

**TOWN OF MOUNTAIN VILLAGE  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BDAC) MEETING  
TUESDAY May 18, 2021, 11:00 AM  
TO BE HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM WEBINAR**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83740338204?pwd=dnRlMzNTNEZGOWJlR0p0bUdKVmJYdz09>

(see login details below)

**AGENDA**

Item	Time	Min	Presenter	Type	
1.	11:00				Call to Order
2.	11:00	5	Caton	Action	Approval of the April 27, 2021 Minutes
3.	11:05	5	Caton	Informational	Economic Recovery meeting updates
4.	11:10	5	Dohnal	Informational	Building Back a Stronger CO
5.	11:15	5	Dohnal	Informational	Local Recovery Funds Update
6.	11:20	35	Caton/Dohnal	Informational	Summer Vitality Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly summer schedule</li> <li>• Taste of Mountain Village</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> of July</li> <li>• Art and Architecture</li> </ul>
7.	11:55	5	Dohnal	Informational	Other Business
8.	12:00				Adjourn

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Zoom webinar.

Topic: Business Development Advisory Committee Meeting

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**Public Comment Policy:**

- The Town Council will take your comments during all virtual Town Council meetings through the zoom conference app for items proper to receive public comment via the written comment feature on zoom.
- Please do not comment until the presiding officer opens the agenda item to public comment. Public comments submitted outside of the proper time may not be considered.
- All those wishing to give public comment must identify their full name and affiliation, if any, to the Town of Mountain Village.
- Please keep your comments as brief and succinct as possible as they will be read aloud at the meeting. Please refrain from repeating what has already been said by others in the interest of time. You may simply state that you agree with a previous speaker's comments.
- Commenters shall refrain from personal attacks and maintain a civil tone while giving public comment.

**TOWN OF MOUNTAIN VILLAGE  
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 2021  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

The meeting of the Business Development Advisory Committee (BDAC) Meeting was called to order by Dan Caton on Tuesday, April 27 2021, at 11:03 a.m. through the online meeting platform, Zoom.

**Attendance:**

**The following BDAC members were present:**

John Miller, Mountain Village Planning and Development Services staff representative  
Amy Ward, Mountain Village Planning and Development Services staff representative  
Laila Benitez, Mountain Village Town Council  
Dan Caton, Mountain Village Town Council  
Stanya Gorriaz  
Kevin Jones  
Zoe Dohnal  
Sherry Reeder

**The following members of the public present:**

Anton Benitez, TMVOA

**Discussion and Committee Follow Up/Next Steps:**

- Agenda Item 2- Approval of the Minutes from March 16, 2021  
On a **MOTION** by Benitez and seconded by Dohnal, the BDAC unanimously to approve the meeting minutes March 16, 2021.
  
- Agenda Item 3- Economic Recovery Meeting Update
  - Zoe mentions the forest service is forecasting a 600% increase over last summer which was already up, so there will be lots of campers here. Dan mentions that air travel is likely increasing so people have more options where they can go, the percentage of increase might not be as high as projected. Kevin says his bookings are overall up, it will be interesting to see what happens with the festivals. Laila says Telluride has just cancelled 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. Zoe says 5 star program is currently on hold for a lot of restaurants as its not necessary at our current level.
  
  -
  
- Agenda Item 4- Restaurant Association meeting updates.
  - Dan reviewed the Restaurant Association meeting. Allowable patrons have been increased. What new practices will they be using to make things work for them? Zoe mentions that the Restaurant Association is a national organization and seems telluride centric right now as telluride has different rules than the mountain village and those restaurants might need more help now. Stanya says that the take-out is increasing also increasing the use of plastics etc. in a difficult time of needing to utilize non-sustainable products just in order to keep their doors open -it's a difficult time to discuss plastics bans. No action was taken.

- Agenda Item 5– Region 10 update. Dan reviewed the Region 10 meeting. Dan says region 10 issues align well with what BDAC is doing. Zoe agrees. Zoe reviews region 10 which is a bit unique from its neighboring communities in terms of economy. The goal is to stimulate economy and provide aid for those in need. Main issue with most regions seems to be affordable housing. No action was taken.
- Agenda Item 6- Review and update the BDAC work plan and budget allocation. Zoe made updates to the work plan from the last meeting, She reviews potential items that could still be added – economic assistance through mountain bucks, restaurant and retail pamphlet, taste of mountain village concept.
  - Pamphlet – Anton wonders if a printed pamphlet is the answer, what about an app instead? Anton suggests we create the platform for just Mountain Village and if it works well, maybe we approach Telluride to see if they want to pay to add in later? Laila says Bill Kites has all of the geolocations for Mountain Village businesses already. Stanya says Skibrew.us has an existing app that might be a nice model. Laila says its important to track expenses in case Telluride wants to add later.
  - Taste of Mountain Village – everyone that responded to the survey was interested in an event. Mostly were interested in in-house food and drink specials. Fall or spring were the preferred seasons. Dan and Stanya like June as a time because it gets people trying new restaurants at the beginning of the season. It also counter balances the Top Chef event in September. Kevin will look at lodging numbers to see when bookings begin to rise. Zoe will contact Grace at the county to see how they feel about an event like this. Zoe would like to form a sub-committee inviting all of the restaurants. There was some discussion about whether this is one event or multiple events throughout the summer. Anton, Zoe and Heidi will discuss and come back with a suggested event format/schedule.
  - Budget – waiting to hear on a potential grant if the grant is received we will be in good shape.
- Agenda Item 7- Other business, Zoe suggests we go to quarterly meetings, Dan thinks we need one more monthly meeting and then could be go back to quarterly. Anton, John, Stanya are all in support of staying at monthly meetings for now. It is agreed that monthly meetings will continue for the time being. Zoe might be sending out a new link so keep an eye out for that.

On a unanimous **MOTION**, BDAC voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

**Reminder:**

The next BDAC meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. in the Mountain Village Town Hall via Zoom Webinar, details below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89338361781?pwd=QjNLY0NoRUx6R2VTUDRyM09SekJ0QT09>

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Respectfully submitted,

Amy Ward

Planner

Town of Mountain Village



## Listening Tour Synthesis of Ideas

### Listening & Learning to be Informed & Poised to Act Quickly

In March and April of 2021, CO Governor Polis, in collaboration with State Treasurer Young, State House & Senate Leadership and legislators from both sides of the aisle convened a series of meetings to hear directly from Coloradans from across the State's diverse communities, industries and areas of interest.

