Georgia Municipal Association Presentation

December 14, 2021

NLC — NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

WHO WE ARE

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people across the country.

During an unprecedented time, NLC delivered unprecedented results for our members.

$65 billon of DIRECT aid to EVERY city, town or village across the country.

nlc.org/stateleague

NLCDELIVERS

- $350 billion for states, municipalities, counties, tribes, and territories
  - $65.1B for 19,000+ municipalities.
    - $45.6B for Metropolitan Cities distributed through CDBG formula
    - $19.5B for NEUs distributed per capita per state
- ARPA Fiscal Recovery Grants are not competitive – every city is *entitled* to one. However, these grants come with significant new requirements and responsibilities.
- Funds do not have to be obligated until December 31, 2024, and unexpended funds are not subject to recapture or return until December 31, 2026.
  - Cities do not need to rush spending. Address emergency needs first and create plans.
- Reporting deadlines pushed to January 31, 2022, for Metros and April 30, 2022, for NEUs

What can I use SLFRF funds for generally?

Treasury identifies 7 broad categories of use, and 66 subcategories (See pages 31 & 32 of <u>Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance</u> for a comprehensive listing of eligible uses (referred to as "expenditure categories")

1. Responding to public health concerns raised by the pandemic.
2. Responding to negative economic impact of the pandemic.
3. Services to disproportionately impacted communities.
4. Providing premium pay to essential workers, both private and public.
5. Improving water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.
6. Replacing revenues lost by local governments due to the pandemic.
7. Administrative costs.

What *can't* I use SLFRF funds for?

1. Premium pay for telework.
2. Payments into pension funds, rainy day funds, financial reserves, or outstanding debt.
3. Payment of federal match requirements (if explicitly prohibited by another federal program's statute).
4. Projects or services that fall outside the 7 spending categories.

How are other municipalities using SLFRF funds?

• See our <u>COVID-19 Local Action Tracker</u> for examples of how other municipalities are using ARPA dollars

Treasury's Guidance and Supplementary Information:

- Interim Final Rule (IFR)
- Allocations and Methodology for Non-Entitlement Units
- Allocations and Methodology for Metropolitan Cities
- Guidance on State Distribution of Funds to NEUs
- Frequently Asked Questions (*Periodically Updated*)
- Compliance and Reporting Requirements
- Treasury Reporting User Guide (Interim Report and Recovery Plan only)

Visit Treasury.gov/SLFRP for these resources

- For questions, email SLFRP@treasury.gov

NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

To respond to the **public health emergency** with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.

Reporting Expenditure Categories

- COVID-19 Vaccination
- COVID-19 Testing
- COVID-19 Contact Tracing
- Prevention in Congregate Settings
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Medical Expenses
- Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes
- Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses
- Payroll for staff responding to COVID-19
- Mental Health Services
- Substance Use Services
- Other Public Health Services

Interim Final Rule

- COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention
- Medical Expenses
- Behavioral Health Care Including Addiction Treatment
- Public Health and Public Safety Employees
- Public Safety Measures in Response to Violent Crime
- Data, Design, and Execution of Health Programs
- Health Disparities
- Survivors Benefits

To respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its **negative economic impacts**, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.

Reporting Expenditure Categories

- Household Assistance:
  - Food Programs
  - Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid
  - Cash Transfers
  - Internet Access Programs
  - Eviction Prevention
- Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers
- Job Training Assistance
- Contributions to UI Trust Funds
- Small Business Economic Assistance
- Aid to Nonprofit Organizations
- Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality
- Aid to Other Impacted Industries
- Other Economic Support
- Rehiring Public Sector Staff

Interim Final Rule

- Direct cash and loan interventions
- Assistance to business and non-profits
- Impacted industries and workers
- Housing and Community Development
- Homelessness
- Childcare and Education
- Parks, Patios, Façades, Other outdoor built environments

Presumption of eligibility in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)

These categories fall under addressing the public health emergency and economic impact. Treasury encourages use of SLFRF to respond to the exacerbation of pre-existing disparities.

