Utility federal funding update – ARPA and Infrastructure Act

2022 MS4 Stormwater Partnership Annual Meeting

May 10, 2022





# American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) updates based on the treasury's final rule

#### ARP OVERVIEW ARP for the public sector

#### **Fiscal recovery funds**

### \$350 billion

of non-competitive funding for states, counties, cities, tribes and territories. of this funding:

\$195.3 billion to states and Washington, D.C.

> \$130.2 billion to local governments

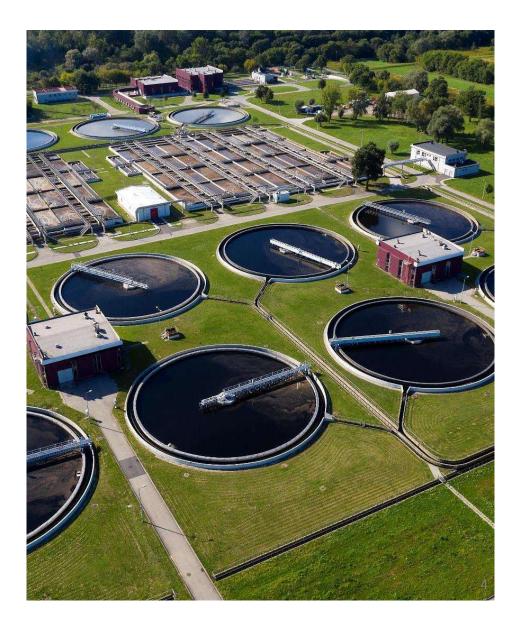
\$20 billion to tribal governments

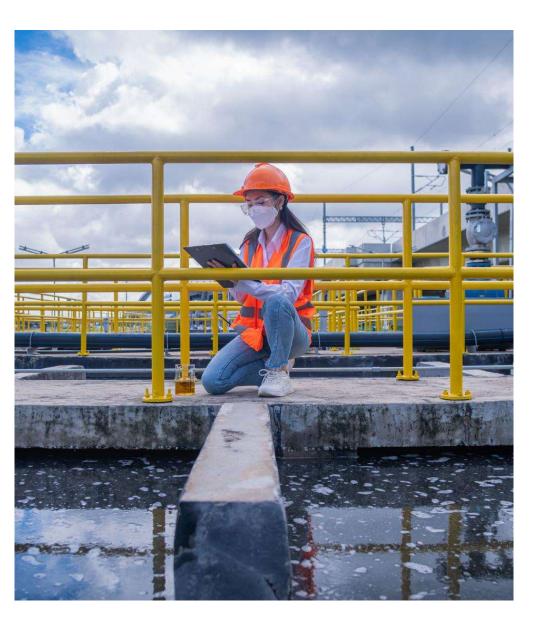
#### Other provisions of the bill include:

<b>Recovery</b>	<b>Schools</b>	Housing				
\$10 billion Coronavirus	nearly	\$25 billion in emergency				
capital projects fund	\$170 billion	rental assistance				
<b>Small business</b>	Transportation	<b>Energy and water</b>				
\$22 billion in	and infrastructure	\$4.5 billion				
EIDL and PPP	\$58.2 billion	in household assistance				
<b>Restaurants and bars</b> \$25 billion	Emergency connectivity fund \$7.6 billion for internet access for distance learning	Public health \$72 billion for COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and vaccine distribution				

### ARP OVERVIEW Use of funds categories

- 1. Public health
  - Responding to COVID-19 health crisis
  - Premium pay
- 2. Economic impacts
  - Responding to negative economic impacts
  - Emphasis on providing relief to low-income and Native American communities (i.e., individual, business and not-for-profit assistance programs)
- 3. Revenue loss (governmental operations)
- 4. Infrastructure





## Water, sewer and stormwater

- Projects generally eligible under the clean water and safe drinking water funds (i.e., CWSRF and DWSRF)
- Treatment, transmission and distribution, source, consolidation or creation of new systems, stormwater, energy efficiency, security and more

Utility impacts – stormwater

### ARPA eligible stormwater projects

- Management and treatment of stormwater or subsurface drainage water
- Reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater or subsurface drainage water
- Culvert repair, resizing, and removal, replacement of storm sewers and additional types of stormwater infrastructure
- \* Professional engineering fees are eligible

## Final Rule released Jan. 6, 2022

- Became effective April 1, 2022
- The Final Rule preserves the interim rule's focus on promoting a strong, equitable recovery by:
  - Supporting COVID-19 response efforts
  - Replacing lost public sector revenue
  - Economically stabilizing impacted households and businesses
  - Addressing systemic public health and economic challenges inequitably borne by certain populations
- Generally, maintains previously authorized eligible uses
- Increases flexibility with which funds may be utilized and, in some cases, simplifies administration