The state leaders had a simple yet ambitious goal: Listen to and learn from thousands of Coloradans with unique perspectives and expertise to inform and help focus the use of state and federal stimulus funds.

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*April 23, 2021 Report from the Build Back Stronger  
Listening Tour held March 28<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

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## Introduction & Report Overview

In April of 2021, as Colorado state leaders continued their work to craft a stimulus bill as part of the economic recovery and officials in Washington, D.C. worked on the details of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a significant challenge was unfolding: How to maximize the impact of those funds. As part of preparing for that challenge, CO Governor Polis, in collaboration with State Treasurer Young, State House & Senate Leadership and legislators from both sides of the aisle convened a series of meetings to hear directly from Coloradans from across the State's diverse communities, industries and areas of interest. The state leaders had a simple yet ambitious goal: Listen to and learn from thousands of Coloradans with unique perspectives and expertise to inform and help focus the use of state and federal stimulus funds.

The Build Back Stronger (BBS) listening tour was designed to gather this input and to help state leaders prioritize spending of the approximately \$3.9bn in ARPA funds over which the state has a level of discretion (within federal guidelines). Build Back Stronger listening sessions were scheduled across seven geographical regions and ten additional audience or topic specific sessions were held. To support the independent facilitation of the listening sessions, the Office of the Governor partnered with the Keystone Policy Center, to manage and facilitate the sessions.

The listening sessions were conducted via Zoom with options for dialing in by phone and to watch live-streams of the sessions on multiple online platforms including YouTube and Facebook. Each session included welcoming remarks from state leaders including the Governor, Treasurer and state legislators followed by a presentation on state and federal stimulus packages by leaders from the Colorado Office of State Planning and Budget (OSPb) (See Addendum A for the presentation). Following the presentations, the majority of the time in each session was dedicated to listening and learning from attendees who were split into multiple smaller breakout groups.

During the breakout sessions, participants offered their thoughts on three questions:

- *What is one big idea you think could contribute the most to the economic recovery?*
- *What are the top 3 investments you think should be prioritized and how do you see them leveraging Colorado's (or regional) unique contexts to support economic recovery?*
- *If we maximize our use of federal + state programs and Colorado's assets, what should the world look like for Coloradans in 2-5 years and beyond?*

These questions were selected and designed to help state leaders understand, from each participant's and each group's perspectives, how to leverage the stimulus funds to spur the recovery, what types of bigger system level changes were sought by the public and the aspirational vision of the future Coloradans have and believe progress toward reaching can be made by strategically investing the funds.



## The Report

This report is a synthesis and summary of the ideas generated during the BBS listening sessions and a collection of ideas submitted. The report does not attempt to make recommendations, to score or conduct any type of assessment of any individual idea. To the extent possible, this report does offer the perspective of the independent team who facilitated the breakout sessions on the dominant themes, specific ideas offered and hopes for Colorado's economic recovery and future. To the extent possible, an overview of themes and ideas is offered for each listening session and for the tour as a whole.

## Meeting Notes

To provide maximum transparency, the notes from each listening session are available in a separate Addendum B. While the notes have been subject to an abbreviated proofread, they are otherwise raw and unedited to maintain integrity of the accuracy and completeness of information being shared directly with state leaders and all Coloradans. To respect privacy, personally identifying information is not included.

## Addenda

In addition to the opportunity to participate in the BBS listening sessions, participants and members of the public were invited to submit written comments via email. More than 20 individuals and organizations submitted ideas that ranged from short emails with a list of ideas or questions to formal organizational letters and reports. All of those are available separately as Addendum C.

## Themes & Ideas

Throughout the BBS Listening Tour, there were topics, ideas and aspirations for the future that were raised so frequently and with such similarity in both the perceived current problem or shortfall and the desired end state such as the availability and accessibility of childcare that it is appropriate to identify them as themes. Similarly, there were specific ideas that emerged in multiple if not most sessions in various forms that it is appropriate to highlight those in this report. All ideas raised are captured in the notes contained in Addendum B and submitted comments and letters in Addendum C.

While the conversations during the listening sessions were informal and participants were not asked to label or categorize their ideas, throughout the nearly 20 sessions and in briefings with state leaders, the facilitators found that the ideas and recommendations fell into three general categories:

### Recovery & Stimulus

A number of ideas and needs were identified specifically aimed at jump-starting the economy in regions, specific industries and the state as a whole. These ideas ranged from incentives to employers for hiring or rehiring and a wide variety of infrastructure construction projects to promotion of Colorado's conference centers, tourism destinations and restaurants and direct relief to families and individuals struggling to meet financial challenges or find employment.

### Systemic Transformation

In discussions of the once-in-a-generation nature of the funds, many participants shared ideas about utilizing some portion of the funds to make investments to transform systems or address challenges that state budgets have not been able to adequately tackle. These ideas included a comprehensive transformation of education from early childhood through K-12 and higher education to making major investments in multi-modal transportation and to significant investment to relieve Colorado's housing crunch particularly to address affordable housing and disparities in home ownership.

### Budget & Programmatic Gaps

A number of ideas were raised that spoke primarily to the value of certain programs but the need to more fully fund or expand the programs. Numerous participants raised concerns about the ability to adequately fund a variety of programs ranging from behavioral and mental health to community economic transitions, transportation infrastructure and supports for homeless populations and transitions.

Throughout all conversations and categories noted above, participants raised the issues of equity and expanded opportunity. Some ideas raised like targeting childcare supports to lower income and working poor urban and rural communities alike or targeting hiring incentives to communities hardest hit were specific to addressing equity and opportunity. Other consistent input from participants provided strong desires for state leaders to consider these issues in every investment of stimulus funds and to ensure spending narrows the inequities whenever and wherever possible.

Within each of the above, participants identified opportunities (and needs) for investments of three types:

## Things

From building roads to improving the condition of heavily trafficked parks, building childcare facilities and affordable housing to the state's agricultural supply chain system and regional water treatment facilities, participants saw significant need for some funds to be used for capital expenses, construction and hard asset acquisition or development.

