

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Advocating for
Community Health and
Racial Equity in the
American Rescue Plan



A Presentation Guide for CBOs and Community Members



**California COVID Justice: Recovery,
Response, & Repair**

[Slides] NOTE: Please make a copy of the script or slides before editing.

MODULE OVERVIEW

WELCOME

- Review Zoom Info

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Welcome
- California COVID Justice Overview
- Introduction
- What is the American Rescue Plan Act?
- Direct Economic Supports for Families
- Housing & Homelessness
- Racism as a Public Health Crisis
- Local Allocations
- ARPA Distribution Timeline
- Call to Action!

FACILITATOR NOTES

ROLES:

It is helpful to have:

- **Presenter** (or multiple presenters)
- **Screen Sharer** - (to show slides) - Zoom co-host
- **Chat Monitor** - Zoom host

PRESENTER NOTES:

- **Pro Tip:** If you don't have a screen sharer, click **the ARROW next to Present >> Presenter View** to be able to share your screen AND see your slides in a separate window at the same time. Note: you'll want to **share the browser window** with your slides NOT your entire screen for this to work properly
- Feel free to read the script but make it your own.
- Add your personality.
- If you read the notes, be sure to use your voice inflection so that it doesn't sound monotonous and cause people to tune out.

CHAT MONITOR NOTES:

- In the notes are items in **>> bold and maroon** that you can copy and paste in the chat.
- Check chat to answer individual questions and help with IT issues or let the presenter know if there are questions that should be addressed to the whole group

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

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WELCOME

We wanted to start out this training by welcoming everyone into this virtual space!

We know people are coming from a lot of different places today-- both physically and mentally -- and in terms of what we are bringing to this space. No matter who you are, **we want to welcome you into this training.**

We are grateful to have wi-fi for our online training! Having our training online has allowed some people access to our training but we want to also acknowledge that it is not a perfect method and still leaves some people out.

ZOOM TIPS

We want to quickly run over a few tips for using Zoom.

Click **Chat** to type messages to the group or privately to individuals - feel free to keep the conversation going and ask questions.

Click **Mute/Unmute** to speak. It's best to keep yourself on mute for most of the time just in case there's distracting background noise.

Click the arrow next to mute > **switch to phone audio** - can help if audio is breaking up

You can also **turn off your video** if your Wi-Fi connection is unstable.

>> We will drop this in the chat as a reminder:

>>If you'd like to speak, please use the raise hand feature in the reactions bar or type *stack* in the chat.

The same features are on the phone or tablet, with a few changes. Let us know in the chat if you need help.

About Us

Led by Public Health Advocates, **California COVID Justice** is a coordinated public health response to the deep-rooted inequities that the pandemic has laid bare.

Leading issues include:

- Racism as a Public Health Crisis
- Inadequate Housing and Homelessness
- Lack of Economic Supports
- Lack of Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce



ABOUT US

California COVID Justice: Recovery, Response & Repair is a coordinated public health response to COVID-19 and the deep-rooted inequities it has laid bare. Led by a coalition of public health leaders, this initiative works to dismantle the systems and structures that have put historically underinvested communities and people of color at greater risk of adverse health outcomes. By advocating for needed policies, programs, and resources, we push to strengthen public health infrastructure, help communities recover from COVID-19, respond to long-standing health and economic inequities, and repair the damage caused by systemic racism and oppression.

The initiative's priorities and strategies are informed by a Steering Committee of public health leaders. The committee members partner with Public Health Advocates to advocate for policy solutions and build statewide support.

California COVID Justice supports statewide legislation and community organizing to:

Strengthen public health infrastructure, including surveillance, laboratories, health orders, and a diverse workforce;

Address racism as a public health crisis and establish health equity through new policies and an equitable funding framework;

Increase the supply of adequate and affordable housing with support services to prevent a growing number of Californians experiencing homelessness; and

Provide direct economic support to individuals and families in need, in part by advocating that the local American Rescue Plan Act funds support historically underinvested communities.

Introduction

This presentation is a tool to help communities advocate for the resources they need to recover from COVID. The **American Rescue Plan Act** is sending billions of relief dollars to California's cities and counties.



