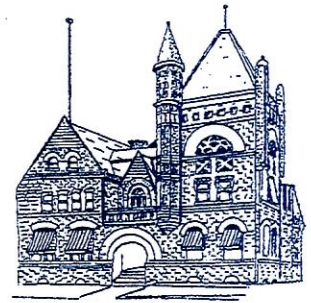




Nancy R. Rossi
Mayor

Office of the Mayor
City of West Haven
355 Main Street
West Haven, Connecticut 06516



City Hall
1896-1968

ARPA Community Investment Plan
State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
March 9, 2022

Dear Members of the West Haven City Council,

Attached please find the expenditure plan for the ARPA funds provided to the City under the Corona Virus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Act.

My Staff and I have invested considerable time and energy into learning the parameters and requirements of this funding, and planning for management of the expenditures, and believe this plan is appropriate to meet not only the intent of the legislation, but the letter of the specific guidance provided in the Final Rule.

The City received funding suggestions through a web portal, testimony at public events held by the Council, and at a Town Hall event meeting conducted by the Mayor. The City has carefully reviewed all of the suggestions, and weighed those against the demonstrated needs and the impacts of COVID19 on the City, its governmental budget and operations, City employees, area non-profit organizations, our business community, and our residents.

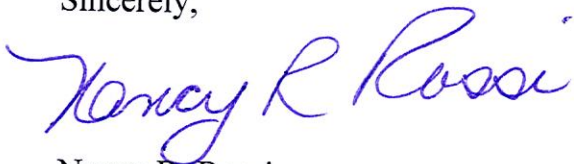
Our team established several criteria for ranking suggested projects. Firstly, to see if there were other funding sources that can address the issue, or if there are other opportunities in the grant pipeline to better serve a need. We then checked for eligibility under the ARPA Final Rule, and tied each selected project to a line item in the Final Rule that identifies how each item is a permitted expenditure. We also reviewed suggested expenditures to see if we can use these funds to leverage additional opportunities for matching funds.

The team also realized that some eligible topics could not be effectively addressed with the amount of funding available, and we discounted those topics in favor of proposals where we can make a difference with limited funding.

I have assembled a citizen committee to act in a fiscal review and oversight capacity to monitor the expenditures, and am devising a plan to augment the Grants in Aid office and Finance Department functions to professionally administer the funds with legal counsel and audit processes.

At this point I am satisfied the funds will have a positive impact on our community, and that we have addressed the bulk of the suggested projects in fair and equitable manner. I am also satisfied that we have layers of oversight to prevent mismanagement, and a transparent monitored process in place. I am hereby submitting my final proposal to the Council for ratification. I would ask that any proposed changes to the plan be reviewed by our staff for compliance with the law before any final action is taken by the Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy R. Rossi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" and last name "Rossi" clearly legible.

Nancy R. Rossi
Mayor



City of West Haven

Mayor's ARPA Community Investment Plan

March 9th, 2022

Housing Crisis Center Fund

\$1,000,000

Funds to establish short term emergency housing facilities for families experiencing an unavoidable housing crisis. The funds will establish a group of housing units that will be operated by Grant funded third party charitable organizations who will provide support, counseling, and management of the physical plant. The City will own the base infrastructure and contract, from time to time, with provider agencies to operate the facilities.

Food Bank Support Fund

\$400,000

This fund will support community kitchens, food and clothing bank operations that serve the City of West Haven. Funding will be made available as sub-grants to charitable organizations to provide goods and services or invest in infrastructure improvements that address their mission. Community agencies will be invited to submit proposals for funding.

Direct Cash Aid to Small Business

\$1,000,000

Program A: **\$750,000** Provides funding for forgivable loans to commercial landlords who will pass on the savings to prospective commercial tenants qualified as small businesses with existing or projected gross receipts less than \$1,000,000 to subsidize tenant fit up expenses through rent discounts, provided the tenant stays in business for a prescribed term. Funding is designed to address vacancies exacerbated by the pandemic, and to aid small business whose capital position was diminished by the pandemic making new business ventures and expansions unattainable without this aid.

Program B: **\$230,000** Provides funding for cash grants up to \$10,000 to small businesses with gross revenues less than \$500,000 who did not otherwise qualify for SBA funding, or other Federal and State programs. This may include restaurants that were eligible for funding, but did not receive any money before the SBA program ran dry. It may also include businesses that could not manage the paperwork of other funds due to a language barrier, lack of loan collateral, credit rating, and similar handicaps.

