

ARPA and Georgia Cities: One Year Anniversary

June 2022 (version 2)

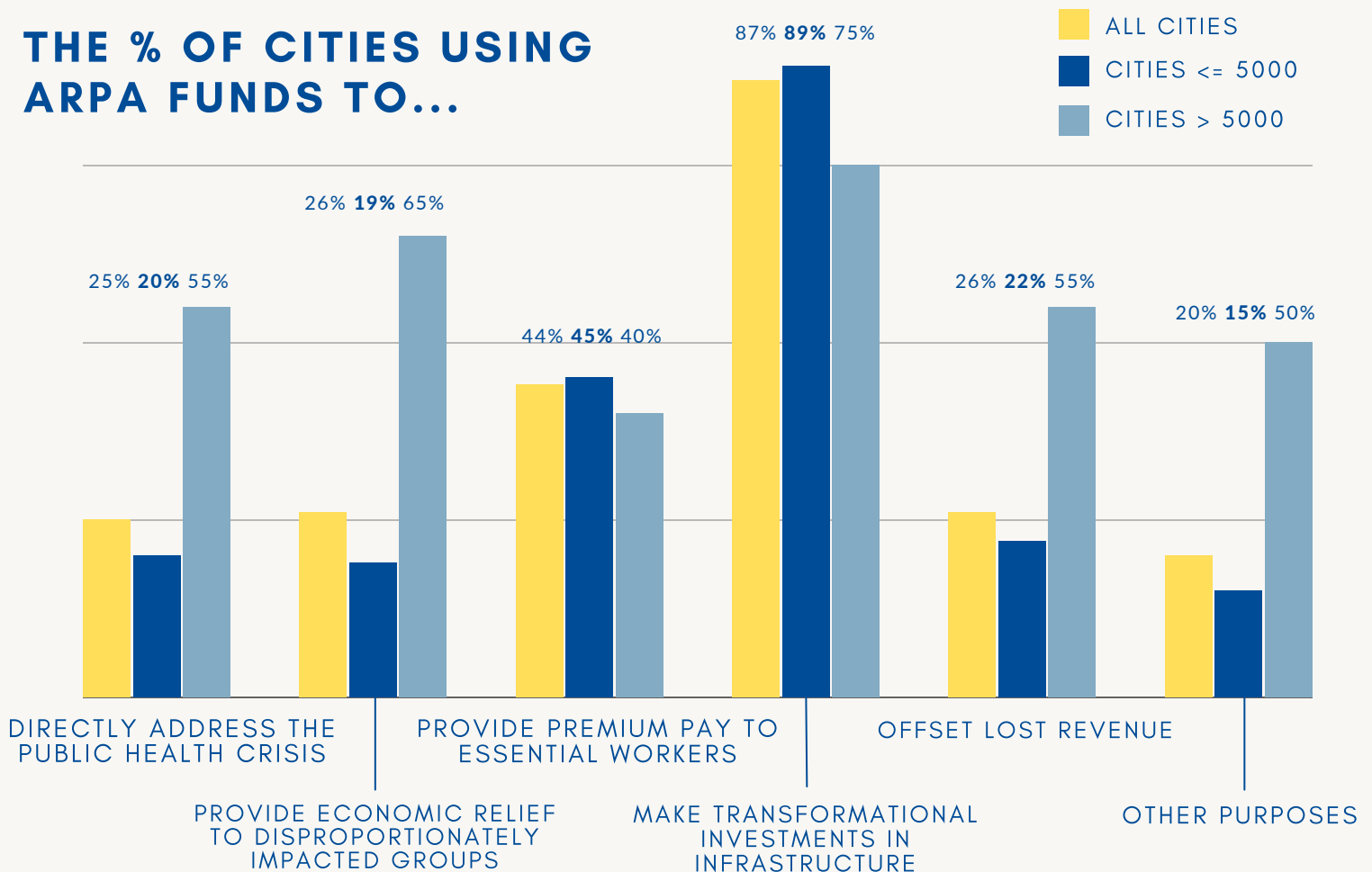
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In March 2021, Congress approved the American Rescue Plan Act, delivering \$1.4 billion in direct pandemic relief to Georgia's cities through ARPA's State and Local Fiscal Relief Fund (SLFRF). To mark ARPA's one year anniversary, GMA surveyed Georgia cities to learn how investments of SLFRF are bringing much-needed relief to families, businesses, and communities statewide.

