Help decide how COVID relief funds get spent in your community
$5.7B in Relief Funds Allocated to NC Local Gov'ts

- Cities/Towns
- Counties
- Local Educational Authorities (aka School Districts)
Example: Goldsboro, NC

- City of Goldsboro: $8.8M
- Wayne County: $23.9M
- Wayne County Schools: $55.6M*

*Mandatory 20% set-aside to address learning loss: $11M
Use the Toolkit!

Take Action

ncchild.org/arpa

Act Now

Ask your local government officials to prioritize low-income kids and families as they plan to spend out American Rescue Plan relief funds.

Join the Campaign

Contact our Director of Public Engagement, Adam Sotak, to find out how you can plug in and organize others in your local community through volunteering and advocacy.
Step 1: Investigate
Reach out to local officials

- County Manager
- City / Town Manager
- School Superintendent & School Board
- County Commissioners
- City / Town Council Members
Ask Questions

- How much funding will our city/county/school district receive?
- How is the local government getting input from residents?
- What is the best way for residents to get involved in the process?
Ask Questions

- What is the timeline for making decisions about ARP money?
- What are your priorities for using the money?
- Who from the community has been speaking up about local ARP funds so far?
Step 2: Join Others
There is Power in Numbers

- Local nonprofits, civic groups & PTA's
- Community leaders
- Neighbors
- Local chambers of commerce
- Public health advocates
- Churches
Work Together with Other Advocates

• Educate them about local ARP funding & how it will impact your community.
• Find out if there are any groups who are already taking action or talking about the issue
• Keep Adam in the loop! adam@ncchild.org
Step 3: Identify Priorities
How Can the Funding Be Used?

PUBLIC HEALTH

• Support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff
How Can the Funding Be Used?

ECONOMIC RELIEF

• Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.
How Can the Funding Be Used?

AVOID LOCAL BUDGET CUTS

- Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.
How Can the Funding Be Used?

RAISE WAGES

• Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors.
How Can the Funding Be Used?

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.
Narrow Your Focus

- Focus on one or two top priorities that you and others feel strongly about.
- Think creatively. There are many different ways that ARP funding can be used.
- Do your research.
Advocating Your Issue

• Approach elected leaders and other decision makers with questions and to gather their ideas.

• Be specific: It is vital to focus on specific funding amounts and programs when advocating.
Step 4: Build Support
Engage others from the community

- Provide clear ways to get involved.
  - Speaking at a local meeting
  - Writing a letter
  - Posting good information & events on social media
Get the word out

• Create clear talking points about your issue
• Engage the local media
  ○ Talk to reporters
  ○ Write op-eds and letters to the editor
What's the call to action?

Always be ready with a clear action step that people can take!
Use These ARP Resources

ncchild.org/arpa