



PVD Recovery Update: Providence Reaches a Major ARPA Milestone



MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Providence's ARPA Award Is Fully Obligated

The Smiley Administration has fully obligated the City's ARPA award of \$166,314,129, thereby securing all remaining funds for use during the rest of the SLFRF program, demonstrating the city's commitment to responsible fiscal management, and making meaningful investments in programs and initiatives that will benefit the capital city for years to come.

December 31st, 2024, represented a key date for the ARPA SLFRF program and for all cities and towns using ARPA funds throughout the country. The US Treasury Department set this date as a deadline to obligate all ARPA funds, essentially meaning that all cities and towns were required to commit their funds through contracts and similar agreements.

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“We've strategically invested in high-impact programs and initiatives that address the urgent needs of our community, ensuring long-term and tangible benefits for our neighbors. These investments are laying the foundation for a brighter, more equitable future for all.”

– Mayor Brett P. Smiley

Background & Summary of Progress

The COVID-19 pandemic created an economic and public health crisis in the city of Providence that left no sector of public life unaffected. On March 11th, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law to bring direct and immediate relief to families and workers. The act provided \$350 billion in funding to states, counties, municipalities and other governmental units across the country.

The City of Providence received \$166 million in ARPA dollars from the U.S. Treasury to address the devastating public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to make a transformative investment in our City's future. The City allocated its first round of funding, totaling \$43 million, on July 16th, 2021. Before allocating the remaining ARPA dollars, the City created the COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency Task Force and conducted deep community engagement to inform the proposed second allocation. The Mayor's Office and the Task Force conducted a robust community engagement process, which involved listening to the needs of the City and engaging over 1,500 community members. In November 2021, the Task Force finalized their recommendations and presented their final report. On January 5th, 2022, former Mayor Elorza proposed a \$123,769,438 ARPA budget, later approved by City Council on May 20th, 2022.

Since the funds were fully allocated in 2022, the Smiley Administration has made much progress in putting the City's ARPA dollars to best and highest use. Notable achievements over the past two years include:

- ❖ Revisions to the previously passed "ARPA I and ARPA II" ordinances, shifting \$20M in unspent funds to investments targeted at making long-term impact in Providence's neighborhoods.
- ❖ \$122,026,797.78 worth of investments obligated and secured.
- ❖ \$107 million dollars worth of funds spent across 33 ordinance lines, including approximately \$37 million dollars spent on housing initiatives and \$52 million on critical city services and infrastructure.

A detailed breakdown of the City's full ARPA investments is provided in this report.

ARPA Timeline and Major Milestones

2021

March American Rescue Plan Act signed into law

May First round of funds distributed and COVID-19 Task Force created

July ARPA I Ordinance passed

November Task Force presents its report

2022

May ARPA II Ordinance passed

June Second round of funds distributed

2023

November Revisions to ARPA Ordinances passed shifting \$20M of ARPA funds to strategic long-term investments including housing and improve critical infrastructure.

2024

December Final reinvestment of ARPA funds passed, and obligation deadline met

2026

December All SLFRF funds must be spent by the end of 2026. The City is on track to fully expend its ARPA award.

Investment Highlights

Across Providence, ARPA dollars are at work, invested strategically in projects across the city to ensure residents can benefit for years to come. Look out for social media updates and the #PVDARPA for future projects!



Housing

Providence invested \$41 million in housing initiatives, with projects resulting in over 1,600 new preserved affordable housing units and to support critical home repairs for income-eligible homeowners.



Resiliency

Providence invested in some of the city's most critical and iconic infrastructure. The city invested \$3 million to rehabilitate the Fox Point Hurricane Barrer and \$3 million to protect Providence's India Point Park against flooding.



#PVDARPA



Street & Sewer Repair

Providence invested \$6M in sewer and street repairs. From South Providence to Charles to Elmwood and all over the city, 1,507 ft. of sewer lines have been replaced, and 27,807 ft. have been inspected and cleaned.



Recreation Centers

Providence invested \$3.55 million across the city's 11 recreation centers to carry out key building repairs and improvements to support learning and development.

Award Breakdown

Below is a full breakdown of the City's ARPA award across the major investment categories identified by the COVID-19 Task Force. These categories arose from considerable public input including over 1,100 surveys, a series of community engagement sessions, and 13 public meetings, all including opportunities for public comment. Investments have been made to reflect the priorities of the City's residents and address the City's most pressing needs.

Investment Category	Amount Invested
City Services & Infrastructure	\$92,861,325.83
Housing and Homelessness	\$41,905,507.95
Social Equity	\$8,753,593.98
Youth & Education	\$7,918,473.12
Economic Opportunity	\$3,847,453.00
Building Resilient Neighborhoods	\$3,755,188.00
Arts, Tourism, Hospitality	\$3,655,751.00
Administrative	\$3,616,836.22
Total	\$166,314,129.10

City Services & Infrastructure



Funds to support the city in successfully revitalizing our public infrastructure and implementing economic relief programs with investments in technology, systems, and public spaces.

