

MANCHESTER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Update on ARPA Funding & Current Initiatives

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ARPA GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Following a request from the Sustainability Commission, the Board of Directors passed a resolution on October 4, 2022 authorizing a total of \$500,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to be used for grants to nonprofit organizations to promote **sustainability, resiliency, and equity**.
- The grant program seeks to support non-profit organizations including (but not limited to) the following:
 - Youth development organizations
 - Organizations that build social capital (norms, trust, and networks) through meaningful engagement and representation, with a focus on under-served communities and those with higher levels of social vulnerability
 - Organizations that value and prioritize environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation
 - Other community-based charitable organizations

ARPA GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Two separate funding streams were created , with requests of up to \$50,000 considered. Approximately \$50,000 of the total funding was reserved for smaller sustainability grants of \$5,000 or less.
- **Resiliency and Equity Grants (up to \$50,000)**
 - Facilities, equipment, or supplies.
 - The provision of community based educational or instructional programming.
 - The provision of cultural celebrations and community events.
- **Sustainability Grants (up to \$5,000)**
 - Sustainability related improvements to utility systems, infrastructure, or landscaping.
 - Instructional or educational programming that is focused on sustainability and provided to Manchester residents.

TIMELINE

March
2022

Memo to Board
recommending
support to
community-
based
organizations

October
2022

Allocation of
\$500,000 in
ARPA funds for
support to non-
profits

November
2022 –
August
2023

Creation of
grant format,
outreach,
materials, and
online
application
portal

TIMELINE

October
2023

Two virtual
Q&A Sessions
for potential
applicants

November
2023

Deadline to
apply, evaluation
meeting, and
Commission
approval of
proposed
awards

December
2023

Execute MOUs
with awarded
nonprofits, begin
period of
performance
(CY24)

RESILIENCY & EQUITY GRANTS

Up to \$50,000 per Award

RESILIENCY AND EQUITY GRANTS

- **\$703,556** applications (19)
- **\$450,000** available
- **Evaluation Criteria:**
 - Demonstrated capacity to deliver program
 - Contribution to promoting equity
 - Contribution to building resiliency in community
 - Clear metrics for impact for beneficiaries served by the program
 - Clarity and feasibility of budget request and expenses

Organization	Project Description	Proposed Award
The Village for Families & Children	Update the outdated kitchen in the Quality Parenting Center into a usable space.	\$48,000
Building Healthy Families, Inc	Construction of an outdoor picnic pavilion and community garden.	\$19,497
Building Healthy Families, Inc.	Overhead lighting upgrades at a shared space for three area nonprofits.	\$9,996
Manchester Area Conference of Churches, Inc	Remove and replace an exterior walk-in freezer, so that MACC can provide food service(s) to anyone 50% or below the state income guidelines.	\$23,523
MARC, Inc. of Manchester	Partial renovations within 3 homes (bathroom, flooring, and Hoyer lift).	\$50,000
UR Community Cares	Upgrade an underutilized space as a technology center/computer lab for seniors.	\$50,000
Town of Manchester	LRF is creating an exhibit/installation at Leisure Labs to acknowledge the diverse cultures in Manchester that stem from all seven continents.	\$50,000
Community Child Guidance Clinic	Comprehensive staff training to equip mental health staff with the skills and practices to assist diverse populations, and a multi-cultural festival.	\$26,233
Rebuilding Together of Manchester	Emergency repair and response program to help low-income homeowners.	\$50,000
MARCH Inc. of Manchester	Installation of a whole-house generator for a low-income house inhabited by five individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	\$12,000
Vending for Change, LLC / MARC, Inc.	Employment project for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	\$21,700
Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective	Expansion of the Food Pantry for current HIV clients living in Manchester.	\$50,000

SUSTAINABILITY MINI GRANTS

Up to \$5,000 per Award

SUSTAINABILITY MINI GRANTS

- **\$27,192** applications (6)
- **\$50,000** available
- **Evaluation Criteria:**
 - Demonstrated capacity to deliver program
 - Contribution to sustainability
 - Clear metrics for impact for beneficiaries served by the program
 - Clarity and feasibility of budget request and expenses

Organization	Project Description	Proposed Award
Unitarian Universalist Society East	Installation of a bike rack and a pollinator garden on church grounds.	\$2,392
Journey Found, Inc.	"Housing Hope Initiative", a comprehensive home repair project aiming to restore and revitalize homes within Manchester.	\$5,000
Community Child Guidance Clinic	A comprehensive, year-round curriculum for the Grow Ahead Gardening and Wellness Program, aiming to enhance learning opportunities and therapeutic care for CCGC School students and clients currently receiving services.	\$5,000

REMAINING FUNDS

- **Resiliency & Equity:** \$39,051 remaining
- **Sustainability Mini Grants:** \$37,608 remaining
 - \$76,659 total
- The Commission and its ARPA Subcommittee recommends combining the two funding streams for a final advertisement and application period, which can take place December – February.

COMMISSION INITIATIVES

RECENT INITIATIVES

- Website Redesign & Update
- ARPA Sustainability Grant Program (\$500,000)
 - Resiliency & Equity Support for Nonprofits
 - Sustainability-Focused Mini Grants
- Litter Mitigation Efforts (via Nip Bottle Bill)
- PowerSmart Outreach (Energy Storage Solutions, Battery + Storage Program)
- Certifications:
 - SustainableCT Silver & Climate Leader Designation
 - SolSmart Bronze
- “Manchester NEXT”
 - Ongoing efforts to prioritize the tasks that were outlined for the Commission within the most recent POCD update.

ONGOING AND FUTURE PROJECTS

- Small Business Sustainability Initiative
- Community Partnership Initiative, Round 2 (EnergizeCT/Eversource)
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), via EPA alongside CRCOG

- Municipal Building Energy Efficiency
- Community Solar/Shared Clean Energy
- Residential Solar & Heat Pumps
- EV Charging Stations
- LED Streetlight Conversions
- Flood Hazard Mitigation