



Mayor's Office | Phone: 860.584.6250 | Fax: 860-584-3835

NEWS RELEASE

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THE CITY OF BRISTOL GIVES UPDATE ON ARPA FUNDING 15-Member ARPA Task Force Recommends Approval of Grant Requests

BRISTOL, CT) – The City of Bristol announced today that \$17.5 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been recommended for approval by the ARPA Task Force. Projects were allocated to assist Bristol businesses and nonprofit organizations with eligible project costs included in the ARPA guidelines. In addition eligible City projects, including infrastructure upgrades, City Hall HVAC improvements, park upgrades and more were also recommended.

The City of Bristol selected a 15-member ARPA Task Force, appointed from the community, to determine how these funds will be distributed to benefit Bristol. The task force selected UHY Advisors as the consultant to assist with the eligibility review, reporting, and project monitoring process.

Bristol businesses and nonprofit organizations were invited to apply for a first round of up to \$24 million of funding. Eligible City projects were also submitted for consideration which will aid in post-COVID infrastructure projects. ARPA funds are for eligible costs related to the Coronavirus pandemic that organizations incurred after March 3, 2021, must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026.

UHY Advisors reviewed all applications for eligibility within specific guidelines established by the Federal Government. Eligible projects were then forwarded to the ARPA Task Force for award consideration and reviewed by three sub-committees of the Task Force. The three sub-committees, City Projects, Non-Profit and For-Profit, reviewed the 145 applications received totaling \$84.8 million in allowable requests:

- Eligible For-Profit (Businesses) requests totaled \$29 million
- Eligible Non-Profit requests totaled \$25 million
- City Project requests totaled \$50 million

During the two-month review process the committees worked to determine the best projects to recommend for funding which would have an impact in the areas of public health, negative economic impacts and services to disproportionately impacted communities, job growth and expansion of businesses, and those which would have a transformational effect on the City and its residents.

At the March 14, 2022, the ARPA Task Force identified 37 projects totaling \$17.5 million that will be forwarded to the Joint Board for approval. The following will be considered at the April 12th meeting:

- Eligible For-Profit (Businesses): 6 projects totaling \$1 million
- Eligible Non-Profit: 21 projects totaling \$5.6 million
- City Projects: 10 projects totaling \$10.9 million

If approved on April 12, the businesses and organizations will receive a letter with instructions for next steps required to receive their funding.

“Here in Bristol we decided to take a different approach – rather than solely allocate ARPA funding to only city infrastructure projects, like many other cities and towns, the City of Bristol formed a task force and invited businesses and nonprofits to apply for the funding. This allowed Bristol to award these Federal dollars, which are borrowed funds from future generations, to be truly transformational and represent this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a legacy for many generations to come. I appreciate the countless hours the 15-member Task Force spent reviewing applications to determine the best use of these funds. Their efforts will be transformational for all here in Bristol,” stated Mayor Caggiano.

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