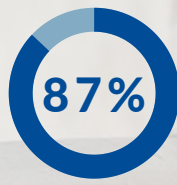
Number of cities that responded: **136** (25%)

Share of responding cities below 5000 in population: **73%**
(75% of Georgia's cities have 5000 or fewer people)

THE % OF CITIES USING ARPA FUNDS TO...



MAKE TRANSFORMATIONAL INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE



What cities are doing:

- A variety of water, sewer and stormwater system improvements, such as:
 - Replacement/update of chlorination system
 - Renovation of water tanks to bring up to EPD standards
 - Installation of digital/radio read water meters
 - Building regional connection to another water system in case of emergency
 - Updates to monitoring system to accurately account for water loss and contamination risk
 - Flood mitigation efforts
 - Mapping/e-documenting of equipment citywide
- Pave and resurface city streets
- Broadband provision and expansion, including public Wifi access

SPOTLIGHT

INCLUSIVE WATER, SEWER AND BROADBAND EXPANSION; SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

City of Hamilton pop. 1680

Running a new water line that will serve new houses plus citizens on the lower income scale. "We have wanted to do this for years but have not had the resources..."

City of Lakeland pop. 2875

A new well, water tower and improved water lines to benefit all residents, schools, hospitals and public facilities, and also improve fire protection by increasing the water pressure throughout the city. Being able to use ARPA ensures water usage rates don't increase for customers.

City of Bogart pop. 1326

- Upgrading city computers (government buildings and libraries) to accommodate increased broadband and allow for virtual meetings, research, etc.
- Sidewalk project to increase safety when walking from library to recreation fields.

SPOTLIGHT

VACCINE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS, MORE OUTDOOR SPACES IN QUALIFIED CENSUS TRACTS, PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS

City of Barnesville pop. 6292

Weekly drawings for vaccinated people, including City employees, to win "Barnesville Bucks" that could be spent at local businesses to help small businesses.

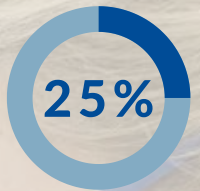
City of Chamblee pop. 30,164

Majority of funds for development of outdoor recreational space in low income neighborhoods. Investing in a master park plan buildout to provide more accessible amenities in a qualified census tract.

City of Toombsboro pop. 383

Sent out mass messages and letters with information about vaccines, i.e. what facilities offer them and on what days.

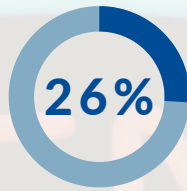
DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS



What cities are doing:

- Vaccine incentive programs
- Sanitizing public places to prevent contamination
- Improving facilities for better ventilation, social distancing and minimized touching
- Testing/vaccination sites and emergency preparedness centers; supplies and equipment
- Education and awareness to promote healthy physical, social, mental and emotional wellbeing
- Extended policy for sick leave due to COVID-19
- Community violence intervention programs, e.g. Cure Violence

PROVIDE ECONOMIC RELIEF TO DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED GROUPS



What cities are doing:

- Utility bill credits and/or property tax relief to households
- Aid to Tourism Board
- Grants to small businesses and non-profits
- Rental, mortgage and utility assistance
- Tutoring programs to address learning gaps
- Food distribution programs
- Housing rehabilitation
- Support to families from transitional to permanent housing
- Small business incubators

SPOTLIGHT

MENTORSHIP FOR STUDENTS, GRANTS TO RESIDENTS & SMALL BUSINESSES, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

City of Wadley pop. 1643

Grant to Peaches and Cream Foundation providing counseling, mentorships, tutoring and skill development to local student.

