

May 3, 2022

**Before the Boston City Council
Committee on Boston's COVID-19 Recovery**

**Covid-19 Recovery Hearing:
Nonprofit Human Services Sector Relief**

Docket #0436

**Written Statement of David L. Thompson
on behalf of the National Council of Nonprofits**

Chair Bok and Committee Members,

It is my distinct honor to testify before the Boston City Council and provide a national perspective about the current state of charitable nonprofits and ways government officials across the country have been investing their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in local nonprofits on which their constituents rely. I do so on behalf of the National Council of Nonprofits, which is the largest network of nonprofits in North America. We focus on the 97% of charitable nonprofits with budgets under \$5 million – food banks, neighborhood health clinics, community theatres, domestic violence shelters, senior centers, and more – the organizations whose absence would leave huge voids in their communities. Working with our core network and other collaborative partners, we champion, inform, and connect organizations across the country to get things done for nonprofits and the people and communities they serve.

I am particularly delighted to be presenting alongside colleagues who are respected leaders in our nationwide network – Jim Klocke of the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network and Michael Weekes of Providers' Council of Massachusetts, as well as board member Elaine Ng of TSNE MissionWorks.

From the outset, I express full support for the framing of the task before City Council as described in Docket #0503. The nearly \$350 million in funds available to the City of Boston from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) under ARPA can and should be truly transformative. As described in the [public notice for this hearing](#), City Council has the opportunity to “fund COVID-19 response and recovery efforts and

accelerate a Green New Deal for Boston through once-in-a-generation, transformative investments that address the systemic health and economic challenges in the areas of affordable housing, economic opportunity and inclusion, behavioral health, climate and mobility, arts and culture and early childhood.”

Our message today – and every day – is that charitable nonprofits in Boston are grounded in the community, as they are in every city, town, and rural area in Massachusetts and throughout the country. Each of the funding focus areas identified in the public notice is an area in which charitable nonprofits have deep insights into community needs, command strong programmatic expertise, and are proven partners with governments to secure real and lasting impact. In short, we encourage all Councilors to look to nonprofits as the natural partners they are in identifying and implementing solutions. After all, the City and nonprofits share the common mission of serving the same constituents in the same local neighborhoods. As stated, the CSLFRF resources enable the City to make “once-in-a-generation, transformative investments” to address community challenges. The greatest return on those investments will almost certainly be through partnerships with local charitable nonprofits.

Key Points Presented

- 1. Nonprofit Workforce Shortages Crisis:** The public and policymakers have relied heavily on the commitment and work of charitable nonprofits throughout the pandemic to provide relief and recovery, but the burdens on these organizations have taken their toll, leading now to a severe nonprofit workforce shortage that we urge City Council to acknowledge and help alleviate.
- 2. Nonprofit Eligibility:** Charitable nonprofits can be both the *recipients of assistance* and the *providers of assistance* to others on behalf of governments.
- 3. Cities Investing in Nonprofits:** Cities across the country have invested their ARPA allocations in the work of local charitable organizations, both to provide resources that sustain the governments’ nonprofit partners, and to advance grants reforms, promote economic development, strengthen arts and cultural organizations, support health and human services, including housing and homelessness, and literacy and jobs skills.
- 4. Mayor Wu’s Proposed ARPA Spending Plan:** As City Council considers Mayor Wu’s proposals for spending the City’s CSLFRF resources, we encourage Councilors to identify the many opportunities presented for partnering with local charitable nonprofits to secure the greatest impact for these once-in-a-generation resources.

1. The Nonprofit Workforce Shortages Crisis and Why It Matters to Boston in the CSLFRF Context

Throughout the pandemic, the public and policymakers at all levels have relied on the commitment, compassion, and endurance of charitable nonprofits to provide direct, immediate relief in communities throughout the country. The public's heavy reliance on charitable nonprofits, while appropriate, has resulted in lasting, negative impacts on the frontline organizations that rose to the demands for increased services.

Foremost among the concerns of the charitable community is what has been identified as a worsening “nonprofit workforce shortages crisis.” When the pandemic first struck, the public's reliance on and demand for nonprofit services rose exponentially for hundreds of thousands of nonprofits. Yet, revenues plummeted for most, straining too many organizations past capacity and jeopardizing delivery of drastically needed services. The pandemic initially erased more than 1.6 million nonprofit jobs, according to the Center for Civil Society Studies at Johns Hopkins University. As recently as December 2021, the nonprofit sector was still more than 450,000 jobs short of pre-pandemic levels. See [COVID-19 Jobs Update, December 2021](#). The report found, “as of the end of 2021, nonprofits have [only] recovered approximately 72.1% of the jobs estimated to have been lost as of May 2020.”

