

CITY OF BATTLE CREEK

American Rescue Plan Act funding information – 2021

More information: 269-966-3311

battlecreekmi.gov/arpa | publicinput@battlecreekmi.gov



Town hall speakers:

City Manager Rebecca Fleury

Assistant City Manager Ted Dearing

Revenue Services Director Linda Morrison

Community discussion facilitators:

Dr. Nakia Baylis

Dr. Elishae Johnson

The federal government's American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, in part, established emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. **The goal of this funding is to support their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the economic impacts.**

The City of Battle Creek will receive just over \$30.5 million total—\$30,545,339. We have received half of this money already (in 2021), and expect to receive the other half in 2022.

U.S. Treasury assigned this money to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease the virus' spread, and bring the pandemic under control.
- Replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for needed public services, and help keep jobs.
- Support immediate economic support for households and businesses.
- Address overall public health and economic challenges that have contributed to inequitable pandemic impacts on certain populations.

The City of Battle Creek team wants to follow this process carefully, and make sure we assign this money to projects that help our neighbors, help our community, and make a positive impact after the struggles we all have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, or with questions or funding requests:

- Call our 311 Information Center at 269-966-3311
- Visit battlecreekmi.gov/arpa
- Email us at publicinput@battlecreekmi.gov

If you prefer to fill out a paper funding request form, and don't finish it tonight, you can place it in our City Hall parking lot drop box, mail it back with your utility bill, or mail it separately to:

City of Battle Creek
10 N. Division St., Suite 206
Battle Creek, MI 49014

Thank you for participating in our community!

Governments have some flexibility to decide how best to use ARPA dollars to meet their communities' needs. **Those uses must be in the following categories:**

1. Address negative economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Replace revenue lost by local governments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Provide premium pay for essential workers (emergency responders, grocery staff, etc.).
4. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband internet.

The U.S. Treasury is clear that governments **may not** spend funds to:

1. Reduce taxes or delay tax increases.
2. Make a deposit to a pension fund.

Other ways governments **may not** use APRA funds:

- Funding debt
- Legal settlements or judgments
- Deposits to rainy day funds
- General infrastructure spending, outside of water, sewer, and broadband, or something eligible under the revenue loss provision
- As a non-federal match for other federal funding programs

How are you spending ARPA dollars where I live? Where will I see it?

See the full project list for information on every recommended project.

- **Approved by City Commission Oct. 19** — Dolliver Building purchase for affordable housing (135 N. Washington Ave.) — \$815,000
City had to buy this property from the federal government to eliminate restrictions on development, and we recommend it help meet the community need for affordable housing.
- **Approved by City Commission Oct. 19** — Loans for hotel/motel shared kitchens for community members living there while waiting for more permanent housing options — \$775,000
We anticipate an eviction crisis due to the pandemic, and we know families live in hotels/motels when they do not have other options. We want to help families in this way, as we also work on affordable housing options.
- **Approved by City Commission Oct. 19** — McCamly Hotel and plaza project — \$2.5 million
The hotel has a tough history and is not being used. The building needs many repairs, and multiple community groups are coming together to bring it back as the huge tourism asset it is. This is a need for our overall economy, drawing people to stay close to Kellogg Arena for events, and the new hotel will be a learning environment for those in hospitality.
- **Recommended** — Pay off customer utility bill accounts — \$1.6 million
As of June 30, 2021, all customers owed \$1.9 million, so this project would help most neighbors in need pay their past-due bills.
- **Recommended** — Public Wi-Fi in parks / better internet access — \$40,000 / \$1 million
The pandemic required virtual school and work options, and we know that internet connections are necessary for neighbors' success. We would look to expand public Wi-Fi access, and help with projects to generally expand broadband internet access across the community.