Program C: **\$20,000** Provides matching funds for an economic development loan available from United Illuminating that funds web business development and web marketing strategy counseling and consulting services. Working with SCORE and REX Development (SCRCOG Regional Economic Development team) these funds expand upon a free four hour seminar funded by the SBA, and provides one on one counseling and advice for local businesses that want to expand customer access online.

It is envisioned this program would be further developed and managed by the Community Development Administration, and make use of their capacity, volunteer board, and staff expertise in managing grant applications, outreach and financial counseling of this nature.

Neighborhood Pocket Parks, Open Space, Trees, Gardens

\$1,000,000

This pool of funds will be made available to City Agencies and established volunteer community organizations to first provide grant matching funds, and second capital improvement funds for landscaping and hardscaping improvements at the City's numerous open space parks and Neighborhood Pocket Parks. This will include open space trail properties such as 100 Plainfield community garden, Hubbard Park, Sandy Point, 1 Palace St, Marginal Drive Bike Trail, and other nature sanctuaries. Funds will also be made available to supplement grant funding for Urban Forest Renewal (tree planting) city wide. Infrastructure plans include renovation of the Coast Guard building (City/CT Tech High School cooperative project) for future tenant use, and creation of the Kimberly Ave fisherperson's park and street scape improvements to solve blight in this gateway to WH. Includes initial abatement of invasive plants at 100 Plainfield public farm, and matching funds for farm development grants. It is anticipated that community organizations will submit plans and cost estimates to the Commissioner of Public Works, work with the City Grants-In-Aid Office to explore leveraging funds, and work with Commissioner McCarthy for implementation.

Allingtown Library Branch

\$1,000,000

Funds to support the development of a library branch and community center on City owned land on the Carrigan School Complex. These funds will seek to address long standing inequities suffered by the residents of the Allingtown community exacerbated by the effects of the pandemic. The Library is encouraged through this subgrant to combine efforts with the Allingtown Fire District to develop the 6 acre parcel North of Carrigan School, and it is intended they be contingent on locating the library on City owned land to maximize the construction funding available, and assure performance within the ARPA timeline. It is anticipated the Library will submit a construction funding plan showing how these funds will be deployed for a completed project within the ARPA timeline.

Public Health Outreach

\$680,000

Inoculation and Health Screening Clinic, Community Nurse \$330,000

This program seeks to address the access to health care inequities that were highlighted during the pandemic. Funding establishes a three year operating budget for a pilot expansion of the mission of the WH Dept. of Public Health to include a Community Nurse. This service will provide in-home inoculation and health screenings to those who cannot otherwise access the health system due to finances, mobility, or transportation issues. All available inoculations would be provided along with diabetes, heart, and other issues, and provide health and nutrition counseling. The City will review the option of directly hiring staff or engaging a health care provider to supply staff for the project. The project envisions a ½ time Physician, and three part time RN's along with administrative staff. The project will also include a travel medicine clinic and inoculation program to help protect the City from communicable disease from citizens who travel abroad.

Renovation of Health Department Space \$250,000

These funds will retrofit and re-purpose office space at City Hall to accommodate an inoculation and health screening clinic, maximize smart use of existing space, install specialized refrigeration equipment for vaccine storage, fit out exam rooms and provide office space for the Community Nurse program.

As this program develops, the City will endeavor to establish a permanent funding source through grants and possible insurance billings to fund the program past the three year pilot.

Community Mental Health Support**\$100,000**

Funding to advance the mission of the non-profit health care organization Bridges Healthcare Inc. which has established a Behavioral Health clinic here in West Haven, and has been a reliable partner in many behavioral health missions in the past. Funds will be used to meet the increased demand for services emanating from the impact of the pandemic. Bridges will utilize the funding to provide child and adult outpatient services, psychiatric evaluations and medication management, mobile crisis opioid services, case management and wraparound services.

Arts Center Phase II Construction Funding**\$3,500,000**

This supports remodeling funds to enable a downtown “anchor tenant” and cultural event visitor attraction to assist the downtown business community recover from the negative economic effects of the pandemic, and support the arts community in recovery from the effects of the pandemic. These funds will continue the work started in 2011 (phase I) to renovate the original building and restore the historic façade. This project also recently received 1.5 million in State Bond Funding to renovate the exterior and campus area. This funding proposal will install new electric, plumbing, HVAC, elevator, and base building remodeling to attain a usable space. It is envisioned that an additional capital campaign for Phase III will fit-out the interior for specific arts uses, and a possible Phase IV future addition capital campaign.

