

Lane County's Guiding Principles and Priorities **for the American Rescue Plan Act**

VISION: To Emerge Stronger

PRINCIPLES

1. All funding requests will meet the objectives of the American Rescue Plan (ARP):
 - a. Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control
 - b. Replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs
 - c. Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses
 - d. Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic
2. Lane County will adhere to all guidance and legal requirements for ARP funds.
3. State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds contained within the ARP will be used to support the County's recovery and ability to provide critical services to the community now and into the future.
4. All ARP funding allocations will be viewed with the County's strategic lenses of Financial Stewardship, Equity and Collective Impact and must be in alignment with the County's overall goals as defined in the Lane County Strategic Plan.

VALUES

1. The systemic public health and economic challenges related to housing/shelter, health disparities, and behavioral health support that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic on certain populations will be addressed/considered when allocating funding to any new project or program.
2. A focus on leveraging the ARP funds in order to create positive transformative change will be sought out through partnerships with other public and private entities to multiply the outcomes of new projects, programs or services.
3. The County will pursue and/or coordinate other ARP funds to aid critical community stakeholders.

PRIORITIZATION

1. Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease the spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control.
2. Provide continuity of Lane County's vital services by filling budget shortfalls and rebuilding the County's financial stability and resiliency through the reimbursement of County Funds that have experienced lost revenue and/or had additional unreimbursed expenses in response to the pandemic.
3. Fund projects requesting a one-time funding source: expenditures that are either:
 - a. one-time in nature (non-operating or targeted to reduce future costs); or
 - b. limited in duration (obligated by 12/31/2024, spent by 12/31/2026).
4. Projects that address deferred maintenance on existing County assets will be given priority over the acquisition of new building or equipment assets.
5. ARP funds will be allocated only after consideration of other funding sources that may be available for the same project, program or service.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. Timing of ARP funding allocations will occur in such a way that funds are available/spent over the entire period of the funding (through 12/31/2026) with an eye towards seeking long-term positive community impacts.
2. An internal team will be created to seek out and prioritize the securing of additional funds available through the ARP Act to support the entire Lane County region including its taxing districts, small businesses and impacted industries.
3. These Principles will be reviewed and evaluated periodically.

STRATEGIC LENSES

Financial Stewardship Lens: Financial Stewardship is the prudent and transparent fiscal management of public funds and resources and serves as the basis for accountability and trust in Lane County. The County is guided by standards of performance and best practices, against which the taxpayers can judge its finances. The use of analytical tools in decision making processes determines how the County should best maintain, spend and invest its available resources.

Equity Lens: Equity is when everyone has access to the opportunities necessary to satisfy essential needs, advance their well-being, and achieve their full potential; people have access to the information and supports that they need – regardless of age, education, ethnicity, language, income, physical limitations, or geographic barriers – to achieve health, safety, education, and economic stability.

Collective Impact Lens: Collective Impact is the commitment of a group of actors from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a complex community problem. The five key elements are to 1) have a common agenda 2) develop shared measurement 3) engage in mutually reinforcing activities 4) maintain open and continuous communications and 5) formation of a backbone organization.