



## **KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GUIDANCE**

- 1. Final Rule is effective April 1, 2022, but counties may take advantage of new provisions prior to the effective date
- 2. Allows counties to use up to \$10 million of ARPA Recovery Funds as "lost revenue" for the provision of general government services without needing to use the Treasury revenue loss formula
- 3. Improves revenue loss calculation formula to include utility revenue and liquor store sales, at option of counties
- 4. Clarifies eligible use of funds for capital expenditures and written justification for certain projects
- 5. Presumes certain populations were "impacted" and "disproportionately impacted" by the pandemic and therefore are eligible to receive a broad range of services and support designed to minimize administrative burden
- 6. Streamlines options for premium pay, by broadening the share of eligible workers who may receive premium pay
- 7. Authorizes re-hiring of local government staff, either at or above pre-pandemic levels
- 8. Allows Recovery Funds to be used for modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware and software
- 9. Broadens eligible use of funds for water and sewer projects to include culvert repair, dam and reservoir rehabilitation
- 10. Broadens eligible broadband infrastructure investments to ensure better connectivity to broader populations

# DECODING *THE LANGUAGE* OF THE GUIDANCE

Throughout the Final Rule, along with related FAQs and fact sheets, U.S. Treasury uses several *key words* that are important to understand in determining the eligible use of funds. *Please be sure to read the Final Rule, FAQs and Guidance*.

#### FINAL RULE VS. FAQs

- SHALL = Mandatory reporting, use and compliance
- MAY = Allows local/county discretion
- ENCOURAGE / SHOULD = Treasury preference only (NOT REQUIRED)
- PROPORTIONAL, REASONABLE AND CONSISTENT

# Overview of U.S. Treasury's Final Rule for ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund



## **Support Public Health Response**

Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff



## **Address Negative Economic Impacts**

Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector



#### **Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss**

Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic



### **Premium Pay for Essential Workers**

Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors



#### Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure



#### **Broadband Infrastructure**

Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access



Counties may use Recovery Funds to provide government services, up to the amount of revenue loss experienced using one of two Treasury approaches. Under the Final Rule, counties now have two options:

#### **KEY NEW FEATURES IN FINAL RULE**

#### 1. NEW \$10 MILLION REVENUE LOSS ALLOWANCE

- Counties may allocate up to \$10 million of their total Recovery Fund allocation to spend on government services
- Counties may still calculate actual revenue loss through Treasury formula but must pick 1 of the 2 approaches
- Simplifies reporting requirements for counties using the standard \$10M standard allowance
- 2,137 counties (70%) now eligible to invest entirety of allocated Recovery Funds in general government services

#### 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REVENUE LOSS FORMULA

- Revenue loss growth rate changed from 4.1% to 5.2% as the new standard default allowance for the formula
- General revenue now includes utility revenue and liquor store revenue, at the discretion of the county
- Counties may choose to calculate revenue loss on a **fiscal year** or calendar year basis must pick & stay with 1 option
- Counties <u>must</u> adjust actual revenue totals for the effect of tax cuts/increases adopted after January 6, 2022



## **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Counties have two options to calculate revenue loss:
  - Up to \$10 million of ARPA allocation standard allowance, OR
  - 2. Calculate revenue loss with Treasury formula, with a **new 5.2% default growth rate**
- If your county previously declared "\$0" for revenue loss in the Interim Report, the county may change and update this number in the first Project and Expenditure Report
- If your county is declaring revenue loss, you must still abide by the reporting requirements within the Project and Expenditure Report's "revenue loss" category

Counties may use "lost revenue" for **general government services up to the** *revenue loss* **amount**, whether that be the standard allowance amount (\$10 million) or the amount calculated using Treasury's formula:

- Government services generally include any service traditionally provided by a government, unless Treasury has stated otherwise
- Common examples include, but are not limited to:
  - Construction of schools and hospital
  - Road building and maintenance, and other infrastructure
  - Health services
  - General government administration, staff and administrative facilities
  - Environmental remediation
  - Police, first responders and other public safety services (including purchase of fire trucks and police vehicles)

RECOVERY FUNDS USED TO REPLACE "REVENUE LOSS" ARE MORE FLEXIBLE AND MAY BE USED FOR A BROAD RANGE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OUTSIDE OF TYPICAL ELIGIBLE USES OF RECOVERY FUNDS UNDER THE FINAL RULE. HOWEVER, REVENUE RECOUPMENT SHALL NOT BE USED FOR RAINY DAY FUNDS, DEBT SERVICES, AND **EXTRAORDINARY PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS** 