## Systems

Participants recognized that many of the issues needing investment or transformation require addressing underlying systems. Discussions ranged from how schools educate children to how funds for housing or start-up businesses are allocated and managed and bigger system change like in healthcare, mental health and the support of homeless transition services.

## People

At the heart of every conversation were people and the need to make both direct and indirect investments in our people. Ideas ranged from job training or upskilling and access to education to substance abuse counseling, access to healthcare, destigmatizing mental health and providing direct support to Coloradans who have been historically marginalized and those who were hit particularly hard by the economic downturn during the pandemic.

## The Listening Tour

### Regional Meetings

- Pueblo & Southern Colorado
- Western Slope
- Northern Colorado
- Denver Metro North
- Denver Metro South
- Colorado Springs
- Eastern Plains

### Audience Specific Meetings

- ❖ Events, Dining & Tourism
- ❖ African American Community
- ❖ Workforce
- ❖ Clean Energy & Conservation
- ❖ Local Governments
- ❖ Quality of Life
- ❖ Latino Community
- ❖ Rural & Agricultural
- ❖ Healthcare, Human Services & Behavioral Health
- ❖ Asian American & Pacific Islander

## What We Heard

Among the dominant themes with recurrence across most if not all meetings were the following:

- Consumer Confidence: Coloradans & Tourism
- Job creation & Business growth: Biz incentives, Job skill training
- Transportation: Roads, rail, multi-modal
- Water: Storage, treatment, usage
- Broadband: Education & business
- Affordable Housing including workforce housing. More inventory, less red tape
- Early Childhood Education & Childcare: Physical facilities + personnel
- K-12 Education: Teaching profession, Learning Loss, Facilities
- Higher Ed: College access, adult upskilling/reskilling
- Behavioral Health & Mental Health
- Support for Small Businesses: Technology, grants, pooling of support services
- Clean Energy Economy: Infrastructure/utility & businesses
- Agricultural Industry: Supply chain, farm ownership
- Environmental: Restoring heavily used lands, expanding metro parks/trails
- Equity: In targeting of all spending, especially education, small biz, childcare

While most ideas identified the challenge and offered generally high-level solutions, participants did also offer specific areas in need of investment and some specific program ideas. Below are some of the specific ideas offered that generated substantive support in the group discussions.

- Consumer Confidence
  - Local & national PR Campaign about CO's business status (open)
  - Direct investment in Main Street revitalizations
  - Full, ready access to WiFi for remote learning, working etc. in our key corridors
- Jobs
  - Incentives for employers to hire & partner w/re-skilling entities in lower income areas
  - Clean energy jobs & incentives
  - Use tuition free certifications as eco devo tool – tech, manufacturing, CDL licenses
  - Strong, targeted support for small biz & rehiring incentives
- Transportation
  - Front range rail investment
  - I-25, particularly in Pikes Peak/CO Springs Region

- Education
  - Facility Upgrades
  - Tuition free Higher Ed for 2-3yrs in future jobs, light manufacturing, entrepreneurship
  - Targeted support of community colleges & other providers of credentials, certificates
  - FAFSA completion support
  - Expanded access to ECE/child care - state developed facilities, fast tracked licensing
- Housing
  - Expanded access and inventory of affordable housing
  - Targeted programs to increase home ownership
  - Transitional housing as foundation for security, independence
  - Workforce housing as key component to continued business growth
- Environment
  - Conservation Corps to rebuild
  - Improved fire mitigation
- Equity
  - Targeted investments in housing, transitions in lower income urban & rural
  - Startup funds, education improvements, access to tech in underserved communities
  - Major investment in homeless transition supports
- Tourism
  - National PR to visitors, event planners, corporate
  - Pooling of resources to support smaller towns
- Economic Development
  - Workforce training – major effort in partnership w/biz leaders, higher ed
  - Small business lending, grants and access to financing for start-up and growth
  - Education: Childcare, K-12 & Higher Ed
  - Partnerships with 4yr IHEs & Community Colleges to foster business creation, start-up
  - Community transitions (coal, mining)
  - Targeted support and relief for unemployment insurance
  - Support for 1 industry towns f/tourism to all in eco devo & expansion
  - Strategic investment in ag supply chain including processing, manufacturing & transportation
- Clean Energy
  - Invest in EV infrastructure
  - Clean Energy grid & infrastructure

## Meeting Summaries

The following provides a high-level summary of the conversations and ideas from each of the BBS Listening Tour meetings. With 125+ participants in all sessions and many with closer to 200, there was often limited time for each specific idea. As noted earlier, the intention of the listening sessions and this report are not to score or identify consensus but rather to capture as many ideas as possible and, to the extent practical and accurate, highlight where there were common themes across meetings or even across the multiple breakout groups in each meeting. Where ideas are highlighted below does not imply unanimity of support or even consensus but rather that the idea(s) were surfaced by multiple participants in multiple groups.

## Pueblo & Southern Colorado Regional Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Transportation
- Broadband Access
- Parks & Outdoor Space
- Job Training & Upskilling
- Daycare/Childcare
- Education

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, regional issues included:

- Local trails and parks;
- Local transportation systems including electric vehicle charging, public transportation & Hwy 12;
- Workforce housing
- Fire mitigation

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado's leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- State and nation is saying "Why is Pueblo so far ahead!?!?!"
- Frontline rail north and south from Trinidad to Fort Collins to reduce traffic on I-25;
- A Data Center in Southern Colorado, housing development and more jobs;
- Secure our water future. Infrastructure, educating our public;
- Less separation between communities in Colorado – a more statewide approach;
- More equitable funding across the state in general. No matter where you sit on diversity scale, you have a living wage and access to health care;
- Everything covered in art;
- Food supply chains – state offsetting expenditures during food shortages and distribution.

## Western Slope Regional Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Workforce Training & Recruitment;
- Affordable Housing
- Mental Health Supports
- Broadband Access
- Education

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, regional issues included:

- Agricultural supply chain and infrastructure;
- Funding for non-profits and community organizations;
- Small business supports;
- Aviation workforce for regional airports;
- Community health centers.

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado's leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- All Coloradans will have the opportunity to upgrade skills, participate in the evolving economy by accessing job skill training – adult basic ed, technical skills;
- Well skilled workforce meeting the needs of small business and providing new jobs;
- Every single person has access to the services they need (telehealth, education);
- People would be living successfully, housing would be affordable;
- Be on a pathway to equity.