## Final Rule – key provisions

- The most significant change in the Final Rule is a dramatic simplification to the lost revenue provision
- Recipients may now choose to make a one-time election of the following options:
- Perform the revenue loss calculation provided in the Final Rule (automatic growth factor increased from 4.1% to 5.2%)
  - Assume a standard allowance of up to their entire award or \$10 million, whichever is less
  - Revenue loss dollars can be broadly used for "governmental services"
  - Government services include, but are not limited to, maintenance or pay-go funded building of infrastructure, including roads; modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure; health services; environmental remediation; school or educational services; and the provision of police, fire and other public safety services

## Final Rule – key provisions (cont.)

- Ineligible uses remain the same:
  - Outstanding debt (including fees and debt issuance costs),
  - Replenishing rainy day or other reserve funds or
  - Paying settlements or judgments



### Final rule – key provisions **Procurement process**

Must follow federal procurement requirements consistent with Uniform Guidance Rules

Informal method allowed for:

- Micro-purchases (less than \$10,000)
  - May be awarded without soliciting competitive price or rate quotes if entity considers price to be reasonable based on research, experience, purchase history or other information and documents accordingly
- Non-federal entity may self-certify the micro-purchase threshold up to \$50,000
  - The self-certification must include a justification, clear identification of the threshold and supporting documentation of any of the following:
- Small purchases higher than micro-purchase but does not exceed small acquisition threshold (\$10,000 - \$250,000)
  - Price or rate quotes must be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources as determined appropriate by the entity

## Final rule – key provisions **Procurement process** (cont.)

Formal method required for purchases exceeding small acquisition threshold of \$250,000 (or lower threshold as established by the entity)

- Sealed bids
- Proposals (generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids)
  - May use qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering professional services whereby most qualified offeror is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation; not applicable to other services

## Final rule – key provisions **Procurement process** (cont.)

Noncompetitive procurement-only allowed if one or more of the following apply

- Property or services in which the aggregate dollar amount does not exceed micro-purchase threshold
- Item is available only from a single source
- Public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from publicizing a competitive solicitation
- Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity (PTE) expressly authorizes a noncompetitive procurement as requested by the entity
- After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate

Payment to other entities

PTEs (state, county, city, town) are responsible for determining the relationship

Contractor payments

Subrecipient payments

**Beneficiary payments** 

#### ARP

### Payment to other entities (cont.)

### Common characteristics of a *contractor*

- Provides a specific number of goods or services (i.e., 100 notebooks or hours of labor) requested by the buyer
- In the business of providing the same goods or services to other buyers
- Procurement often involves obtaining bids or quotes
- Could be federal requirements they need to follow, but they are not subject to single audit

### Common characteristics of a *subrecipient*

- Control over how funds are spent
- Determines eligibility
- Help with mission of the grant; provide service to other end users (i.e., prevent homelessness)
- Federal requirements typically pass-through to them and are subject to single audit

### Common characteristics of a *beneficiary*

- Identification of need
- Application process
- Eligibility requirements
- Federal requirements do not transfer to them
- End user

STRATEGIES FOR ARP FUNDING Reminder before spending ... Think marathon, not sprint!

- Local governments have until Dec. 31, 2024 to obligate ARP Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF)
- ARP dollars must be fully spent by Dec. 31, 2026
- Consider community collaborations to tackle regional and/or local issues
- Maximize available funding opportunities from other ARP provisions (in addition to direct funding allocations)

Take the time now to think **broadly and strategically** about community needs



## Overview of IIJA

The President signed into law the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Infrastructure Act or IIJA) on November 15, 2021

- \$550B of this is new funding
- \$650B are reauthorization of existing spending



## Funding breakdown over five years

		46%	11.5%	8%	8%	6.5%	6%	4%		
46%		Highway and bridges								
11.5%		Transit 3%								
8%	_	Rail 3%								
8%		Broadband 2%								
6.5%		Energy grid, tech, supply chains 2%								2%
6%										
4%		Western water, wildfire management, dam safety								
3%		Ports and waterways								
3%		Aviation								
2%		Economic development, public buildings, agency operations								
2%		Mine/well cleanup, environmental remediation								

## Funding by state

	American society of civil engineers	Highways and bridges	Public transportation	Broadband	EV charging network	Water and wastewater	Cyber	Aviation	Total
USA	<u>C-</u>	46.0%	19.5%	8.0%	6.5%	6.0%	4.0%	3.0%	93.0%
Texas	<u>C</u>	\$27,437	\$3,300	\$100	\$408	\$2,900	\$42	\$1,200	\$35,387
Illinois	<u>C-</u>	\$11,200	\$4,000	\$100	\$149	\$1,700	\$22	\$616	\$17,787
Pennsylvania	<u>C-</u>	\$12,900	\$2,800	\$100	\$171	\$1,400	\$26	\$355	\$17,752
Ohio	<u>C-</u>	\$9,683	\$1,200	\$100	\$140	\$1,400	\$25	\$253	\$12,801
Michigan	<u>D+</u>	\$7,863	\$1,000	\$100	\$110	\$1,300	\$24	\$363	\$10,760
Missouri	<u>C-</u>	\$6,984	\$674	\$100	\$99	\$866	\$19	\$246	\$8,988
Indiana	<u>C-</u>	\$7,001	\$680	\$100	\$100	\$751	\$20	\$170	\$8,822
Wisconsin	<u>C</u>	\$5,425	\$592	\$100	\$79	\$841	\$18	\$198	\$7,253
Minnesota	<u>C</u>	\$4,802	\$818	\$100	\$68	\$680	\$17	\$297	\$6,782
Kansas	<u>C</u>	\$2,825	\$272	\$100	\$40	\$454	\$14	\$109	\$3,814
Note: dollar amounts in millions									



