

Policy Opportunities at the Intersection of Community Development and Urban Waters

0

Hosted by the UWLN Equitable Development Collaborative

URBAN WATERS LEARNING NETWORK









Equitable Development Collaborative



Acknowledgements and Agreements



https://native-land.ca/

Agreements and Practices

- Listen with attention, curiosity, compassion and without judgement
- Speak with intention
- Ask for what you need and offer what you can
- Practice the pause
- Contribute to the well-being of the group
- Consider your impact (oops, ouch, redo)

Poll Question

To what extent is your community experiencing displacement pressures due to gentrification?

- Not at all not seeing gentrification OR displacement
- It's in the horizon we anticipate increasing displacement pressures in 2-5 years
- A small number of residents and local businesses are getting pushed out
- Significant number of residents and local businesses have already left

Our Moderators





Gloria McNair Groundwork Jacksonville Community Engagement Coordinator Maria de Jesus Ironbound Community Corp Housing Justice Organizer

What is Equitable Development?

What's the role of community development policy in advocating for equitable development?

Share your questions and experience in the chat

- What do you think of when you hear 'equitable development?'
- What would you like to get out of this call?
- What are specific ways that you are already working on this?





Speakers



Mark Kudlowitz Senior Policy Director, LISC



Michelle Harati Policy Officer, LISC

Agenda

- A. Introduction to LISC
- B. Pertinent Covid-19 Response Programs
- C. Relevant Infrastructure Provisions
- D. Key Build Back Better Programs

Introduction to LISC



Our Impact

With **38** local office across the country, we create opportunities for people to thrive.



438,339 affordable homes for more than a million people



110 financial opportunity centers serving 25,000 people annually



456 schools and early childhood centers for 112,000+ students



406 fields and recreational spaces for more than 745,000 kids



194 food and health-related projects serving thousands of families

Plus 100s of other retail, arts and community projects

Our Model

LISC is an investor, capacity builder, convener and innovator.



Pool Public and Private Dollars

We raise funds from philanthropies, corporations and financial firms, federal, state and local governments and through the capital markets. We also generate income

from consulting, and lending services.



Work With Local Partners

Through a network of local offices and community-based partners across the country, we provide grants, loans, equity and technical assistance. We also lead advocacy efforts on local, regional and national policy.



Support People and Places

By investing in housing, businesses, jobs, schools, public spaces, safety, youth, health centers, grocery stores and more, we catalyze opportunities in communities nationwide.

Our Reach

38

Local Offices

Atlanta, GA Boston, MA Buffalo, NY Charlotte, NC Chicago, IL Cincinnati, OH Denver, CO Detroit, MI Duluth, MN Flint, MI Fowler, CO Greenville. SC Hartford, CT

Honolulu, HI Houston, TX Indianapolis, IN Jacksonville, FL Kalamazoo, MI Kansas City, MO Los Angeles, CA Louisville, KY Memphis, TN Milwaukee, WI Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN New York, NY Newark, NJ

Peoria, IL Philadelphia, PA Phoenix, AZ Pittsburgh, PA Providence, RI Richmond, VA San Antonio, TX San Diego, CA San Francisco, CA Seattle, WA Toledo, OH Washington, DC

Rural Program working in 2,200 counties across 45 states

4 National Affiliates National Equity Fund www.nefinc.org

New Markets Support Company www.newmarkets.org

immito www.immito.com

Strategic Investments www.liscstrategicinvestments .org

Pertinent Covid-19 Response Programs



Legislative Background

CARES Act (March 2020)

- **Coronavirus Relief Fund** (CRF): Provided \$150 billion for states, Tribal governments, and local governments.
- **Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus** (CDBG-CV): Provided \$5 billion to enable states, counties, and cities to rapidly respond to COVID-19 and the economic and housing impacts caused by it.

Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 (December 2020)

• **CRF**: Extended the deadline to expend the original \$150 billion provided through Treasury until Dec. 31, 2021.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (March 2021)

• **Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds:** Established a new source of FRF funding through a \$350 billion allocation to be administered by Treasury for states, municipalities, counties, U.S. territories, and tribal governments.