In August 2021, the Federal Reserve conducted a nationwide survey that identified multiple systemic challenges charitable nonprofits face. The challenges – the root causes for the nonprofit workforce shortages crisis – all connect back to the strains on nonprofits that have helped local communities through and out of the worst public-health and economic crises of our lifetimes. Among the alarming trends:

- More than 75 percent of charitable nonprofits reported that **demand for their services had increased** over pre-pandemic levels.
- Almost half (45 percent) noted a **decrease in their ability to meet those needs**.
- **Expenses had increased** for nearly three-quarters of the responding organizations – and that was *before inflation hit the current rate of 8.5 percent*.
- **Individual donations and corporate donations were each down** for nearly half of the nonprofits – and *significantly* down for nearly a fourth.

See [Perspectives from Main Street: The impact of COVID-19 on communities and the entities serving them](#), Federal Reserve Community Development Staff, Oct. 12, 2021 (separate run of responses from 2,237 charitable nonprofits).

To better understand the extent and causes for nonprofits confronting difficulties in retaining staff and filling vacancies, late last year the National Council of Nonprofits conducted a nationwide survey. An astonishing three out of four (76%) nonprofits reported vacancies of more than 10 percent of their workforce. A third of nonprofits (34%) reported

job vacancy rates of between 10 and 19 percent, and 26 percent responded that they had job openings for 20 to 29 percent of their positions. Another 16% percent reported vacancies greater than 30 percent. See [The Scope and Impact of Nonprofit Workforce Shortages](#), Dec. 2021.

Why such widespread vacancies? Eight out of 10 nonprofits (79%) identified salary competition as a factor preventing them from filling job openings. Nearly a quarter (23%) stated that the inability to find child care affected recruitment and retention.

Data points without context are merely statistics on a page, and the most important context here is the consequences for the public when nonprofits lack capacity to deliver needed services on which people rely. Many organizations explained that, due to job vacancies, they had been forced to limit services and reduce the number of individuals they could assist. Twenty-six percent of responding organizations reported having a waiting list that is more than a month long, with some organizations highlighting that clients have had to wait years to receive services. One stated, “We do not keep a wait list, but we serve less than 5% of those calling for shelter or rent and utility assistance.” Another acknowledged, “We have had to close for business several times during the past 9 months due to being at capacity.”

Most significantly for the deliberations of City Council, survey participants made clear their views that the toll on people’s lives caused by workforce shortages is significant. Among the nonprofits reporting at least a one-month waiting list is a domestic violence shelter in Montana. Another organization reported having as many as 1,500 children on its waiting list. “We are having difficulty filling child care positions - educators/teachers,” a Vermont human service provider shared. “This has caused us to close classrooms, consolidate and put burden and pressure on our existing staff,” they lamented, adding “the alternative is not serving families who need child care.” A healthcare and mental health provider in Maine wrote of empty beds in their group home due to staff vacancies and a growing list for special-needs children waiting for months for access to services, all while anticipating more vacancies in a workforce “stressed after working so many additional hours to try and fill these gaps.”

The human toll extends beyond people needing services; it often includes nonprofit employees working beyond their sustainable capacities to ensure that services continue to be provided to as many people as possible. Many nonprofits responding to the survey shared the view of a Massachusetts nonprofit leader, who summed up its workforce shortages challenges tersely, “Early retirements, sector burnout.” As an Illinois nonprofit leader observed when completing the survey, “The stress of covering vacant positions on top of low pay is overwhelming,” with “some staff covering responsibilities for three other positions simultaneously.” A human services provider in Oregon shared, “Our frontline workers are exhausted and under stress.” Added another, “The nature of the work we do in providing support to trauma survivors and the hours we operate take a toll on staff during the best of times.”

All these quantitative and qualitative data points lead to two overarching conclusions:

1. To the extent that many nonprofits in Boston and across Massachusetts are struggling, it is no fault of theirs – they are being hit by the same forces challenging nonprofits nationwide. The fact that they are weaker now than before the pandemic is a testament to their going the extra miles during the pandemic to continue serving Bostonians in their hours of greatest need. Now is the time for the City to help them recover.
2. The public is exposed to profound risks when nonprofits cannot operate at full capacity, leaving the public facing delayed or complete loss of services. As will be discussed, relief can be provided through CSLFRF-funded grants, contracts, and partnerships with nonprofits.

