



NJCM Conference - ARP & BIL

Best Practices

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U.S. Treasury Guidance on State and Local Funding – New Jersey Funding

\$10.2 billion for New Jersey, including:

\$1.741 billion split among all 564 municipalities

\$1.823 billion combined for all 21 counties

Approximately \$6.4 billion for the state plus another \$192 million for broadband

U.S. Treasury Guidance on State and Local Funding – Eligible Uses

- **To respond to the public health emergency** with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID– 19) or **its negative economic impacts**
 - Including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- To respond to **workers performing essential work** during the COVID–19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the **reduction in revenue**;
- To make **necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure**. Treasury will provide additional guidance on these specifics.

Notable Changes in the Final Rule

- Overall, the Final Rule provides greater flexibility to recipients on the use of SLFRF. In an effort to make the rules simpler and clearer, however, the Treasury Department has announced bright-line rules. Many of these new rules are highlighted in the breakdown immediately following.
- **Responding to COVID-19:** creates new presumptions of what stakeholders are deemed to be "impacted" or "disproportionally impacted" by the COVID-19 pandemic, eliminating the need to conduct additional analysis and provides an expanded list of what programs and services are eligible.
- **Premium Pay:** expands those who are eligible to receive premium pay and the conditions under which premium pay can be
- **Lost Revenue/Government Services:** allows recipients to elect a standard allowance of revenue loss of \$10 million that can be used on government service, rather than completing a full revenue loss
- **Infrastructure:** expands the definition of eligible water, sewer and broadband
 - For example, the Final Rule clarifies that eligible water projects include aid to private wells, septic units, lead remediation and stormwater projects. For broadband, recipients can use SLFRF to address internet access, affordability and digital literacy.

ARP SLFRF Examples

The majority of municipalities have decided to utilize the standard deduction and identify the funds as revenue loss.

Several have utilized it in creative ways including:

- Grants for small businesses
- Purchase or Improve Public Safety Communication Equipment
- Improve ventilation in public buildings
- Direct Payment to Residents
- Vaccination Incentives

ARP Resources

U.S. Department of Treasury Coronavirus State and Local Funds

- Final Rule,
- FAQ's,
- Allocation Amounts, and
- Application Portal

www.treasury.gov/SLFRP

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- 10-year, \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act)
- Once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's infrastructure and competitiveness.
- Law will
 - rebuild America's roads, bridges and rails,
 - expand access to clean drinking water,
 - ensure every American has access to high-speed internet, and
 - tackle the climate crisis

BIL Municipal Condensed Guidebook

- The League condensed the 465 page BIL Guidebook to focus on funding programs that are available to NJ municipalities.
- The 105 identified municipal programs, are available at the League's website - www.njlm.org/BuildingABetterAmericaNJ
- Available funding opportunities include roads, ports, bridges, pipes, broadband, dams, and water infrastructure to name a few and applications are on a rolling basis.
- A searchable spreadsheet is available at www.njlm.org/BuildBackBetterGuidebook

BIL Rural Condensed Guidebook

- White House released the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Rural Playbook.
- The League has created a spreadsheet to help NJ towns navigate available funding opportunities
www.njlm.org/RuralBILGuidebook

BIL – Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

- ACP provides \$30 off monthly internet charges to those who qualify.
- Three different ways to qualify for the ACP benefit – need meet any one of the three qualifications below:
 1. Income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
 2. Member of household participates in one of these other programs:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps;
 - Medicaid;
 - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA);
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit;
 - Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision schools;
 - Federal Pell Grant (received in the current award year);
 - Lifeline
 3. Meet the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider’s existing low-income internet program.

Be Prepared

Through the BIL, there are going to be many opportunities to apply for federal funding. In order to last minute application process, a few thoughts:

1. Assess and identify projects in advance.
2. Understand what needs building/repair.
3. Work with stakeholders for external support.
4. Continually adjust the needs as project applications arise.

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Federal Page:

<https://www.njlm.org/Federal-Issues-Munis>



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