



# ARPA & Energy Information Session

November 10, 2021

Two Rivers-Ottawa-Quebec Regional Commission

# What We'll Cover:

- Vermont's share
- Timeline & planning
- Eligible/ineligible uses
- OPM
- Public engagement
- VT and nationally
- VLCT and RPCs
- ARPA & Energy Discussion



# American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

## Vermont's Share:

- State of Vermont \$1,049,287,303
- Counties\* \$121,202,550
- Metro Cities \$20,721,902
- Non-Entitlement Units of Government (NEUs) \$58,788,245

TOTAL ARPA State and Local Funds: \$1,250,000,000

\*County money has been reallocated to municipalities. Payments (local and county) can be found by clicking [HERE](#).



# American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

## Timeline

- 1<sup>st</sup> payment (local and county) August 2021
- 2<sup>nd</sup> payment (local and county) summer 2022
- All funds must be **obligated** by December 31, 2024
- All funds must be **expended** by December 31, 2026
- Any funds not spent by December 31, 2026, must be returned to Treasury

# Planning Framework for Maximum Impact and Best Use of Municipal ARPA Funds



Vermont League  
of Cities & Towns

## **1. PRIORITIZE GOOD GOVERNANCE**

- Convene all Stakeholders & Build Consensus
- Follow Allowable Uses Under ARPA
- Meet all Accounting & Reporting Rules
- Comply w/ all Local & State Laws/Ordinances
- Ensure Transparency Throughout
- Do Not Create Future Budget Deficits

## **2. LEVERAGE YOUR ARPA AID**

- Use a Thoughtful Strategic Planning Process
- Leverage w/ ARPA, FEMA & Other \$ Fed Sources
- Coordinate w/ Other State & Local Programs
- Collaborate w/ Community Partners & Orgs
- Use Existing Delivery Systems for Efficiency
- Don't Reinvent the Wheel: Learn from Others

## **3. INVEST IN BEST USES FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY**

- Invest in Urgent Health and Economic Needs
- Prioritize Short-Term Investments w/ Lasting Benefits
- ID and Address Pre-COVID Inhibitors to Growth
- Measure Progress Throughout to Inform Ongoing Plans

# What You CAN Spend \$ On



## Seven (7) Categories:

1. Public Health
2. Negative Economic Impacts
3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
4. Premium Pay
5. Infrastructure (Water, Sewer, Broadband)
6. [Revenue Replacement](#)
7. Administrative

# What You CAN Spend \$ On

Within the 7 Categories, there are 66 Expenditure Categories



## Appendix 1: Expenditure Categories

The Expenditure Categories (EC) listed below must be used to categorize each project as noted in Part 2 above. The term "Expenditure Category" refers to the detailed level (e.g., 1.1 COVID-10 Vaccination). When referred to as a category (e.g., EC 1) it includes all Expenditure Categories within that level.

1: Public Health	
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination ^
1.2	COVID-19 Testing ^
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)*
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19
1.10	Mental Health Services*
1.11	Substance Use Services*
1.12	Other Public Health Services
2: Negative Economic Impacts	
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs* ^
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid* ^
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers* ^
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs* ^
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention* ^
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers*
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)* ^
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)* ^
2.10	Aid to Nonprofit Organizations*
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries
2.13	Other Economic Support* ^
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff
3: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning* ^
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts ^
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services* ^
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services* ^
3.5	Education Assistance: Other* ^
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care* ^
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting* ^
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System* ^



3.9	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other* ^
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing* ^
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused Persons* ^
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance* ^
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other* ^
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators* ^
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation ^
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions* ^
4: Premium Pay	
4.1	Public Sector Employees
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to Other Employers
5: Infrastructure <sup>27</sup>	
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized Wastewater
5.4	Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows
5.5	Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater
5.7	Clean Water: Energy Conservation
5.8	Clean Water: Water Conservation
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint Source
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution: Lead Remediation
5.13	Drinking water: Source
5.14	Drinking water: Storage
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects
5.17	Broadband: Other projects
6: Revenue Replacement	
6.1	Provision of Government Services
7: Administrative	
7.1	Administrative Expenses
7.2	Evaluation and Data Analysis
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government
7.4	Transfers to Non-entitlement Units (States and territories only)

