



TOWN OF CANTON
FOUR MARKET STREET
P.O. BOX 168
COLLINSVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06022-0168

ARPA ASSISTANCE PLAN

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), the Town of Canton received \$3,034,667.30, half in June 2021 and the other half in July 2022. Pursuant to the Act, as further defined by regulatory guidance, the funds can be utilized to address the negative impacts of COVID 19 on families, businesses, nonprofits and government. The funds must be encumbered by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. The “safe harbor” method of utilizing ARPA funds is to declare the funding as loss revenue pursuant to a federal formula. Once the funds have been declared as loss revenue, they can be used for normal government expenses except for debt service and pension fund costs. Town officials have determined that most, if not all of the funds can be recouped as loss revenue.

The Board of Selectmen determined the overall theme should be that funds be utilized to enhance residents’ quality of life. This would include health and well-being, safety, and outdoor recreation. Further enhancing the community’s well-being would be support of non-profits, especially those that support tourism, and support for small business. Finally, there were facility improvements including HVAC improvements for both the Town Hall and High School auditoriums.

Some of the projects would have had to be funded through the budget process if not for the ARPA funding, thereby lowering future costs. Finally, items to be funded are not items that will need substantial future additional funding such as additional staffing.

At a January 2022 Town Meeting, the Town approved appropriating \$2,535,863 of the 3,034,667.30 available ARPA funding for various projects. Below is a list of those projects.

FIRST ROUND ARPA FUNDING

Health / Wellness

Social Service Fund \$60,000.00
School Psychological Services \$40,000.00

Safety

Fire Department Air Packs \$360,000.00
Public Offices Security Improvements \$70,000.00

Outdoor Recreation

Farmington River Bike Trail Improvements \$359,000.00
Renovate CIS Field \$65,000.00
Splash Pad \$125,000.00
Outdoor Exercise Equipment \$25,000.00

River Access \$340,000.00
Replace Pool Shell \$90,000.00
New Little League Field \$250,000.00
Mills Pond Park Playground Equipment \$75,000.00

Nonprofit / Tourism and Business Support

Local Shuttered Tourism Grant \$70,000.00
Artist Support Grant \$20,000.00
Support Main Street Fund \$25,000.00
Business Stability Fund \$100,000.00

Facility Improvements

HVAC for Town Hall Auditorium \$152,863.00
HVAC for High School Auditorium \$150,000.00
CBS Broadband Improvements \$49,000.00
Town Technology Support \$50,000.00
Community Center Fixture / Furnishings \$35,000.00
Showers at the Community Center \$25,000.00

SECOND ROUND ARPA FUNDING

After review by both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, a second and final round of ARPA projects are being recommended for approval. The recommended projects will be voted on at a Town Meeting to be held on July 27, 2022 at 7:00pm in Room F of the Canton Community Center.

In the second round of ARPA funding the Town is recommending funds be appropriated to support school safety, pavement management, recreation, speed enforcement and the regional Health District. The Town is also recommending some additional funding to address cost increases in the original projects that were approved. The Memorial Field Improvement project will provide irrigation for the soccer fields but only if the Soccer Club acquires a long term lease of the property sufficient to protect the Town's investment. The funds going to the Farmington Valley Health District is part of a regional effort to provide additional resources for an organization that has been a committed partner in meeting the challenges of COVID 19.

School Projects

Window Replacement at Cherry Brook School \$140,000
Enhanced Security Cameras \$60,000

New Projects

Memorial Field Improvements \$64,000
Paving Bahr Corner Road \$97,481.30
Farmington Valley Health District \$41,323
Speed Enforcement \$30,000

Additional Funding for Round One Projects

Tall Hall Auditorium HVAC \$46,000
Pool Shell \$20,000