INTRODUCTION

This presentation is a tool to help communities advocate for the resources they need to respond to and recover from COVID. The **American Rescue Plan Act** is sending billions of relief dollars to California's cities and counties.

How To Use This Information

It's important that community members directly impacted by COVID-19 advocate for:

- Community voices and priorities to be central to city/county spending plans
- Transparency regarding your city/county spending process and decisions
- Investments in public health programs and infrastructure
- Directing money and resources to those most impacted by COVID-19



HOW TO USE THIS INFORMATION

It's important that community members directly impacted by COVID-19 advocate for:

- Community members to be key partners in setting priorities and developing spending plans
- Transparency regarding your city/county spending process and decisions
- Investments in public health programs and infrastructure
- Directing money and resources to those most impacted by COVID-19

Note:

Give examples that are pertinent to your city, county, and/or region.



What is the American Rescue Plan Act?

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 aims to deliver immediate economic help to American families most impacted by COVID-19 (esp. low income, people of color).

Through ARPA, the state of California will receive **\$26 billion**, and California's cities and counties will receive **\$16 billion**.

Your voice is needed to make sure this money goes where it is needed most. **Community members and CBOs can inform where the \$ is distributed.**



WHAT IS THE ARPA?

On March 11, 2021, the President signed into law the American Rescue Plan (ARP)- **1.9 trillion** dollar coronavirus disease (COVID-19) relief package. This package included **\$350 billion** in funding to state and local governments for fiscal recovery. The funds will be distributed to states, tribes, and territories based on a formula that considers the state's share of the nation's unemployment.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 aims to deliver immediate economic help to American families most impacted by COVID-19 (esp. low income, people of color). Through ARPA, the state of California will **receive \$26 billion, and California's cities and counties will receive \$16 billion.**

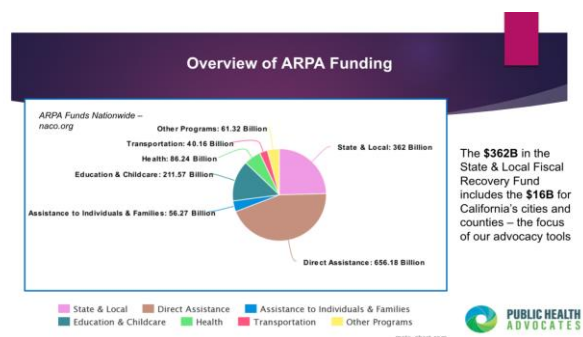
Your voice is needed to make sure this money goes where it is needed most. **Community members and CBOs can influence how the money is spent**

Public Health Infrastructure:

Public health infrastructure provides communities, states, and the nation the capacity to prevent disease, promote health, and prepare for and respond to both acute (emergency) threats and chronic (ongoing) challenges to health.

Public health infrastructure provides the necessary foundation for undertaking the basic responsibilities of public health, which have been defined as the 10 Essential Public Health Services:

1. **Monitor** health status to identify and solve community health problems.
2. **Diagnose and investigate** health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. **Inform, educate, and empower** people about health issues.
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
5. **Develop policies and plans** that support individual and community health efforts.
6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. **Ensure** competent public and personal health care workforces.
9. **Evaluate** effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. **Research** for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.



OVERVIEW OF FUNDING

ARPA distributes money to a wide variety of sources, including childcare and education, health services and forms of direct assistance such as the stimulus checks that went out earlier this spring.

In this presentation, we are focusing on the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, which includes \$16 billion for California's cities and counties because these funds are flexible and as citizens, you have an opportunity and a right to try to influence how your local government spends the money.

How can local \$ be spent?

- **\$16 billion** in federal aid to California's local governments, including counties and cities, can be spent on:
- Responding to the public health emergency of COVID-19 and its economic impacts
 - Providing government services where there has been a loss in funding
 - Investing in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure
 - Assisting essential workers by providing additional pay



HOW CAN LOCAL DOLLARS BE SPENT

\$16 billion in federal aid to California's local governments, including counties and cities, can be spent on:

- Responding to the public health emergency of COVID-19 and its economic impacts;
- Providing government services where there has been a loss in funding;
- Investing in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure;
- Assisting essential workers by providing premium pay above their base wages.

