



MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton

Office of the Mayor

210 Main Street Room 12

Northampton, MA 01060-3199

(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275

mayor@northamptonma.gov

For Immediate Release - February 16, 2023

Mayor Sciarra Announces Awards for \$4 Million ARPA Community Recovery Grants

NORTHAMPTON - Today, Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra announced to the Northampton City Council that the successful applicants for the Community Recovery Projects funded by Northampton's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars have been informed of their grants. The full list of awards can be found [here](#).

In 2021, the city conducted an ARPA Community Input Survey to gain insight about the impacts of the pandemic in Northampton and to hear about the needs of the community. This survey provided Northampton residents and business owners an opportunity to share some of the emotional, health, and economic impacts they experienced during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic and priorities for recovery. A presentation on the survey data is posted on the city's [ARPA page](#).

In February 2022, Mayor Sciarra designated \$4 million of Northampton's ARPA funds for community-directed Northampton-based projects designed to help the community recover from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including negative health and economic impacts. The goals for this grant program include supporting recovery, building resilience, and reconnecting the community.

Subsequently, Mayor Sciarra appointed an advisory committee composed of community experts and city councilors to create a process for applications and to make recommendations on the grant awards, based on the goals and keeping in mind the greatest needs of the community. Members of the commission are listed on the city's [ARPA page](#).

The advisory committee conducted eight community listening sessions at locations across Northampton and Florence, and remotely to solicit input from the community about how to structure the awards process and to further evaluate community priorities. Requests for Proposals defining eligibility were released September 12, 2022. Applications were due by October 14, 2022.

"I am deeply grateful to the dedicated and skilled community members who advised me at every stage of this process. I thank them for their expertise, and for taking the time to host eight community listening sessions to be able to craft a fair and inclusive process, for providing opportunities to further explain that process, and ultimately for carefully reading all of the submissions to help me make my final decisions. I am truly proud of these grant awards for community recovery and confident that the mix of projects selected will serve Northampton well using these one-time resources," shared Mayor Sciarra.

All told, there were 98 project submissions and the total requested amount of funds was just over \$20 million. In all, 61 projects received funding from the designated \$4 million.

Mayor Sciarra continued, "I am happy to announce the awards that will fund these important projects, and I look forward to seeing these funds put to work helping our community continue to recover over the next three years. Thank you to everyone who applied and who demonstrated their dedication to Northampton. It was truly a pleasure to read all of the creative and inspiring ideas that applicants had for these funds."

The project period for the ARPA Community Recovery Projects program will run from February 16, 2023, until June 30, 2026, at which point all funds must be expended and projects must either be completed or self-sustaining. Northampton received \$21.7 million from the federal government to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds make up 18.4% of Northampton's total amount, making this one of the most significant investments in community projects in the region.

For more information, please visit the city's [ARPA](#) page, or contact the Mayor's Office at 413-587-1249 or mayor@northamptonma.gov.