Housing, Utility, and Cash Assistance

- Homelessness (\$5B)
 - Administered through HUD's HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME ARP) and <u>funding has been distributed</u> to states and localities
 - Funding is targeted to high needs populations such as persons experiencing and at risk of homelessness and can be used for rental assistance, supportive services, and development subsidies.
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program (\$21.6B)
 - \$25B appropriated last year and ARP provides an additional \$21.6B
 - Funds must be used to provide financial assistance, including back and forward rent and utility payments, and other housing expenses, including supportive services
 - Funding has been allocated from both programs

Housing, Utility, and Cash Assistance

- Housing Choice Vouchers (\$5B)
 - Targeted to same high needs populations as HOME ARP funding & provides 70,000 longer term rental assistance vouchers.
- Homeowner Assistance Fund (\$9.9B)
 - 60 percent of each grant must be targeted to homeowners having incomes no greater than 100 percent of area median income
 - Funding can be utilized broadly for homeownership supports, including mortgage and utility assistance, housing counseling, property taxes, and other uses
 - States are required to submit a plan on how to use funding by June 30 and many have received initial payments of 10% of their award amount
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (\$4.5B)
 - Additional appropriations for LIHEAP

American Rescue Plan: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) Distribution (\$350 billion)

- I. FRF Funding Available to States and the District of Columbia: \$195.3 Billion
- II. FRF Funding Available to Counties: \$65.1 billion
- III. FRF Funding Available to Metro Cities: \$45.6 billion
- IV. FRF Funding Available to Tribal Governments: \$20 billion
- V. FRF Funding Available to Non-entitlement Units of Local Government: \$19.5 billion
- VI. FRF Funding Available to Territories: \$4.5 billion

Key Dates

- The covered period begins March 3, 2021 and ends on December 31, 2024, with few exceptions.
- DECEMBER 31, 2024: Funds must be incurred and obligated
- **DECEMBER 31, 2026:** Funds must be *expended* to cover obligations and all work must be completed.



Treasury Interim Final Rule (IFR) - Eligible uses of ARP Funds Eligible uses fall into five broad categories with substantial flexibility for governments to meet needs:

1. Support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff;

2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector;

3. Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;

4. Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,

5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

Treasury also <u>released a memo</u> on finalizing the IFR to reassure jurisdictions that states:

Until Treasury adopts a final rule and the final rule becomes effective, the Interim Final Rule is, and will remain, binding and effective. This means that recipients can and should rely on the Interim Final Rule to determine whether uses of funds are eligible under this program. Treasury encourages recipients to use funds to meet needs in their communities. **Funds used in a manner consistent with the Interim Final Rule is effective will not be subject to recou**

Opportunity to Address Negative Economic Impacts

2. Addressing the negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency

- Delivering assistance to workers and families, including aid to unemployed workers and job training, as well as direct aid to households facing food, housing, or other financial insecurity.
- Supporting small businesses and nonprofits, helping them to address financial challenges caused by the pandemic and to make investments in COVID-19 prevention and mitigation tactics, as well as to provide technical assistance. To achieve these goals, recipients may employ this funding to execute a broad array of loan, grant, in-kind assistance, and counseling programs to enable small businesses to rebound from the downturn.
- Speeding the **recovery of the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors, supporting industries** that were particularly hard-hit by the COVID-19 emergency and are just now beginning to mend. Similarly impacted sectors within a local area are also eligible for support.
- Rebuilding public sector capacity, by rehiring public sector staff and replenishing unemployment insurance (UI) trust funds, in each case up to pre-pandemic levels. Recipients may also use this funding to build their internal capacity to successfully implement economic relief programs, with investments in data analysis, targeted outreach, technology infrastructure, and impact evaluations.

Treasury Guidelines - Qualified Census Tracts

Serving the hardest-hit communities and families

Governments can more flexibly use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support additional services as Treasury will presume that certain types of services are eligible uses if they are provided:

• within a <u>Qualified Census Tract</u> (a low-income area as designated by HUD); to families living in Qualified Census Tracts; by a Tribal government; or, to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Aid to these communities does not have to have a direct tie-in to COVID-19 as it addresses a specific economic impact.