Read more at [The Scope and Impact of Nonprofit Workforce Shortages](#).

2. Charitable Nonprofit Eligibility for Grants and Contracts under the CSLFRF

Congress, through the [American Rescue Plan Act](#), and the U.S. Department of Treasury, through its [Final Rule](#) (effective April 1, 2022), [Overview of the Final Rule](#), and [Final Rule: Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) (published April 27, 2022), go to extraordinary lengths to make clear that city, county, Tribal, and territorial governments are empowered to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support charitable nonprofits and their work in communities. The statute itself states that governments may use their CSLFRF allocations to provide “assistance to households, small businesses, *and nonprofits*, or to aid impacted industries” (emphasis added). The Treasury Department’s implementation rules and guidance reinforce that state and local governments have full and complete authority to (1) provide direct assistance to charitable nonprofits as *beneficiaries* to address the impact of the pandemic on their organizations, and (2) hire charitable nonprofits as *subrecipients* to provide services to others.

Nonprofits as Beneficiaries

In response to the question, “Can nonprofit or private organizations receive funds?”, Treasury’s FAQ 1.8 states that a government spending CSLFRF dollars “can provide funds to an entity, *including a nonprofit organization*, for the purpose of directly benefitting the entity as a result of the entity experiencing a public health impact or negative economic impact of the pandemic” (emphasis added). The answer clarifies further, “these entities will be considered *beneficiaries, not subrecipients*, and will not be expected to comply with subrecipient reporting requirements. Beneficiary reporting requirements will apply.” (Emphasis added.)

The Treasury Department [Overview of the Final Rule](#) provides a good public policy reason for why charitable nonprofits are eligible:

Nonprofits have faced significant challenges due to the pandemic’s increased demand for services and changing operational needs, as well as declines in revenue sources such as donations and fees. Nonprofits eligible for assistance are those that experienced negative economic impacts or disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and meet the definition of “nonprofit”— specifically those that are 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax-exempt organizations.¹

The Treasury Department provides a non-exhaustive list of examples of authorized uses. In addition to revenue supports, governments may bring unemployment systems back to pre-pandemic levels, which helps nonprofit employers and employees; provide supports for employee retention, payroll costs, vaccination and testing, and technical assistance.² Specific to nonprofits, governments may provide assistance in the form of grants or loans to mitigate financial hardship, as well as technical or in-kind assistance or other services that mitigate economic impacts of the pandemic.

Nonprofits as Service Providers

In addition, governments are specifically authorized to use CSLFRF resources to hire charitable nonprofits to provide services to others on behalf of governments as “subrecipients” of CSLFRF funds. Governments, referred to in the Final Rule as “recipients,” can transfer – via grants or contracts – funds to nonprofits to carry out eligible uses on behalf of those governments. The Final Rule makes clear, “a nonprofit need not have experienced a negative economic impact in order to serve as a subrecipient.”³ And correcting earlier misperceptions by some local governments, Treasury states that “the Department does not require or have a preference as to the payment structure for recipients that transfer funds to subrecipients (e.g., advance payments, reimbursement basis, etc.).”⁴ This last point is important for operational integrity and organizational sustainability: **governments may make advance payments to nonprofit subrecipients; officials are not required to insist on service first and reimbursement later.**

What types of services are envisioned here? The newly published [Treasury Final Rule FAQ 2.2](#) lists several types of programs and services as “eligible as responses to the negative

¹ Overview to the Final Rule, Department of Treasury, Jan. 6, 2022, page 23.

² Overview at 18; [Statement Regarding Compliance with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule and Final Rule](#), Department of Treasury, Jan. 6, 2022, page 3.

³ Final Rule, Treasury Department, Jan. 27, 2022, 87 Fed. Reg. at 4380. See also, [Final Rule: Frequently Asked Questions](#) 1.8, “the final rule clarified that recipients may transfer funds to any entity to carry out, as a subrecipient, an eligible activity on behalf of the SLFRF recipient (transferor), as long as they comply with the SLFRF Award Terms and Conditions and other applicable requirements.”

⁴ Final Rule at 4379, footnote 230.

impacts of the pandemic.” Among these, some obvious services that charitable nonprofits regularly perform are food assistance, childcare and early learning services, home visiting programs, and “programs or services to support long-term housing security, including development of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing.

As shown by these examples, charitable nonprofits can be both the recipients of assistance and the providers of assistance to others on behalf of governments.

