

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>From Randy Scollins : Can a replacement ambulance be purchased with ARPA funds?</p>	<p>As municipalities are prime recipients of CLFRF funding, eligibility determinations must be made at the municipal level, utilizing Treasury's published CLFRF guidance materials. The primary document, the "Interim Final Rule", can be found here: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf . Additional US Treasury materials regarding CLFRF can be found here: https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds . A&F's general overview memo regarding eligible uses is here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/coronavirus-local-fiscal-recovery-fund-eligible-uses/download</p>
<p>From Randy Scollins : For self-insured employers can a depleted Unemployment Trust fund be restored to the pre-pandemic level?</p>	<p>As municipalities are prime recipients of CLFRF funding, eligibility determinations must be made at the municipal level, utilizing Treasury's published CLFRF guidance materials. The primary document, the "Interim Final Rule", can be found here: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf . Additional US Treasury materials regarding CLFRF can be found here: https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds . A&F's general overview memo regarding eligible uses is here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/coronavirus-local-fiscal-recovery-fund-eligible-uses/download</p>
<p>From Melissa Rodrigues to All panelists : I'd be curious to know if we have determined whether we can use the funds for vacation buy out. Thank you</p>	<p>As municipalities are prime recipients of CLFRF funding, eligibility determinations must be made at the municipal level, utilizing Treasury's published CLFRF guidance materials. The primary document, the "Interim Final Rule", can be found here: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf . Additional US Treasury materials regarding CLFRF can be found here: https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds . A&F's general overview memo regarding eligible uses is here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/coronavirus-local-fiscal-recovery-fund-eligible-uses/download</p>
<p>From Randy Scollins : If a new allowable ARPA infrastructure project is budgeted for next fiscal year (FY22), can ARPA funds be used towards said project?</p>	<p>As municipalities are prime recipients of CLFRF funding, eligibility determinations must be made at the municipal level, utilizing Treasury's published CLFRF guidance materials. The primary document, the "Interim Final Rule", can be found here: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf . Additional US Treasury materials regarding CLFRF can be found here: https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds . A&F's general overview memo regarding eligible uses is here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/coronavirus-local-fiscal-recovery-fund-eligible-uses/download</p>
<p>From Randy Scollins : If a town did not reduce operating services or capital plans during COVID, how is the lost revenue calculation relevant regarding the use of ARPA funds?</p>	<p>DLS put together a memorandum regarding the revenue loss provision of CLFRF, which can be found here: https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/gateway/DLSPublic/BulletinMaintenance/501</p>
<p>From Neil Vaidya : If there are sufficient CARES funds left, can we use them to purchase air packs for the fire department?</p>	<p>We would need more information regarding this purchase and its relation to COVID-19 to determine eligibility. Please submit such information, alongside any other CvRF-MP eligibility inquiries, here: https://massgov.formstack.com/forms/municipal_covid_spending_questions</p>
<p>From Miguel Orellana : Are incentives to residents to get the Vaccine an eligible expense with ARPA funds (gift cards, City events for vaccinated residents, etc.)? Thank you.</p>	<p>Yes, per US Treasury's CLFRF FAQ #2.12 https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf</p>

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<p>From Jeremy Stull to All panelists : Revenue replacement for municipal school districts - guidance says to calculate entity-wide to reduce our administrative burden. Can I treat schools and municipal side as two entities? What about calculating revolving funds separately? Enterprise funds?</p>	<p>Revenue loss must be calculated by assessing "general revenue" on a municipality-wide basis (which includes school district revenue). DLS put together a memorandum regarding the revenue loss provision of CLFRF, which can be found here: https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/gateway/DLSPublic/BulletinMaintenance/501</p>
