

## Promoting Equitable Outcomes with Your ARPA Project

The Prince William County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community Grant Program's proposal submission form asks groups seeking funding to answer the following prompt: *Describe efforts to promote equitable outcomes, including how projects were designed with equity in mind.*

The United States Department of Treasury in the [Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#) defines equity as “the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.”

**When planning your ARPA project, you should include how you will consider and measure equity at the various stages of the project, including:**

- a. **Goals:** Are there particular historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups that you intend to serve with your project?
- b. **Awareness:** How equal and practical is the ability for residents to become aware of the services funded by your project?
- c. **Access and Distribution:** Are there differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups? Are there administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria?
- d. **Outcomes:** Are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service, or disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective?

The U.S. Treasury encourages uses of ARPA funds that promote strong, equitable growth, including racial equity. When considering your project, please consider how your project's planned use of funds prioritizes economic and racial equity as a goal, names specific targets intended to produce meaningful equity results at scale and articulates the strategies to achieve those targets. In addition, please explain how your project's overall equity strategy translates into the specific services or programs offered by your project in the following expenditure categories:

- a. **Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2):** assistance to households to address impacts of the pandemic, which have been most severe among low-income

populations. This includes assistance with food, housing, and other needs; employment programs for people with barriers to employment who faced negative economic impacts from the pandemic (such as residents of low-income neighborhoods, minorities, disconnected youth, the unemployed, formerly incarcerated people, veterans, and people with disabilities); and other strategies that provide disadvantaged groups with access to education, jobs, and opportunity.

- b. **Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3)**: services to address health disparities and the social determinants of health, build stronger neighborhoods and communities (e.g., affordable housing), address educational disparities (e.g., social-emotional, and mental health in high-poverty schools), and promote healthy childhood environments (e.g., home visiting, child care). In particular, this section must describe the geographic and demographic distribution of funding, including whether it is targeted toward traditionally marginalized communities.

For the purposes of the SLFRF, equity is also described in [the Executive Order 13985 On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, as issued on January 20, 2021.](#)

### **Equity In Community Engagement**

When planning your ARPA project, consider how your project's planned use of funds incorporates written, oral, and other forms of input that capture diverse feedback from program participants, community-based organizations, and the communities themselves. Where relevant, your community engagement planning should include how funds will build the capacity of community organizations to serve people with significant barriers to services, including people of color, people with low incomes, limited English proficient populations, and other traditionally underserved groups.