

Making the Ask for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) program of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 allocated significant resources to every state, local, Tribal, and territorial government to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The law and regulations make abundantly clear that governments may invest their SLFRF allocations on charitable nonprofits to (1) provide direct assistance to nonprofits as beneficiaries trying to recover from the pandemic and (2) hire nonprofits as providers of services to others on behalf of those governments. But while charitable organizations are eligible for SLFRF, they are not entitled to them. You must advocate for those funds.

Finding Out What Money is Still Available

Governments likely haven't advertised or posted notices that funds are still available. So how do you find out what money is available? You ask. As in, actively participating in council or committee meetings. Search government websites for news. Pick up the phone and ask to speak with someone responsible for allocating SLFRF dollars. And then you follow up with appropriate officials. To get started, you can use this [dashboard](#) to select your state and scroll down to the "SLFRF Recipient Details" table to calculate the difference between Total Obligations and Amount Received, and base your ask from the amount left.

Contacting the Appropriate Government Official to Make the Pitch for Funds

Who are the right officials to ask? Same answer – you ask until you get the right answer. Every jurisdiction is different, and SLFRF was a brand-new concept, so no government has dealt before with the opportunities and challenges presented by SLFRF dollars. So, it's often challenging to find who has the best info. Calling the city or county finance office, the Mayor's office, or even the central switchboard can be a very productive first step.

Other Tips?

It's not one and done in terms of funding. Nonprofits that receive SLFRF dollars can still go back and ask for more – from the same government or from other governments. Also, nonprofits can go to several governments to seek funding – not to cover the same costs twice, but to address other pandemic-related challenges for the organization or in the community.

More Resources from the National Council of Nonprofits

- [Strengthening State and Local Economies in Partnership with Nonprofits](#): Principles, Recommendations, and Models for Investing Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, National Council of Nonprofits.
- [Creating Funding Opportunities Through Advocacy](#), Advocacy in Action, *Nonprofit Champion*, Feb. 26, 2024.

[Nonprofit Letterhead]

Date

City Manager/ARPA Office Director/Office of Management & Budget Director/etc.

Address

Address

Re: Request for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for [Nonprofit/Project Name]

Dear [City Manager/ARPA Office Lead/Finance Director/etc.]:

I write to inquire about the availability of remaining State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) allocated to [City/County], and to propose a meeting to discuss the [City's/County's] potential investment of those funds in [short description of proposal].

As I'm sure you are aware, the end of this year marks the deadline for [City/County] to obligate all remaining SLFRF resources. The American Rescue Plan Act and the Treasury Department regulations are expressly clear that [City/County] is empowered to invest these funds in charitable 501(c)(3) organizations. This is true whether the nonprofit is treated as a **recipient** of relief having experienced negative economic or disproportionate impacts from the pandemic, and as a **provider** of relief for others. Importantly, the recent Obligation Interim Final Rule from the Treasury Department clarifies that local governments can satisfy their duty to obligate remaining SLFRF resources by signing by December 31, 2024, a written agreement to invest those funds.

In light of the rapidly approaching deadline and the pressing needs that [nonprofit] address in our community, we would like to discuss the benefits of the [City/County] partnering with [nonprofit] and opportunities for dedicating remaining funds.

About [Nonprofit]

[Describe your nonprofit's mission and impact, highlighting recent accomplishments or statistics. Briefly explain how the pandemic impacted your nonprofit and community, such as changes in demand for services, employment, volunteerism, revenue, and operating costs.]

SLFRF Proposal

[If there is a specific program or project you are advocating for, briefly describe it, explain how it addresses a challenge in your community, and how you would use the funds. You can also

elaborate on your nonprofit's mission and why SLFRF investments will ensure your nonprofit can continue to operate and, if applicable, what would happen in your community should your nonprofit close. Connecting the challenges in your community to your nonprofit's role in addressing them will show you are best positioned to partner with governments. If you know the SLFRF dollars your jurisdiction still has available, you can use that to determine how much funding to seek.]

In anticipation of the December 31 deadline to obligate SLFRF resources, we would like to meet with you as soon as possible to explore the above and other opportunities.

Sincerely,

Name

Job Title