## Northern Colorado Regional Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Broadband Infrastructure;
- Childcare & Afterschool Programs;
- Roads & Transportation;
- Job skills and Upskilling;
- Housing.

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, regional issues included:

- Higher Education Access & Enrollment;
- Business incubation & startup supports;
- Land & water conservation, use

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado's leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- Public lands and mountains are vibrant and not overrun;

- New businesses will be community's lifeblood – but help support the businesses that cannot operate because of restrictions (event centers, etc.) to help bridge the gap;
- Direct payments to citizens to spend at local small businesses;
- Colorado is positioned to succeed in future;
- Economic prosperity through higher education.

## Denver Metro North Regional Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Construction Projects
- Transportation + Public Transit
- Higher Education
- State Worker Supports
- K-12 Education
- Housing
- Parks & Environment
- Mental & Behavioral Health

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, regional issues included:

- Support for farmers, including next generation and younger farmers;
- Support for non-profits and charitable food infrastructure;
- Clean energy industry & infrastructure;
- Workforce development and skill training;
- Technology in government offices.

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado's leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- If we get this right, we will have a generation who are truly engaged locally and nationally. People who are able to pursue their passions – whether that's public transit to work a job or the resources to start their own biz instead of leaving for CA or elsewhere;
- Kids have opportunities within their own community to work, live, and play post graduation; they can get livable wages and affordable housing, and jobs in line with passions;
- CO will be on the leading edge of health, economic sufficiency and real equity in these and in issue like food insecurity;
- There is a competition on this continent for best place to live. It's real and we can compete. We can make this the best place to live FOR ALL people. Crushing it in education. Our children will grow to be powerful. Business will come here;
- If we get it right with education, that will be the key to everything. Our kids will be able to compete, to lead and we will attract national and global biz here.



## Denver Metro South Regional Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Education
- Childcare
- Small Business Support
- Mental Health
- Transportation

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, regional issues included:

- Mental health programs and access in schools;
- Address childcare deserts;
- Broadband equitable access;
- Workforce housing access;
- Rewarding frontline workers;
- Apprenticeship and skilled trade education.

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado's leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- A Colorado where everybody who wants to get to work can get a good job. Pay off the debts we are creating. You're able to get to the mountains, state parks, open spaces locally. Good quality of life
- Building back better is dismantling systemic racism which is not just police brutality: it's vaccine equity, education, environmental, access to health,
- A more fair, just, equitable CO where people have good paying jobs, can own a house (which you can pass to your family), education... A CO where people feel they are welcome.
- A CO that truly emulates our belief affordable housing, sustainable energy, climate, healthcare,
- Climate of civility, care and concern for people in our state. I'm grateful that incidents of prejudice have been few for me but I'm very aware that has not always been the case across the state. We now hear whispers of some of that. What is each of our role in utilizing resources in building the future for all Coloradans.
- No empty store fronts, more affordable housing, talent pipeline

## Colorado Springs Regional Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Small Business Support
- Transportation
- Broadband
- Mental Health
- Education

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, regional issues included:

- Job training support including older adults & all adult re-skilling;
- Light rail on front range;
- I-25 & other roads South of CO Springs;
- Support for creative class;
- Housing – workforce and affordable, lower income;
- Tourism
- Outdoor spaces and gathering facilities.

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado’s leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- Without education we can’t have any of this. It is so important to take a moment and debrief what we learned, that so many systems didn’t work and need to reinvent and embrace all opportunities we have to educate.
- People have access to healthcare, people have access to the things they need, people can travel around. We can go enjoy outdoors and get into transit that will take us places.
- We will have made meaningful progress addressing root causes of inequities.

## **Eastern Plains Regional Meeting**

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Infrastructure including water
- Childcare
- Housing
- Broadband

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, regional issues included:

- Rural hospital and care facilities;
- Support for English Language Learners;
- Agricultural infrastructure including processing, transportation;
- Rural education centers & extensions for upskilling;
- Energy production diversification.

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado’s leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- Businesses open, new ones coming and streets busy with residents, tourists, deliveries, kids riding bikes and people walking along the streets. Highways without potholes! Grocery store shelves full!
- More equitable scenario where families all decent housing, knew where their next meal was coming from, can afford childcare, can afford to be educated, earn a living wage and climb out of poverty.
- State would be inclusive and collaborative. Tear down walls and supposed divisions.
- Erasing equity gaps in education, housing, health care and among different diverse populations and regions of Colorado.

## Events, Dining & Tourism Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Consumer Confidence
- Transportation
- Technology & Broadband
- Public Lands Maintenance

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, sector or community issues included:

- One industry town economic diversification;
- Funding to service workers;
- Housing for service industry, especially in tourist towns;
- Small business resource pool & marketing

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado's leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- The state will be a leader in using technology – digital leaders for the future.
- Exceeding pre-pandemic numbers – build back quickly, but that is sustainable for our communities and a net positive.
- High level of market share that we have ever had!
- The most inclusive state – staffing, visitation, DEI efforts. This should be an important framework as we think about our recovery and position ourselves for the future.
- Sustainable efforts to be more diverse and more connected – diversity, ebikes available, managing our public lands and forests better. Create sustainable use and visits. We can then better manage increased use as well as prepare for what the future brings (next pandemic, etc.)
- Rebuild out creative economy – support arts community – work/art housing, address homeless and housing issues. Uplifting out arts culture to be included in conversations in our communities

## African American Community Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Healthcare
- Home Ownership
- Higher Education Affordability

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, sector or community issues included:

- Compensation for frontline workers;
- Equitable access to high quality education;
- Small & startup business support;
- Support for black owned businesses, non-profits and faith based organizations;
- Justice reform;
- Rehiring & job skill training incentives.

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado's leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- Wealth gap will have narrowed
- We would really know and be able to pinpoint where those inequities and name things like systemic racism
- We would start to see thriving communities, we will see community cohesion, less isolation. Overall, our communities would be thriving
- Wealth gap will have been narrowed on its way to elimination. Homeownership gap narrowed. Housing cost burdens will be stabilized especially for renters. Incarceration gap and inequities addressed.