Read more at [Governments Can Use ARPA Funds to Partner with Nonprofits in Two Broad Ways](#).

3. How Other Cities Have Invested CSLFRF Resources

Since passage of the American Rescue Plan Act, the networks of the National Council of Nonprofits have been tracking the many ways that governments at all levels are partnering with charitable nonprofits to address local challenges caused by the pandemic or longstanding problems that have been exacerbated by the health and economic crises. The recently updated and expanded Special Report, [Strengthening State and Local Economies in Partnership with Nonprofits](#), identifies more than 60 models of success, many of which were pioneered by cities. Generally, the examples are grouped into four categories: (1) Lifting unemployment insurance burdens off employers; (2) Creating relief and recovery funds and grants for nonprofits to use in their communities; (3) Streamlining government grants and contracts for nonprofits; and (4) Expanding and replicating innovative nonprofit programs to help communities respond, adapt, and recover.

In the attachment to this written statement, we highlight effective partnerships between 16 cities and their local nonprofits. For instance, **Baltimore**, Maryland, **Springfield**, Massachusetts, and **Wilmington**, North Carolina created nonprofit relief funds to provide direct grants to charitable organizations in their communities. Baltimore is going further in its third round of spending to devote \$4 million to help nonprofits sustain their operations with funding for rent, payroll, and technology for employee telework.

New York City embraced the opportunity provided by the CSLFRF resources to address the longstanding problem of underpaying their nonprofit contractors for the indirect costs associated with providing services on behalf of the government. **Kansas City**, Missouri and **Seattle**, Washington devoted considerable resources to provide supports for their arts and cultural organizations.

Newark, New Jersey is using CSLFRF dollars to hire community-based nonprofits to help with economic development to strengthen the city’s commercial corridors and “help small businesses recover and thrive.” **Raleigh**, North Carolina and **Alexandria**, Virginia have devoted a large share of their federal funds to promote health and human services provided by area nonprofits. Addressing housing and homelessness are high priority of policymakers in **Austin**, Texas, **Macon**, Georgia, **Minneapolis**, Minnesota, and **Tallahassee**, Florida.

Finally, we note here that several cities are targeting their CSLFRF resources to job creation and retention, and workforce development. Among these cities are **Chicago**, Illinois, addressing adult literacy, and **Detroit**, Michigan, funding skills training for more than 2,000 residents.

In sum, cities across the country are taking advantage of the resources made available under the American Rescue Plan Act to tackle local challenges by partnering with local experts, the charitable nonprofits dedicated to improving lives in their communities every day.

See the attachment and read more at [Successful Models of Nonprofit Relief from Around the Country](#).

4. Observations on Mayor Wu’s ARPA Proposal

Generally, the investments highlighted in Mayor Wu’s proposal, as well as the FY23 Featured Analyses, show a commitment to an equitable recovery, especially in early childhood, by growing the educator workforce and expanding access to child care. As stated earlier and shown in our [Nonprofit Workforce Shortages report](#), the inability to find child care will continue to be a significant barrier for recruitment and retention efforts.

Investments in the Arts and Culture are also important, and multi-year grants were one of the solutions we flagged in the report on workforce shortages. Further, we’re supportive of the City’s decision to prioritize Black, Indigenous, and other marginalized populations in this initiative, since they’re often unable to access these grants. Both areas of investment indicate a partnership with nonprofit organizations.

The CSLFRF program presents a unique opportunity for the City to use these one-time federal ARPA funds to promote racial and gender equity in unique ways, both short-term and long-term. Last month, the White House highlighted the challenge in many communities: “persistent barriers make it difficult for under-resourced and underserved communities to compete for and effectively deploy such funds” (emphasis added).⁵ Charitable nonprofits of all sizes are often hesitant to seek resources from governments for

⁵ See [Advancing Equity and Racial Justice Through the Federal Government](#), White House, April 13, 2022 (“Federal funding [is] available to individuals, companies, universities, non-profit organizations, State, Tribal, territorial, and local governments, and small businesses. Yet persistent barriers make it difficult for under-resourced and underserved communities to compete for and effectively deploy such funds. For example, grants managers in organizations that have received federal funding report spending more time on burdensome compliance activities than on supporting program results.” “By making federal procurement opportunities more readily available to all eligible vendors and by removing the barriers faced by underserved communities and individuals to entering the federal marketplace, equitable procurement is a core strategy for addressing racial and gender wealth gaps.”). (Emphases added.) See also [Government-Nonprofit Contracting Reform](#) webpage, National Council of Nonprofits, linking to extensive research documenting the problems and dozens of recommended practical solutions. And finally, see examples of equity in action using ARPA funds documented in [Successful Models of Nonprofit Relief from Around the Country](#).