Eligible services include:

- Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health, through funding for community health workers, public benefits navigators, remediation of lead hazards, and community violence intervention programs;
- **Investments in housing and neighborhoods, such as** services to address individuals experiencing homelessness, affordable housing development, housing vouchers, and residential counseling and housing navigation assistance to facilitate moves to neighborhoods with high economic opportunity;
- Addressing educational disparities through new or expanded early learning services, providing additional resources to high-poverty school districts, and offering educational services like tutoring
- or afterschool programs as well as services to address social, emotional, and mental health needs; and,
- **Promoting healthy childhood environments**, including new or expanded high quality childcare,

Broad Policy Considerations

Things to Keep in Mind

- Many areas will be looking for partners that will have experience complying with federal funding requirements, and leveraging evidence as a responsible steward of federal funding will be an advantage.
- Similarly, given Treasury's broad guidelines developing programs that meet other federal program requirements like CDBG may be a selling point for localities looking to minimize audit risk.
- Opportunity to influence these decisions through direct engagement with local economic and community development departments, elected officials, **and coalition building to build community consensus** on unmet needs and recommended investments of federal resources.
 - This could look like: drafting sign-on letters and circulating to partner organizations; submitting public comments at hearings or on written proposals; social media campaigns; and scheduling meetings with local elected officials charged with oversight to communicate asks effectively.
- Local governments and many states will receive their funding in two disbursements, so there
 may be future opportunities to influence forthcoming disbursements. Decision timing will vary
 by state and locality, but many entities are still actively considering how to apportion their
 funds by need, what type of programs they will implement to meet various needs, and who
 will implement the program.

Often anticipated partners and plans can change – being at the table can constant of opportunities.

Potential CBO Opportunity: Accessing State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Key Steps

- 1. Identify available CRF resources flowing to your area;
- 2. Review publically available information such as legislative minutes, approved budgets, or other materials such as newspapers or by meeting with community advocates to determine which decisions have already been made and how much (if any) remains unaccounted for;
- 3. Identify unmet need(s) through direct community engagement and leveraging available data to develop potential programs and identify trusted partners able to address either on their own or in partnership with others;
- 4. Build consensus and mobilize coalitions of organizations as much as possible;
- 5. Identify potential sources of opposition, engage opposing organizations or departments as possible to address potential concerns if unable to reach consensus perhaps they can agree not to actively oppose;
- 6. Develop counterpoints and refine proposals as necessary in light of feedback;
- 7. Conduct outreach to community members, elected officials and administrative staff to communicate local priorities and receive feedback on proposal, refine as needed;
- 8. Engage in continued advocacy through sign-on efforts, social media campaigns, **IISC** ttending and speaking at public hearings.

Investment Examples

Housing

Multiple localities and states across the nation have <u>already committed or are proposing to commit</u> significant ARPA resources to support access to affordable housing, this includes <u>\$15.5M in Clark County</u>, <u>Washington to</u> support crisis response for unhoused and <u>\$25M in Fairfax County</u>, <u>Virginia</u> for preservation and build new units.

Economic Development

Small Business Financial and Technical Assistance

Investing in grant and loan programs that are often combined with one-on-one business counseling, including \$3M in <u>Scranton</u>, \$5M in <u>St. Louis</u>, and \$7M in <u>Providence.</u>

Universal Basic Income (UBI) Pilot Programs

Piloting UBI programs, including \$400K in <u>Milwaukee</u>, \$3 million in <u>Minneapolis</u>, and \$20 million for a program combining UBI with job placement and financial counseling provided by non-profit partners in <u>Buffalo</u>.

Arts and Culture Recovery Programs

Localities are supporting hard hit sectors, including the arts. <u>Phoenix established a \$5M fund to support eligible</u> nonprofits through workforce programs and economic development initiatives.

Workforce Development and Youth Programs

Multiple localities and states are dedicating ARPA resources to support career training and youth

EDA Programs



EDA American Rescue Plan Programs

- As part of the American Rescue Plan, \$3 billion was provided to expand EDA economic adjustment assistance (EAA) grants for states and communities suffering economic injury as a result of the coronavirus. This funding is in addition to the \$1.5 billion provided under the CARES Act.
- The funding is being made available through six separate NOFOs that EDA refers to as "innovative challenges" that aim to direct EDA investments to benefit previously underserved communities impacted by COVID-19.
- All proposed projects must align with an <u>EDA Investment Priority</u>. EDA's ARP appropriations can be used to make awards through September 30, 2022, however, EDA will likely make most award decisions in Q1 and Q2 of 2022. All awarded activities must be completed and all funds disbursed no later than September 30, 2027. Details on the process of applying for an EDA Grant can be found through the <u>IEDC's guidebook</u>.



