

CITY OF GOSHEN, INDIANA  
**American Rescue Plan Act**  
**ARP Fund Plan**

Adopted:

## **OVERVIEW**

The Act: The federal government adopted Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARP"), which established the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("Fund") to provide grant funds to units of local government ("ARP Funds"). ARP requires recipients of ARP Funds to establish a plan for use of the funds to be adopted by the fiscal body of the recipient. In addition, ARP funds must be appropriated by the fiscal body prior to distribution.

Funding Allocated: The City of Goshen has been allocated \$6,692,508 in ARP Funds. Half of these funds will be distributed in 2021 and the other half will be distributed in 2022.

Permitted Use of Funds: Pursuant to the Section 603(C) of the ARP and the Department of the Treasury's Interim Final Ruling, the funds shall be used only for the following purposes:

- a) 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;
- b) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the metropolitan city... that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform such essential work;
- c) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such metropolitan city... due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the metropolitan city; and
- d) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Establishment of ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund: Cities receiving an allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds are required by the Indiana State Board of Accounts, through State Examiner Directive 2021-1, to establish a separate local grant fund called the ARP Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund. The Goshen Common Council established this fund through Ordinance 5085, adopted on May 18, 2021.

Process of Distribution: All ARP Funds must be appropriated by the Common Council prior to distribution, and all ARP Funds shall be distributed in accordance with this ARP Fund Plan and the ARP. The City of Goshen may contract with a private nonprofit organization, a public benefit corporation or a special-purpose unit of State or local government for the purpose of distributing ARP Funds in accordance with this ARP Fund Plan and preparing the required reporting to the Secretary of the Treasury as required by ARP.

Distribution Schedule: The City of Goshen received the initial distribution of ARP funds in May of 2021. The exact dollar amount of the 2021 distribution is \$3,346,254.00, with the same amount expected again in 2022. All funds must be incurred/obligated (under contract or purchase order) by 12/31/24, with all funds actually expended by 12/31/26, unless extended by the federal government.

Plan Preparation & Amendments: This ARP Fund Plan was prepared with the assistance and input of a committee established by the Mayor of the City of Goshen, which included members of the City of Goshen administration, Common Council, Clerk Treasurer and other members of the community. This ARP Fund Plan shall not be effective unless and until it is approved by the Common Council of the City of Goshen. This ARP Fund Plan may be amended by the Common Council at any time to comply with Section 603(C) of the ARP and any official guidance issued by the United States Treasury Department.

Internal Controls and Reporting: The City of Goshen shall design and implement internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the ARP Funds will be safeguarded and used in accordance with the ARP. The internal controls shall include written documentation/receipts of distributions made from the ARP Fund, written agreements with fund recipients or authorized third parties that will distribute ARP Funds in accordance with this ARP Fund Plan and required reporting from recipients of ARP Funds to ensure ARP Funds are spent in accordance with this ARP Fund Plan and the ARP.

Grant Advisory Committee: Individual grant awards to non-profit organizations will be reviewed by a committee established by the Mayor. The review committee will consider applications for awards that are within the funding limits established by the ARP Fund Plan. The committee will consist of two members of the City Council (bi-partisan), city staff and outside advisors who may have expertise in particular areas.

## **2021- 2024 ARP ALLOCATION**

**Total Available:** \$6,692,508

**Total Planned:** \$6,692,508

### **Nonprofit Organizations (\$300,000)**

The COVID-19 pandemic adversely impacted the local nonprofit community, which provides necessary services and resources to the citizens of the City of Goshen. The continued provision of services and resources provided by local nonprofit organizations is vital to the community's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the negative health consequences of the pandemic and general well-being of the community. A total of \$300,000 of ARP Funds are allocated to nonprofit organizations serving the City of Goshen to respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 and/or its negative economic impacts including, but not necessarily limited to, mitigation of financial hardship and implementation of COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics. Priority funding will be given to those organizations addressing the following issues:

1. Food insecurity
2. Childcare for low-income residents
3. Homelessness
4. Revenue loss
5. Services to connect residents to health services

All funding directed to nonprofit organizations must meet eligibility criteria and guidance provided by the Treasury Department.

