

ARPA Community Recovery Projects Scoring Guidelines

Qualifying Criteria:

- The project must be an eligible use of ARPA funding.
- The project must directly respond to a negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The applicant must not engage in misreporting or mishandling of funds.
- The applicant must not have been found to be non-compliant with previous state or federal awards.
- The project must be based in Northampton or designed to benefit the Northampton community.
- The applicant must be able and ready to receive funds before December 31, 2023.

Project structure questions:

Each question can receive up to 10 points:

10 = Yes

5 = Maybe/ Somewhat

0 = No

SCORE	
/10	Is the project shovel-ready or able to start quickly?
/10	Does the project seem feasible within the ARPA timeframe (ARPA project period end date is June 30, 2026)?
/10	Does the applicant or their partners have the organizational capacity to carry out the project?
/10	Is the applicant likely to accomplish the tasks as outlined with the amount of funds requested? (if this is an ongoing project, will it become self-sustaining by the end of the project period?)
/10	Is the project a reasonable and proportional response to an impact of the pandemic? (does it respond to an impact of the pandemic; is the response proportional to the harm experienced; is this response better and more efficient than other potential responses to the same harm?)

/10	Does the project align with the Mayor’s goals of promoting equity and prioritizing the people, businesses, and organizations that were most impacted by COVID-19?
/10	Considering the amount of funding being requested, does the project provide a benefit to an appropriately large number of people as opposed to a few individuals? (either a significant portion of a specific group of impacted individuals - e.g. individuals experiencing homelessness or eviction, households with little or no access to internet - or the entire community)
/70	NOTES:

Project benefits questions:

Each question can receive up to 4 points

4 = meets or exceeds qualification

2 = somewhat meets qualification

0 = does not meet qualification

SCORE	
/4	Does this project have clear metrics for determining project success?
/4	Does the project align with the priorities outlined in the survey results and public opinion heard at the listening sessions?
/4	Does the applicant have previous experience with similar projects or; has the applicant demonstrated adequate understanding of the process and capability for implementing this project?
/4	Will this project have long-term impacts or benefits that last beyond the project period?
/4	Is there sufficient evidence indicating that this project meets an immediate and pressing need in the community?
/20	NOTES:

Additional questions:

Each question can receive up to 2 points

2 – meets or exceeds qualifications

1 – somewhat meets qualifications

0 – does not meet qualifications

SCORE	
/2	Based on information currently available, does the project not duplicate current efforts being made by Northampton or the Commonwealth? (A project may expand on or work in conjunction with other current programs to bring larger benefits to a population, but is encouraged not to mirror existing programs)
/2	Is the project unlikely to qualify for other forms of aid or other grant programs?
/2	Is this project based on a similar successful project either by the applicant or by someone else?
/6	NOTES:

FINAL SCORE	NOTES OR COMMENTS
/96	