How the local funding works

- A local government can spend the funds on its own programs, or it can transfer funds to a nonprofit or other local community organization for approved projects.



HOW LOCAL FUNDING WORKS

A local government can spend the funds on its own programs, or it can transfer funds to a nonprofit or other local community organization for approved projects.

Community members, community councils and community-based organizations can and should advocate for how these funds are spent.

YOUR ADVOCACY IS CRUCIAL

Community members, community councils and community-based organizations can and should advocate for how these funds are spent.

DID YOU KNOW?

Job loss has disproportionately affected people of color throughout the pandemic, specifically those who identify as Black and Hispanic.

Of the estimated 161,000 unhoused people in California, 40% are Black Americans.

Racism is a public health crisis!

DID YOU KNOW?

Job loss has disproportionately affected people of color throughout the pandemic, specifically those who identify as Black and Hispanic. Even before the pandemic, California had 161,000 unhoused people, 40 percent of whom were Black, and the economic impact of COVID could exacerbate these problems.

Investment of public money to the local governments that are closest to the low-wage workers and communities of color who've lost the most in this unequal pandemic is needed, and a necessary step forward.

However, equity has never been achieved without a fight, strategic plan, intentionality; and the lessons from past recovery efforts are clear: **absent a race-conscious approach and sharp focus on delivering measurable benefits to those most impacted, recovery efforts will leave frontline communities and communities of color behind and further entrench racial inequities.**

We cannot let this happen: initial and future allocations of ARP funds should be used to make a down payment on equitable recovery and redesigning our communities to work effectively for *all*.

To repair the significant impact that COVID-19 has had on people and communities of color we must acknowledge and declare racism as a public health crisis; racial equity must be a moral imperative, and also an economic one. As research from the National Equity Atlas, the Federal Reserve, and others have shown, eliminating racial inequities will strengthen local economies, not just benefiting people of color, but everyone.

Racism is a public health crisis!



RECOMMENDATIONS

The California COVID Justice coalition recommends using the \$16 billion in local funding toward critical supports such as:

Economic Assistance: Provide direct economic support to individuals and families in need, specifically utilizing the American Rescue Plan Act funds to support historically underinvested communities. *E.g. This can be done through cash payments, job training and placement...*

Racial Justice- address racism as a public health crisis and establish health equity through new policies and an equitable funding framework *E.g. This can be done through funding partners to help with COVID outreach, vaccine access, and language access ...*

Housing and Homelessness- Increase the supply of adequate and affordable housing with support services to prevent a growing number of Californians experiencing homelessness and assist those whose incomes were impacted by COVID to remain housed. *E.g. This can be done through rental assistance, rental/mortgage debt relief, funding permanent supportive housing...*

Public Health Infrastructure- Strengthen public health infrastructure, including surveillance, laboratories, health orders, and a diverse workforce






IDEAS ON HOW YOU CAN SPEND THE MONEY

Here are some specific ideas on how you can spend the money in your community...



DIRECT SUPPORTS

- Create pilot programs to provide guaranteed income to historically underinvested communities
- Guaranteed income is the idea of providing a set amount of money each month to ease the stresses of poverty that make it harder for people to find work and stay healthy.
- Example: Pilot programs in [Stockton](#),