Counties may use "lost revenue" for general government services up to the revenue loss amount, whether that be the standard allowance amount (\$10 million), or the amount calculated using Treasury's formula:

## HOWEVER, the following activities are NOT an eligible use of a county's "revenue loss" allowance:

- Extraordinary contribution to a pension fund
- **Debt service** payment, including Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs)
- Rainy day or **reserve account**
- Settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree or judicially confirmed debt (with limited exceptions)
- (NEW) Activity that conflicts with the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act statute (e.g. uses of funds that conflict with COVID-19 mitigation practices in line with CDC guidance and recommendations)
- Violations of Award Terms and Conditions or conflict of interest requirements under the Uniform Guidance



Counties may use "lost revenue" for **general government services up to the** *revenue loss* **amount**, whether that be the standard allowance amount (\$10 million) or the amount calculated using Treasury's formula:

RECOVERY FUNDS USED TO REPLACE "REVENUE LOSS" ARE MORE FLEXIBLE

AND MAY BE USED FOR A BROAD RANGE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

OUTSIDE OF TYPICAL ELIGIBLE USES OF RECOVERY FUNDS UNDER THE FINAL RULE.

HOWEVER, REVENUE RECOUPMENT <u>SHALL NOT</u> BE USED FOR
RAINY DAY FUNDS, DEBT SERVICES, EXTRAORDINARY PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
AND VIOLATIONS OF THE FEDERAL UNIFORM GUIDANCE SUCH AS SELF DEALING / CONFLICT OF INTEREST
AND

RECOVERY FUNDS <u>MUST STILL BE TRACKED</u> USING THE FEDERAL ID#
AND MANAGED SEPARATELY FROM THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND



# PUBLIC HEALTH & NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS

1 PUBLIC HEALTH

4 ASSISTANCE TO NONPROFITS

2 ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS

AID TO IMPACTED INDUSTRIES

- 3 ASSISTANCE TO **SMALL BUSINESSES**
- 6 PUBLIC SECTOR CAPACITY

# PUBLIC HEALTH & NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS



#### KEY NEW FEATURES IN FINAL RULE

#### 1. ENUMERATED ELIGIBLE USES

- Significantly expands or clarifies presumed eligible uses, including:
  - All categories: Capital expenditures & applicable standards
  - Impacted households: Affordable housing, childcare, early learning services and services to address learning loss during the pandemic ARE ELIGIBLE in all impacted communities
  - Disproportionately impacted households: Certain community development and neighborhood revitalization activities eligible for disproportionately impacted communities
  - Disproportionately impacted small businesses: Broader set of business supports, such as rehabilitation of storefronts and business incubators

The Final Rule provides a list of eligible uses and impacted & disproportionately impacted populations presumed eligible

# PUBLIC HEALTH & NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS



#### KEY NEW FEATURES IN FINAL RULE

#### 1. AID TO IMPACTED INDUSTRIES

- Clarifies <u>how to designate</u> an impacted industry
- Clarifies <u>eligible uses</u> to impacted industries

#### 2. PUBLIC SECTOR CAPACITY

- Allows re-hiring of county staff to <u>pre-pandemic levels</u>, <u>OR</u>
- Adjusted level <u>up to 7.5%</u> above pre-pandemic baseline
- Support for staff retention, avoiding layoffs and funds for furloughed workers

#### 3. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

- Eligible projects must respond to pandemic and be proportional to impact
- Required written justification for certain projects

Counties may use

funds for other

aspects of health

and economic

response



# **PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE**

#### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

The Final Rule allows a very broad range of activities, including for the general public:

- Behavioral health facilities and equipment
- Prevention, outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment, crisis care, and diversion programs
- Enhanced behavioral health services in schools
- Services for pregnant women or infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome
- Support for equitable access to reduce disparities in access to reduce disparities in access to high-quality treatment
- Peer support groups, costs for residence in supportive housing or recovery housing, the 988
   National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- Expansion of access to evidence-based services for opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery



#### IMPACTED HOUSEHOLDS

The Final Rule outlines the following eligible uses of Recovery Funds to respond to the **impacts** of the pandemic on households and communities (non-exhaustive list):

- Food assistance and food banks
- Emergency housing assistance
- Health insurance coverage expansion
- Benefits for surviving family members who have died from COVID-19
- Burials, home repair and home weatherization
- Cash assistance
- Assistance in accessing and applying for public benefits or services
- Child care and early learning services
- Assistance to address the impact of early learning loss for K-12 students



#### DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED HOUSEHOLDS

Treasury presumes the following households and communities are <u>disproportionately impacted</u>
 by the pandemic:

- Low-income households and communities
- Households residing in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)
- Households that qualify for certain federal benefits (i.e. TANF, SNAP, SSI, WIC, Section 8 vouchers, LIHEAP)
- Households receiving services provided by Tribal governments



### DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED HOUSEHOLDS

The Final Rule outlines the following eligible uses of Recovery Funds to respond to the <u>disproportionate</u> <u>impacts</u> of the pandemic on households and communities (non-exhaustive list):

- Pay for community health workers to help households access health and social services
- Remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards
- Primary care clinics, hospitals, integration of health services into other settings, and other investments in medical equipment and facilities designed to address health disparities
- Housing vouchers and assistance relocating to neighborhoods with higher economic opportunity
- Investments in neighborhoods to promote improved outcomes
- Improvements to vacant/abandoned properties
- Services to address educational disparities
- School and other educational equipment and facilities



#### **AID TO IMPACTED INDUSTRIES**

- The Final Rule states that an industry may be designated as "impacted":
  - 1. If the industry is in the travel, tourism or hospitality sectors, the industry is presumed impacted
  - 2. If the industry is outside of travel, tourism or hospitality sectors, the industry is impacted if:
    - a. The industry experienced at least 8 percent employment loss from pre-pandemic levels, or
    - b. The industry is experiencing comparable or worse economic impacts as the tourism, travel and hospitality industries as of the date the Final Rule is published (12/6/2022)
- Recipients (i.e. counties) have flexibility to define industries
- Aid can only be provided to businesses and attractions that were operating prior to the pandemic and affected by required closures



Counties may use Recovery Funds to restore and bolster public sector capacity, which supports government's ability to deliver critical COVID-19 services.

- **Payroll and covered benefits** for public safety, public health, health care, human services and similar employees of a recipient government (NOTE that ARP Recovery Funds have different rules than the CARES Act!)
- Rehiring public sector staff to pre-pandemic levels or above pre-pandemic levels (7.5 percent growth allowance)
- Support and retain public sector workers by:
  - Provide additional funding for employees who experienced pay reductions or were furloughed
  - Maintain current compensation levels to prevent layoffs
  - **Provide worker retention incentives,** including reasonable increases in compensation (must be additive to an employee's regular compensation and are less than 25 percent of the rate of base pay for an individual and no more than 10 percent for a group)
  - **Cover administrative costs** associated with administering with hiring, support and retention programs
- **Effective service delivery**



# PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES STAFF

PUBLIC SAFETY STAFF	PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF	HUMAN SERVICES STAFF
<ul> <li>Police officers</li> <li>Sheriffs/deputy sheriffs</li> <li>Firefighters</li> <li>Emergency medical responders</li> <li>Correctional and detention officers</li> <li>Dispatchers and supervisor personnel that directly support public safety staff</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Employees involved in providing medical, physical or mental health services (i.e. medical staff in schools, prisons, etc.)</li> <li>Laboratory technicians, medical examiners, morgue staff</li> <li>Other support services essential for patient care</li> <li>Employees of public health departments</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Employees providing or administering social services and public benefits</li> <li>Child welfare services employees</li> <li>Child, elder or family care employees</li> </ul> Chief county elected official may also designate other county employees for payroll support based on the Treasury criteria.



#### **GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT AND REHIRING PUBLIC SECTOR STAFF**

- Counties have two options to restore pre-pandemic employment, depending on the recipient's needs:
  - 1. Hire back county FTEs for pre-pandemic positions that existed on January 27, 2020

#### <u>OR</u>

- 2. Hire above the pre-pandemic levels of up to 7.5 percent above pre-pandemic baseline.

  If a county wants to hire above pre-pandemic baseline, it must complete the following steps:
  - Identify the county's FTE level on January 27, 2020
  - Multiply the pre-pandemic baseline by 1.075 (adjusted pre-pandemic baseline)
  - Identify county's budgeted FTE level on March 3, 2021 (actual number of FTEs)
  - Subtract the actual number of FTEs from the adjusted re-pandemic baseline to determine number of FTEs that can be covered.
  - Counties does <u>NOT</u> have to hire for the same role that existed pre-pandemic



#### **EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY**

Recovery Funds may be used to improve the efficacy of public health and economic programs.