multiple reasons, including lack of knowledge about government grants processes, concerns over paperwork burdens, and the potential that administrative costs will surpass any programmatic resources they receive. These challenges are particularly acute for smaller nonprofits, those led by people of color, and organizations operating in low-income or rural areas. The City can prioritize opening these funds to a broader array of organizations, plus provide technical assistance to first-time grantees to help them develop compliance and reporting skills that will also help the City when it reports back as a “recipient” on how its “subrecipients” performed.

On economic opportunity, we recommend that you add nonprofits as important partners in delivering the priorities envisioned in the Mayor’s proposal. For instance, the Contracting Opportunity Fund proposal would give priority to for-profit businesses in Boston. Its proposed \$10 million to fund minority-owned business growth also appears to focus on for-profit businesses to the exclusion of nonprofits.

We also recommend that you include improvements to reimbursement rates, cost-of-living, or other grant and contract issues nonprofits have faced well before the pandemic. As noted at the outset, those challenges have been exacerbated during the health and economic crises. The City has the opportunity to use some of these once-in-a-generation funds to establish systems reforms that promote the sustainability of the government’s nonprofit partners. Given that nonprofits have been excluded or unable to access many federal and state relief programs, there is an opportunity to give nonprofits the financial support they have not had since the pandemic began.

Conclusion

The National Council of Nonprofits commends the City Council for convening this hearing to identify transformative investments of Boston’s allocation of federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Since well before the pandemic, charitable nonprofits have worked to overcome systemic health and economic challenges in all of the areas identified by Councilors – from affordable housing, economic opportunity and inclusion, and behavioral health, to climate and mobility, arts and culture, early childhood, and much more. We encourage Councilors to reach out to their local nonprofits to see this commitment in action and identify ways the use of these funds can make a meaningful difference in the lives of your constituents.

Strengthening State and Local Economies in Partnership with Nonprofits:

Principles, Recommendations, and Models for
Investing Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds

Local Government Spending of American Rescue Plan Act Funds

Since passage of the American Rescue Plan, the networks of the National Council of Nonprofits have been tracking the many ways that governments at all levels are partnering with charitable nonprofits to address local challenges caused by the pandemic or longstanding problems that have been exacerbated by the health and economic crises. The recently updated and expanded Special Report, [Strengthening State and Local Economies in Partnership with Nonprofits](#), identifies dozens of models of success, many of which were pioneered by cities. Below are examples from cities across the country.

Creating Relief and Recovery Funds and Grants for Nonprofits to Use in Their Communities

Nonprofit Relief Funds

- **Baltimore, MD:** The City recently awarded nearly 70 nonprofits grants of up to \$50,000 each in ARPA funds from the second round of its [Baltimore Nonprofit Relief Fund](#). Nonprofits can use the award to help “address the negative financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, both reimbursing organizations for unexpected funds spent to respond to the pandemic, as well as addressing future needs related to COVID-19.”
- **Springfield, MA:** Mayor Domenic J. Sarno announced that [nonprofits will receive nearly \\$400,000 in funding awards](#) that will be distributed by the Department of Recovery and Businesses Continuity, created in August 2021 as a centralized department for these funds.
- **Wilmington, NC:** The City has set aside \$700,000 for [grants to nonprofit organizations](#), including \$200,000 reserved for arts groups.

Streamlining Government Grants and Contracts with Nonprofits

Pay Indirect Cost Rates of Government Grantees

- **New York City, NY:** As documented by the federal [Government Accountability Office](#), the [National Council of Nonprofits](#), the Urban Institute, and others, too many governments fail to pay nonprofits for the full costs of the services they provide on behalf of the governments. The most common of these failures is not paying the organizations' actual indirect costs. Those are the ordinary and necessary expenses of the organization – such as accounting, technology, rent – that are not specific to the program covered by a government grant, but costs shared across all operations. Prior to the pandemic, nonprofits in New York City partnered with the Mayor and City Council to establish the [Indirect Cost Rate Funding Initiative](#) to correct the City's systemic underfunding of nonprofit organizations on which the City relied. The pandemic, however, imposed significant stress on City finances, leading to budget proposals that would have restricted indirect cost reimbursements to just 70 percent of true costs. The relief under the ARPA has allowed [City leaders to reverse course](#) and ensure that nonprofit human services providers receive 100 percent of funding for their approved indirect costs this year.