	<p>Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles- linked to 3 examples that have websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Learn about more mayors who support this idea at https://www.mayorsforagi.org/who
 <p>Direct economic supports to families & small businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Grant Reparations Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reparations programs are a SMALL way to recognize the historic inequities Black Americans have internalized. Reparations should be in direct forms that underscore racial disparities in health, housing, and entrepreneurship. ▶ Example: <u>Evanston, Illinois reparations</u> ▶ Invest in and support immigrant and small businesses owned and operated by people of color <p>PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATES</p>	<p>DIRECT SUPPORTS</p> <p>Grant Reparations Programs</p> <p>Reparations programs are a SMALL way to recognize the historic inequities Black Americans have internalized. Reparations should be in direct forms that underscore racial disparities in health, housing, and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Example: <u>Evanston, Illinois reparations</u></p> <p>Invest in and support immigrant and small businesses owned and operated by people of color</p> <p>The federal Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program is a farm bill program dedicated to addressing the needs of minority farmers.</p>
 <p>Economic Supports: Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What programs can be put in place or expanded to support immigrant and small businesses owned and operated by people of color in your community? ▶ How can guaranteed income programs help to support families in your community? <p>PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATES</p>	<p>QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What programs can be put in place or expanded to support immigrant and small businesses owned and operated by people of color in your community? 2. How can guaranteed income programs help to support families in your community?
 <p>Housing and Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Invest in permanent supportive housing ▶ Create safe organized spaces with wraparound services for unhoused people ▶ Fund adequate, affordable housing, and access to income-based housing ▶ Cancel or defer rent and mortgages ▶ Provide grants for homeownership <p>PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATES</p>	<p>HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invest in permanent supportive housing ● Create safe organized spaces with wraparound services for unhoused people ● Fund adequate, affordable housing, and access to income-based housing ● Cancel or defer rent and mortgages ● Provide grants for homeownership



Housing Initiatives:
Questions to Consider

- ▶ Who doesn't have housing and who is at risk of being homeless?
- ▶ Is there a housing shortage?
- ▶ What programs can help prevent homelessness?
- ▶ How can your community use ARPA funds to provide shelter for people and families who are homeless?

 PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATES

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Who doesn't have housing and who is at risk of being homeless?
2. Is there a housing shortage?
3. What programs can help prevent homelessness?
4. How can your community use ARPA funds to provide shelter for people and families who are homeless?

Racism is a Public Health Crisis



COVID-19 has devastated communities of color. We must invest in their recovery and fund programs to dismantle long-standing health inequities.

[Click here](#) for current data on COVID illness and deaths in California by race and ethnicity.

RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Throughout California, communities of color have the highest COVID illness and death rates (Latinx, Black, Native American, immigrant, and low-income populations)

The pandemic has exposed extreme inequalities in underinvested communities. We must make long-term investments to ensure advancements in racial equity and remove barriers.

[Click here](#) for current data on COVID illness and deaths in California by race and ethnicity.

ARPA funds should be used towards an inclusive, accessible, equitable recovery. We must invest in their recovery and fund programs to dismantle long-standing health inequities.

By declaring racism a public health crisis and addressing root causes we are acknowledging a broken system that was not designed for people of color.

Invest in Racial Justice



- ▶ Cities and counties can use ARPA funds to reach the low-income communities of color that were hit hardest by COVID-19 and its economic impacts.
- ▶ In California, Prop 209 (prohibiting state institutions from considering race, ethnicity, or sex in public employment, contracting or education) can be **incorrectly cited as a barrier** to funding resources and programs for communities of color.
- ▶ The Black Infant Health Program and Oakland Black Business Fund are examples of programs serving Black Californians.



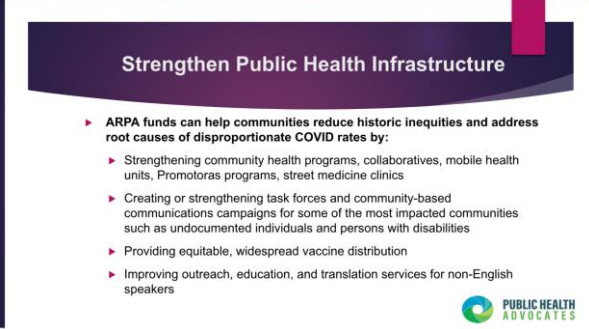
 PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATES


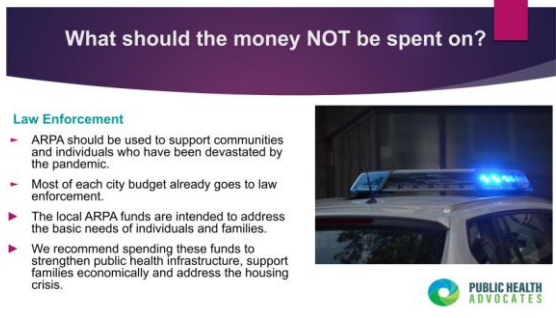

INVEST IN RACIAL EQUITY

Cities and counties can use ARPA funds to reach the low-income communities of color that were hit hardest by COVID-19 and its economic impacts.

