Connecting Washtenaw County

Broadband Infrastructure
Many household in Washtenaw County do not currently have access to high speed internet. By working with local jurisdictions and internet providers, we would be able to connect every household to broadband.

$$$$ | Qualifies for ARP | Ready to Go

Broadband Relief Fund
While some households have access to Broadband infrastructure, they still struggle to afford the plans necessary for their family to go to school, work remotely, search for jobs, and connect with families and friends. This fund would help households not need to make the decision between paying for rent and paying for internet if they are struggling to make ends meet.

$$ | Qualifies for ARP | Ready to Go

Expanding Public Wifi
Another possible way to expand internet access is through expanding public wifi. This would provide internet access, centered in public spaces (e.g., parks, downtown streets) free of charge. These networks could be privately or publicly owned.

$$$$ | Does Not Qualify for ARP | More planning needed
**Encouraging Generational Success**

**Addressing Childcare Access**
This item could vary based on recommendations from the community. It could include short term investments to address needs right now, as well as longer term investments to make a lasting impact on access to quality childcare in Washtenaw County.

$$ - $$$$
Qualifies for ARP
More planning needed

**Expanding Early Childhood Education**
Local investments can ensure local, community based providers are able to take advantage of expanded funding at the state and federal level. These funds would help provide technical assistance to community organizations to help them obtain classroom space, attract quality teachers, and more.

$$$
Qualifies for ARP
Ready to Go

**Investing in High-Impact Tutoring**
By working with community stakeholders, an investment in this area would expand current efforts to offer high quality tutoring and support for students in Washtenaw County.

$$
Qualify for ARP
More planning needed

**Universal Childhood Savings Accounts**
By giving every student who goes to school in Washtenaw County a savings account, we are creating a pathway to higher education. Whether it’s community college, a job training program, or a 4-year college, this program will help orient students towards success and provide the initial investment to help them attain their goals.

$$ - $$$$$
ARP Eligibility To Be Determined
Ready to Go

**Launching a Financial Empowerment Center**
Financial empowerment centers offer free, one-on-one financial counseling to residents. In addition to helping households make ends meet, this program would include special funding to provide direct cash assistance to program participants to help them reduce debt, build savings, and invest in their future.

$$
ARP Eligibility To Be Determined
Ready to Go

$ - Less than $100,000
$$ - $100,000 to $1,000,000
$$$ - $1,000,000 to $5,000,000
$$$$ - More than $5,000,000
Addressing Housing Affordability and Homelessness

Rental Assistance Program
While this $20 million program is already being implemented by Washtenaw County's Office of Community and Economic Development to provide households rental, utility, and internet assistance, the level of need is great and could be expanded using American Rescue Plan funds if needed.

$$$$ | Qualify for ARP | Already being implemented

Increasing BIPOC Home Ownership Rates
Leveraging these dollars to address systemic inequity is critical. Renters, who are disproportionately people of color due to racist programs, policies, and practices were hit particularly hard by the pandemic. Residential counseling, down payment assistance, and other recommendations made by a community collaborative focused on this issues would be an important first step towards addressing this disparity.

$$-$$$$ | Qualify for ARP | Ready to Go

Securing Permanent Affordable Housing Units
Washtenaw County is already receiving non-flexible funds to secure and preserve affordable housing units that can be used as part of our homelessness response system. American Rescue Plan funds could be used to expand this work to increase the affordable housing stock across the county.

$$-$$$$$ | Qualify for ARP | More planning needed
Creating a More Sustainable Community

Climate Action Planning
To make substantial, coordinated efforts to combat climate change, the County needs to invest in a comprehensive plan to help identify and prioritize potential projects.

$$ | Does not Qualify for ARP | Already being implemented

Expanding Solar Infrastructure Across the County
While climate action planning will determine a lot of the climate mitigation work that the county will pursue in the coming years, there are certain priorities that can begin moving forward now. One such is looking at different ways to invest in innovative solar infrastructure solutions.

$$-$$$$ | Does not Qualify for ARP | More planning needed

Investing in Storm Water & Sewage Infrastructure
Ensuring we have proper drainage infrastructure helps prevent flooding of homes, streets, and public infrastructure. One example of this identified by the Water Resource Commissioner and the Washtenaw County Roads Commission is repairing culverts. By repairing culverts, we can prevent road closures in Western Washtenaw County that can result in long detours.

$$ $$ | Qualify for ARP | Ready to Go

Expanding Energy Efficiency Program
The Washtenaw County Home Improvement programs offer free home repair services that increase the comfort of families, while decreasing their energy bills. Expanding this work can help more households, employ more local contractors, and help substantially reduce unnecessary energy usage by replacing old furnaces with high efficiency units, improving home insulation, and potentially adding solar panels to eligible homes.