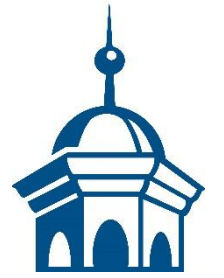


# What You CAN NOT Spend \$ On

1. Non-Federal Match - you can include your ARPA \$ in your capital stack, you just cannot use it as match for other federal grants
2. Pension Funds
3. Infrastructure Not Directly Addressed in ARPA
4. Rainy Day Funds, Financial Reserves, and Outstanding Debt



# Things to Consider:



- You can:
  - **Pool your funds** with other municipalities to achieve scale for deeper impact and long-term sustainability that benefits your community.
  - **Transfer your funds** to non-profits or other eligible third-party organizations performing ARPA eligible projects that benefit your community.
  - **Take time to be patient and think bigger** - see how the State of Vermont's ARPA money will be deployed, as well as other federal funding that is and could be on its way like the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* and the *Build Back Better Act*.

# OPM (Other People's Money)



- Look for opportunities to leverage your ARPA money
- October 19<sup>th</sup> Webinar - [“Take Your Time and Think Big”](#) ← link to recording and slide decks
- [State of Vermont Recovery Plan – SLFRF 2021 Report](#)
  - Some of the State of VT’s ARPA Money:
    - \$100 million Water, Wastewater, Stormwater
    - \$150 million Broadband
    - \$64 million Affordable Housing
    - \$20 million Affordable Community-Scale Renewable Energy
    - **\$18 million Housing Weatherization**
- Other funding opportunities - pending federal infrastructure bill, other existing programs, etc.

# ARPA - Vermont Public Engagement



Examples from a few Vermont towns:

- **Charlotte:** public meetings and a [webpage](#) to submit residents' input
- **St. Albans Town:** working with neighboring towns to potentially pool funds
- **Jericho:** ARPA [webpage](#), survey, discussion forum, post ideas
- **Rutland Town:** ARPA listening sessions
- [Plainfield](#), [Richmond](#), Fairfax, St. Johnsbury, Franklin, Westminster, [Westford](#): ARPA advisory committees (either formed or considering it)

**How do your residents want their ARPA money to be spent?**

# ARPA - Vermont

## Emerging Ideas:



- Waitsfield: **wastewater** treatment plant to support housing development
- Rutland: improve air quality in town hall, extending **water** and **sewer** lines
- Montgomery: municipal **sewer** system
- St. Albans Town: exploring **water** and **sewer** projects
- St. Albans City: neighborhood stabilization/housing rehab
- Highgate: **water** and **sewer** projects
- Ferrisburgh: **water** projects, broadband
- Panton: digitizing land records
- Barre Town: stormwater, **water** projects, radio coverage for EMS
- Cavendish: **sewer**/updating pump stations, **water** projects, digitizing land records, public building ventilation, hybrid meeting support
- Manchester: revenue replacement, improving EMS and EOC facilities, **sewer** improvements, town hall ventilation
- Montpelier: revenue replacement, **water/sewer**/stormwater projects, housing
- Weathersfield: grants to businesses, **water** and stormwater projects, COVID modifications to public facilities, premium pay (police)
- South Burlington: restore staffing levels

