

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

\$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act 2021 passed by Congress in March - \$350 billion for state and local governments

AND

\$200 million in pandemic response funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Grants to States program -- 2,135,819 for disbursement through the VT Dept. of Libraries

Public libraries are eligible for this [IMLS ARPA funding](#) regardless of any funds a town might receive through the [ARPA Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#). They are two distinct funding sources dedicated to different priorities.

IMLS ARPA Priorities

- Digital inclusion, access improvement to support education, health, and workforce development needs. Needs to reach underserved populations
- Rapid emergency pandemic response
- Support library services that meet the needs of communities

The Department of Libraries (VTLIB) is issuing almost \$1M for [Public Libraries for Equipment and Supply Purchases](#)

Libraries and their municipalities are encouraged to view the IMLS ARPA fund award as a straightforward way to obtain additional funds to benefit their library, town, and community. The Federal IMLS ARPA funds do not require any State or local match and are dedicated solely to allow your library to upgrade their current offerings.

By working together, the community, through the library, will have access to a minimum of \$2,000 in federal funds that may be used to purchase a variety of non-construction equipment that include:

- Outdoor programming and placemaking Items
- Indoor furniture for COVID response
- Computers for patrons
- Non-construction Wi-Fi and network upgrades
- Robotics for kids' programming
- Makerspace equipment and content
- Video production equipment
- Staff technology
- Book bikes
- Dedicated space for social worker/employment specialist/telemedicine etc.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- One-time collection purchases

All libraries will need to do to be considered is follow two easy steps:

1. Completion of the application (link above)
2. Completion of the budget (link will be sent in your application submission confirmation)

Municipal libraries should use their municipality's DUNS number, W9, EIN.

Forms must be completed by August 9, 2021 to be considered. The granting period will be October 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022. The funds must be spent and the report and receipts submitted to VTLIB no later than July 15, 2022. Reporting details will be provided in the grant agreement. Reports and receipts may be submitted before the deadline.

As with any grant a municipality may wish to consider for one of its departments, be it Fire, Library, Roads, or Parks, the Department, and in this case the Library, should be knowledgeable and anticipate following any town requirements or guidance on steps to take before applying for a grant. Once the municipality and department have agreed to apply for the grant, the town should be able to provide the department with necessary paperwork to fulfill the grant application, i.e., W9, COI, DUNS Number, advise the Department when funds are received at the town and disburse to the library, and be in a position to ensure the grant is correctly reported to State agencies.

As another example of when the library and town will work together: the library is responsible for submitting reports to VTLIB regarding how the funds were spent per the grant, BUT the municipality is responsible for reporting the grant to the State and complying with any audit if the grant pops up in a year that they are audited. The municipality is responsible for completing the Subrecipient Annual Report (SAR) which is sent out by the Statewide Grants Administrator and lists all grants received in a fiscal year, so VTLIB's ARPA grant would be a line item in the Town's SAR. The Town's report may include multiple grant sources in one SAR if the municipality is the beneficiary of multiple grants and should anticipate assistance from the department in timely completing the report.

What does VTLIB do with the paperwork required from libraries?

W9 – we use the W9 to work with the State's finance office to ensure the library or municipality is a current supplier for the state.

COI – we maintain a copy of the library's Certificate of Insurance to ensure that all party's receiving a grant maintain proper insurance

DUNS NUMBER - (a unique number assigned to a business that is universally accepted and used to access a company's business identity) The State requires VTLIB to include the DUNS Number on Part 1 of your Grant

Please refer to these webpages for additional information:

[American Rescue Plan 2021](#)

[ARPA Grants to Public Libraries for Equipment and Supply Purchases](#)

[ARPA FAQ](#)