$$-$$$ | Qualify for ARP | Ready to Go

$ - Less than $100,000
$$ - $100,000 to $1,000,000
$$$ - $1,000,000 to $5,000,000
$$$$ - More than $5,000,000
Supporting A Strong Local Economy

**Small Business Relief Funds**
The COVID-19 Pandemic had a huge impact in small business. This small business relief fund is meant to support business through grant programs to small businesses to help them recover from lost revenues over the past year, rehire staff, and more. This would operate similarly to the small business support program administered by OCED, United Way of Washtenaw County, and the Song Foundation last year.

$$ | Qualify for ARP | Already being implemented

**Support for Farmers and Agriculture Based Businesses**
Michigan State University Extension is already doing important work in Washtenaw County to help connect farmers to local markets to sell their produce and more. By expanding this work through additional funding, we can begin to work with groups like the Washtenaw Conservation District to explore new ways to invest in farming and agriculture in our County.

$$ | Qualify for ARP | More planning needed

**Supporting Entrepreneurs, Particularly BIPOC Entrepreneurs**
While there are many potentially forms this may take, there is interest in creating entrepreneurship assistance fund that will directly invest in business and invest in business technical assistance providers who have an express commitment to equity and anti-racism, and experience working with diverse communities, preferably providers of color.

$$ | Qualify for ARP | More planning needed

$ - Less than $100,000
$$ - $100,000 to $1,000,000
$$ | $1,000,000 to $5,000,000
$$ | More than $5,000,000
Investing in Our Health & Wellbeing

Mobile Support Services Initiative
This initiative would retrofit buses to be community service hubs that move throughout our county. This would be an expansive partnership with community service agencies to make sure the vehicle is able to connect individuals using it to all of the services they need to be successful.

$$-$$ $$ | Qualify for ARP | More planning needed

Medical Mobile Clinic
The Health Department recently got a new medical mobile clinic. By providing additional funding, this would allow us to maximize its use by having it out in the community on a regular basis. In addition to hosting and attending special events, it could also have a recurring schedule in the parts of our county without access to a medical clinic.

$$ | Qualify for ARP | Ready to Go

Community Healthcare Workers
By expanding funding to hire additional community health workers, the Health Department can expand their work to address health disparities and the social determinants of health. These workers would help with public health promotion, attend and put on special events, and help connect individuals with important programming and resources.

$$$$ - $$$$$ $ | Qualify for ARP | More planning needed

Public Health Data Analysts
Being able to track data, evaluate programs, and conduct community surveys is a critical components of public health response. By hiring data analysts, we can make sure our systems are truly having their intended impacts, while also tracking data to discover and address emerging needs early rather than later.

$$ - $$ $$ | Qualify for ARP | More planning needed

Emerging Needs Microgrants for Non Profits
To be able to address emerging needs related to the lasting impacts of COVID-19 on our community in the coming years, these funds could be used to quickly provide support to specific service providers in need of investment.

$ - $$ $ | Qualify for ARP | Ready to go

$ - Less than $100,000
$$ - $100,000 to $1,000,000
$$ $$ - $1,000,000 to $5,000,000
$$$$ - More than $5,000,000
**County Master Plan**
The goal of a master plan would be to take stock of the current county environment, conduct a needs assessment, develop a shared vision, create a plan to implement activities and achieve project goals.

$$ | Does Not Qualify for ARP | Will be implemented soon$$

**Accounting for Lost Revenues**
Washtenaw County and other local governments are facing budget shortfalls due to lost revenue as a result of COVID-19. The American Rescue Plan allows for governments to use funding to replace lost revenue. This will allow Washtenaw County government to continue to provide valuable public services despite decreased revenues.

$$$$ | Qualify for ARP | Assessed and revisited annually$$$

**Investing in County Government Infrastructure**
The American Rescue Plan allows for governments to use funding increase capacity to successfully implement economic relief and health programming, including investing in technology infrastructure. By modernizing systems, we would be able to improve security and stability for employees and the public interacting with our technology.

$$$ | Qualifies for ARP | More planning needed$$$

**Supporting Washtenaw County Employees**
Washtenaw County employees have been on the front line of this pandemic, and have provided the social safety net for our community for generations. The Board values county employees and wants to make sure we are creating a workplace that helps us attract and retain the best employees to serve the community. To do so the Board plans to provide initial funding necessary for a paid leave program for Washtenaw County employees and to partially fund recommendations from a compensation study to ensure the civil servants of Washtenaw County Government are paid their fair share.

$$-$$$$ | Does Not Qualify for ARP | More planning needed$$$

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$ - Less than $100,000
$$ - $100,000 to $1,000,000
$$$ - $1,000,000 to $5,000,000
$$$$ - More than $5,000,000