Reporting Expenditure Categories

- Education Assistance:
  - Early Learning
  - Aid to High Poverty Districts
  - Academic Services
  - Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services
  - Other
- Healthy Childhood Environments:
  - Child Care
  - Home Visiting
  - Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System
  - Other
- Housing Support:
  - Affordable Housing
  - Services for Unhoused Persons
  - Other Housing Assistance
- Social Determinants of Health:
  - Other
  - Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators
  - Lead Remediation
  - Community Violence Interventions

Interim Final Rule

- Building Stronger Communities through Investments in Housing and Neighborhoods
- Addressing Education Disparities
- Promoting Healthy Childhood Environments
- Address Disparities in Public Health Outcomes

Presumption of eligibility in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)

Eligible Uses: Premium Pay

To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing **premium pay to eligible workers**…or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers

Interim Final Rule

- "Essential work" involves regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others.
- Such workers include:
  - Staff at nursing homes, hospitals, and home care settings;
  - Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants;
  - Janitors and sanitation workers;
  - Truck drivers, transit staff, and warehouse workers;
  - Public health and safety staff;
  - Childcare workers, educators, and other school staff; and
  - Social service and human services staff.

Reporting Expenditure Categories

- Public Sector Employees
- Private Sector: Grants to Other Employers

NLC's COVID-19 Hub

- Blogs
- Local Action Tracker
- Fact sheets
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Webinar recordings
- NLC.org/Recovery

NLC's Question Form

- Support our content
- Inform our talks with Treasury
- https://bit.ly/3eVyvWt

NLC DELIVERS

COVID-19 Pandemic Response & Relief

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE & RELIEF

Your hub for the latest on infection, vaccination, response and relief

We are bringing you the tools, resources and events necessary to fight back against COVID-19. Check back here for the latest in pandemic response protocols, funding options and more for your city, town or village.
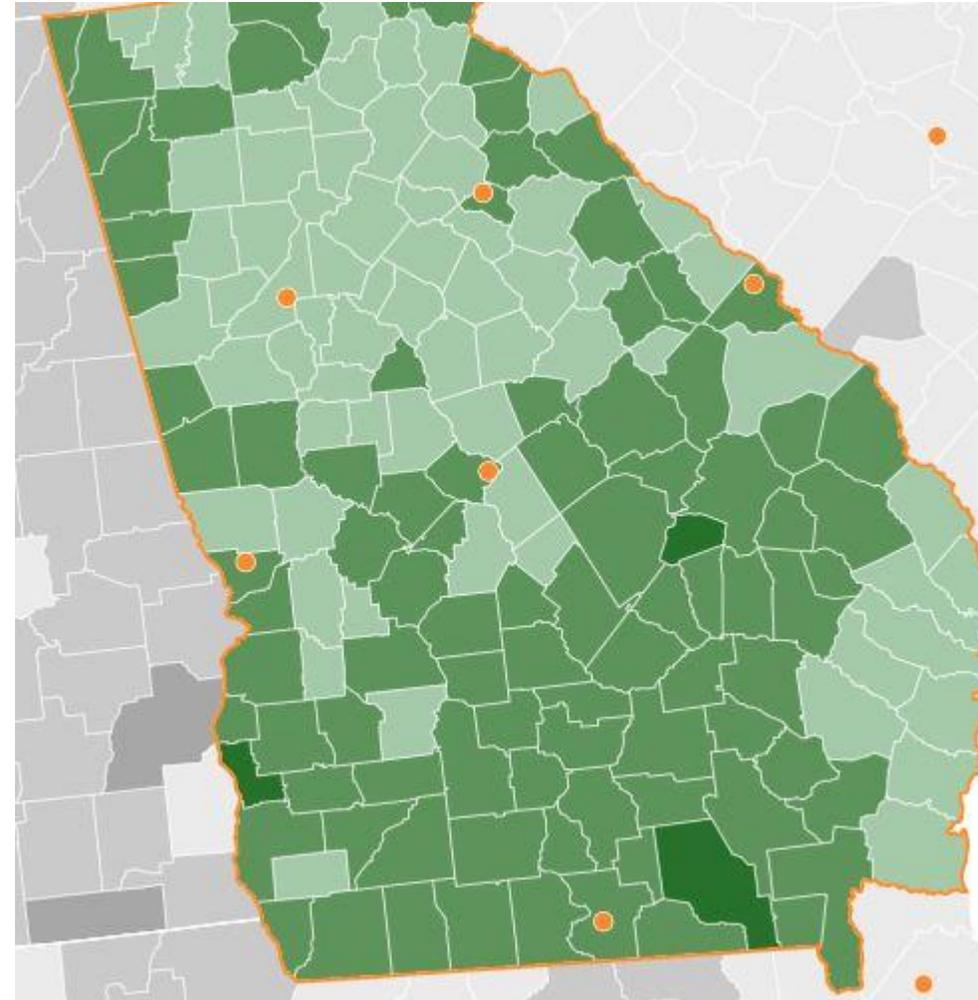
OUR COMMUNITIES WILL RECEIVE
$65.1 BILLION
in recovery aid through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. Learn everything you need to know about funding through ARPA.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Hunger in Georgia