Indiana Finance Authority

State Revolving Fund Loan Program
<u>New SRF funding programs</u>

- Wastewater Infrastructure Supplemental Funds
- Drinking Water Infrastructure Supplemental Funds
- Lead Service Line Replacement Funds
- Emerging Contaminant Elimination Fund
  - (forever chemicals)



### Indiana Finance Authority

State Revolving Fund Loan Program <u>Wastewater Supplemental Funding</u>

- \$43 million annually for the next five years
- Traditional SRF treatment plant and collection system projects
- Disadvantaged Community Assistance is required!
- Approximately \$21 million to be provided as forgivable loans
- Projects must <u>directly</u> impact areas at 80% of the State's MHI (\$45,000)



### Indiana Finance Authority State Revolving Fund Loan Program

### Drinking Water Supplemental Funding

- \$27.5 million annually for the next five years
- Traditional drinking water treatment and distribution system projects
- Disadvantaged Community Assistance is required!
  - Approximately \$13 million to be provided as forgivable loans
  - Projects must <u>directly</u> impact areas at 80% of the State's MHI (\$45,000)



### Indiana Finance Authority State Revolving Fund Loan Program

### Lead Service Line Replacement Funding

- \$43+ million annually for the next five years
- Public and Private Side Lead Service Line Replacement is required
- Disadvantaged Community Assistance is required!
  - Approximately \$21 million to be provided as forgivable loans
  - Projects must <u>directly</u> impact areas at 80% of the State's MHI (\$45,000)



### Indiana Finance Authority State Revolving Fund Loan Program Emerging Contaminant Funding

- Emerging Contaminants or "Forever Chemicals" to include PFAS and PFOA remediation
- Awaiting EPA guidance as to additional uses and further definitions
- \$2.2 million annually for remediation associated with a wastewater utility for the next five years
  - Limited to remediation projects associated with a wastewater utility
  - All funds must be provided as forgivable loans
- \$11.5 million annually for remediation associated with drinking a water utility for the next five years
  - Limited to projects associated with a drinking water utility
  - All funds must be provided as forgivable loans
- Disadvantaged Community Assistance is required!
  - 25% of all funds must benefit disadvantaged communities meeting 80% of the State's MHI (\$45,000)

### Other federal IIJA stormwater related funding programs

### Flood mitigation assistance grants

- Department of Homeland Security
- \$3.5B
- Reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures
- Applications expected to open no later than Sept. 30, 2022

### Inland flood risk management projects

- Department of Defense (Army Corps of Engineers)
- \$2.5B
- Construction of authorized federal flood damage reduction projects
- Army corps to issue multiple contract awards during FY22



- Holistic approach to strategic planning
- Think regional collaboration
- Focus on municipality's driven goal(s)/result
  - Start with the end goal in mind and work back through funding streams
    - ARP
    - IIJA
    - Competitive and non-competitive grants (ARP and IIJA)
    - State and local funds
    - Debt
- Be shovel ready

# Baker Tilly COMPASS and ARP resources and solutions

### **Baker Tilly COMPASS**

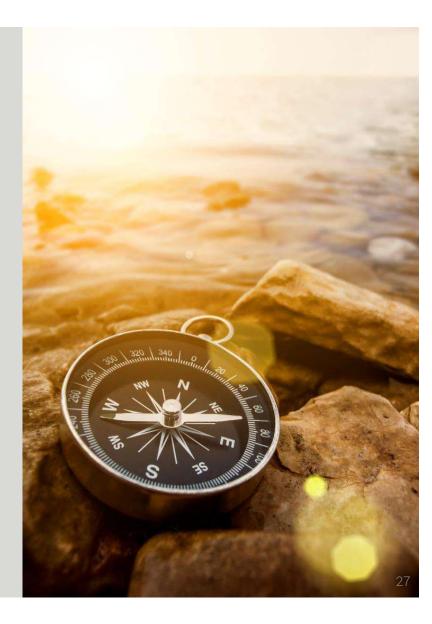
https://www.bakertilly.com/page/baker-tilly-compass

#### Baker Tilly's ARP resource center

https://www.bakertilly.com/insights/american-rescue-planresources-for-public-sector

- ARP ACTion app and resources
- <u>ARP readiness checklist</u>
- EDA grant readiness checklist
- Infographic
- Plus, video updates, webinar recordings, articles and tools

**ARP solutions** https://www.bakertilly.com/page/american-rescue-plan-solutions



Questions?



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28



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