EDA American Rescue Plan Programs

- The <u>Build Back Better Regional Challenge</u> aims to accelerate the economic recovery from the pandemic and build resilient local economies. It will provide a transformational investment to 20-30 regions across the country to revitalize their economies through a national NOFO focusing on growing new regional industry clusters or scaling existing ones through planning, infrastructure, innovation and entrepreneurship, workforce development, & more.
 - Phase 1 applications closed on October 19th EDA received 529 applications from regions in all 50 states.
- The <u>Economic Adjustment Assistance</u> (EAA) program is EDA's longstanding EAA program. It is the broadest NOFO and intends to help communities and regions devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies by funding non-construction and construction activities not already part of another NOFO promulgated by EDA.
 - Rolling deadline, strongly encouraged to start early and contact EDA regional representatives for assistance.
- The <u>Indigenous Communities</u> program provides funding specifically for Indigenous communities. It
 is designed to support the needs of Tribal Governments and Indigenous communities by
 supporting the development and execution of economic development projects to recover from
 the pandemic.
- Rolling deadline, strongly encouraged to start early and contact EDA regional representatives for assistance.

Other Resources

Digital Inclusion

Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB)

Congress recently created the <u>Affordable Connectivity Program</u>, a new long-term, \$14 billion program, which will replace the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. This investment in broadband affordability will help ensure we can afford the connections we need for work, school, health care and more for a long time. Households enrolled in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program as of 12/31/21 will continue to receive their current monthly benefit until 3/1/22.

What is the EBB Benefit?

- \$10 to \$50 per month discount for broadband services;
- Up to \$75 per month discount for broadband services for households on Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating ISP (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50).
- Limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per eligible household.

What's Changing?

- The maximum monthly benefit is reduced from \$50 per month to \$30 per month for most households, except for those on qualifying Tribal lands benefit will remain at \$75 per month.
- Households have new ways to qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program such as: receiving WIC benefits or having an income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Digital Inclusion

Emergency Broadband Benefit / Affordable Connectivity Program Who is Eligible?

- experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020 AND has a total household income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers (Affordable Connectivity Program removes this) received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year
- qualifies for Lifeline benefits through participation in SNAP, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit (Affordable Connectivity Program adds WIC)
- has an income at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (Affordable Connectivity Program increased 200%)
- meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program

Qualify Through Your Child or Dependent

Any member of the household can make a household eligible. For example, if <u>a child or</u> <u>dependent</u> participates in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program, the household qualifies.

Two-Steps to Enroll

LSC o to <u>GetEmergencyBroadband.org</u> to submit an application or print out a mail-in application. Contact preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have th your bill. Some providers may have an alternative application they will ask you to complete.

COVID

Reliefo Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Assistance to states, Tribal Nations, and territories, as well as individuals and qualifying private nonprofits to respond to COVID-19.
- Funding can cover the costs for pay for personal protective equipment; vaccine distribution; sanitization of schools, public transit, and courthouses; health care overtime costs; and other needs.
- Authorizes use of \$50 B provided to FEMA to provide financial assistance COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

Obtaining Funeral Assistance

- Applicants may receive assistance for the funeral expenses of multiple deceased individuals. Assistance is limited to a maximum of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application per state, territory, or the District of Columbia.
- Applications began on April 12, 2021. At this time, there is no deadline to apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance.
- COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number: 844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585
- Call this dedicated toll-free phone number to get a COVID-19 Funeral Assistance application completed with help from FEMA's representatives. Multilingual services will be available.
- <u>https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance</u>



Relevant Infrastructure Provisions



Bipartisan Infrastructure Package: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Passed the US House on November 5th and signed into law on November 15th includes a total of **\$1.2 trillion in investments with \$550 billion in new federal spending over the next five years, marking the largest investment in infrastructure in decades.**

The legislation directs the majority of new funding to modernize America's physical infrastructure needs, such as roads, bridges and railways, including:

