

Some criteria developed by Towns in our region

Are taxes or ARPA the only funding options? Is alternative funding available for this project?

Can the project be contracted by 12/31/24 and completed by 12/31/26? [Note: this is not relevant if you're replacing general funds.]

This type of approach has a track record of success

Benefits disproportionately-impacted community members

Increases resilience by increasing overall health/well-being of residents

Addressing residents' basic needs

Necessary/helpful to Town Staff during a shutdown or pandemic situation

Does not create unsustainable financial or staff capacity burdens now or in the future

Compatibility with present Town Projects / Priorities

Affects a large number of people. Return on investment (bang for the buck)

Size of project

Long-lasting impacts on Town

Estimate Cost/Percentage of the full award that the project will use

Staff capacity to manage project

Future financial or administrative burdens created by project

Can leverage additional state or federal funds

Urgency of the need

Availability of people to do the work

Guidance from VLCT

- Does the use/request follow the intent of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka ARPA)?
 - *Fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with its public health and economic impact*
 - *Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue resulting from the crisis*
 - *Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity*

- Does the use/request comply with the Town Plan?
- If the Town has a Master Plan or any other plans, studies or reports, is the use/request included in them?
- If the Town has a Capital Improvement Plan, is the use/request contained in the CIP?
- Does the use/request set a precedent that will be difficult for the Town to fulfill for others in the future? (ex. stormwater project on private property)
- Does the use/request create an ongoing expense that will need to be funded with property taxes when ARPA funds have been exhausted? (ex. hiring new Town employees)
- Does the use/request have broad community benefit or does it benefit just a few?
- Does the use/request bring long-term value to the community for generations to come?
- Can the use/request leverage other grant funds? (ex. Town Hall energy improvements – town could apply for funding through new source from H.518; paving projects – has the Town applied for a paving grant from VTrans?)
- Can the use/request be redirected to an existing program with the State’s ARPA (or other funds)? (ex. direct assistance to households for housing expenses, refer them to: [Housing Resources for Vermonters in Need](#))