# ARPA - Nationally



**686**

Distinct Cities

**443**

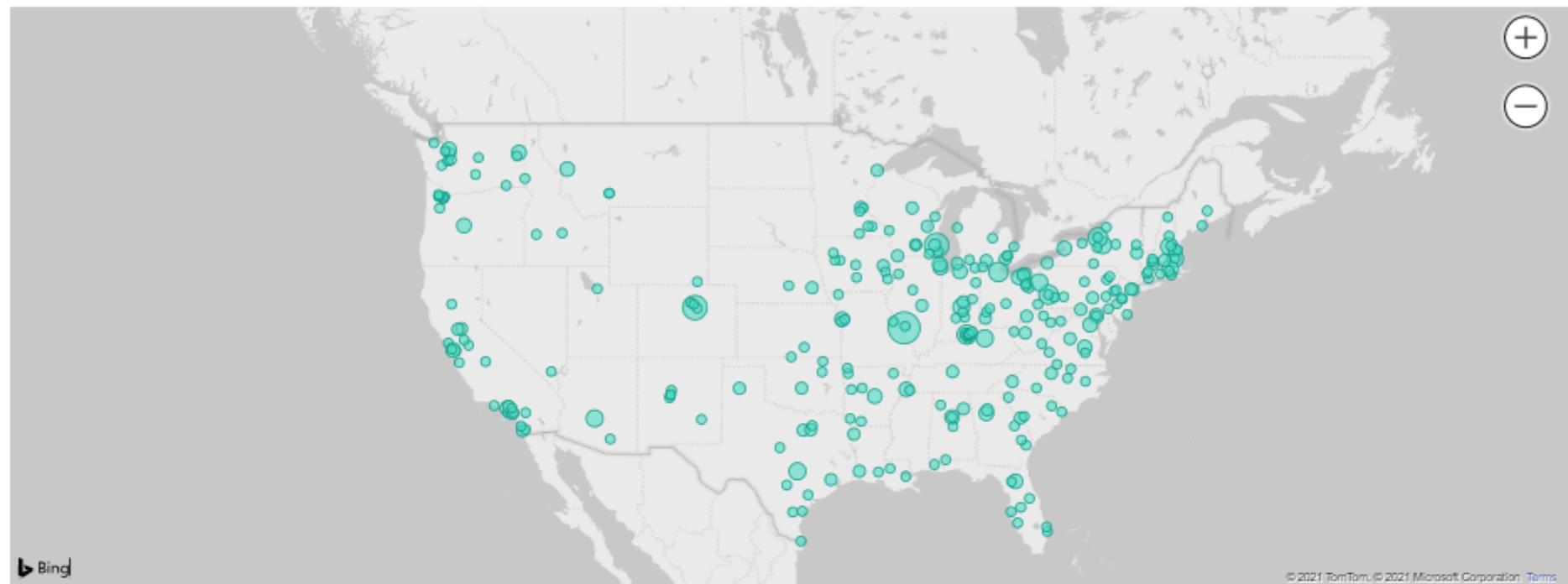
American Rescue Plan Act Plans & Proposals

**4612**

Policies Tracked to Date

**102M**

Population Impacted



Search by City or State

All

Search by Policy Area

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Search by City Action

Search

Reset Filter



City	State	Date of Action	Policy Area	City Action	Action Type	Population Impacted	City Population	Link to text or Release
Bentonville	Arkansas	10/27/2021	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	The City Council voted to use federal money for one-time premium payments of \$2,000 to eligible full-time city employees and \$1,000 to eligible part-time employees. The estimated cost is \$1.4 million.	Administrative Procedure	Municipal Employees	54,909	<a href="#">Link</a>
Kalamazoo	Michigan	10/27/2021	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	City and county leaders planned a community listening session to discuss gun violence in Kalamazoo. The city and county each committed \$1 million of Federal American Rescue Plan funding toward community violence intervention.	Administrative Procedure	General public	76,200	<a href="#">Link</a>
Parkersburg	West Virginia	10/27/2021	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	Parkersburg City Council approved the first readings of water rate related ordinances and accompanying improvement project. Councilwoman Sharon Kuhl said the rate increase was projected to have been nearly 16 percent before council allocated \$7 million in American Rescue Plan funds to the project.	Administrative Procedure	General public	29,306	<a href="#">Link</a>
St. Clair Shores	Michigan	10/27/2021	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	Taking the first step toward the separation of combined sewers, City Council approved a flow metering plan to determine how much storm water is within the lines during a rain event. The project has a cost not to exceed \$48,500 and will be paid for using American Rescue Plan Act funding, as will the future costs of the sewer separation.	Administrative Procedure	General public	58,984	<a href="#">Link</a>
Augusta	Georgia	10/26/2021	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Vaccinations	The City of Augusta increased its \$100 vaccination incentive. Now, residents will receive \$100 for each shot. The City says the money for the doubled incentive is coming from the American Rescue Plan.	Administrative Procedure	General public	197,888	<a href="#">Link</a>
Baltimore	Maryland	10/26/2021	American Rescue Plan Act	Mayor Brandon Scott announced Baltimore City is investing \$50 million of the city's	Administrative	General public	593,490	<a href="#">Link</a>

