

Manchester Senior Center CT ADS ARPA Funds Update

September 5, 2023





Overview

During the last legislative session, the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) was awarded \$10 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for senior centers in Connecticut. \$9,000,000 of the funds has been set aside for direct allocations to senior centers. All municipalities received a base allocation of \$5,000. The remainder of the allocation was calculated using Census data on town demographics.

Based on the allocation formula, the Manchester Senior Center was awarded \$128,397.



Eligible uses:

The eligible uses for this funding fall under two categories of ARPA expenditures within the category of “Provision of Government Services”:

- Facility improvements (HVAC systems, vehicle acquisition, accessibility, etc.)**
- Programming (software, extended hours, specialized programming, etc.)**



Proposed plan for funding:

Based on the eligible use categories, our proposed plan includes the following projects:

- 1. Raised Garden Bed Project \$15,000***
- 1. Senior Center Furniture Replacement \$50-60,000***
- 1. Senior Center Bathroom/Emergency Shelter Shower Room remodel \$40-60,000***
- 1. Technology \$5-8,000***

*Estimated costs. We are currently in the process of finalizing the prices for these projects with a priority on the bathroom remodel.



Raised Garden Bed Project:

This project would include 20 raised beds (18 for immediate use and 2 spare for any damage), soil and prep work for the former greenhouse space.

This project fits into the COVID-19 related requirements of the grant due to the raised garden beds being outdoors, and activities of this sort are in high demand at the Senior Center.



Senior Center Furniture Replacement Project:

The current Senior Center furniture does not allow for flexibility of use when changing spaces to fit needs and can be difficult to clean. The plan is to replace upholstered furniture with health-grade and anti-microbial items to increase infection control and to replace heavier items with items that are lighter and easier to move to allow for ease of social distancing and emergency shelter/healthcare/clinic use.

The project fits the COVID-19 requirement and will also allow us to secure durable furnishings that will hopefully last for the life of the current space and beyond.



Senior Center Bathroom Remodel Project :

Single use/gender neutral bathrooms are in line with best practices and is also a requirement for American Red Cross emergency shelters. This project would renovate an existing shower room at the Senior Center to make it a functional single use bathroom. We are currently working towards assessing the costs/feasibility of this project.

This project fits into the COVID-19 related requirements due to the current emphasis on providing private spaces to allow for infection control AND meets other objectives related to our goal to create inclusive and welcoming environments in our public buildings.



Technology

Depending on how final cost of the other projects, we would like to use the remaining funds to add to/replace the 8 desktop computers in the computer room with a combination of laptops/tablets.

This upgrade would allow us to better serve our modern older adults and allow us to potentially loan out items for programmatic use or in the event of a future crisis/pandemic.



Additional details:

- **The rules/guidance pertaining to these funds aligns with other ARPA funds in terms of allowable uses, allocation/expenditure deadlines, procurement, etc...**
- **Once costs are finalized, this plan will be submitted to the Town Manager and BOD for final review/approval.**
- **After local approval, the plan will need to be approved by the state for disbursement of funds.**
- **If necessary, individual projects can be submitted to the state for approval (up to the maximum amount of the funding).**



Thank you!

Town of Manchester
SENIOR CENTER