- 1 in 7 Georgians is food insecure meaning they may not know when their next meal will be

- 1 in 5 children are food insecure

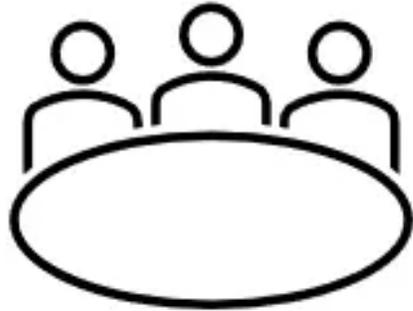Feeding America Map the Meal Gap

American Rescue Plan Act

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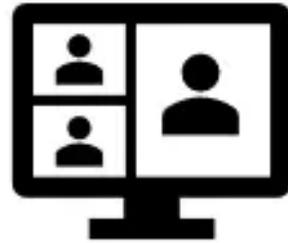7. Administrative costs.

Figure 1: Graphic Source: Municipal Strategies to Support Local Food Systems. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. 2012. goo.gl/JxUyJC

Community Engagement is Key

No-tech: Direct communication between city leaders and the community.

Low-tech: Minimal technology (devices, software, tools, etc.) is used to facilitate communication and share details with participants.

High-tech: Lots of technology (personal or handheld devices, new software programs, interactive tools, etc.) is used to enable in-depth conversations about future possibilities

Municipalities Have a Role

- **Each city, town or village has their own unique needs. When thinking about addressing hunger using ARPA consider options such as:**

Local grants	Premium pay	Farmers markets
Schools	Afterschool programs	Community food assessments
	Educate residents	