City of Conyers pop. 17,305

Grants to qualifying residents and small businesses with an online application process and multiple forms of advertising - city website, newspaper, social media, email blast, flyers at extended stay hotels.

City of Thomasville pop. 18,881

Creation of a Community Development Center to address low income housing.

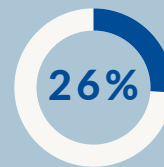
PROVIDE PREMIUM PAY TO ESSENTIAL WORKERS



Including:

- Hazard pay for essential employees who have worked during the pandemic
- Bonuses to full-time and part-time city employees, i.e. for retention
- Pay raises
- Bonuses to first responders

OFFSET LOST REVENUE



Some cities are using the revenue reduction calculator, while others are electing the standard allowance.

Whichever method they use, cities have relied on ARPA funds to **recover lost revenue**, allowing them to maintain and improve how they provide government services and be prepared to invest where it's needed most.

SERVE OTHER PURPOSES



What cities are doing:

- Support to Police and Fire Departments
- IT investments to make city services more accessible, i.e. livestreaming service for virtual public participation in city meetings and ADA-compliant/multilingual website
- Parks and recreation improvements, i.e. camera systems to deter illegal activity
- Public safety upgrades at railroad crossing
- Housing rehabilitation; new housing incentives for developers

SPOTLIGHT

City of Pitts pop. 252

Radios for volunteer fire department assist with EMT calls under mutual aid agreement with county.

City of Pinehurst pop. 309

Purchase of individual reflective address signs for all houses for 911 purposes.

Town of Bethlehem pop. 715

Upgrading parks with handicap equipment, benches and picnic tables.

City of Peachtree Corners pop. 42,243

- Incentive program to 'shop local'
- Partnering with local schools to enhance outdoor recreation areas for students
- Providing free Wifi to a lower-income area

MORE FEEDBACK FROM GEORGIA'S CITIES ON HOW ARPA SUPPORTS AND UPLIFTS THEIR COMMUNITIES



City of Dacula pop. 6882

Dacula is working in conjunction with AT&T to provide broadband in the City's park for free to the Citizens that do not have access in that area. Also, there is no broadband access to the City's maintenance facility so AT&T will provide broadband down a residential road that currently has no access.

Town of Trion pop. 1960

With the Town's largest employer, tax generator, and utilities user about to close due to COVID, the town had to use the ARPA funds to offset losses from the mill in order to meet payroll of the employees.

City of Union City pop. 26,830

- Greenway trail to connect and promote public health of city residents
- Distribution of healthy meals to the food-insecure and other assistance programs for small businesses and the senior community
- Premium pay to essential workers

SLFRF funding is helping Union City leverage the value of locally derived revenue to make sure the greenway trail benefits all our residents by connecting all of Union City, from one end of our city to the other, to an ecosystem of outdoor spaces to address health disparities.

City of Davisboro pop. 1832

- Mapping and electronically documenting stormwater, sewage and water drains and pipes throughout the city
- Grading necessary ditches and replacing corrugated pipes for proper stormwater drainage

City of Jonesboro pop. 4235

The use of funds will restore the city's resources and allow for improved functionality and the opportunity to be responsive to the immediate and future needs of those directly and indirectly affected as well as those who have been steadfast in sustaining operations during the crisis.

City of Young Harris pop. 1098

A city the size of Young Harris cannot fund expensive but necessary expansion. We have a growing population due in large part to COVID. Many people are moving to the mountains because they can work from home, the area is not crowded and the lifestyle is better suited to their needs. Due to this influx of people we are in need of expanding our sewer/water lines into parts of our community that does not currently have this infrastructure. Providing this will help with residential and commercial building, economic development and community growth and development.

City of Commerce pop. 7387

ARPA funding will be combined with local funding to improve aged water and sewer infrastructure. This will enhance water quality, provide for expanded storage in case of emergencies, and allow for expansion of waste water treatment capabilities to provide for new industry, businesses, and residents in our region. This is necessary to create economic opportunity and increase the labor force.

Visit gacities.com/arpa for more examples.

