Consensus
- Follow Allowable Uses Under ARPA
- Meet all Accounting & Reporting Rules
- Comply w/ all Local & State Laws/Ordinances
- Ensure Transparency Throughout
- Do Not Create Future Budget Deficits

2. LEVERAGE YOUR ARPA AID

- Use a Thoughtful Strategic Planning Process
- Leverage w/ ARPA, FEMA & Other \$ Fed Sources
- Coordinate w/ Other State & Local Programs
- Collaborate w/ Community Partners & Orgs
- Use Existing Delivery Systems for Efficiency
- Don't Reinvent the Wheel: Learn from Others

3. INVEST IN BEST USES FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY

- Invest in Urgent Health and Economic Needs
- Prioritize Short-Term Investments w/ Lasting Benefits
- ID and Address Pre-COVID Inhibitors to Growth
- Measure Progress Throughout to Inform Ongoing Plans

Where are we in the local ARPA funding continuum?

Right where we thought we would be.

Now is the moment to leverage but we have a capacity gap....not in financial capital, but in **human capital**.



Vermont League
of Cities & Towns

May 2021





FEDERAL FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NEW!

CREATED FOR YOU!

Assistance with accessing the billions of dollars of federal funds is **available to all Vermont's towns, cities, and villages** regardless of their size or capacity level.



VLCT's **Federal Funding Assistance (FFA) Program** provides you with expertise and technical assistance as you pursue the unprecedented amounts of federal funding to **advance your local priorities and projects.**

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Want to learn more?



FFAPROGRAM@VLCT.ORG

Meeting the Needs of Our Members

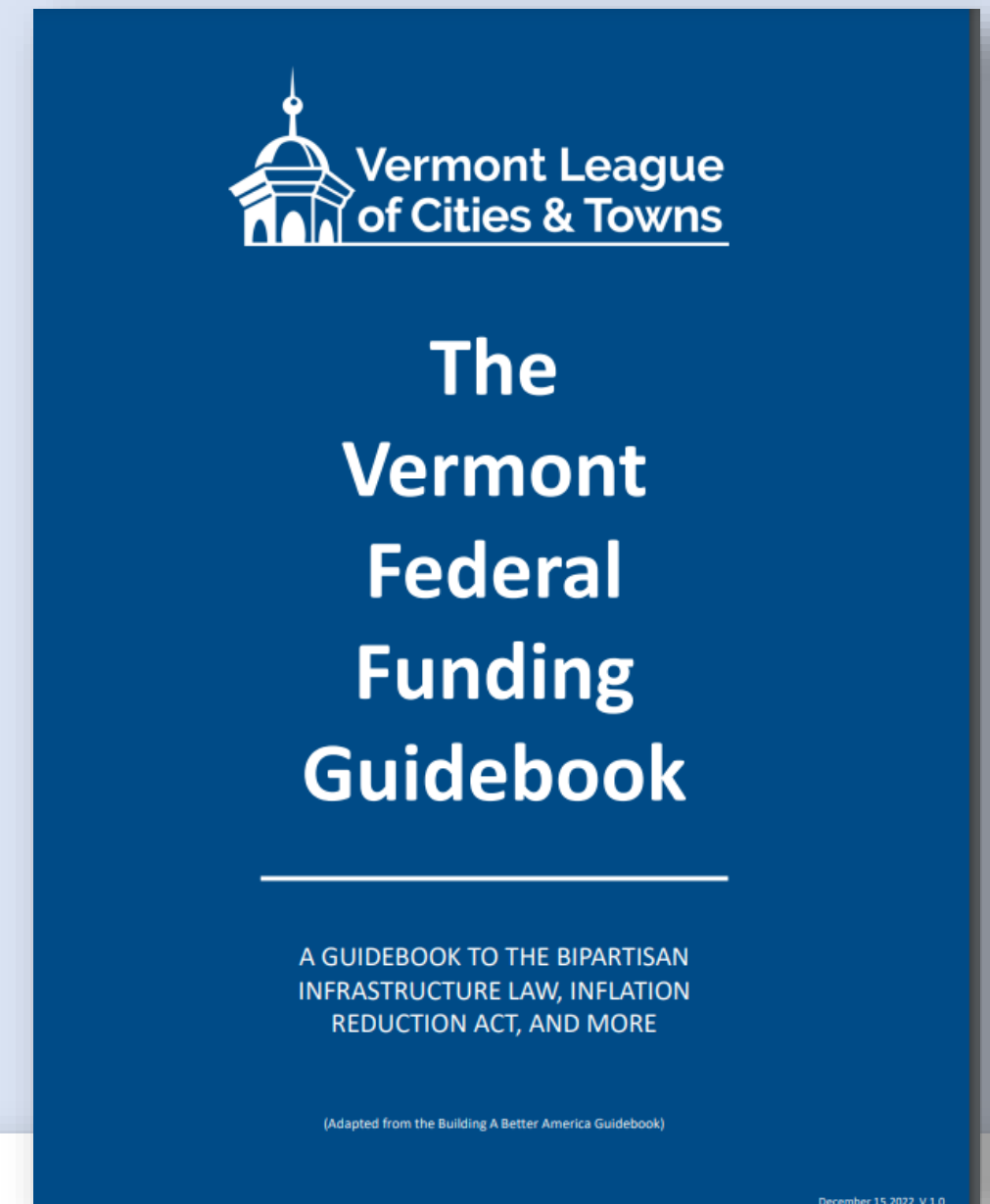
- Launched in late December 2022
- Modeled after our successful ARPA Assistance and Coordination Program
- Includes ARPA + Bipartisan Infrastructure Law + Inflation Reduction Act + More
- Two dedicated VLCT staff to broaden and deepen assistance (Katie Buckley and Bonnie Waninger)
- Available to all Vermont's towns, cities, and villages, regardless of their size or capacity level
- Continued close partnership with Vermont's eleven regional planning commissions