Figure 1: Graphic Source: Municipal Strategies to Support Local Food Systems. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. 2012. goo.gl/JxUyJC
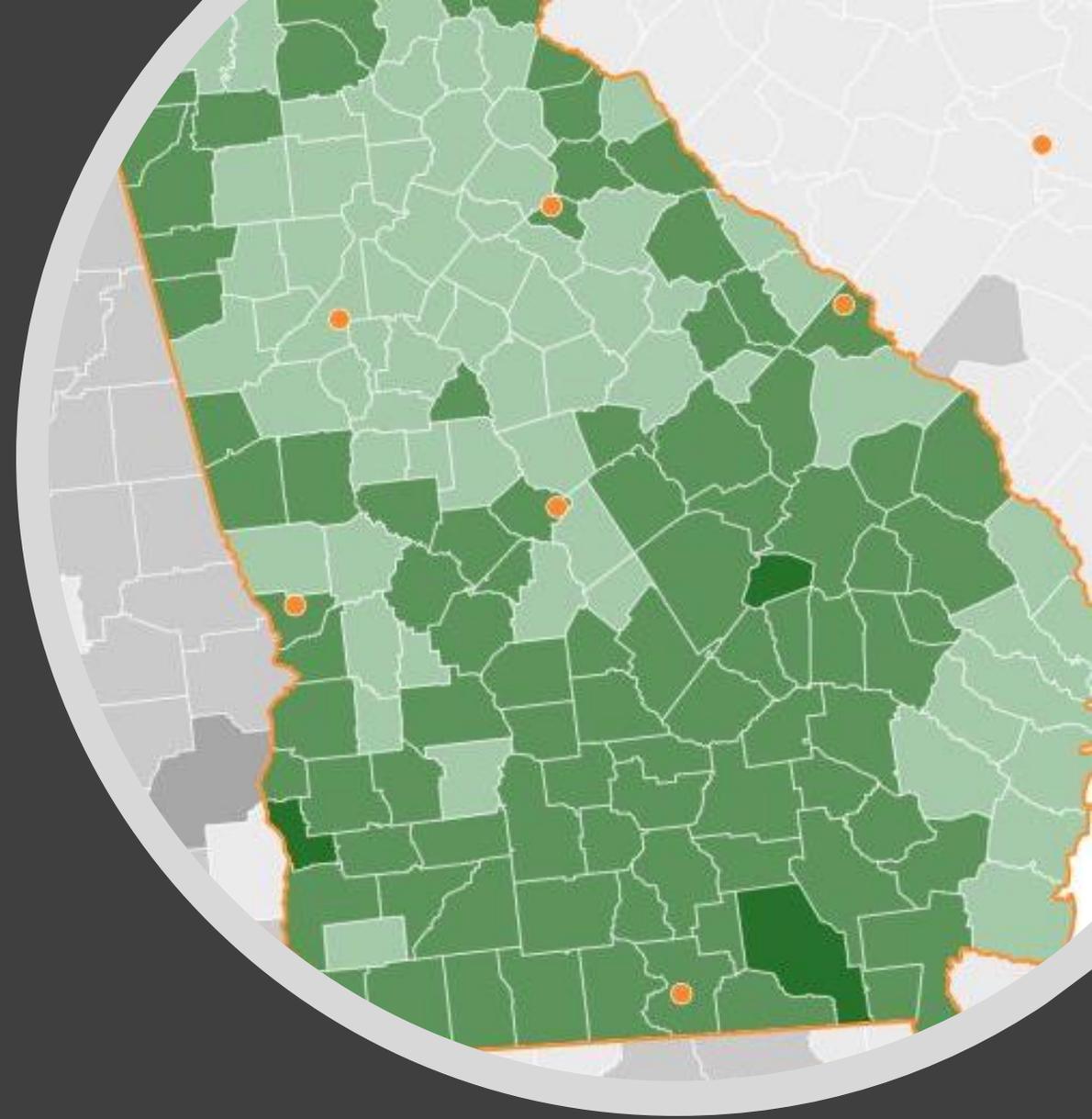
Questions to Consider

- **Does your municipality have a local food plan, or a community food assessment?**

- **Have you set food system goals?**

- **Have you conducted a land inventory? A food asset map?**

- **Does your municipality have a food policy council, or do you participate in a regional FPC?**

- **Do you promote local food production and purchasing within municipal agencies?**

- **Do you promote your local food system?**

Resources

- Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning - Nutrition Program Search: http://www.decal.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx

- USDA Meals for Kids Site Finder: https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids

- Feeding America Map the Meal Gap: https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2019/overall/georgia

More Resources!

- Georgia Food Bank Association -
https://georgiafoodbankassociation.org/

- WIC Clinic and Authorized Store Locations:
https://sendss.state.ga.us/sendss/!wicclinic.SCREEN

- Georgia Fresh for Less – Farmers Markets:
https://www.wholesomewavegeorgia.org/georgiafreshforless

- Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network:
https://www.afterschoolga.org/findaprogram/

Contact Information

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