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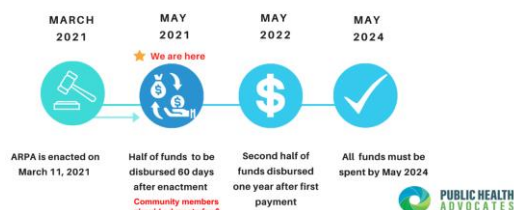
The Black Infant Health Program and Oakland Black

	<p>Business Fund are examples of programs serving Black Californians.</p> <p>California is now taking applications for a new \$125 million public-private Disaster Relief Fund for California workers without permanent legal status. This is an example of a program to serve Latinx and other immigrant populations.</p>
	<p>RACIAL EQUITY & ECONOMICS</p> <p>Economic solutions can address racial disparities</p> <p>People of color are more likely to be “essential workers” (nurses, agriculture, retail, food industry) and are most at risk for COVID-19</p> <p>Funds can provide hazard pay to essential workers. Raising minimum wages to be livable wages can reduce poverty rates for people of color.</p>
	<p>STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p><u>Public health infrastructure</u> provides the capacity to prepare for and respond to emerging threats and chronic health challenges.</p> <p>Local public health jobs never recovered from the 2008 recession, leaving health departments under-resourced. This leaves us underprepared to respond to a global pandemic like COVID-19. According to the California Pan Ethnic Health Network, “Communities of color, who are becoming ill and dying at higher rates than whites, are bearing the brunt of these decisions about public spending.”</p>
	<p>STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>ARPA funds can help communities reduce historic inequities and address root causes of disproportionate COVID rates by:</p> <p>Strengthening community health programs, collaboratives, mobile health units, Promotoras programs, street medicine clinics</p> <p>Creating or strengthening task forces and community-based communications campaigns for some of the most impacted communities such as undocumented</p>

	<p>individuals and persons with disabilities</p> <p>Providing equitable, widespread vaccine distribution</p> <p>Improving outreach, education, and translation services for non-English speakers</p>
	<p>RACIAL EQUITY & PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What public health needs in your community have not been addressed during the pandemic? 2. What existing programs can be supported with ARPA funding to improve community health? 3. What are some other ways to address racial equity?
	<p>WHAT SHOULD THE MONEY NOT BE SPENT ON?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARPA should be used to support communities and individuals who have been devastated by the pandemic. • Most of each city budget already goes to law enforcement and the ARPA has also allocated \$450 million that already goes to violence prevention programs, including police departments. • The local ARPA funds are intended to address the basic needs of individuals and families. • We recommend spending these funds to strengthen public health infrastructure, support families economically and address the housing crisis.
	<p>LOCAL ALLOCATION</p> <p>Local relief funding is allocated to cities and counties based on their population size.</p> <p>Click on the links in the slide to access a spreadsheet from Civilytics where you can find out how much your city or county is receiving.</p>

AMERICAN-RESCUE-PLAN-ACT

A brief timeline



ARPA TIMELINE

This is where we currently are in the process. Cities and counties have begun receiving the first half of the funding.

This is what you can do now...



Speak with the decision-makers in your community

- Contact your county board of supervisors, city council and mayor of your city.
- Speak during public comment periods.
- Identify the programs in your community that should be expanded using these funds.
- Organize community groups to turn out.

Demand a community driven process

- Hold public discussions and conduct polls
- Ensure priorities reflect your community needs
- Ask for reports on where the money is going
- Ensure documents are accessible (non-English, large print, clear language)

CALL TO ACTION

Speak with the decision-makers in your community:

- Contact your county board of supervisors, city council and mayor of your city.
- Speak during public comment periods.
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Demand a Community Driven Process:

- Hold public discussions and conduct polls.
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For more information, visit: www.phadvocates.org

This presentation was made possible with sources from:

- National Conference of State Legislatures
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- California Department of Public Health
- US Department of Health and Human Services
- US Department of Treasury
- PolicyLink
- Civilytics Consulting

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WRAP UP!