Municipal Building Improvements**\$1,650,000****Johnson Senior Center, Refurbishment****\$640,000**

Funds will be used to remodel the Johnson Senior Center, and relocate it to the main floor. The project will include space programming, reconfiguration of space, refurbishment of the elevator, and other modernizations to update the facility in line with modern Senior Center activities and purposes.

Roof replacement over Child Dev Ctr.**\$360,000**

The roof over the Child Development Center is nearly 40 years old, and has started leaking. This roof serves the wing of the building occupied by a not-for-profit day care center that serves lower income families. The new roof will add R30 insulation to drastically reduce heating and cooling expenses. This project is necessary to enable the installation of new energy efficient HVAC equipment scheduled for the ESCO project, and a solar electric system designed to reduce electrical expenses.

Replacement Windows, City Hall**\$650,000**

The City has long put off replacing the windows at City Hall that leak air badly, and contribute to the extraordinary heating and cooling expenses. Further, the devices that hold the windows up are breaking, and they have become dangerous as these heavy windows can fall suddenly endangering occupants. Many of the windows cannot be locked. Further, we regularly experience leaking water during wind driven rain events, which is compromising the structure and endangering wiring and other surfaces. The Administration feels duty bound to replicate the Architectural detailing of the windows, and will engage an Architect to work with a contractor to replicate the trim. New windows will be air-tight and have energy efficient glazing systems, working locks, and insect screens to promote natural ventilation.

FY 2021 Public Works Infrastructure Paving and Improvements**\$2,000,000**

As the City took advantage of an opportunity to pave streets scheduled for 2022 in 2021 at discounted pricing, the City can use ARPA funds to fill the funding gap and avoid paying interest charges on municipal bonds. The City

was warned by its vendors to expect substantial price increases for paving costs due to rising oil prices, and reduced industry capacity to meet government infrastructure demand in 2022. Therefore, we accelerated the schedule to get more done at the old price, at a considerable cost savings.

Aid to Fire Districts

\$3,075,000

Allingtown: Funding to advance Fire House design to shovel ready status to leverage other grant funds. Design to include sleeping quarters for men and women, and separate berths for airborne infection separation, indoor air quality. **\$1,000,000**

Up to and additional **\$25,000** in funding to immediately install UV air filtration units to improve indoor air quality in the current dormitory and habitation spaces.

Center District: Funding to advance Fire House design to shovel ready status to leverage other grant funds. Design to include sleeping quarters for men and women, and separate berths for airborne infection separation indoor air quality. **\$1,000,000**

Up to and additional **\$25,000** in funding to immediately install UV air filtration units to improve indoor air quality in the current dormitory and habitation spaces.

West Shore District: Funding for Fire House renovation. Design to include sleeping quarters for men and women, and separate berths for airborne infection separation. **\$1,000,000**

Up to and additional **\$25,000** in funding to immediately install UV air filtration units to improve indoor air quality in the current dormitory and habitation spaces.

Storm Water Management

\$3,000,000

This program answers the very loud call from the public to address localized flooding issues that are not necessarily in mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas, such as the RR underpasses where we have experienced flooding fatalities, and areas of town where older subdivision infrastructure was not designed for the rain events we currently experience. Funding will include matching funds of **\$113,000** for a possible State Grant to conduct a feasibility study, and to begin engineering planning, and legal establishment of a storm water utility district.

Initial storm water infrastructure capital fund capitalization: **\$1,000,000**

This base Fund will allow the City to establish a capital fund to maintain Storm Water infrastructure spending at consistent levels through lean budget years.

Vac truck storm sewer maintenance specialty vehicle **\$487,000**

Funds will purchase an advanced technology vacuum truck to replace services presently contracted out at great expense. The truck will be purchased by and owned by the Department of Public Works, and be operated under contract by the Sewer Commission. It is expected the Sewer Commission will use the truck 50% of the time to maintain sanitary sewers, and 50% of the time to maintain storm water infrastructure. An operating and cost share agreement will be negotiated between DPW and the Sewer Commission. This plan will also help us to comply with MS-4 Regulations where we are currently deficient, and avoid associate compliance fines.

Matching funds for storm water upgrade grants and capital expenditures: **\$1,400,000**

This fund will enable the City to pursue other infrastructure grants and funding sources to leverage outside funding, and also to immediately address problem areas affecting residents.