### **Homeless Intervention Services/ Substance Abuse & Behavioral Health Treatment (\$700,000)**

The City of Goshen is experiencing an increase in homelessness, which has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to supporting local agencies providing support services to this population, the City plans to create a new position of Homeless Outreach Coordinator. The role of the coordinator will be to directly engage homeless individuals, assess their needs and coordinate the provision of services, including: mental health treatment, healthcare, substance misuse treatment and housing. The new full-time position will be supervised by the Goshen Police Department and will be funded for a three-year period by the ARP allocation. At the end of the three-year pilot period, the results of the program will be evaluated to determine if the position will be continued.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the behavioral health needs of the City of Goshen - particularly substance abuse. According to the Department of the Treasury, the rates of substance misuse and overdose deaths increased considerably during the COVID-19 pandemic. ARP Funds are allocated to provide substance abuse treatment and/or other behavioral health services to the residents of Goshen. These services include, but are not limited to, in-patient substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation services. Particular attention will be directed toward providing opioid and methamphetamine addiction services. Funding for these services will be distributed to the Elkhart County Health Department who will be responsible for sub-contracting behavioral health and substance abuse services with qualified local providers. It is anticipated the Health Department will use the commitment of ARP funds as a match for additional grants from other sources.

### **Internet Connectivity and Equipment (\$100,000)**

The Goshen Public Library serves the most vulnerable residents who lack internet connectivity and computers at home. During the pandemic the library enabled Goshen residents to access stimulus checks, apply for unemployment benefits, prepare resumes, apply for jobs and access many other critical on-line services. These services have contributed greatly to the economic and academic recovery efforts in the Goshen Community. Connectivity services continue to be in high demand, even as businesses have opened. However, the library has a critical need to upgrade its inventory of computer equipment to continue this much needed community service. A total of \$100,000 of ARP funds will be allocated to funding the purchase of new computers that will be made available for public use.

### **Ventilation Improvements to Public Buildings (\$200,000)**

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 continues to be a challenge to local governments as more transmissible variants bring new waves of the virus. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provides funding to address a broad range of public health needs, including making ventilation improvements in key settings. A total of \$200,000 is being allocated in the ARP funding plan to make ventilation improvements to public buildings. The CDC has issued guidelines for improving building ventilation to reduce the spread of the disease and lower the risk of exposure. The City of Goshen will follow these guidelines in making ventilation improvements.

### **Public Art Beautification Projects (\$150,000)**

The COVID-19 pandemic adversely impacted the local arts community and caused economic harm to local individual artists. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic caused substantial negative impacts to the mental of health and well-being of the residents of the City of Goshen. Many studies have found that public art is beneficial to mental health by relieving stress, bringing communities together and promoting conversations about mental health. A total of \$150,000 of ARP Funds are allocated for public art beautification projects to respond to the mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, assist local artists in recovering from the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and provide aid to the local tourism industry by further beautifying the City of Goshen with the work of local artists.

### **Vaccination Incentive Program (\$100,000)**

ARP funds may be used for COVID-19 vaccination programs. Under Treasury guidelines, funds may be allocated to programs that provide incentives reasonable expected to increase the number of people who choose to get vaccinated, or that motivate people to get vaccinated soon than they otherwise would have. These funds will be allocated to provide incentives to City employees to become vaccinated or to get booster shots if they have previously received the vaccine.

### **Infrastructure Projects (\$5,142,508)**

Investment in the City of Goshen's infrastructure is essential to the long-term stability and development of the community. A total of \$5,142,508 is allocated for infrastructure projects within the City of Goshen

as permitted by the ARP and federal guidance issued by the Treasury Department. Infrastructure investments may include:

- **Improvements to water infrastructure.** ARP funding may be used for 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.
- **Improvements to wastewater infrastructure.** ARP funding may be used to invest in wastewater infrastructure projects, including constructing treatment facilities, managing and treating stormwater or subsurface drainage water, facilitating water reuse.

Final decisions on local projects will be made once the federal infrastructure bill is passed by Congress and a determination can be made about the availability of federal funding for local projects, including the replacement of lead service lines.

## SUMMARY OF FUNDING ALLOCATION

Nonprofit Organizations:	\$300,000
Homeless Intervention Services/ Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Treatment:	\$700,000
Internet Connectivity and Equipment:	\$100,000
Ventilation Improvements to Public Buildings:	\$200,000
Arts and Culture:	\$150,000
Vaccination Incentive Pay	\$100,000
Public Infrastructure:	\$5,142,508
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION:</b>	<b>\$6,692,508</b>