

# American Rescue Plan Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Morris County, New Jersey

Updated 6/23/2021



# Process Overview

- March 2020 – The Freeholder Board created the “COVID-19 Strategic Planning Advisory Committee” (SPAC) to address the emerging needs of the County relative to the pandemic.
- The SPAC, serving as advisory to the entire County governing body, is comprised of 3 County Commissioners, the County Administrator, the Deputy County Administrator, and the County’s Chief Financial Officer.
- Since its inception, the SPAC has met 29 times and was recognized by both Moody’s and S&P regarding the proactive positive impact it has had in guiding the Morris County Government through the pandemic.



# Process Overview

- On March 10, 2021, the Board of Commissioners charged the SPAC committee with the task of reviewing the American Rescue Plan rules and recommending ways to invest the funds.
- The SPAC has undertaken the process of collecting suggested investments of ARP funds for the most productive use of the dollars from County Departments, county agencies, and partner entities like the Morris County Chamber of Commerce.
- Once collected, vetted for compliance, and shared with the County Board of Commissioners, the proposed use and application of these funds will be shared with the general public for their comments.



# Funding Overview

Signed into law: March 11, 2021

ARP funds allocated to Morris County: \$95,535,125

Funds split into two tranches, 1<sup>st</sup> half in 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> half in 2022

As of 6/14/2021...

- The 1<sup>st</sup> tranche of approximately \$47 million has been received by the county.
- Full guidance on the reporting requirements has not been released by the US Treasury yet. Should be coming later this summer.
- No funds have been disbursed by the county yet.



# Key Eligible Uses

- Support Public Health Response
- Address Negative Economic Impacts Due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- Invest in Certain Infrastructure

Funds can be utilized for expenses incurred on March 3, 2021 and afterwards.

Funds must be incurred and obligated by December 31, 2024.

Funds must be expended to cover obligations and all work must be completed by December 31, 2026.



# Support Public Health Response

- Limiting High Traffic Contact Areas
  - Automatic bathroom fixtures, disinfection/sanitization equipment
- Living Facility Upgrades
  - Motion activated doors, laundry facility upgrades, generators
- Emergency Services Storage
  - Storage facility for PPE, crisis supplies, specialized trailers



# Address Negative Economic Impacts

- Small Business Focused Support
  - Grant Program, outreach efforts to underserved populations
- Tourism Reemergence
  - Marketing
- Arts and Culture Revitalization
  - Downtown and local family friendly events



# Invest in Certain Infrastructure

- Wastewater Systems Improvements
  - Septic system replacement or conversion to sewer
- Indoor Air Quality Enhancements
  - HVAC upgrades, air purification
- Government Technology Effectiveness
  - Installation of technology in conference rooms and offices to allow for more public integration



# Next Steps

- Refine investment recommendations based on interim guidance
- Once full guidance is released, refine further, and begin drafting reports
- Present ideas to Board of County Commissioners and Public