## Workforce Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Housing
- Education
- Childcare
- Mental Health
- Higher Education

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, sector or community issues included:

- Work Based Learning & On the Job Training program expansion;
- Inclusion of 50 & up population in job training;
- Conservation Corps
- Regenerative Agriculture
- Public Lands Conservation
- Return to work infrastructure (childcare, transportation, skill training)
- Outdoor recreation economy
- Marketing, PSAs and public relations campaigns
- Just transitions and economic transition supports

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado's leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- We will have a robust, talented & locally built talent workforce through training, upskilling
- We would be importing less talent and maximizing our talent
- Every business is thriving, less age battles, sector battles, workforce is strong
- In 5yrs, a successful program will have varied sources of training, we need to make more investments into local communities & orgs that can make sure we reach all demographics, communities.
- We will have a talent pipeline from areas of CO for all Coloradans
- We will have recognized how much the economy & workforce has shifted – instead of talking, we will have made the move to support those industries and that workforce. We're a place people want to come to start a biz and people here have talent

## Clean Energy & Conservation Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Clean Energy Industry & Infrastructure
- Utility Infrastructure
- Transportation & Transit Systems
- Regenerative Agriculture

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, sector or community issues included:

- State Park expansion, maintenance;
- Private land conservation;
- Human – Animal conflict mitigation
- Recreational infrastructure;
- Fire Mitigation & Forest Health;
- Wildlife Management
- Green Building Incentives

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado’s leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- Regenerative economy on local production of food, renewable energy, and shared prosperity on a healthy planet
- Thriving and sustainable
- Wildlife friendly
- Fulfilling the goals of Colorado climate plan
- Biodiversity – statewide recreation and conservation plan and statewide water plan
- People centered not capitol centered
- Healthy lands, air and water; thriving people and resilient communities.
- increased climate resiliency with healthy rivers and wildfire mitigation
- Climate resilience - protecting our natural ecosystems, creating healthy, vibrant communities.
- Working with institutions to become carbon neutral by 2030

## Local Governments Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Infrastructure
- Childcare
- Mental & Behavioral Health
- Education
- Broadband

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, sector or community issues included:

- Public land management including forest management;

- Rental assistance programs;
- Expansion of definition of “infrastructure” beyond roads, bridges & transportation;
- Funding of capital projects;
- Housing inventory and affordable housing;
- Job training and skill development for jobs of today and future;
- Maintenance and repair of outdoor spaces;
- Law enforcement and mental health partnerships and training.

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado’s leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- We won’t have people in jail because of substance abuse or behavioral health. Children won’t be in school so frustrated they become violent b/c they will be getting the treatment they need. It’s infrastructure – but it’s mental health infrastructure – so we are not criminalizing and keeping people held back or limited.
- We will have reduced barriers so all Coloradans can truly access their basic needs.
- No matter how money is spent, we need to make sure our laws are not barriers to what we want to accomplish or make it too difficult to work through
- Upskilling, reskilling and next-skilling. It needs to be for a lifetime. Needs to not require people to stop earning while learning.
- Broadband no matter where you live, what your income

## Quality of Life Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Affordable Housing
- Education (and access equity)
- Mental Health / Behavioral Health
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Infrastructure

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, sector or community issues included:

- Substance abuse treatment and transition support;
- Mental health, victim services;
- Small business supports including agricultural;
- Workforce development and job training;

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado’s leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- We will look back and see that we combined our efforts to lift all people up and it was not a zero sum game
- We would see an absence of the pain and suffering we see today, the giant lines at food banks
- We would see real movement of the needle on the key measures on things like affordable housing

- When urban and rural Colorado all feel relevant, tended to
- Young people are not leaving rural areas for cities for more opportunities.
- The housing funding talks about targeting downtown and urban areas. We should look at opportunities beyond those and not just perpetuate the legacy of redlining. If we do this right, not just more housing, we'll have it in the right places.

## Latino Community Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Education
- Mental Health
- Childcare
- Technology Access & Knowledge

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, sector or community issues included:

- Support for Spanish speaking entrepreneurs accessing programs, supports;
- Education including K-12 and higher ed access supports;
- Support of local non-profits and community organizations closest to community;
- Childcare – cost, access, availability;
- Higher ed affordability, FAFSA, preparation;
- Support for MWOB.

### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado's leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- A community where Latinx thrive and are valued
- More Latinx students in higher ed, with degrees, with less debt, with basic access to education and to broadband services in rural areas, and leaving higher ed feeling hopeful and successful
- An equitable and healthy community where we are all accepted
- A Colorado of solidarity and justice

## Rural & Agricultural Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Rural & Small Town Capital Projects
- Transportation including Rural Highways
- Broadband (Last Mile included)
- Workforce Development
- Targeted Economic Development Initiatives
- Rural Healthcare
- Mental Health

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, sector or community issues included:

- Agricultural Infrastructure
- Farm Industry Education & Job Training
- Support of rural education extension programs
- Food Systems & Supply Chain Supports
- Farm & Ranch Product Supply Chain

#### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado's leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- Rural economies would be vibrant
- Higher capture of dollars staying in our rural communities & it would be more inclusive and accessible for all Coloradans
- Colorado has to promote an image of an Ag friendly state that has its arms open to our Livestock and Farm Commodity industries. Building capacity and streamlining Farm to Market and Wholesale distribution and retail distribution in every sector of Agriculture.
- Connected community - where people can live and work anywhere!
- Colorado has to promote an image of an Ag friendly state that has its arms open to our Livestock and Farm Commodity industries. Building capacity and streamlining Farm to Market and Wholesale distribution and retail distribution in every sector of Agriculture.

### Healthcare, Human Services & Behavioral Health Meeting

#### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Mental Health
- Workforce Recruitment, Training
- Broadband
- State Infrastructure
- Substance Abuse & Behavioral Health

#### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, sector or community issues included:

- Assisted living alternatives;
- Addressing social determinants of health;
- Healthcare workforce diversification;
- Rural healthcare infrastructure;
- Food insecurity and food support infrastructure;
- Breaking down barriers between physical, mental and behavioral health providers.

#### *Vision of the Future*

In describing the future if Colorado's leaders maximize the use stimulus funds, participants said:

- We will see high quality early childcare that empowers parents, pays ECE teachers as professionals they are. Our children are well cared for.
- Our systems will have shifted f/compliance/policing to a healing state & approach.
- From mental health perspective, next time we have a crisis, we will be better ready to serve & support all.