- Supporting program evaluation, data and outreach through:
  - Program evaluation and evidence resources
  - Data analysis resources to gather, assess, share and use data
  - Technology infrastructure to improve access to and user experience of government IT systems
  - Community outreach and engagement activities
- Administrative needs:
  - Backlogs caused by shutdowns
  - Technology infrastructure to adapt government operations to pandemic (i.e. videoconferencing software, data and case management systems)



# **CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

Counties may use Recovery Funds for **capital expenditures** that respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic.

- Projects <u>must</u> be related to public health and/or negative economic impacts and be <u>proportional</u> to the pandemic impact identified
- **No pre-approval** is required or provided for capital expenditures
- To ensure the expenditure is eligible, counties are required to write a written justification for capital expenditures equal to or greater than \$1 million, which includes the following:
  - Description of harm or need to be addresses (i.e. number of individuals)
  - Explanation of why the capital expenditure is appropriate (i.e. why existing resources are inadequate)
  - 3. Comparison of proposed capital expenditure project against at least two alternative capital expenditures and why the proposed capital expenditure is superior

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# **CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

Counties may use Recovery Funds for capital expenditures that respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic.

COST OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECT	USE IS ENUMERATED BY TREASURY AS ELIGIBLE	USE IS BEYOND THOSE ENUMERATED BY TREASURY AS ELIGIBLE
Less than \$1 million	No written justification required	No written justification required
Greater than or equal to \$1 million, but less than \$10 million	Written justification required but county does not need to submit as part of reporting	Written justification required and county must submit as part of regular reporting to Treasury
\$10 million or more	Written justification required and county must submit as part of regular reporting	



# **CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

EXAMPLES OF <u>ELIGIBLE</u> CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS	EXAMPLES OF <u>INELIGIBLE</u> CAPITAL EXPENDTIURE PROJECTS
<ul> <li>Schools</li> <li>Childcare facilities</li> <li>Medical facilities generally dedicated to COVID-19 treatment and mitigation (i.e. ICUs, emergency rooms, etc.)</li> <li>Temporary medical facilities</li> <li>Emergency operation centers</li> <li>Behavioral health facilities</li> <li>Affordable housing and permanent supportive housing</li> <li>Primary care clinics, hospitals</li> <li>Improvements to vacant/abandoned properties</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Construction of <u>new</u> congregate facilities</li> <li>Construction of convention centers, stadiums and other larger capital projects intended for general economic development</li> </ul>



## PREMIUM PAY

Counties may use Recovery Funds to provide premium pay (up to \$13 per hour) to eligible workers performing <u>essential work</u>, either in public sector roles or through grants to third-party employers.

#### **KEY NEW FEATURES IN FINAL RULE**

#### 1. ADDITIONAL STREAMLING OF PREMIUM PAY

- Under the interim rule, counties were quired to submit a written justification for workers not listed on the Treasury eligibility list
- Final Rule permits counties to award premium pay to workers that are not exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act overtime provisions <u>WITHOUT</u> submitting a written justification

#### 2. CLARIFICATION ON TYPES OF ELIGIBLE PREMIUM PAY

- Clarifies that premium pay may be provided in installments or lump sums (i.e. monthly, quarterly, etc.)
- Premium pay may be awarded to hourly, part-time or salaried or non-hourly workers
- Volunteers shall <u>not</u> be eligible for premium pay

Under the Final Rule, premium pay may still be retroactive and only be provided to eligible workers that are performing essential work (in person and/or regular physical handling of items)



## PREMIUM PAY

## The Final Rue outlines three steps for determining premium pay eligibility:

- 1. Any work performed by an employee of the state, <u>local</u> or tribal government, among others
- 2. Verify that the eligible worker performs essential work including risk of COVID exposure
  - Work involving regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items also handled by others
  - Worker would <u>NOT</u> be engaged in essential work if telework performed from a residence
- 3. Confirm that premium pay responds to workers performing essential work during the public health emergency
  - Determine average annual wage for county employees
  - Any employee normally eligible for overtime as non-exempt from the FLSA overtime provisions
  - If worker does not meet any of the above, county must submit written justification with presumptive allowance



## WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Counties may Recovery Funds to make a broad range of water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure investments.