Recycling and Re-Use Center**\$1,000,000**

This project addresses the long term inequities that urban residents face in disposing of non-household waste, and address the issue of illegal dumping, blight, and the cost to cleanup illegal dumping sites. This program will provide the capital funding to adapt city owned land to create a recycling center to promote re-use of discarded items, enhance recycling, and compost operations. This is not a dump site, but a professionally managed recycling transfer station where discarded items will be neatly separated into appropriate containers. This project would eliminate the blight and expense of curbside city-wide bulk trash pickup, and provide a permanent location for residents to recycle mattresses, paint, clothing, metal, cardboard, paper, and compost organic waste such as food scraps and yard waste, and legally dispose of small quantities of construction and demolition debris. The center would have room for a re-use collection similar to Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity re-use centers, and a revenue producing bottle redemption center. The City would seek an employment training and counseling non-profit partner to help staff the facility in part to provide jobs and job training to underprivileged persons and persons recovering from addiction. Future labor costs can be offset with anticipated opioid settlement funding for workers in recovery. The goal of the recycling center is to separate trash for the least cost disposal method of each commodity collected, to reduce our reliance on the incinerator and associated costs.

Child Pedestrian Safety**\$250,000**

This fund enables the installation of new sidewalks and crosswalks on City streets, around school facilities, provides continuity for existing partial sidewalks at parks, playgrounds, pocket parks, and similar places to promote walking to school, and reduce reliance on buses and cars.

Broadband Access**\$585,000**

\$100,000 micro grant fund to provide assistance to households facing negative economic impacts due to Covid-19, via micro grants, including digital literacy training and other programs that promote access to the Internet. This program was developed by the Library, and they have been looking for funding. Income qualified households can make application for and receive either a loaned wireless connection point or a wired broadband account subsidy.

\$485,000. Install community broadband and park Wi-Fi access. This program resurrects an existing defunct fiber optic loop system that connects City assets, and provides for open wireless access points at City Parks. This program funds an in-house network engineer for three years, and modernizes broadband switches. This expenditure is required to enable the PD camera system proposed elsewhere in this document.

Traffic and Boardwalk monitoring cameras**\$500,000**

This project was identified as a priority by the Commissioner of Public Works and the Police Chief. It would provide the PD with real time viewing and forensic data of certain areas that require frequent Police attention such as the boardwalk area and main gateways to town, as well as frequent traffic and illegal dumping trouble spots. Further, these cameras will provide additional public safety monitoring of remote areas frequented by pedestrians such as the beach trail and boardwalk. (Note: Broadband project required to implement this project.)

First Responder Family Relief (Micro-Grant Fund <\$1,000 per family)

\$200,000

Homecare Grant: This program would establish a 75% reimbursement micro grant fund to Police, Fire, ERS, and DPW employees where they can document work responsibilities or they were required to quarantine during the pandemic, resulting in their families shouldering an unusual temporary cost for additional daycare, or spousal/domestic partner time off from work to cover the home front, especially for times when the employee was ordered into work. This grant would provide up to 75% of the documented unusual cash expense for child care, elderly caregiver, or loss of income from spousal/domestic partner time away from work to provide child care/home care, where otherwise not already reimbursed by other programs.

Tutoring Grant: This fund would provide 100% reimbursement for extracurricular tutoring of school aged children of any City employee whose children missed schoolwork or grades suffered due to family quarantine requirements associated with their parent's employment with the City.

Behavioral Health Counseling Grant: This grant would provide subsidies to help pay for behavioral health counseling for Police, Fire, ERS, and DPW employees, their spouses/domestic partners and children to assure access to such services in treatment of COVID19 stress related issues. The grant would supplement other programs, provide for reimbursement of co-payments required by insurance, and directly fund counseling services where insurance coverage is not available.

It is envisioned that the Community Development Administration will administer these grants, and that an application review board with Union, Management, and Community representation will be empaneled to review and approve grants. The subject matter will necessarily require confidentiality for HIPPA reasons. This program will limit awards to no more than \$1,000 per family. In the event these awards are judged to be taxable, the City will consider the net after tax amount to the recipient as the \$1,000 cap.

Police Personnel Retention Funding

\$2,400,000

Funds provided to address the police recruitment and retention deficits exacerbated by the pandemic. Provides a cash raise of \$10,000.00 per year for each sworn officer for two fiscal years. The City will plan on budgeting this raise for future years. This plan is designed to address the attrition of City trained officers that are recruited by other towns for higher pay and pension plans, and allow us to compete for and retain the best officers available to serve our community.

Painter Park Sports Field House

\$1,000,000

Provides funding for up to 5,500 square foot field house, bathrooms, indoor sports facility to support the Parks and Recreation activities and summer camps, providing shelter in rain storms, and extended season sports activities. The building will be designed with expansion in mind in future budget years, but this phase will provide the base bathrooms, utilities, site work, and at least one indoor sports space.