## National League of Cities COVID-19 Local Action Tracker

- Searchable by: City, State, Policy Area (ex. ARPA), Action, Population Impacted, City Population
- Entries made by local officials
- Interactive Map

# VLCT ARPA Assistance and Coordination Program



- Guidance and project eligibility analysis
- Webinars, targeted trainings, technical assistance, best practices
- In-person and virtual meetings with local officials and staff
- Answer questions ([arpa@vlct.org](mailto:arpa@vlct.org))
- Guidance with compliance, reporting, and transparency
- Collaboration/partnerships with RPCs, SOV, RDCs, statewide non-profits, private consultants, etc. to ensure needs of municipalities are met related to project ideation, implementation and management
- ARPA resources webpage:

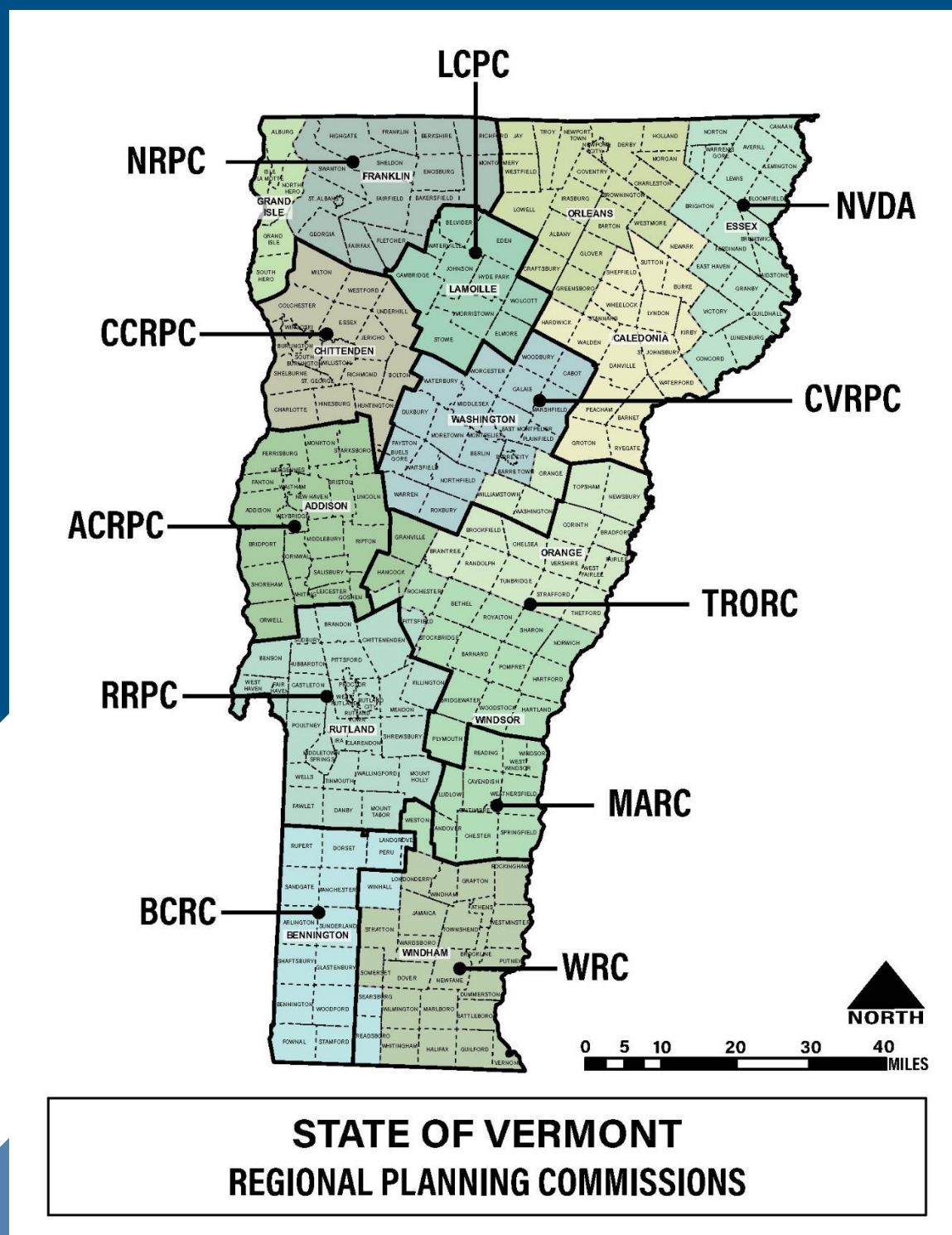
<https://www.vlct.org/resources/american-rescue-plan-information>

