

Charting Our Future: ARP Talking Points for MML Members

- After weeks of waiting and speculation, the guidelines for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) have now been released.
- This support represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for [MUNICIPALITY] to reflect on the needs of our community and strategically invest these resources in our future, building community wealth for our residents and businesses.
- Our community is currently reviewing the new American Rescue Plan guidelines and will continue to be deliberate and collaborative in deciding how to best use this funding in ways that are impactful and have long-term benefit for [MUNICIPALITY].
- To maximize the impact, we will also work with our partners at the Michigan Municipal League and National League of Cities to explore ways to leverage and amplify the funding we have received with other available resources.
- The good news is, we have time, and don't need to rush our decision on how we spend these funds. A key part of the American Rescue Plan is that the estimated money we are to receive does not have to be allocated until the end of 2024. Providing us the time to work with you to determine how this support is best utilized.
- Our community, like all Michigan municipalities, has faced tough times and tough decisions over the past two decades. The American Rescue Plan gives us an opportunity invest in ourselves, and emerge from the pandemic stronger than we were before.
- This community has stepped up time and time again to find creative, innovative ways to move us forward.
 - Michigan communities have endured through [*Insert your own examples, such as population decline, once in a lifetime flooding, infrastructure failure, social and racial unrest, economic devastation, major demographic shifts, drug epidemics, declining public health—both physical and mental—*] topped off by a global pandemic that threatened to bring us to our knees. We wish we could say that was the end of the list.
- Together, we have risen to the occasion to help each other, and to keep the wheels turning on the basics of local government (public safety, roads and infrastructure, parks, etc.). While the pandemic might be global, its affects are felt locally.
 - Many of us have lost loved ones and friends.
 - Our restaurants and small businesses have suffered tremendously.
 - Our children and schools have struggled to adapt to remote learning.
- In short, now is the time to invest in the needs of our community.
- Local government belongs to its residents. By working together, we will create a plan that responsibly invests in our people and our overall economic recovery while also paying dividends long into the future.

