

2021 ARPA Funds Update

A Look Back at the State Budget

Horry County legislators had a hand in securing funding items for Myrtle Beach and the tourism industry.

- \$250,000 Myrtle Beach Pedestrian Safety Barriers
- \$500,000 Myrtle Beach Outfalls, in addition to the recurring funds of \$1 million
- \$1 million Socastee Flooding Projects
- \$1.5 million Horry County Domestic Violence Shelter
- \$1.5 million HGTC Diesel Training Lab
- Over \$52 million to fund the Office of Resiliency (Flooding)
- \$50 million Horry County VA Nursing Home
- \$15 million to PRT for Destination Specific Marketing, \$5 million to Grand Strand
- \$17.9 million to the Local Government Fund base amount
- \$3.7 million for additional insurance for SC firefighters diagnosed with cancer

Fall 2021 ARPA Funds Re-cap

- ARPA funds provide assistance for (broadly):
Families, workers, small businesses, state, local, and tribal governments, rental assistance, systemic public health concerns
- High-quality, affordable broadband
- Water and sewer infrastructure – various plans under discussion including RIA grant program or formula funding – Myrtle Beach submitted a letter to the committee outlining priorities for water-sewer improvements
- Lost revenue that can be directly related to the pandemic

Fall 2021 ARPA Funds Re-cap

- House and Senate Special Ad Hoc Committees Receive Testimony
- Governor McMaster's Accelerate SC Committee submitting ARPA recommendations

Priority projects:

- Tourism Recovery Program
 - \$12.5 million – Domestic branding and advertising
 - \$20 million – DMD grant program
 - \$15 million – Beach nourishment
- State Matching Infrastructure Program
 - \$400 million – SC Rural Infrastructure Authority
 - \$72.4 million – Cybersecurity Program
- Testing/Vaccine Administration - \$305 million
- Widening of Interstate 26 between Charleston and Columbia

ARPA Funds Update

Special committees in the Senate and House have been meeting since August, discussing how to spend money coming into the state from the federal government through The American Rescue Plan Act. There is still some uncertainty of how the money can be spent as directives from the US Treasury continue to frequently change.

- \$2.49 billion to S.C. with payments that will be made in 2 tranches – the first payment has been received
- Funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024 and expended by Dec. 31, 2026
- Reporting is required
- Funding objectives, eligible and ineligible categories of funding like help to recover industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality, pay for essential workers, necessary improvement in water, sewer, and broadband

Other Upcoming Legislative Priorities

- House and Senate committees on redistricting have held public hearings across the state
- House and Senate are likely to convene in December to address redistricting
- ARPA fund deliberations are more than likely to occur in regular session, which begins January 2022

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