# Regional Planning Commission Assistance

- Identify needs and top priorities for designing and building projects that are consistent with existing State, regional and local plans.
- Respond to inquiries on eligibility to facilitate local discussions among stakeholders on specific projects.
- Provide other assistance as needed from local communities in coordination with VLCT.
- Work with VLCT, regional development corporations, and private consultants working with municipalities to ensure needs of local communities are met, especially related to project development and management.

For more information on the State of Vermont's 11 Regional Planning Commissions visit:

<https://www.vapda.org/>



So how do energy initiatives  
fit into ARPA???

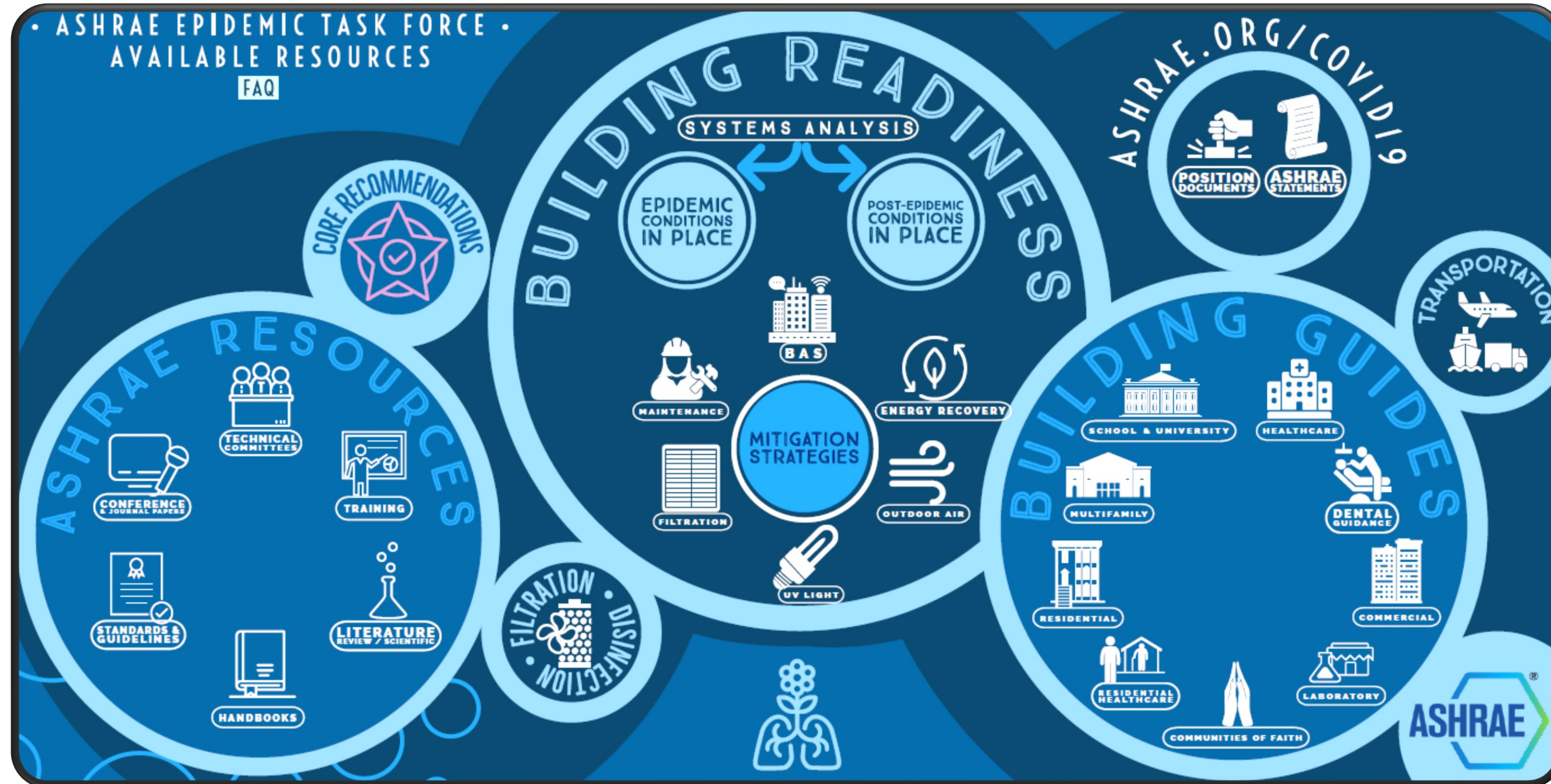




# Improving Public Buildings

Making improvements for the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19, such as ventilation/HVAC and modifications to allow for safe spacing.

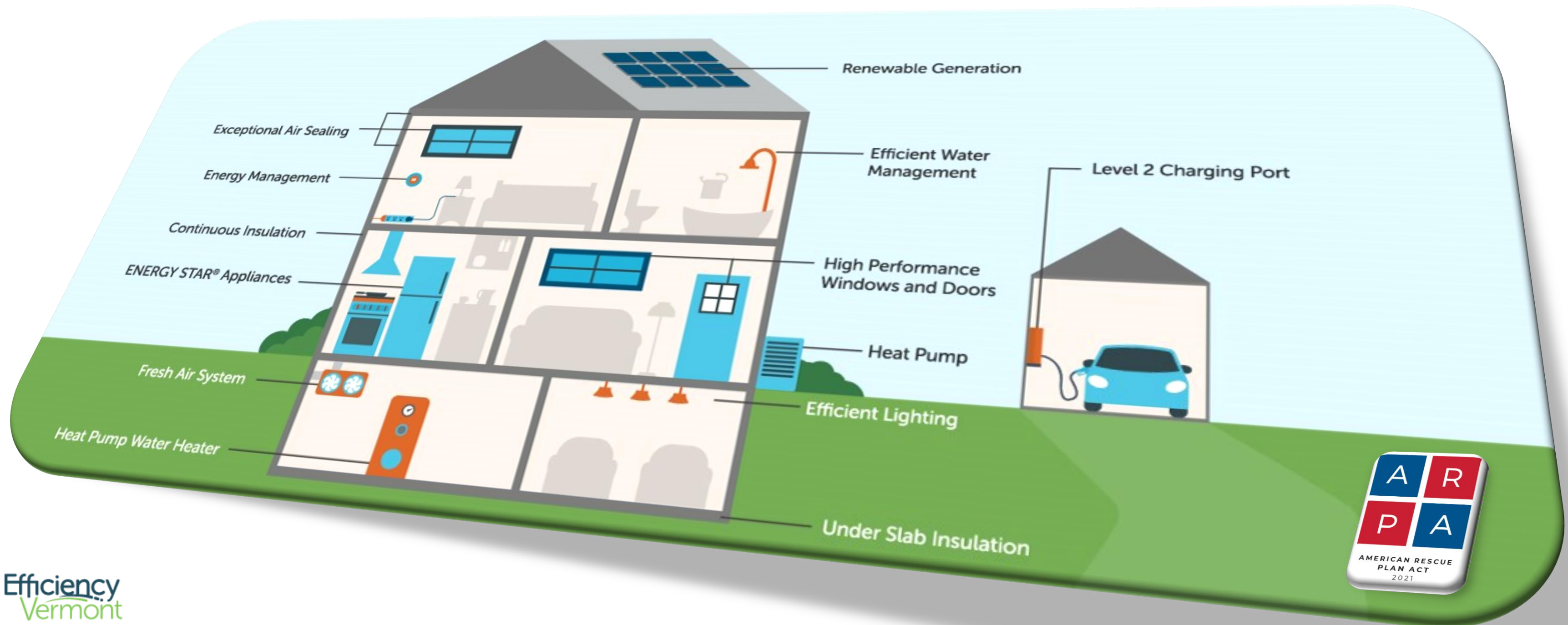
(EC 1.7 Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency)