<https://www.vlct.org/federal-funding-assistance-program-ffaarpa>



Expert advice is only a click, phone call or email away

- VLCT's [Vermont Federal Funding Guidebook](#) – of the almost 500 federal programs through IIJA and IRA, we have curated only those for which VT municipalities are eligible and that are relevant to our Vermont scale.
- [“Consults on Call”](#) allows municipalities to self-book one-on-one help with the FFA team to help them advance their local projects.
- [“Tip of the Week”](#) provides tips, best practices, insider advice, etc. as it relates to identifying, applying for, using and complying with federal funding.
- New [Federal Funding Assistance Program](#) webpage with 6 supporting “topics” pages:
 - ARPA
 - Climate, Energy & Environment
 - Cybersecurity
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater
- Email questions to: FFA@vlct.org

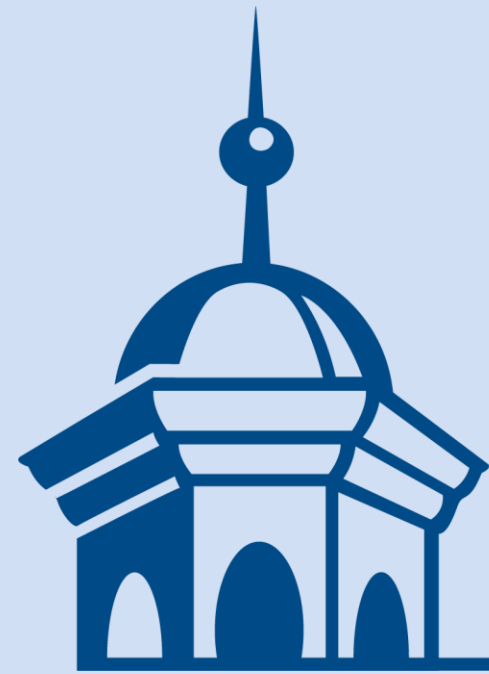


Need one-on-one help?

Grab 15 minutes with us for an appointment! Our "Consults on Call" office hours are Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm. Simply click the blue "Book An Appointment" button, select the date and time that works best for you and complete the details. If you think you need more than 15 minutes, please email FFA@vlct.org to schedule a longer time slot.

[BOOK AN APPOINTMENT](#)





**Vermont League
of Cities & Towns**

Thank You!

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