<p>From Anna Osborn to All panelists : Can ARPA funds be used for vacation buyouts for Town employees? We have a large vacation liability balance on our books due to the fact that employees could not/did not take vacation time during the COVID pandemic. We were wondering if that is a valid use of ARPA funds.</p>	<p>As municipalities are prime recipients of CLFRF funding, eligibility determinations must be made at the municipal level, utilizing Treasury's published CLFRF guidance materials. The primary document, the "Interim Final Rule", can be found here: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf . Additional US Treasury materials regarding CLFRF can be found here: https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds . A&F's general overview memo regarding eligible uses is here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/coronavirus-local-fiscal-recovery-fund-eligible-uses/download</p>
<p>From Karen Snow to All panelists : Can ARPA funds be used for eligible water/wastewater infrastructure projects that are still ongoing but were started and funded by borrowing authorizations approved prior to March 2021?</p>	<p>It is worth noting that Treasury has outlined a preference for CLFRF funding to be used for new projects. Additionally, debt service payments are not an eligible use of CLFRF funding.</p> <p>However, as municipalities are prime recipients of CLFRF funding, eligibility determinations must be made at the municipal level, utilizing Treasury's published CLFRF guidance materials. The US Treasury provided guidance related to this issue in Question 4.7 of the program FAQs (https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf).</p>
<p>From SEAN MANGANO to All panelists : How long can expenditures, deemed FEMA ineligible, still be charged to CARES after 12/31/21 ? For example, what if FEMA does not deem something ineligible until March 2022.</p>	<p>Municipalities with pending FEMA PA applications should interact with A&F regarding the status of these submissions, which we will address on a case-by-case basis. In general, expenses should not be charged to CvRF-MP after October 29, 2021.</p>
<p>From Stephanie Lahtinen to All panelists : If a municipality has a current clean water infrastructure project scheduled for the summer, can we use ARPA fund to offset the cost of that project?</p>	<p>It is worth noting that Treasury has outlined a preference for CLFRF funding to be used for new projects. Additionally, debt service payments are not an eligible use of CLFRF funding.</p> <p>However, as municipalities are prime recipients of CLFRF funding, eligibility determinations must be made at the municipal level, utilizing Treasury's published CLFRF guidance materials. The US Treasury provided guidance related to this issue in Question 4.7 of the program FAQs (https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf).</p>
<p>From Ed Spellman to All panelists : any information on ARPA funds distribution guidelines from existing counties to their cities and towns ?</p>	<p>The "Transfers" section of the Eligible Uses memo (https://www.mass.gov/doc/coronavirus-local-fiscal-recovery-fund-eligible-uses/download) provides guidance for functional counties that wish to pass funding through to their cities and towns.</p>
<p>From Graham Waters : Please speak to the County ARPA funds and the amounts which are designated for municipalities? Do the Counties have an obligation to turn those amounts over to the municipalities or use them on projects within the municipalities?</p>	<p>Functional counties have no obligation to pass their CLFRF funding to municipalities, however, they can do so if they so choose. The question above speaks to the specific mechanisms of how a functional county is able to do so.</p> <p>CLFRF funding for non-functional counties will be disbursed to the Commonwealth before it is passed through on a per-capita basis to the relevant municipalities. We are still waiting for further guidance from Treasury regarding this process.</p>
<p>From Donna Holaday to All panelists : Does A&F have a strategy to spend the remaining \$170M? Obviously you do not want to return any of these funds to US Treasury.</p>	<p>The Commonwealth has incurred significant COVID-related expenses during the public health emergency. While some of these costs have been supported by federal resources, others have been supported by state resources. The Commonwealth will redirect those costs to any unspent balance from CvRF-MP.</p>

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From Krishan Gupta to All panelists : I just had a call with FEMA and they are telling me that COVID health costs for self-insured towns is not eligible for PA. How can we recoup that expenditure? Thanks!	Any cost that is not ultimately FEMA PA reimbursable, but is CvRF eligible, should be included on the Town's CvRF-MP Reconciliation Period application.
From Krishan Gupta to All panelists : Please clarify the covered period for the CvRF MP. Is it through 10/29/21?	Yes.
From Neil Vaidya : Can you explain the difference between ARPA and CLFRF funds?	Slides 13-14 of the presentation (https://41g41s33vxdd2vc05w415s1e-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/MassANF_CaresAct_ARPA_Funding_6.10.21.pdf) speak to the variations between the two funds.