#### **KEY NEW FEATURES IN FINAL RULE**

#### 1. NEW ELGIBLE WATER AND SEWER PROJECTS

- Under the Interim Final Rule, eligible projects were aligned, to determine eligibility of Recovery Funds, with those under EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- Final Rule provides additional eligible projects, including:
  - Broader set of lead remediation projects (i.e. faucets, fixtures and internal plumbing in schools and childcare facilities)
  - Culverts
  - Residential wells
  - Certain dams and reservoirs (related to drinking water)



# WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Counties may use Recovery Funds to make a broad range of investments in water and sewer infrastructure. The Final Rule provides <u>additional categories for eligible water and sewer projects including stormwater</u>.

### **NEW ELIGIBLE WATER & SEWER PROJECTS UNDER FINAL RULE**

- Culvert repair
- Resizing, and removal, replacement of storm sewers, and additional types of stormwater infrastructure
- Infrastructure to improve access to safe
   drinking water for individual served by
   residential wells, including testing initiatives,
   and treatment/remediation strategies that
   address contamination
- Dam and reservoir rehabilitation if primary purpose of dam or reservoir is for drinking water supply and project is necessary for provision of drinking water

- Broad set of lead remediation projects eligible under EPA grant programs authorized by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, including:
  - Lead testing
  - Installation of corrosion control treatment
  - Lead service line replacement
  - Water quality testing, compliance monitoring, and remediation activities (i.e. replacement of internal plumbing and faucets and fixtures in schools and childcare facilities)



# **BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Final Rule **broadens eligible broadband infrastructure investments** to ensure better connectivity for residents.

#### **KEY NEW FEATURES IN FINAL RULE**

#### 1. BROADENS BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE FLEXIBILITY

- Under the Interim Final Rule, counties were required to invest in households and businesses without reliable wireline 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload
- <u>Final Rule</u> allows counties to invest in locations without reliable wireline 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload

Under the Interim Final Rule, counties were required to invest in households and businesses without reliable wireline 25 Mbps download / 3 Mbps upload

Final Rule allows counties to invest in locations without reliable wireline 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload



# **BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Final Rule also includes the following clarification on broadband projects:

#### 1. IDENTIFY AN ELIGIBLE AREA FOR INVESTMENT

- Counties are <u>encouraged</u> to prioritize projects that are designed to <u>serve locations without access</u>
   to reliable wireline 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload speeds
- Beyond the threshold, <u>counties have broad flexibility</u> to define need in a community Examples of need include:
  - Lack of access to a reliable high-speed broadband connection
  - Lack of affordable broadband
  - Lack of **reliable** service

#### 2. DESIGN A PROJECT TO MEET HIGH-SPEED TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Projects are required to meet or exceed 100 Mbps download/100 Mbps upload (flexibility for 100 Mbps/20 Mbps upgrades)

#### 3. ENROLLMENT IN LOW-INCOME SUBSIDY PROGRAM

 Must offer FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) or provide access to broad-based affordability program to low-income consumers as part of the project



# **NON-FEDERAL MATCH AND COST SHARE REQUIREMENTS**

- REVENUE LOSS ALLOCATION: Funds available under the "revenue loss" eligible use category may be used to meet the non-federal cost share or matching requirement of other federal programs (i.e. EPA's Drinking Water SRF and Clean Water SRF)
  - However, Recovery Funds may <u>NOT</u> be used for the non-federal share state's Medicaid and CHIP programs, <u>even under the "revenue loss" category</u>
- NON-REVENUE LOSS ALLOCATION: Recovery Funds beyond those under the
   "revenue loss" category shall not be used as the non-federal match or cost-share
   requirement of other federal programs unless specifically provided for by federal;
   statute (i.e. certain broadband deployment projects and specific programs under the
   Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act under the Federal Highway Administration
   and the Bureau of Reclamation)



## **DEFINING INELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

The Final Rule maintains the Interim Final Rule's restriction on use with additional clarification.



#### **PENSION FUNDS**

 Final Rule clarifies that prohibition of "extraordinary contributions" to pension funds applies to all recipients except for Tribal governments



#### **OTHER RESTRICTIONS**

- Funding debt service, legal settlements or judgements
- Deposits to rainy day funds or financial reserves
- Clarifies additional restrictions that apply, including that:
  - Uses of funds may not undermine COVID-19 mitigation practices in line with CDC guidance
  - Uses of funds may not violate Uniform Guidance conflict of interest requirements and other laws



## **NET REDUCTION IN REVENUE (STATES & TERRITORIES)**

 Final Rule maintains that IFR's prohibition on states and localities for using Recovery Funds to directly or indirectly offset reduction in net tax revenue



STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

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