Cedar Rapids/Linn County - Joint ARPA Application

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When are applications due?
A: Round 2 applications are due at noon on Friday, July 15, 2022 through an online application.

Q: Will my application be viewed by both the City of Cedar Rapids and Linn County?
A: Linn County will review all applications. The City of Cedar Rapids will review applications for Affordable Housing and Social Services provided within Cedar Rapids city limits.

Q: If I applied in Round 1 and didn’t receive funding, will my application be considered in Round 2?
A: Yes, all unfunded applications in Round 1 will be considered in Round 2, unless you received notice that your application was ineligible for funding.

Q: When will funding be available?
A: Funding recommendations will be presented to the Linn County Supervisors and Cedar Rapids City Council no later than the end of August. Linn County and Cedar Rapids staff will work with funded agencies to execute Administrative Agreements and supporting documentation.

Q: Will there be another round of funding available in the future?
A: This is the 2nd and final round of competitive applications for funding.
Q: Can proposed projects be built within the floodplain?
A: There may be additional requirements, such as elevating or flood proofing structures. You will need to contact the municipality in which the project will be located and follow any building codes, requirements, or guidelines required by that municipality. This should be done prior to submitting an application for a project proposed within the floodplain.

Q: Is there a requirement that the applicant (or applicant’s business) reside in Linn County or Cedar Rapids?
A: No, but the proposed project or program will need to be located/serve residents of Cedar Rapids and/or Linn County. If the applicant is located outside of the area of service, please address how you will provide service locally or have experience with projects outside of your own locality.

Q: Can an applicant submit more than one application?
A: Yes, there is no limit to the number of applications submitted, but please identify if there will be any capacity issues if all applications are funded.

Q: Can a municipality apply for water/sewer infrastructure, as well as another community need?
A: Yes, multiple applications are allowed. Please be sure to specify how your project/program will fulfill a public need that has been created or exacerbated by the pandemic, and/or serving populations disproportionally impacted by the pandemic.

Q: Can an applicant apply for increased pay and bonuses for staff to assist with retention and hiring of new staff?
A: While Premium Pay is eligible under the ARPA program, the City and County have not made this category eligible for funding at this time.
Q: What measures will applicants (that are awarded ARPA funding) be held to regarding federal guidelines?
A: Recipients of funding will be required to comply with 2 C.F.R. 200, which is the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. Generally speaking, these are financial management practices and accounting procedures that facilitate monitoring and tracking of grant funds.

Q: Are there any restrictions on the use of ARPA funds?
A: Yes, recipients may not use ARPA funds to:

- Pay into a pension fund
- Directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation
- Establish a “rainy day” fund
- Pay interest or principal on outstanding debt
- Pay fees or issuance costs of new debt
- Serve as a source of a non-federal matching contribution for other federal funds
- Satisfy an obligation under a settlement agreement, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring

Furthermore, the City and County have prioritized funding, based on community need, to the categories listed within the grant application.