# Home Weatherization

**Weatherization** - Help eligible households reduce their energy usage, lower their utility bills, and improve the comfort and safety of their homes. Priority for funding could be given to households receiving Seasonal Fuel Assistance; high-energy use homes; families with young children; older Vermonters; and people with disabilities.

(EC 3.12 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance; Included in the VT [SLFRF Recovery Plan Performance Report](#), pg. 18)





# Affordable Community-Scale Renewable Energy

Creating affordable community scale renewable energy consistent with parameters of the Clean Energy Development Fund, to support the creation of renewable energy projects for Vermonters with low-income (EC 2.13 Other Economic Support; Included in the VT [SLFRF Recovery Plan Performance Report](#), pg. 17)

# Public Infrastructure



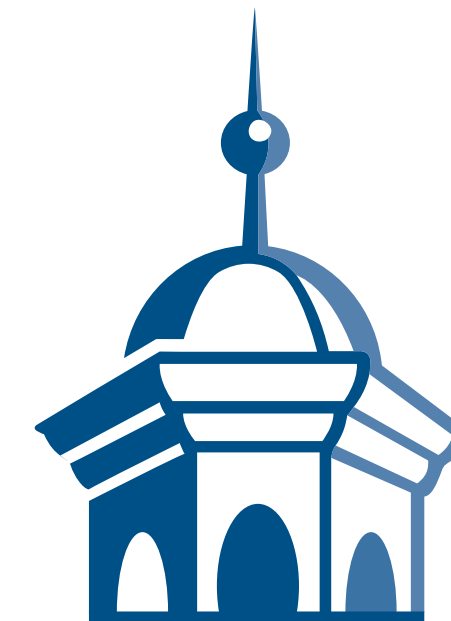
**Wastewater** – Under EPA’s [CWSRF](#), energy efficiency measures for publicly owned treatment works is an eligible use. Funds may be used to finance the generation and delivery of clean power to a wastewater system or a water treatment plant on a pro-rata basis. If the wastewater system or water treatment plant is the sole user of the clean energy, the full cost would be considered an eligible use of funds. (EC 5 Infrastructure; [Treasury's CSLFRF FAQ](#), 6.13, pg. 32)



# Ideas and Questions?



# Thank You!



VLCT

Katie Buckley, Director,

ARPA Assistance & Coordination Program

[kbuckley@vlct.org](mailto:kbuckley@vlct.org)

[ARPA@vlct.org](mailto:ARPA@vlct.org)

(802) 343-6323



<https://www.vlct.org/resources/american-rescue-plan-information>