- We will have fundamental mental health literacy and it will be accepted and understood – people would know they.
- We will have a holistic approach to health where Doc collaborates w/therapist & engages nutritionist & the psychiatrist... and insurance should be an enabler, not a roadblock.
- Come back to a system that is better prepared and provides what folks really need when we face an emergency.
- Build expansion opportunities across the state that incentivize people that go into areas where we don't have staff needs met – scholarship programs, loan forgiveness programs. Opportunity to build capacity so we can treat people who need it the most.
- Rural communities and people have access to quality of care in rural communities and life expectancy.
- More equitable outcomes no matter where you are in Colorado.
- Increased access to early childhood services, affordable housing, ample access to healthy food!!

## Asian American & Pacific Islander Meeting

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Education
- Small Business Support
- Infrastructure

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, sector or community issues included:

- Address language barriers to accessing public and private services;
- Direct support for AAPI businesses and entrepreneurs;
- Language Justice & Cultural Competence;
- Fair treatment of AAPI immigrants, first generation in grant programs.

### *Vision of the Future*

*Time did not allow this discussion.*

## Chambers of Commerce & Economic Development Councils

### *Dominant Themes*

Themes common across groups included:

- Affordable & Workforce Housing
- Job Training
- Education: Pre-K – Higher Ed
- Transportation
- Broadband

### *Region Specific Issues & Ideas*

In addition to issues that applied statewide, sector or community issues included:

- Technology access;
- Childcare;
- Tourism, Consumer Confidence;

- PPP to support upskilling, reskilling;
- Expansion of government procurement focus on small and MWOBs;
- Green energy development;
- Just transitions and community economic transition;
- Alignment of education with future of work;
- Backfilling the Unemployment fund;
- Sustainable tourism;
- Small farm, ranch, ag support;
- Rural incentives and jump start expansion.

#### *Vision of the Future*

- Spreading wealth and prosperity out of I-25 corridor and not just to tourism-based economies. Broadband is one avenue we have for small communities.
- Trend towards not just blurring lines but eliminating lines between education and work. Employers need to get more engaged in the education system at all levels and the education system needs to consider themselves as a pipeline. Engagement needs to be made easier for employers to work with HS students. Incentives and better ed across state level to get employers to open-up to these types of programs.
- Colorado will have the most robust and competitive economy in the country. Measured by traditional metrics and from an equity lens that ensures our bottom quartiles are brought along and not left behind.
- Build back beautifully, with a continued emphasis on affordable housing.
- Infusion into education to help close any gaps caused by the pandemic and ensure those students are not left behind.

**OVERVIEW OF THE FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE**

American Rescue Plan Act Overview		
	Program	Funding (in \$B)
Aid to Individuals	Stimulus checks	\$6.74
	Unemployment Benefits	\$2.60
	Child Tax Credit	\$2.00
	Housing/Rental/Utility	\$0.47
	Additional Programs	Vary
Aid to Businesses	Program	Funding (in \$B)
	Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)	\$7.25 nationally
	Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) funding	\$0.20
	Restaurant Revitalization	\$0.52
	Business New Hire/Retention Tax Credit	\$0.19
	Program	Funding (in \$B)
	National vaccination	\$1.10
COVID Related Relief	State and Local Governments	\$6.19
	Education, mostly public K-12 Schools	\$1.64

- Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 are distributed in the following ways:
  - Directly to households and businesses
  - Direct funding to specific State & Local programs
  - Aid to State & Local governments
- The State of Colorado should receive about \$3.9 billion for public health, economic relief and recovery for households and businesses, revenue backfill, and infrastructure.

**WHAT AREAS ARE GETTING DIRECT RESOURCES IN FED RELIEF?**

**H.R. 133 \$14B to Colorado**  
*preliminary estimates*

- \$2.9 billion in stimulus checks
- \$4.5 billion in PPP
- \$1.5 billion in unemployment
- \$440 million for housing/utility
- \$400 million hiring/retention tax credit
- \$400 million nutrition benefits

**American Rescue Plan \$27B to CO**  
*preliminary estimates*

- \$6.7 billion in stimulus checks
- \$2.6 billion in unemployment \$300/week through September
- **\$2.3 billion to local governments**
- \$2 billion in child tax credit expansion
- \$520 million for restaurants and venues
- \$500 million in child care
- \$470 million for housing/utility

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## WHAT AREAS ARE WE MISSING?

- The State's efforts are intended to complement the direct Federal spending and fill in the gaps when necessary to build a stronger recovery tailored to our local needs
- Our overarching goals:
  - Add stimulus to create jobs, attract and grow businesses, and meet our workforce challenges
  - Make transformative investments that position Colorado to succeed and lead to a brighter future
  - Provide relief to those in need where direct federal funds may leave gaps
  - Prioritize one-time spending to avoid outyear costs that we can't afford

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## POSSIBLE STIMULUS PROPOSALS

- Supporting Small Business
  - Provide loan and technical support programs, partnering with Small Business Development Centers and Local/Regional Economic Development Centers, to help small businesses across the state, including those that are minority and women owned and rurally located, and to those that were most severely impacted by capacity restrictions during the pandemic.
- Rural Hospital Investments
  - Help rural hospitals transform service offerings and affordability capabilities that can stimulate local economies long term
- Aligning Education with the Jobs of the Future
  - Pay for the cost of attendance for Coloradans pursuing CTE credentials that lead to good paying jobs and fill critical workforce needs (e.g., healthcare, welding, early childhood education, mental health, etc.)
- Climate Equity Building Investments
  - Investments in clean energy, energy efficiency, health and quality of life building upgrades to communities most disproportionately impacted by economic, social and environmental factors, particularly low-income and communities of color

## ALLOWABLE USES OF FEDERAL FUNDS

The ARP limits the aid to state and local governments to the following allowable uses:

- To respond to the pandemic or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- For premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work (as determined by each recipient government) during the pandemic, providing up to \$13 per hour above regular wages;
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the pandemic (relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency);
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure;
- Funds may not be used to offset tax cuts made since March 3, 2021

## FACT SHEET: The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Will Deliver \$350 Billion for State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Governments to Respond to the COVID-19 Emergency and Bring Back Jobs

**May 10, 2021**

*Aid to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments will help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery*

Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to provide \$350 billion in emergency funding for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Treasury also released details on how these funds can be used to respond to acute pandemic response needs, fill revenue shortfalls among these governments, and support the communities and populations hardest-hit by the COVID-19 crisis. With the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, eligible jurisdictions will be able to access this funding in the coming days to address these needs.

