



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greene County releases ARPA Needs Assessment Report

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – The Greene County ARPA team has presented recommendations to the Greene County Commissioners on how to allocate \$56.9 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds.

Dr. Lyle Foster, a member of the team, shared with the Commission the importance of the Needs Assessment as a tool to set priorities and recognize the diversity and needs in a region as large as Greene County.

There are 66 eligible categories in the ARPA legislation. Funding can also be utilized for revenue replacement to offset county revenue losses, as well as capital projects. The legislation strongly suggests that municipalities consider and incorporate equity focus to ensure underrepresented and underserved community pockets receive eligible funding.

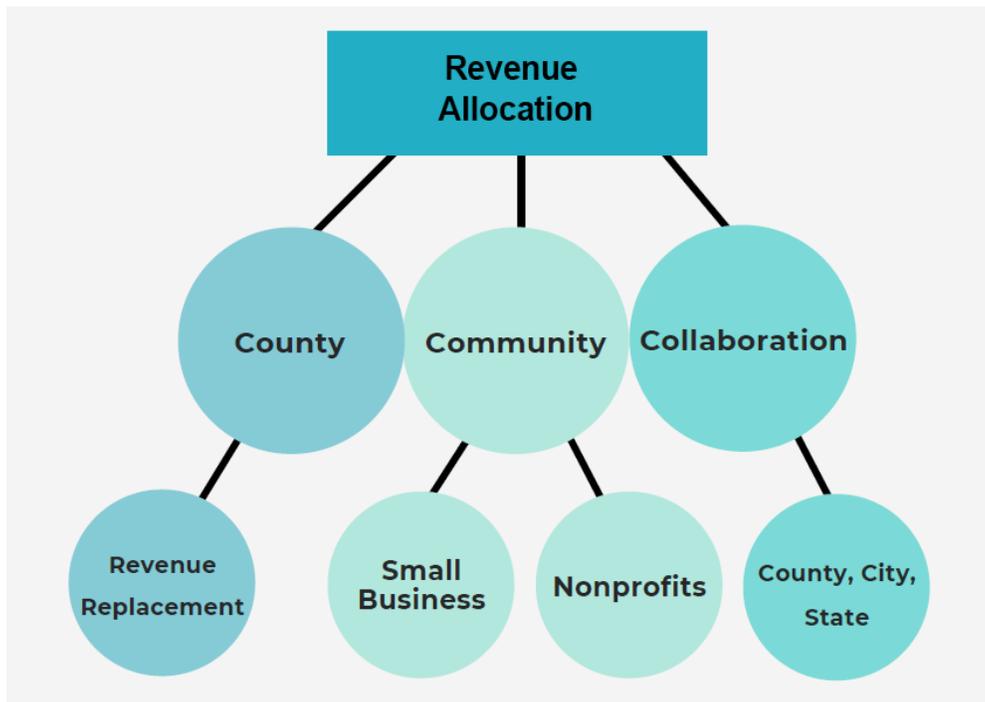
Below is a list of data and reports the team reviewed and utilized to provide the latest information on the impact of COVID-19 on Greene County residents:

- Preliminary 2020 U.S. Census data
- Greene County ARPA community survey
- Forward SGF plan
- City of Springfield's ARPA community survey
- Community's Diverse Young Professionals survey report
- Community Focus Report 2021
- Springfield Inclusiveness survey
- Emergency Rental Assistance program
- Greene County ARPA nonprofit listening sessions
- Greene County Needs Assessment Equity Plan

The ARPA team compiled a 95-page report after an extensive review of the data. The report has detailed analysis of every section listed. For a complete breakdown, please read the entire report available at www.greencountymo.gov.

In summary, the ARPA team proposed 12 categories of priority needs to reflect the input from the public. The team recommended the first funding phase be divided into three broad categories: Community, Collaboration, and County.

1. Mental Health Services
2. Affordable Housing
3. Services for Unhoused Persons
4. Small Business Economic Assistance
5. Assistance to Nonprofit Organizations
6. Household Food Programs
7. Broadband
8. Childcare and Services to Foster Youth
9. Water and Sewer
10. Substance Use Services
11. Aid to Tourism, Travel, and Hospitality Industry
12. Education Assistance to Early Learning

