American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

1. **State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF)** ($6.4 billion to MD counties and cities): Applications need to have a WATER hook. Use the EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) qualifications to inform applicability. Proposals can include human infrastructure (ie: training), as well as privately-owned infrastructure. Half the funding has already been distributed to the counties and cities and many have already allocated it. The other half will be distributed in September 2022. All funds must be allocated by Dec. 31, 2024, but in all likelihood will be allocated before then, so it is recommended to apply as soon as possible. All funds must be spent by Dec. 31, 2026. **Apply directly to county or city governments.**

2. **$3.9 billion from the State of Maryland.** To stabilize Maryland's economy. Applications need to have a RELIEF or RECOVERY hook. $50 Million (although Governor Hogan has up to $200 Million of ARPA funding at his discretion) is still unallocated. **Apply directly with a letter to the Governor.**

   - $375 million in "gap financing" grants to jumpstart meat processing projects that "truly expand capacity outside the largest meat and poultry processors." The USDA will publish a RFP for Phase 1 this spring ($150 million for 15 projects), and another for Phase 2 this summer ($225 million).
   - Up to $275 million in capital for banks to provide loans and other financing with favorable terms for independent processors investing in cold storage, specialized equipment and other needs.
   - $100 million to provide loan guarantees for more than $1 billion in loans through the USDA’s Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program to expand meat and poultry processing capacity and finance other food supply chain infrastructure. **Applications will be accepted until funds are expended.**
   - $100 million for worker training.
   - $50 million to provide technical assistance and research that will lower barriers for entrepreneurs, independent companies and others looking to add meat processing. The effort is intended to help businesses better understand environmental, food safety and worker safety requirements.

4. **Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program** $400 million to be distributed through non-competitive cooperative agreements with state and tribal governments to support local, regional, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers through the purchase of local foods. Governments will distribute the foods to
food banks, schools and organizations that reach underserved communities. **Apply now at** [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

5. **USDA’s Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program.** $20 million in financial assistance to cover certification, education, and other expenses for agricultural producers who are certified organic or transitioning to organic. **The deadline to apply is February 4, 2022.** Apply at the FSA office at your [local USDA Service Center](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

**Considerations when applying for ARPA funding**

- Encourage community engagement: incorporate input that captures diverse feedback
- Show how evidence and evaluation drove the strategy.
- Establish outputs and intended outcomes to evaluate the impact of the programs
- Promote equitable outcomes: identify ways to distribute funds equitably to address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to unequal pandemic impact
- Promote healthy environments
- Promote resilience to climate change
- Promote local economics and jobs stimulus
- Promote how your request relates to the pandemic
- Ask for the dollar amount that you think you need
- Clearly state your requested dollar amount
- Submit no more than two pages
- Have a realistic schedule and funding plan
- Recruit supporters to send letters in support of your request
- Follow up and request a meeting

For more information, please direct your questions to Humon Heidarian, Fair Farms Campaign Manager ([humon@fairfarmsnow.org](mailto:humon@fairfarmsnow.org))