



THE CITY OF
MORGANTOWN
WEST VIRGINIA



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT ACTION PLAN

Overview

The City of Morgantown is set to receive \$11,243,509 in ARPA funds over the next two years. The city has received the first of two installments in the amount of \$5,621,754.50. A second installment is anticipated in the same amount in the Spring/Summer of 2022. The city has until December 31, 2024, to obligate funds and December 31, 2026, to spend the funds.

The U.S. Treasury Department has limited the use of ARPA funds to the following areas:

- To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

The city also considered the following factors when determining uses for ARPA funds:

- Community feedback
- Ongoing guidance from the U.S. Treasury
- Existing funding/programs

Community Engagement Process

The city sought community input using an online survey which ran from August 1 through August 21, 2021, and through two public meetings which took place on August 18, 2021, and September 1, 2021, at 7 p.m. at the Marilla Center. The public was also encouraged to submit written comments to the City Manager's office.

Residents, businesses, and community organizations were encouraged to participate in the planning process by one of the various means listed above. The city encouraged the community to focus on recovery goals during the community engagement process. The intended outcome was to determine what specific goals that citizens would like to accomplish with this funding.

The city received 540 responses to its online survey, approximately 30 citizens attended the first public meeting held on August 18, and approximately 20 citizens attended the second public meeting held on September 1, which accounted for about 4,000 ideas for usage of funds. All public comments received during the community engagement process will be made available on the city's website at morgantownwv.gov/ARPA.

Categories rankings based on survey results:

1. Water and Sewer Infrastructure
2. Public Health and Social Services
3. Downtown/Community Investment
4. Strong Vibrant Businesses
5. Emergency Services and Planning
6. Technology

Project and Program Process

The city reviewed input received from the online survey and the August 18 public meeting to develop a draft action plan. Common themes and keywords were used to develop project ideas, which were then grouped by recovery goal and scored by city staff. This was used to develop the draft action plan, which was presented at the September 1 public meeting. Comments received during the second public meeting were taken into consideration and the draft action plan was updated/refined into this final Action Plan #1 (indicating fund allocations for first tranche of funds), which will be presented to City Council for approval on September 21, 2021.

Based on the above considerations, projects that appear to be eligible for use of ARPA funds were be scored from 1 through 4.

1. The highest possible score is a four (4). These projects are quick to implement, have an immediate impact, and are very important.
2. Projects scoring a three (3) can be implemented relatively quickly, but the impact of these projects may take a little longer to feel. They are still very important projects. The projects scoring a 3 can be scaled depending on available funding.
3. Projects scoring a two (2) may take longer to implement or have a less reaching impact than those scoring a 3 or 4. Projects can be easily scaled depending on availability of funds.
4. The lowest score for a project/program that is eligible for ARPA funds is one (1). A project may be given a 1 if use of funds don't appear initially feasible within the allotted timeframes, have less urgency than the other projects, or aren't quite ready to implement. These projects may be more appropriate for the second installment of funds.

Specific projects recommended in Morgantown's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Action Plan #1 are listed on the following pages, organized by Recovery Goal. The projects include which expenditure category is anticipated to be applicable, suggested project funding amount, and a short description of the projects. Projects shown in grey text with no money allocated will be considered for funding with the second tranche of ARPA funds.

Recovery Goal 1: Strong Vibrant Businesses

Overview: Small businesses are a critical piece of the city’s economic vitality and are also one of the industries hit the hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. This recovery goal is intended to aid new and existing businesses by providing them with tools to recover and lessen the ongoing negative impact from the pandemic.

Justification: To respond to the public health emergency or **its negative economic impacts**, including assistance to households, **small businesses**, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as **tourism, travel, and hospitality**.

STRONG VIBRANT BUSINESSES	\$1,200,000	Score
Small Business Assistance Grants Expenditure Category: 2.9 Small Business Economic Assistance (General)	\$500,000	4
Grants of up to \$10,000 each to small existing and new business owners to help meet their most immediate needs leveraging public-private partnerships. Grants for new businesses will include support services in cooperation with the Small Business Administration.		
City Promotions Expenditure Category: 2.11 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	\$300,000	4
Speed business recovery by supporting and promoting local events, resources, festivals, and more that bring people together through both hosting events and staffing a Marketing and Advertising position.		
Outdoor Dining Expenditure Category: 2.9 Small Business Economic Assistance (General), 2.11 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	\$200,000	4
Funding to support outdoor dining, shopping, parklets, pedlets, trial street closures, and other avenues that allow for businesses to continue to operate in open air spaces.		
Façade and Interior Improvements Expenditure Category: 2.9 Small Business Economic Assistance (General), 2.11 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	\$200,000	3
Grants up to \$20,000, which require 30% matching, to improve building facades and interior improvements to enhance the appearance and vibrancy of the business district.		
Workforce Development	\$0	2
Lower priority. Consider for second tranche of funding.		
Low Interest Loan Program	\$0	2
Lower priority. Consider for second tranche of funding.		

Recovery Goal 2: Downtown and Neighborhood Investment

Overview: Strong neighborhoods and Downtown Morgantown are the heart and soul of the city. This recovery goal is intended to assist city neighborhoods and the downtown area with improved safety, sense of community, and recreation.