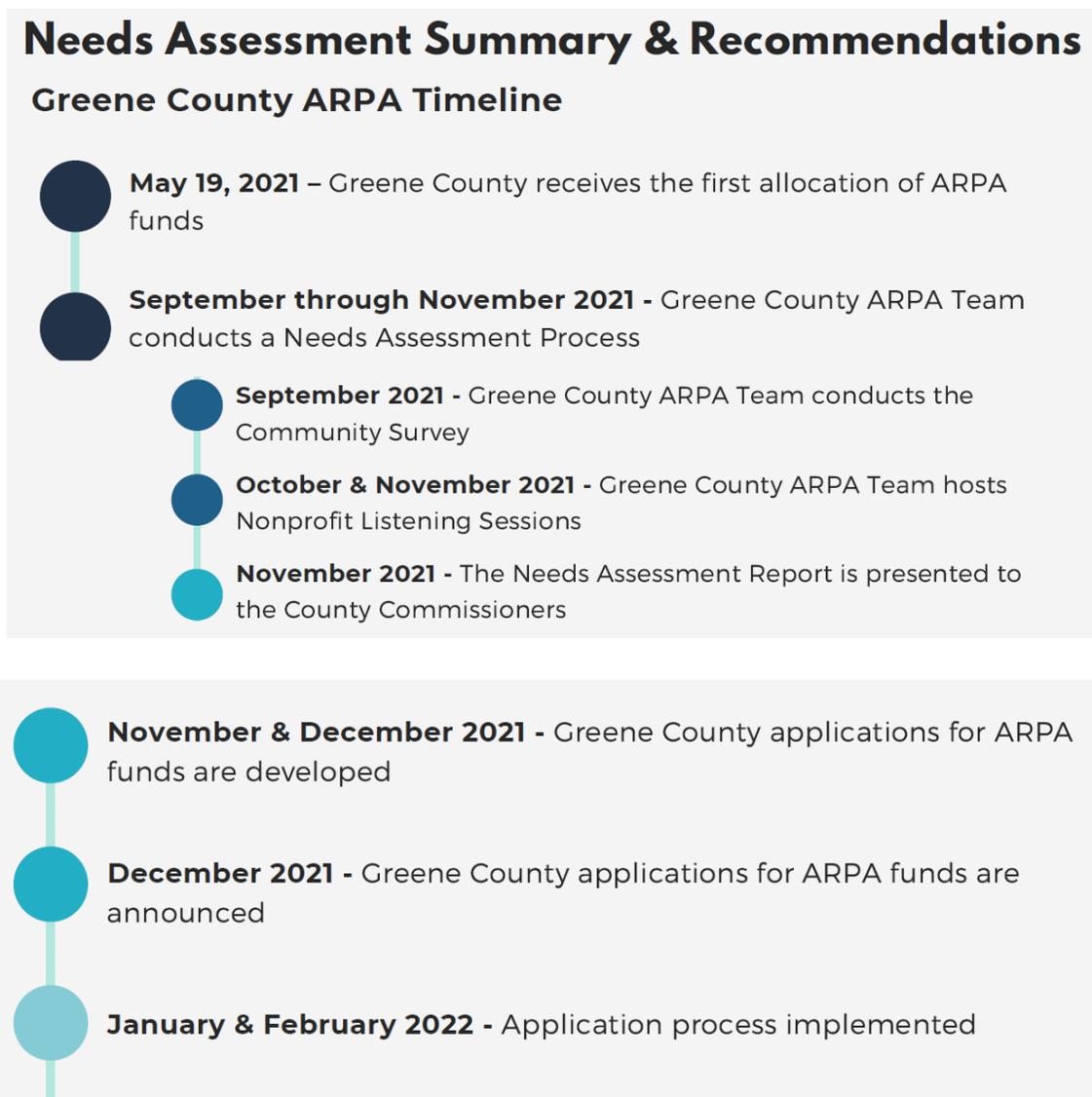


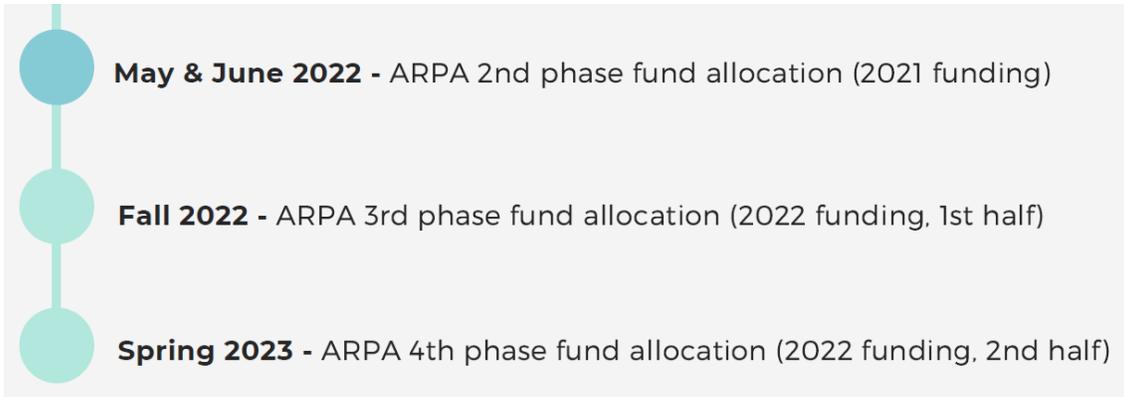
The Community category prioritizes and responds to the requests of nonprofit organizations and small businesses. The Collaboration category would be set aside for collaborative projects between the county, city, and/or state. The County category would be utilized for the requests of county officeholders and possible county facility and operational needs.

Vaccination was omitted from the final list due to vaccination being readily available through the Springfield-Greene County Health Department.

An application process will be used to award the funds. The ARPA team will use the top priorities as the primary way to rank and recommend grants. Diversity and inclusion are being addressed through an overall equity plan consistent with U.S. Treasury recommendations.

Below is a broad timeline of the ARPA process:





After the release of the Greene County ARPA community survey, the Commissioners read every public response, including input from citizens that live outside of Springfield. They will now use the Needs Assessment Report, along with recommendations from community volunteers, to implement funding priorities.

Greene County has already received \$28.4 million in funding. The remainder of ARPA funds will arrive in 2022. Commissioners have until 2024 to allocate or commit all funds and an additional two years to spend the funds.

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Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving approximately 295,000 people. Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

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