State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments have been on the frontlines of responding to the immense public health and economic needs created by this crisis – from standing up vaccination sites to supporting small businesses – even as these governments confronted revenue shortfalls during the downturn. As a result, these governments have endured unprecedented strains, forcing many to make untenable choices between laying off educators, firefighters, and other frontline workers or failing to provide other services that communities rely on. Faced with these challenges, state and local governments have cut over 1 million jobs since the beginning of the crisis. The experience of prior economic downturns has shown that budget pressures like these often result in prolonged fiscal austerity that can slow an economic recovery.

To support the immediate pandemic response, bring back jobs, and lay the groundwork for a strong and equitable recovery, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, designed to deliver \$350 billion to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to bolster their response to the COVID-19 emergency and its economic impacts. Today, Treasury is launching this much-needed relief to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control;
- Replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs;
- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; and,
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic on certain populations.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs—including support for households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest-hit by the crisis. These funds also deliver resources that recipients can invest in building, maintaining, or upgrading their water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Starting today, eligible state, territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal governments may request Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the Treasury Submission Portal. Concurrent with this program launch, Treasury has published an Interim Final Rule that implements the provisions of this program.

## **FUNDING AMOUNTS**

The American Rescue Plan provides a total of \$350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments meet their present needs and build the foundation for a strong recovery. Congress has allocated this funding to tens of thousands of jurisdictions. These allocations include:

<b>Type</b>	<b>Amount (\$ billions)</b>
States & District of Columbia	\$195.3
Counties	\$65.1
Metropolitan Cites	\$45.6
Tribal Governments	\$20.0
Territories	\$4.5
Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government	\$19.5

Treasury expects to distribute these funds directly to each state, territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal government. Local governments that are classified as non-entitlement units will receive this funding through their applicable state government. Treasury expects to provide further guidance on distributions to non-entitlement units next week.

Local governments should expect to receive funds in two tranches, with 50% provided beginning in May 2021 and the balance delivered 12 months later. States that have experienced a net increase in the unemployment rate of more than 2 percentage points from February 2020 to the latest available data as of the date of certification will receive their full allocation of funds in a single payment; other states will receive funds in two equal tranches. Governments of U.S. territories will receive a single payment. Tribal governments will receive two payments, with the first payment available in May and the second payment, based on employment data, to be delivered in June 2021.

## **USES OF FUNDING**

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments with a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger, more equitable economy as the country recovers. Within the categories of eligible uses, recipients have broad flexibility to decide how best to use this funding to meet the needs of their communities. Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to:

- **Support public health expenditures**, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff;
- **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector;
- **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;
- **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,
- **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.

Within these overall categories, Treasury’s Interim Final Rule provides guidelines and principles for determining the types of programs and services that this funding can support, together with examples of allowable uses that recipients may consider. As described below, Treasury has also designed these provisions to take into consideration the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on those hardest-hit by the pandemic.

### 1. Supporting the public health response

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 continues to require an unprecedented public health response from state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources to meet these needs through the provision of care for those impacted by the virus and through services that address disparities in public health that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Recipients may use this funding to address a broad range of public health needs across COVID-19 mitigation, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and public health resources. Among other services, these funds can help support:

- **Services and programs to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including:**
  - ✓ Vaccination programs
  - ✓ Medical expenses
  - ✓ Testing
  - ✓ Contact tracing
  - ✓ Isolation or quarantine
  - ✓ PPE purchases
  - ✓ Support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services
  - ✓ Public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring for variants)
  - ✓ Enforcement of public health orders
  - ✓ Public communication efforts
  - ✓ Enhancement of healthcare capacity, including alternative care facilities
  - ✓ Support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities and schools
  - ✓ Enhancement of public health data systems
  - ✓ Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs
  - ✓ Ventilation improvements in key settings like healthcare facilities



- **Services to address behavioral healthcare needs exacerbated by the pandemic, including:**
  - ✓ Mental health treatment
  - ✓ Substance misuse treatment
  - ✓ Other behavioral health services
  - ✓ Hotlines or warmlines
  - ✓ Crisis intervention
  - ✓ Services or outreach to promote access to health and social services
- **Payroll and covered benefits expenses** for public health, healthcare, human services, public safety and similar employees, to the extent that they work on the COVID-19 response. For public health and safety workers, recipients can use these funds to cover the full payroll and covered benefits costs for employees or operating units or divisions primarily dedicated to the COVID-19 response.

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

The COVID-19 public health emergency resulted in significant economic hardship for many Americans. As businesses closed, consumers stayed home, schools shifted to remote education, and travel declined precipitously, over 20 million jobs were lost between February and April 2020. Although many have since returned to work, as of April 2021, the economy remains more than 8 million jobs below its pre-pandemic peak, and more than 3 million workers have dropped out of the labor market altogether since February 2020.

To help alleviate the economic hardships caused by the pandemic, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds enable eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to provide a wide range of assistance to individuals and households, small businesses, and impacted industries, in addition to enabling governments to rehire public sector staff and rebuild capacity. Among these uses include:

- **Delivering assistance to workers and families**, including aid to unemployed workers and job training, as well as aid to households facing food, housing, or other financial insecurity. In addition, these funds can support survivor’s benefits for family members of COVID-19 victims.
- **Supporting small businesses**, 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.

### 3. **Serving the hardest-hit communities and families**

While the pandemic has affected communities across the country, it has disproportionately impacted low-income families and communities of color and has exacerbated systemic health and economic inequities. Low-income and socially vulnerable communities have experienced the most severe health impacts. For example, counties with high poverty rates also have the highest rates of infections and deaths, with 223 deaths per 100,000 compared to the U.S. average of 175 deaths per 100,000.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allow for a broad range of uses to address the disproportionate public health and economic impacts of the crisis on the hardest-hit communities, populations, and households. 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, home visiting programs for families with young children, and enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth.

Governments may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support these additional services if they are provided:

- within a Qualified Census Tract (a low-income area as designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development);
- to families living in Qualified Census Tracts;
- by a Tribal government; or,
- to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

### 4. **Replacing lost public sector revenue**

State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments that are facing budget shortfalls may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to avoid cuts to government services. With these additional resources, recipients can continue to provide valuable public services and ensure that fiscal austerity measures do not hamper the broader economic recovery.

