

American Rescue Plan Working Group
Council Chambers, Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose St Newtown Ct
Monday July 11th 2022

Minutes

Present: Ed Schierloh, Erica Sullivan, Charles Gardner, Michele Ku & Matthew Mihalcik

Also Present: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal & Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson

Call to Order: Dan Rosenthal called the meeting at 6:36 pm

Vote Comments: None

Announcements: None

Old Business:

Discussion and Possible action

1. Education/Tutoring Support Program

- a. Natalie from Social Services came to speak about the proposal from United Way of Western CT. She informed the group that there is a proposal from United Way of Western CT for housing and academic/enrichment support. The town has works with the United Way to utilize the ALICE program currently, mostly through the Enchainment fund. The housing portion of the proposal would be new for Newtown, currently housing needs are met through Salvation Army bell ringing funds, The Newtown Fund and Operation Hope. In fiscal year 2021 there were 6 requests totaling \$2,938 and in fiscal year 2022 there were 21 requests for \$17,320 with 3 additional requests were referred to Operation Hope since the funds were depleted. The group discussed which to focus on education, enrichment, or housing. The consensus is to focus on education tutoring. The thought is to support the students that are showing signs of learning loss from the time that was spent learning remotely due to COVID regulations. There is currently support for both housing and enrichment. Natalie is going to get in touch with the United Way and discuss the options we have on how we can structure or modify the proposal. No action taken.

2. Additional Recommended Appropriations

- a. There was brief discussion on the funding for the 2 public works trucks that are in the requested items. No action taken.

Voter Comments: None

Adjournment: Michelle Ku moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Seconded by Ed Schierloh, All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Mihalcik

These minutes are subject to approval by the American Rescue Plan Working Group
at the next meeting



First Selectman Daniel Rosenthal
ARPA Committee
Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose St, Newtown, CT

Dear First Selectman Daniel Rosenthal and ARPA Committee Members,

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Town of Newtown can leverage the \$7,674,294 in federal funding to positively impact our community today, and in the future. United Way of Western Connecticut continues to address urgent community needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic through innovative and impactful programming in the areas of health, education, and financial stability.

We would like to request ARPA funding from the Town of Newtown in the amount of \$150,000 to ensure that local ALICE® (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households have the support needed as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the ripple effects it has on individuals within your community.

Specifically, we request funding to provide financial assistance to ALICE in the following three areas:

- Emergency housing needs
- Youth enrichment activities
- Tutoring and academic support

As you know, households have been hit especially hard throughout the pandemic—financially, physically, and emotionally. **Combined with those living in poverty, 27% of Newtown households have income below the basic cost of living threshold.** Together, through the continued deployment of United Way programming, and with the support of Newtown's community leaders, we can ensure that struggling ALICE families are able to weather the pandemic and its long-lasting impact.

Below you will find detailed descriptions of the proposed programs United Way can support in your community that respond to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic as defined by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Newtown Housing Stability Fund: \$100,000

United Way will oversee the administration of a housing stability fund for Newtown residents to assist individuals and families who are facing emergency circumstances as defined by the town of Newtown. In partnership with Newtown's Human Services department, United Way will develop eligibility requirements, parameters for the housing stability fund, and an application process for residents to use to access financial assistance. Newtown Human Services will be integral in identifying and referring residents for participation in the program. United Way will gather relevant participant information, including W9's from landlords, and will process monthly payments directly to landlords and banking institutions. Regular reporting will be provided to the town for number of people and households served, as well as other pre-determined demographic information and data.



Newtown Academic and Enrichment Fund: \$50,000

Decades of research details the positive association between extracurricular participation and desirable academic, social, and developmental outcomes. Participation in activities like sports, music, robotics; and arts is a crucial part of the community's efforts to reestablish normalcy after the pandemic, foster social connectedness, and maximize academic achievement for our youth. United Way understands the important developmental and academic benefits of extracurricular participation, which is why it established the ALICE Enrichment Fund in 2017. The Enrichment Fund offsets the cost of Newtown children's extracurricular activities to ease the financial burden on low-income families and provide opportunities for youth to benefit from activities like team sports, swimming lessons, music, art, and more. As part of this Fund, United Way will expand the per child stipend from \$300 to \$500, allowing for up to \$1,500 per family annually. In addition, this Fund will address academic needs by including tutoring as a covered expense, helping to close the learning gap exacerbated by the pandemic. Families will access the Fund through Human Services as they do the current ALICE Enrichment Fund, with the opportunity to utilize technology through United Way of Western Connecticut to digitize the process moving forward.

