

What is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021?

Congress passed ARPA in March 2021 this year to address economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Commits \$1.9 trillion in APRA funds to address the public health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

Vermont will receive more than \$2.7 billion in ARPA funds

- More than half of these dollars are directly appropriated to federal agencies, individuals, local governments, education institutions, and others
- State is lead on deploying approximately \$1 billion between now and December 31, 2024

Broad agreement by the Governor and Legislature to invest ARPA monies in broadband infrastructure, clean water, climate action, housing, and economic development related to pandemic impacts

ARPA-Funded Climate Action Initiatives

Gov's FY22 ARPA recommend was \$25.5m

- \$5m for EV infrastructure (VTrans)
- \$5.5m for weatherization (DCF)
- \$10m for fuel switching/electrification incentives (PSD)
- \$5m for hazard mitigation (VEM)
- APRA proposal identifies an additional \$174.5m for climate action, including \$100m placeholder to support implementation of the CAP

Legislature FY22 ARPA appropriations totaled \$55m

- \$20m in weatherization (DCF, PSD, VHFA)
- \$20m in clean energy (PSD, CEDF)
- \$10m for land conservation (VHCB)
- \$5m for hazard mitigation (VEM)
- FY22 budget identifies total intended ARPA investment in climate action of \$250m (so, \$195m balance)

ARPA-Funded Water Infrastructure Initiatives

Total of \$50m in FY22

- Fully funds (\$40m) the six initiatives from the Gov's Recommend
 - Dam safety improvements were also fully funded, but using GF (\$5m in FY22)
- In addition, \$10m sent to DEC for allocation by the Clean Water Board; Board met last week and recommended the following uses:
 - Agricultural BMPs (\$3.5m)
 - Stormwater management (\$3.5m)
 - Municipal (wastewater) pollution control grants (\$3m)

FY22 budget also provided \$50m to ANR to be carried forward

- \$20m (\$10m/year) for allocation by the Clean Water Board in FY23 and FY24
- \$30m to continue/expand FY22 water initiatives
 - DEC required to "provide a project list as part of their annual budget request in FY 2023 and FY 2024"

Village Water & Sewer Initiative

Grants to village centers that current lack community-scale water and/or wastewater infrastructure

- Used to support final engineering design and construction
- Grants scaled to ensure rates do not exceed \$1,000/user/year
- Grants will be used to supplement (vs supplant) existing grant programs

Approach

- Target the ~35 communities that have completed an initial evaluation of a community-scale system(s) in their municipality
- \$8m available in FY22; projected \$30m total

Cross-Cutting, Pathway 1, Strategy 1: *Increase investment in the infrastructure (sewer, water, stormwater, mixed-use development, housing, sidewalks, bike lanes, EV charging, broadband, energy supply) needed to support compact, walkable development*

Sewer Overflow Initiative

Grants to accelerate elimination of sewer overflows

- All communities with sewer overflows have established long-term compliance schedules; more than \$60m in projects identified

Approach

- Municipalities will apply thru existing framework for state revolving loan funds (Project Priority List) but awards will be 100% grant
 - Will be ranked using existing Municipal Pollution Control Priority System for biggest water quality results
- \$10m available in FY22 (awarded to Montpelier, Northfield, Vergennes and St Johnsbury; projected \$30m total
 - Other (FY23 or 24) applicants may include Burlington, Rutland, Enosburg Falls, Hartford, Newport City, Northfield, St. Albans, Vergennes

Community Resilience, Pathway 4, Strategy 1, Action b: *Increase investment in stormwater and green infrastructure, including separating combined wastewater and storm water systems, to protect public health and water quality*

Stormwater Initiative

Grants to property owners (state, municipal, institutional and private) to support site assessment, design and permitting, and construction to enable compliance with state and federal requirements for stormwater management

Approach

- ANR will hire engineering contractor(s) to provide site assessment, design and permitting, and construction management services for private property owners
- VTrans will lead road-related stormwater investments
- Grants for final design and construction of public-private partnership projects will be issued late-2021
- \$10m available in FY22; projected \$75m total

Community Resilience, Pathway 4, Strategy 1: *Increase investment in the infrastructure (sewer, water, stormwater, sidewalks, bike lanes, EV charging, broadband, energy supply) needed to support communities that are more resilient to climate disruptions, equitable, resource efficient, and protects the adaptive capacity of natural resources*

Other ARPA-Funded Water Investments

Pretreatment

- Grants to: municipal facilities challenged to manage incoming commercial/industrial wastewater
- \$2m available in FY22; projected \$5m total
- Community Resilience, Pathway 2, Strategy 1: *Increase efforts and funding towards pollution prevention programs at wastewater facilities to ensure that facilities protect available treatment capacity, which can focus development on already-served designated centers.*

Healthy Homes Initiative

- Grants to: mobile home communities and income-qualifying Vermonters to fix failing or failed water and wastewater systems
- \$5m available in FY22; projected \$15m total
- Community Resilience, Pathway 5: *Ensure that all people have access to safe, accessible, energy efficient, and affordable housing*