Expanding and Replicating Innovative Nonprofit Programs to Help Communities Respond, Adapt, and Recover

Arts and Cultural Supports

- **Kansas City, MO:** [\\$1.2 million for grants to multiple nonprofits](#), including \$156,000 to the nonprofit Starlight Theater for general repairs and maintenance expenses on the facilities, \$780,000 to the nonprofit Kansas City Zoo to “aid in maintaining staff, assist with maintenance and utility expenses as well as assist with marketing and educational programs focused on increasing attendance,” and \$234,000 to the National WWI Museum and Memorial to “assist the museum with maintenance activities, utilities, security, as well as other allowable operational expenses.”
- **Seattle, WA:** King County used \$20 million in CSLFRF dollars to open the [Revive and Thrive Together](#) program to provide disaster relief and business interruption funds to arts, heritage, or historic preservation organizations. In addition, \$7 million was awarded to the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and 4Culture for distribution to arts and cultural organizations with revenues of less than \$1 million.

Economic Development

- **Newark, NJ:** In March 2022, the City announced that its new [Neighborhood Investment Program](#) will hire community-based nonprofit organizations to “strengthen Newark’s commercial corridors and help small businesses recover and thrive.”

Health and Human Services

- **Raleigh, NC:** The City announced [plans to support nonprofits](#) during the largest phase of its ARPA spending with a focus on health and economic impacts in food security, homelessness, housing, mental and public health, and specifically targeted programs helping elderly, youth, persons with disabilities, substance users, and persons experiencing homelessness for support by human service agencies. In addition, the City selected [13 nonprofit organizations to receive a total of \\$10 million](#) to improve community health to increase capacity, allow organizations to address behavioral health, and other pandemic-related health issues.
- **Asheville, NC:** City officials in [Asheville](#) established eleven categories to distribute its \$7.3 million of ARPA monies, including some nonprofit priorities: affordable housing, care for aging residents, community communication, domestic violence prevention, food systems, homelessness, workforce development, and climate change.
- **Alexandria, VA:** The comprehensive APRA spending plan for the City of Alexandria, Virginia sets aside \$4 million for the [Alexandria Community Access Networks](#) to provide navigation support to ensure individuals are enrolled in key local, state, and federal programs for which they are eligible and “provide tangible and emergency financial aid that will include grocery gift cards, transportation assistance, child care, and rental assistance.” The administration of the grant program will be provided by the local community foundation, ACT for Alexandria, which will manage the nonprofit selection process and work in collaboration with local government.

Housing

- **Tallahassee, FL and Leon County, FL:** announced an agreement to spend \$6.3 million of their ARPA funds for [homelessness and housing](#). The funding and program will be administered by several community homeless shelters and a [partnership between a local nonprofit organization and government program](#) serving the area.
- **Macon, GA and Bibb County, GA** will use part of its Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide grants to two nonprofits for creating affordable, and the [Knight Foundation leveraged the ARPA funds by providing a matching grant](#), doubling the amount of money the government-nonprofit partnership will have for residents to receive job training and rehabilitate local buildings as affordable housing.
- **Minneapolis, MN:** The City Council dedicated \$28 million for [affordable housing](#) from its nearly \$102 million of its first round ARPA funds.

- **Austin, TX:** Officials allocated nearly \$100 million to [homelessness programs](#) with the Mayor calling it a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity” to “get people in homes, places where they can get services and improve their lives.”

Job Retention, Creation, and Workforce Development

- **Chicago, IL** is targeting adults over age 50 for [digital literacy classes](#) and planning, interviewing, and personal branding.
- **Detroit, MI:** Mayor Duggan announced that the city plans to use up to \$75 million of its ARPA funds on a three-year workforce program, [Skills for Life](#), that will pay more than 2,000 residents to learn new job skills, while they also work on neighborhood improvement projects.
- **Flint, MI:** To enable trainees to stay in workforce development programs, Flint, [Michigan](#) is using part of its CSLFRF allocations to provide childcare, car repair, and rental assistance.

Sustaining Nonprofit Operations

- **Baltimore, MD:** The City is spending an additional \$4 million in ARPA funds on [nonprofits that have suffered economic loss](#) due to COVID-19. The funds will help with costs such as rent, payroll, and technology for employee telework.

Read the full report, [Strengthening State and Local Economies in Partnership with Nonprofits](#).