Many state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments have experienced significant budget shortfalls, which can yield a devastating impact on their respective communities. Faced with budget shortfalls and pandemic-related uncertainty, state and local governments cut staff in all 50 states. These budget shortfalls and staff cuts are particularly problematic at present, as these entities are on the front lines of battling the COVID-19 pandemic and helping citizens weather the economic downturn.

Recipients may use these funds to replace lost revenue. Treasury's Interim Final Rule establishes a methodology that each recipient can use to calculate its reduction in revenue. Specifically, recipients will compute the extent of their reduction in revenue by comparing their actual revenue to an alternative representing what could have been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic. Analysis of this expected trend begins with the last full fiscal year prior to the public health emergency and projects forward at either (a) the recipient's average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the public health emergency or (b) 4.1%, the national average state and local revenue growth rate from 2015-18 (the latest available data).

For administrative convenience, Treasury's Interim Final Rule allows recipients to presume that any diminution in actual revenue relative to the expected trend is due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Upon receiving Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, recipients may immediately calculate the reduction in revenue that occurred in 2020 and deploy funds to address any shortfall. Recipients will have the opportunity to re-calculate revenue loss at several points through the program, supporting those entities that experience a lagged impact of the crisis on revenues.

Importantly, once a shortfall in revenue is identified, recipients will have broad latitude to use this funding to support government services, up to this amount of lost revenue.

## **5. Providing premium pay for essential workers**

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to recognize the heroic contributions of essential workers. Since the start of the public health emergency, essential workers have put their physical well-being at risk to meet the daily needs of their communities and to provide care for others.

Many of these essential workers have not received compensation for the heightened risks they have faced and continue to face. Recipients may use this funding to provide premium pay directly, or through grants to private employers, to a broad range of essential workers who must be physically present at their jobs including, among others:

- ✓ Staff at nursing homes, hospitals, and home-care settings
- ✓ Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants
- ✓ Janitors and sanitation workers
- ✓ Public health and safety staff
- ✓ Truck drivers, transit staff, and warehouse workers
- ✓ Childcare workers, educators, and school staff
- ✓ Social service and human services staff

Treasury's Interim Final Rule emphasizes the need for recipients to prioritize premium pay for lower income workers. Premium pay that would increase a worker's total pay above 150% of the greater of the state or county average annual wage requires specific justification for how it responds to the needs of these workers.

In addition, employers are both permitted and encouraged to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to offer retrospective premium pay, recognizing that many essential workers have not yet received additional compensation for work performed. Staff working for third-party contractors in eligible sectors are also eligible for premium pay.

## **6. Investing in water and sewer infrastructure**

Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in necessary improvements to their water and sewer infrastructures, including projects that address the impacts of climate change.

Recipients may use this funding to invest in an array of drinking water infrastructure projects, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems, including the replacement of lead service lines.

Recipients may also use this funding to invest in wastewater infrastructure projects, including constructing publicly-owned treatment infrastructure, managing and treating stormwater or subsurface drainage water, facilitating water reuse, and securing publicly-owned treatment works.

To help jurisdictions expedite their execution of these essential investments, Treasury's Interim Final Rule aligns types of eligible projects with the wide range of projects that can be supported by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Recipients retain substantial flexibility to identify those water and sewer infrastructure investments that are of the highest priority for their own communities.

Treasury's Interim Final Rule also encourages recipients to ensure that water, sewer, and broadband projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions.

## **7. Investing in broadband infrastructure**

The pandemic has underscored the importance of access to universal, high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband coverage. Over the past year, millions of Americans relied on the internet to participate in remote school, healthcare, and work.

Yet, by at least one measure, 30 million Americans live in areas where there is no broadband service or where existing services do not deliver minimally acceptable speeds. For millions of other Americans, the high cost of broadband access may place it out of reach. The American Rescue Plan aims to help remedy these shortfalls, providing recipients with flexibility to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in broadband infrastructure.

Recognizing the acute need in certain communities, Treasury's Interim Final Rule provides that investments in broadband be made in areas that are currently unserved or underserved—in other words, lacking a wireline connection that reliably delivers minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Recipients are also encouraged to prioritize projects that achieve last-mile connections to households and businesses.

Using these funds, recipients generally should build broadband infrastructure with modern technologies in mind, specifically those projects that deliver services offering reliable 100 Mbps download and 100

Mbps upload speeds, unless impracticable due to topography, geography, or financial cost. In addition, recipients are encouraged to pursue fiber optic investments.

In view of the wide disparities in broadband access, assistance to households to support internet access or digital literacy is an eligible use to respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, as detailed above.

## 8. Ineligible Uses

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial resources to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments manage the public health and economic consequences of COVID-19. Recipients have considerable flexibility to use these funds to address the diverse needs of their communities.

To ensure that these funds are used for their intended purposes, the American Rescue Plan Act also specifies two ineligible uses of funds:

- **States and territories may not use this funding to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue due to a change in law from March 3, 2021 through the last day of the fiscal year in which the funds provided have been spent.** The American Rescue Plan ensures that funds needed to provide vital services and support public employees, small businesses, and families struggling to make it through the pandemic are not used to fund reductions in net tax revenue. Treasury's Interim Final Rule implements this requirement. If a state or territory cuts taxes, they must demonstrate how they paid for the tax cuts from sources other than Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds—by enacting policies to raise other sources of revenue, by cutting spending, or through higher revenue due to economic growth. If the funds provided have been used to offset tax cuts, the amount used for this purpose must be paid back to the Treasury.
- **No recipient may use this funding to make a deposit to a pension fund.** Treasury's Interim Final Rule defines a "deposit" as an extraordinary contribution to a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability. While pension deposits are prohibited, recipients may use funds for routine payroll contributions for employees whose wages and salaries are an eligible use of funds.

Treasury's Interim Final Rule identifies several other ineligible uses, including funding debt service, legal settlements or judgments, and deposits to rainy day funds or financial reserves. Further, general infrastructure spending is not covered as an eligible use outside of water, sewer, and broadband investments or above the amount allocated under the revenue loss provision. While the program offers broad flexibility to recipients to address local conditions, these restrictions will help ensure that funds are used to augment existing activities and address pressing needs.