Sports Camp Support

\$100,000

Sports Camp Micro Grants

\$90,000

Funds to provide a micro-grants in form of camp fees to income qualified families to participate in sports camps and other outdoor activities. Funds will support camp fees, medical needs to qualify for camp, personal sports equipment, clothing and transportation.

Cheer Camp Funding

\$10,000

Funds to provide free Cheer Camp tuition to a program that was suspended during the pandemic, depriving participants of this important physical and mental development exercise, and outdoor activities.

It is envisioned that the Park and Rec Director will develop a grant program policy and administer the micro grants based on a sliding scale family income qualification.

FEMA-PA and SLFRF rejection backup contingency

\$450,000

As some of the COVID-19 funding is subject to review and qualification, and does not have specific spending approvals in advance, this contingency reserve will provide back-up funding for any rejections submitted under FEMA PA, SLFRF, or similar COVID19 related reimbursement programs to protect the taxpayers from unanticipated budget impacts.

CARES ACT Financial Oversight Support

\$700,000

ARPA and other COVID19 related CARES ACT grants and fiscal support monitoring and accounting oversight. This funding enables the Mayor to create a three year contract position for a Staff Accountant/Assistant Grant Coordinator, and funds third party legal and accounting oversight to audit and review purchasing processes, expenditures, and documentation. These positions will support the Director of Finance, Purchasing Agent, and Grants Coordinator with their City Charter mandated responsibilities to manage these funds, and provide capacity for project management of the fund expenditures. The Mayor has also established a volunteer citizen review panel modeled on the School Building Committee which is charged with review of financial activities associated with these funds, and to publish the oversight activities. The Citizen Review Panel will also counsel and advise sub-grant applicants on physical plant and infrastructure projects. The staff position may be a temporary three year limited position negotiated with the respective Union, or may be an appointed contract position. Third party accounting and legal firms will perform audits and document review as an additional layer of accountability.

ARPA CATEGORY	TOTAL ARPA GRANT	DISCRETIONARY	QUALIFIED	
	\$29,008,576	\$10,000,000	\$19,008,576	
3.11	Housing Crisis Grant Fund		1,000,000	
	Food Bank Support Fund		400,000	
2.9	Aid to small business		1,000,000	
3.6	Pocket parks, trees, open space		1,000,000	
	Library site development for carrigan prop		1,000,000	
1.1,1.2,1.12	Public Health outreach		680,000	
6.1	Arts Center Phase I Construction Funding	3,500,000		
6.1	Municipal Building Improvements	1,650,000		
6.1	DPW Infrastructure Paving and Improvements	2,000,000		
7.3	Aid to Fire Districts		3,075,000	
5.6	Storm Water Management		3,000,000	
6.1, 2.12	Recycling and Re-use center Helm St	500,000	500,000	
3.9	Child Pedestrian Safety		250,000	
5.17	Broadband Access		585,000	
6.1	Traffic Monitoring Cameras	500,000		
3.9, 4.1	First Responder Family Relief Fund		200,000	
4.1	Police Personnel Retention Funding		2,400,000	
6.1, 3.9	Painter Park Field House	500,000	500,000	
3.9	Sports Camp Grant Fund		100,000	
7.1	FEMA-PA SLRFR rejection contingency	450,000		
7.1	CARES Act Financial Management (4 years)		700,000	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	9,100,000	16,390,000	25,490,000
	BALANCE REMAINING in Reserve	900,000	2,618,576	3,518,576

The City has \$14,504,287.00 in the bank, and expects the same amount to be distributed after June of 2022

ARPA funding Status

Local governments will receive funds in two tranches, with 50% provided beginning in May 2021 and the balance delivered approximately 12 months later. States that have experienced a net increase in the unemployment rate of more than 2 percentage points from February 2020 to the latest available data as of the date of certification will receive their full allocation of funds in a single payment; other states will receive funds in two equal tranches.

Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocations to Local Governments in CT

<u>Code</u>	<u>Town Name</u>	<u>Direct Funding: Entitlement Communities</u>	<u>State Pass-Through: County Allocations</u>	<u>State Pass-Through: Non-Entitlement Units</u>	<u>Total CLFRF Allocation</u>	<u>Tranche 1 - 2021</u>	<u>Tranche 2 - 2022</u>
156	West Haven	18,399,281.00	10,609,294.69	-	29,008,575.69	14,504,287.84	14,504,287.85

ARPA Final Rule Resources:

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

The first advance received by the City is on deposit in the CT Short Term Investment Fund. (CTSTIF)