- \$110 billion for roads, bridges and other projects;
- \$65 billion to expand high-speed Internet access;
- \$65 billion for clean power infrastructure;
- \$66 billion for rail transportation;
- \$55 billion for clean drinking water;
- \$39 billion for public transit;
- \$21 billion for environmental remediation through <u>EPA Investments</u> Superfund Clean-Up, Brownfields Revitalization, and the Pollution Prevention (P2) Program; and
- \$1 billion for a reconnecting communities initiative.

https://www.lisc.org/our-stories/story/building-infrastructure-opportunity/

Resource List

Treasury State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

State Allocations and States Subject to Split Payment

Metropolitan City Allocations and County Allocations

HUD QCT Tool

National League of Cities Local Action Tracker

Council of State Governments ARPA Tracker

NACO Infrastructure Legislation Analysis

NACO ARPA Analysis - Use of Funds

Treasury Blog Post on Examples of Fiscal Recovery Funds

EDA American Rescue Plan Programs | U.S. Economic Development Administration



Key Build **Back Better** Programs



Legislative Background

Build Back Better Act

Congressional Democrats have continued to work on the Build Back Better Act through a budget reconciliation process and on Friday, the House passed the \$1.75 trillion legislation - marking a significant step towards enacting the Biden Administration's economic agenda. The Senate is expected to modify the legislation in early December and if it passes the Senate, the House will need to vote again on the revised bill before it goes to President Biden.

Key priorities include:

- Universal pre-K and affordable, high-quality child care
- Extending the expanded Child Tax Credits (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC)
- Investments in clean energy and combatting climate change
- Affordable housing and workforce development

Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations

The federal government is currently operating under a continuing resolution (CR). Congress recently extended a CR that expired on December 34d until Feb 18th. The Senate has until then to reach an agreement with the House on the FY 2022 appropriations bills to prevent a federal government shutdown.



Key BBB Affordable Housing Programs

Program	Total Funding
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance	\$1 billion
Section 8 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	\$24 billion
Public Housing	\$65 billion (\$2.5B for Choice Neighborhoods)
Section 202 Housing for the Elderly	\$500 million
Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities	\$500 million
USDA Rural Housing Preservation	\$2 billion
Green Retrofits for HUD Multifamily Housing	\$2 billion
HOME Investment Partnership Program	\$10 billion
Housing Trust Fund	\$15 billion
Community Development Block Grants	\$3 billion
Housing Investment Fund	\$750 million
Community Restoration and Revitalization Fund	\$3 billion
Revitalization Funds for Distressed HUD Assisted Housing	\$1.6 billion
Lead-Based Paint Abatement	\$5 billion
LSC	2

Key BBB Affordable Housing Programs

Program	Total Funding
Unlocking Possibilities Program (Land Use and Zoning Reform)	\$1.75 billion
Downpayment Assistance Program	\$10 billion
Mortgage Program for First Time Homebuyers	\$5 billion
Fair Housing Programs	\$800 million
Native American Housing Programs	\$1 billion
Low-Income Housing Tax Credits	
Neighborhood Home Tax Credits	

Key Anti-Displacement Programs

- Community Development Block Grants. Flexible program, which flows through states, cities, and counties. Can be used for numerous uses, including helping distressed households or for affordable housing and community and economic development purposes.
- **Community Restoration and Revitalization Fund.** New program which will be administered through nonprofit organizations. Can be used for affordable housing and community development activities, including anti-displacement efforts.
- Housing Investment Fund. New program which will be administered through nonprofit housing organizations and community development financial institutions. Can be used for affordable housing and community facilities projects benefitting low-income households.
- Fair Housing Programs. Increases resources for HUD's fair housing programs, which assist distressed families.
- Unlocking Possibilities (Land Use and Zoning Reform). New program which will provide incentives for localities to ease land use and regulatory barriers to affordable housing development.



Questions and Discussion

More Opportunities for Engagement

- Look for new opportunities in 2022
- Equitable Development Mobilize Group (registration link in chat)
- **Evaluation** (link in chat)







June 4-7 Washington, D.C. SAVE THE DATE

Join us at the Urban Waters Learning Forum

AND A FACTORIAN AND A FACTOR 10 200 ALL AND A REPORT 10 200

riverrally.org





Email us: dtoledo@rivernetwork.org, maria@groundworkusa.org, rmazurek@rivernetwork.org

www.urbanwaterslearningnetwork.org