The goal for ARPA funds is to distribute them into the community as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Partnering with United Way of Western Connecticut to oversee the fund management alleviates both the administrative and operational burdens for the town. In addition, United Way of Western Connecticut will collect and report all demographic data related to program participants. Through this partnership, Newtown residents will have the opportunity to access all United Way of Western Connecticut programming, resources, and supports.

United Way of Western Connecticut certifies that any money allocated from Newtown's ARPA committee will only be spent on Newtown residents. Fund spend rates will be analyzed biannually to determine if spending caps need to be increased to achieve full spend down of allocated funds by December 2026.

An administrative fee of 15% of the total funds collected will be retained by United Way of Western Connecticut to cover the administrative and processing costs associated with this agreement.

On behalf of United Way of Western Connecticut, thank you for considering our funding request of \$150,000 and exploring opportunities for collaboration. Together, we will help countless local ALICE households in Newtown throughout the coming years.

Sincerely,

Isabel Almeida
President, United Way of Western Connecticut

Town of Newtown					
the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)					
ARP Working Group Worksheet					
					7/12/2022
ARP award amount (50% received; balance June 2022)		7,674,294			
Possible Uses:			Recommended	Approved	
line	General Government:				
1	Fairfield Hills - Replace Water Distribution System	1,500,000	✓	1/27/2022	✓
2	Fairfield Hills Campus Safety Improvements	50,000			
3	Student Tutoring / Rental Assistance	100,000			
4	Public Works:				
5	Multi-purpose Building Roof	190,000	✓	1/27/2022	✓
6	Public Works 6 Wheel 8 Ton Dump Truck	240,000			
7	Public Works Front & Bucket Loader	300,000			
8	Transfer Station Site Improvements	200,000	✓	4/11/2022	✓
9	Municipal Building Improvements	100,000	✓	4/11/2022	✓
10	Public Safety:				
11	Fire Commission Fire Suppression Tank Repair	50,000	✓	1/27/2022	✓
12	Fire Company Grants (4 x \$15,000); NUSAR (\$15,000);	90,000	✓	1/27/2022	✓
13	Ambulance (\$15,000)				
14	Recreation & Leisure:				
15	Parks & Recreation Truck with lift gate	90,000	✓	4/11/2022	✓
16	Treadwell Park Disc Golf Course	40,000			
17	Dickinson Park New Pavillion (Refurbishment)	150,000	✓	4/11/2022	✓
18	Bike Park at Fairfield Hills	85,000			
19	Edmond Town Hall Building Improvements	150,000			
20	The Art Walk at Fairfield Hills	50,000			
21	Sandy Hook Side Walks				
22	section #1	215,000			
23	section #2	525,000			
24	Health & Welfare:				
25	Senior/Community Center 14 passenger bus	90,000	✓	5/9/2022	✓
26	COVID supplies/expenses	40,000	✓	1/27/2022	✓
27	Community Center:				
28	Community Center Generator (75,000)	passed			
29	Community Center Outside Storage Building	75,000	✓	4/11/2022	✓
30	Community Center Patio	155,000	✓	4/11/2022	✓
31	Community Center Outdoor Spray Features (200,000)	passed			
32	Community Center/Senior Center Handicap Doors	16,000	✓	4/11/2022	✓
33	Education:				
34	Hawley School HVAC/Ventilation project	2,500,000	✓		
35	BOE information technology licenses to address				
36	covid 19 pandemic recovery	In Capital &			
37	BOE crome books for distance learning	non-recurring			
38	Function Wide:				
39	Reimburse the Town Medical Self Insurance Fund				
	for COVID Expenses (since 3/3/2021)	325,000	✓	1/27/2022	✓
Total Proposed Uses		7,326,000			
					appropriated
Amount Available after Proposed Uses		348,294			5,571,000
✓ Recommended by the ARP Working Group. To go through the Town appropriation process (BOS/BOF/LC)					
✓ Appropriated by Legislative Council					