Justification: To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including **assistance to households**, small businesses, and **nonprofits**, or aid to impacted industries such as **tourism, travel, and hospitality**.

DOWNTOWN AND NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT	\$1,150,000	Score
Eliminating Vacant, Dilapidated Houses & Creating Housing for Homeless, Workforce, and Low-Income Population Expenditure Category: 3.10 Housing Support: Affordable Housing, 3.11 Housing Support: Services for Unhoused Persons	\$600,000	4
This project entails a partnership with the Fairmont Morgantown Housing Authority, WVCEH and other local housing agencies to turn vacant and dilapidated houses in neighborhoods into a housing stock for homeless as well as creating workforce and low-income owner-occupied housing. Partnership includes educational outreach on housing counseling related services.		
Low-Income Home Improvement Support & Education Expenditure Category: 2.3 Household Assistance: Cash Transfers, 3.12 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance, 3.15 Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation, 3.5 Education Assistance: Other	\$200,000	4
Grants of up to \$10,000 to low-income homeowners to make necessary upgrades and repairs to their home, including things such as roof repairs, sidewalk replacement, porch or deck repairs, etc. This project will also provide education and resources through a panel of volunteer experts to give owner's home repair advice, review proposals, etc.		
City Ambassador Pilot Program Expenditure Category: 2.11 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	\$200,000	3
Creating a Pilot Program for Morgantown City Ambassadors to provide services that include patrolling the Downtown and Riverfront Improvement District, removing litter and graffiti, providing safety escorts, motor vehicle assistance, addressing public disturbances, homeless outreach, security patrols, public space maintenance, beautification projects, and greeting and assisting people in the District.		
Trail Connections and Recreation	\$150,000	3
Investing in and creating greenspace and recreation in a low-income area which allows for the expansion of existing parks and connects to the rail trail via multiuse paths (Score updated to incorporate creating neighborhood greenspaces from the draft Action Plan).		

Recovery Goal 3: Physical and Mental Health Resources

Overview: Public resources and services are a critical asset to the mental and physical wellbeing of our community. The intent of this recovery goal is to improve and increase access to tools and services that promote mental and physical health.

Justification: To respond to the public health emergency 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 the provision of government services to the extent of the **reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health** emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES	\$1,150,000	Score
Non-profits Working on Physical/Mental Health Expenditure Category: 1.10 Mental Health Services, 1.11 Substance Use Services, 2.10 Aid to Nonprofit Organizations, 3.11 Housing Support: Services for Unhoused Persons	\$300,000	4
Supporting Bartlett House at their Scott Avenue site with facility enhancements; Supporting Morgantown Community Resources and other social service agencies in their efforts to create a hub for expanded social services, ranging from feeding assistance, housing support, substance use disorders, and more; Funding support for support of the Hope Hill Sobering Center in its efforts to address alcohol and substance abuse		
Enhanced Free Clinic for Homeless and Low-Income Population Expenditure Category: 1.7 Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, 1.11 Substance Use Services, 1.12 Other Public Health Services, 2.10 Aid to Nonprofit Organizations	\$800,000	3
Financial support for Mylan Puskar Health Right to be able to relocate and renovate a new enhanced facility that expands services to homeless and low-income population.		
Educational Campaign Expenditure Category: 3.4 Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services	\$50,000	3
Funding of an educational campaign to teach people about resources available for physical and mental health.		

Recovery Goal 4: Dependable Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Overview: Dependable water and sewer infrastructure is vital to the livability of our city. The intent of this recovery goal is to support the maintenance of and make new improvements to existing water and sewer infrastructure in order to protect against flooding and improve water quality.

Justification: To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE	\$1,750,000	Score
Flood Mitigation Expenditure Category: <i>5.4 Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows, 5.5 Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure, 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater</i>	\$1,000,000	3
Funding for storm and sanitary sewer improvements and stream restoration along Popenoe Run to address and alleviate sewer overflows, damaged service lines, and to create flood control benches. MUB is also in the process of conducting a watershed study to identify issues causing/adding to downstream flooding and water damage during heavy rainfalls. Scoring was updated after refinement of project details.		
Improving Water Quality Expenditure Category: 1.12 Other Public Health Services, 3.13 Social Determinants of Health: Other, 5.4 Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows, 5.5 Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure	\$400,000	3
This project is to develop an implementation plan and to jump start funding to eliminate Combined Sewer Outflows (CSO) within City limits, protecting our residents' homes from damage and to improve water quality. There are 36 CSOs within Morgantown City limits. Of these, 10 are listed as very active, with 80% of the those existing along Deckers Creek in a low-income neighborhood. During periods of heavy rainfall, the capacity of these active CSO is often exceeded, and can cause untreated combined sewage and storm water to back up into basements and to overflow into receiving waters.		
Clean River Expenditure Category: <i>5.8 Clean Water: Water Conservation</i>	\$350,000	3
Funding for a feasibility study and analysis of different technologies intended to remove trash from the river which builds up behind the Morgantown dam. In 2003, the City of Morgantown and many local agencies signed resolutions requesting Congress to fund a demonstration project on the Upper Monongahela River for removal and disposal of river trash and debris. While there were not funds to complete a demonstration project at that point, we continue to face the same problem two decades later.		