From Jennifer Bonfiglio to All panelists : Can you provide clarification on how we apply for funds where FEMA has denied the expense	Costs that are denied by FEMA for reimbursement, but are CvRF eligible, should be included on the Town's CvRF-MP Reconciliation Period application. The "Reconciliation Period" portion of the comprehensive CvRF-MP guidance (https://www.mass.gov/doc/cvrf-mp-comprehensive-program-guidance/download) speaks to this process in greater detail.
From Susan Carmel to All panelists : If we had no spending for the quarter, are we still required to submit the quarterly spending report?	No, but you must indicate on the quarterly spending reporting submission form that you did not incur any new expenses during the period in question (there is a box that you can check).
From Jodi Cuneo : Will there be an audit of the CvRF-MP funds? and if yes, please describe.	Yes, there will be. We will supply additional information regarding that process in the near future. For the time being, please see FAQ #33 of the comprehensive CvRF-MP guidance (https://www.mass.gov/doc/cvrf-mp-comprehensive-program-guidance/download).
From Susan Wright to All panelists : Can a community submit several reconciliation applications or should the community wait and submit only one reconciliation application in October?	A community can submit multiple applications on a rolling basis between now and the October deadline.
From Steve Ellis to All panelists : So the continuing reconciliation period is not reimbursable, but rather subject to application and award, which may encompass some expenses accrued in, for example, early June, that will for practical purposes really still be reimbursable. Do I have that right?	The Reconciliation Period is run on a reimbursement basis for all eligible expenses incurred between March 1, 2020 - Present that were not funded through a Round 1 or Round 2 CvRF-MP draw down. The application process will run until October 29th.
From GRETA AVERY to All panelists : Why are we reporting expenditures through Sept 2022 when we have to be done with spending by Oct 2021 - Does the Sept 2022 deadline include reporting other than CvRF?	That is the timeline laid out by the federal government. For most municipalities, the last relevant quarterly spending report will be the report due on 3/4/2022 that covers expenses incurred between 10/1/21 - 12/31/21 (the first month of which applies to municipalities who incur expenses just before the CvRF-MP deadline of 10/29/21).
From Elizabeth Zaleski : To the best of your knowledge have the counties signed on to take the ARPA Funds directly?	To date, only Barnstable County has already applied for their CLFRF funding.
From Ethan Manning : Could you describe or give examples of how municipalities and/or the state are planning to utilize the remainder of their CvRF funds through the end of the program?	
From Karen Snow to All panelists : Is there a deadline for NEU's to apply for their first tranche of CLFRF funding?	NEUs must apply to the Commonwealth to receive their CLFRF award by the end of June. More information regarding this process can be found here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/applying-for-coronavirus-local-fiscal-recovery-fund-clfrf-funding/download
From David Gagne : Can ARPA funds be used for administrative costs in managing the funds and compliance?	Yes, per US Treasury's CLFRF FAQ #10.2 https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf
From Charlie Seelig : Premium pay - any information yet on how premium pay will intersect the Fair Labor Standards Act and overtime provisions, both for municipal employees and, if the municipality decides to award premium pay to employees of businesses and non-profits, those employees? And, are premium pay for employees of businesses and non-profits based on the location of the businesses and non-profits (the ones located within the physical bounds of the municipality) or the employee's residential address even if the resident works in a different municipality?	The best information regarding the details of the premium pay provision of CLFRF is Treasury's "Interim Final Rule", which can be found here: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf . Additional US Treasury materials regarding CLFRF can be found here: https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds
From Michael Blanchard : Do the ARPA funds need to be appropriated?	DLS put together a memorandum regarding accounting for and appropriating CLFRF funding, which can be found here: https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/gateway/DLSPublic/BulletinMaintenance/500

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From Robert Repucci : when will a budget be required	DLS put together a memorandum regarding accounting for and appropriating CLFRF funding, which can be found here: https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/gateway/DLSPublic/BulletinMaintenance/500
From Neil Vaidya : Can these funds be used to pay Police/Fire/DPW a one-time payment?	As municipalities are prime recipients of CLFRF funding, eligibility determinations must be made at the municipal level, utilizing Treasury's published CLFRF guidance materials. The primary document, the "Interim Final Rule", can be found here: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf . Additional US Treasury materials regarding CLFRF can be found here: https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds . A&F's general overview memo regarding eligible uses is here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/coronavirus-local-fiscal-recovery-fund-eligible-uses/download
From Rebecca Krause-Hardie to All panelists : deadline for spending the ARPA funds is 2026?	Payments from CLFRF must be used only to cover costs incurred by the State, territory, Tribal government, or local governments by December 31, 2024.