City Services & Infrastructure	Amount Invested
Capital Investment – Recreation Centers	\$3,550,000.00
Cybersecurity and Information Technology Investments	\$1,500,000.00
Downtown Open Spaces	\$950,320.00
Elmwood Community Center	\$1,500,000.00
Equipment/Parking Meter Replacement	\$1,000,000.00
India Point Resiliency Investments	\$3,000,000.00
Merino Park/WRWC Investments	\$1,000,000.00
Neighborhood Infrastructure Fund	\$6,148,826.00
Parks and Recreation Capital Investment	\$3,500,000.00
The Providence Center	\$152,559.00
Revenue Recovery	\$60,559,620.83
Roger Williams Park Gateway	\$4,000,000.00
Stormwater and Sewer Repair	\$3,000,000.00
Street Sweeping & Sewer Repair	\$3,000,000.00
Total	\$92,861,325.83

Housing and Homelessness



Funds to respond to the current housing crisis in the short term and implement a long-term strategy to end housing insecurity and homelessness in the City, addressed in collaboration with community, state, and federal partners.

Housing and Homelessness	Amount Invested
Affordable and Alternate Housing	\$500,000.00
Affordable Housing Development	\$27,226,239.00
Emergency Housing Solutions	\$3,694,185.48
Expand Rapid Rehousing	\$1,185,793.47
Facilities Development Program	\$2,600,000.00
Home Repair Program	\$3,000,000.00
Homelessness Intervention	\$499,290.00
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$2,000,000.00
Right to Counsel	\$1,200,000.00
Total	\$41,905,507.95

Social Equity



Funds to address historic inequities with intersectional investments including braiding from other categories to ensure equity across all ARPA programs and funding.

Social Equity

Amount Invested

COVID-19 Equities Program

\$7,066,441.98

Justice Reform

\$1,687,152.00

Total

\$8,753,593.98

Youth & Education



Funds to ensure Providence's youth have access to safe learning environments, robust options for out-of-school programs, and equal opportunity to succeed academically and professionally.

Youth & Education	Amount Invested
Anti-Violence Investments	\$1,940,870.59
Mentoring Program	\$1,100,000.00
Non-violence training	\$500,000.00
Pre-K and Early Learning Infrastructure Fund	\$1,500,000.00
Providence Talks Early Learning	\$283,000.00
Summer Camp for Providence Residents	\$600,000.00
Summer Jobs for Providence Youth	\$996,472.35
Year-round Youth Jobs	\$998,130.18
Total	\$7,918,473.12

Economic Opportunity



Funds to create economic opportunity for all the city's residents, and support Providence businesses to grow and support industries devastated by the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Economic Opportunity

Amount Invested

Cultural Facilities

\$2,500,000.00

Direct Relief to Providence Residents

\$496,279.00

Small Business

\$851,174.00

Total

\$3,847,453.00

Building Resilient Neighborhoods



Funds to reinforce and bolster the city's neighborhoods ensuring that Providence residents and the local infrastructure and support network they rely on are hardened and ready for unforeseen crises.

Building Resilient Neighborhoods	Amount Invested
Elderly Service Supports	\$260,315.00
Food Security Grant Program	\$375,000.00
Food Security Infrastructure Planning	\$125,000.00
Grants to Community Centers	\$600,003.00
Hardest Hit Community Organization	\$294,870.00
Providence Community Libraries	\$1,500,000.00
Providence Public Library	\$100,000.00
Youth and Family Broadband	\$500,000.00
Total	\$3,755,188.00

Arts, Tourism, Hospitality



Funds to ensure the continued development of a vibrant and creative city by integrating arts and culture into community life while showcasing Providence as an international cultural destination.

Arts, Tourism, Hospitality	Amount Invested
Arts, Culture and Special Events Support	\$874,327.00
Providence-Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau	\$600,000.00
Public Art to Encourage Tourism	\$703,807.00
PVDFest Producing Partner, FirstWorks	\$275,000.00
Shared Use Infrastructure Grant Program	\$202,617.00
Tourism and Marketing	\$700,000.00
Waterfire, Inc.	\$300,000.00
Total	\$3,655,751.00

Administrative



Funds to support efficient deployment of ARPA funds to ensure maximum community impact through program design and deployment, outcome tracking, and compliance oversight.

Administrative	Amount Invested
Administrative Expenses	\$3,595,000.00
Independent Auditor	\$21,836.22
Total	\$3,616,836.22

Looking Ahead

Between now and our next deadline of December 31st, 2026, the City will be working to ensure that all remaining funds are spent on high-impact programs with long-lasting effects. Programs will be tracked and monitored, and future updates will be provided on <https://pvdrescueplan.providenceri.gov/> and on social media.





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