Recovery Goal 5: Technology

Overview: Technology is an essential aspect of the city’s infrastructure. The intent of this recovery goal is to improve the technological capabilities and digital services in the city.

Justification: To respond to the public health emergency 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 the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID–19 public health emergency 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.

TECHNOLOGY	\$375,000	Score
Enhance Digital Access to Public Services Expenditure Category:	\$250,000	4
Funding for the City of Morgantown to invest into new technology resources to allow for a more current way of serving the community, including hybrid meetings, online permit submissions, payment of fees, request tracking, document access and more.		
Traffic Lights Study Expenditure Category: 7.2 Evaluation and Data Analysis, 7.3 Transfers to Other Units of Government	\$75,000	3
Study to evaluate traffic flow on the city’s heavily traveled corridors and at approximately 20 intersections, taking into consideration crash data and multimodal transportation, and where and how improvements can be made.		
Undergrounding Utilities Study Expenditure Category: 2.11 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality, 2.13 Other Economic Support, 7.2 Evaluation and Data Analysis	\$50,000	3
Study to look at feasibility, scope, and estimated costs associated with undergrounding utilities in key areas of the city.		

September 16, 2021

Emily Muzzarelli, P.E.
Assistant City Manager
430 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV 26505

Ms. Muzzarelli,

This letter is to support and endorse the efforts of the City of Morgantown to utilize the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds to develop additional housing opportunities for the residents of Morgantown.

I am especially pleased and encouraged by the effort of the City of Morgantown to address homelessness through the creation of new permanent housing resources, which fall into the service area of the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness. We acknowledge a lack of affordable, accessible units throughout the Continuum of Care, and are excited to partner with the City to advance the development of this much needed housing resource. To individuals and families who have experienced homelessness, being able to establish permanent residency in their community is invaluable.

At WVCEH, we believe the ability to link our clients to affordable housing to meet their needs will only increase their success in housing. The West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness supports this initiative and looks forward to continuing to work with the City of Morgantown in carrying out this endeavor.

Regards,



Rachael Coen
Chief Programs Officer

Cc: Zach Brown, WVCEH CEO

Morgantown Community Resources, Inc.

20 Scott Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26508
(304) 376-0578
mcriwv@gmail.com

September 15, 2021

City of Morgantown
389 Spruce Street
Morgantown WV, 26505
Phone: 304-284-7405

Dear Council Members, community members, and co-laborers,

As efforts continue to rebuild and enhance the facilities at 20 Scott Avenue, we are extremely excited to hear of the City's future focus on sustainability for all such projects through ARPA and other funding vehicles in and throughout Morgantown.

MCR has identified and categorized three major issues and concerns in the Morgantown community that include: homelessness, food insecurity, and substance use disorder (SUD). We continue to add new members on campus, and develop and build out the facility into a one-roof community shelter and treatment facility addressing those identified concerns.

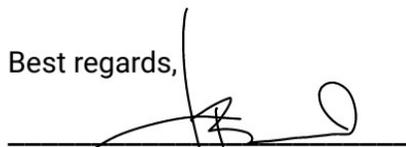
The building, which is now known as Hazel's House of Hope, currently houses four nonprofit organizations: Bartlett Housing Solutions, The Salvation Army, The United Way, and Hope Hill Sobering Center. In the near future, two additional charities will be housed on campus providing crisis intervention, counseling services, and a myriad of family operations from birth to three to immigration services.

Our four-story, 120,000 sq. ft. facility allows nonprofit organizations to collaborate and solve issues in an efficient and meaningful manner. We employ economies of scale, community and human resource collaboration, and above all, provide respect and dignity to our Morgantown neighbors in need.

MCR's mission is to improve inter-charity communication and coordination by providing affordable space through which a variety of local charities may base their operations and serve as a model that can be duplicated across West Virginia and the United States.

Thank you for your continued support of this project and all the individuals it serves.

Best regards,



Interim Executive Director
Morgantown Community Resources, Inc.



September 13, 2021

City of Morgantown
Attn: Emily Muzzarelli
Assistant City Manager
389 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV 26505

Dear Ms Muzzarelli:

Based on recent discussions with you regarding the possibility of Milan Puskar Health Right (MPHR) moving to a new location, the MPHR Executive Committee of the Board of Directors wishes to express their interest in exploring this as an option. It is our understanding that the current recommendation to City Council is to consider using American Rescue Plan funding for the purchase/renovation or building of a structure to house the clinic. This money would be provided as a grant to MPHR and the proceeds from the sale of our current building would remain with MPHR to enhance service delivery and access to care.

While we are aware there are many details to work out in relation to this proposal, the MPHR Executive Committee supports future discussion and strategic planning regarding this issue. We appreciate being included in the City's plan for the American Rescue Plan Funds.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Jones
Executive Director

PO Box 1519 / 341 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV 26507-1519

304-292-8234 (Clinic)
304-284-0133 (Clinic Fax)

304-292-5702 (ADM)
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