From Rebecca Krause-Hardie to All panelists : What is budget number being asked for in the application?	This is to determine that any municipality's CLFRF award does not exceed 75% of their annual budget, as stipulated by the Interim Final Rule.
From Rebecca Krause-Hardie to All panelists : can lost revenue include grant funds that have to be returned because of covid related issues.	DLS put together a memorandum regarding the revenue loss provision of CLFRF, which can be found here: https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/gateway/DLSPublic/BulletinMaintenance/501
From Steve Maio to All panelists : Is the First CLRF disbursement to an NEU community equal to 1/2 of the Municipal allocation? or is the County amount included?	Yes; the first CLFRF distribution will be 1/2 of an NEU's total CLFRF award. This does not include the redistributed non-functional county funding. The Commonwealth is still awaiting further guidance from Treasury regarding redistribution of this funding.
From Rebecca Krause-Hardie to All panelists : can lost revenue include delayed projects in town such as solar installations / pot farms that were delayed	DLS put together a memorandum regarding the revenue loss provision of CLFRF, which can be found here: https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/gateway/DLSPublic/BulletinMaintenance/501
From Robert Ekstrom : Under the county allotment, IFR section 603 establishes counties as the recipient unless they decline to accept it. Is there anything in the works to absolve counties as recipient if they pass funds directly to municipalities? In other words, municipalities would become the recipient as opposed to the sub-recipient.	We are still waiting for further clarification from Treasury regarding what happens if a functional county declines its CLFRF award. Otherwise, the "Transfers" section of the Eligible Uses memo (https://www.mass.gov/doc/coronavirus-local-fiscal-recovery-fund-eligible-uses/download) provides guidance for functional counties that wish to pass funding through to their cities and towns.
From Melissa Rodrigues to All panelists : Can we use the funds to hire an administrator of the funds?	Yes, per US Treasury's CLFRF FAQ #10.2 https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf
From James Puello to All panelists : Can they be used to pay everyone a stipend? One could argue that everyone that was at work was essential	The best information regarding the details of the premium pay provision of CLFRF is Treasury's "Interim Final Rule", which can be found here: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf . Additional US Treasury materials regarding CLFRF can be found here: https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds
From Wendy Graves : Can ARPA funds be used to replace stabilization that was used to balance the FY22 Budget?	DLS put together a memorandum regarding the revenue loss provision of CLFRF, which can be found here: https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/gateway/DLSPublic/BulletinMaintenance/501
From Steve Maio to All panelists : What is the start date for expenses to be submitted under the CLRF.	March 3, 2021.

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From Erica Flemming to All panelists : For ARPA funds request, where/how do we submit a copy of the budget document and what format is acceptable?	The document itself does not need to be submitted at this time, but a record of the document that aligns with the figure entered into the web portal NEU CLFRF application (https://www.mass.gov/forms/coronavirus-local-fiscal-recovery-fund-payment-request-form-for-nonentitlement-units-of-local-government) should be kept on record internally.
From Rockport ARNAUD to All panelists : Can you clarify which funding has a deadline of end of October?	CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund - Municipal Program (CvRF-MP) funding.
From Joy Accountant to All Panelists: Is there a defined date to begin ARPA spending?	March 3, 2021.