



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA
Raftelis ARPA Discussion

Work Session

This meeting will be held in-person and virtual.

**25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

OR

**Virtual Participation:
Join Zoom Webinar**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89655307618?pwd=di9jTmtScIF5azJEYXRXTXNGay8vZz09>

Webinar ID: 896 5530 7618

Join By Phone: (301) 715-8592

Password (if needed): 231589

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use Video Relay Services (VRS) at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022
7:30 PM**

Work Session Packet

Raftelis ARPA Discussion

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions
- Council Discussion

- Questions and Answers

- Other Items

[Greenbelt ARPA Community Input Summary.pdf](#)

[Greenbelt ARPA Community Input Summary Attachments.pdf](#)

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: May 10, 2022

Submitted by: Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet

Subject:

Raftelis ARPA Discussion

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions
- Council Discussion
- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

Attachments:

[Greenbelt ARPA Community Input Summary.pdf](#)

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CITY OF **GREENBELT**

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community Engagement Summary

REPORT / May 2022

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
METHODOLOGY	1
ARPA FUNDING	1
ARPA INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK	3
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	3
FUNDING PRIORITIES	4
EVALUATION METHODOLOGY	4
ARPA ENGAGEMENT PLAN	6
STAKEHOLDER AUDIENCES.....	6
COMMUNICATION CHANNELS.....	7
ONLINE ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM.....	8
ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES	10
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS	11
KEY THEMES	11
COMMUNITY SURVEY ANALYSIS	14
CONCLUSION	16

List of Tables

Table 1: GFOA Recommended Guiding Principles.....	3
Table 2: Stakeholder Groups and Involvement.....	7
Table 3: Online Engagement Tools	8
Table 4: Engagement Activities.....	10
Table 5: Respondent Input Describing COVID-19 Impact on Household/Business.....	14
Table 6: Respondent Input Describing Assistance Needed Throughout Pandemic.....	15
Table 7: Respondent Input Describing Top Five Priorities Arising From COVID-19 Pandemic.....	15

List of Figures

Figure 1: Eligible Uses of ARPA Funds	2
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List of Appendices

APPENDIX A:Eligible Uses of Local Government ARPA Funds.....	17
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Executive Summary

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was signed into law. This act appropriated a total of \$362.0 billion for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery funding to provide direct payments to state, local, territorial, and tribal governments. Greenbelt City government has been allocated \$22.88 million in ARPA funds. These funds are intended to be used to support the efforts of local governments and schools in their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the magnitude and unprecedented nature of this funding opportunity, the City sought to implement a robust community engagement strategy to educate the community about the ARPA program, discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Greenbelt community, and solicit ideas for potential project areas and specific projects.

This engagement process brought together members of the Greenbelt community, both in-person and virtually, and resulted in the collection of a wide range of personal stories and ideas for how ARPA funds could best be spent. Throughout this engagement process, several key themes for funding priorities were expressed by participants. These include:

- Household Needs
- Mental Health Resources
- Small/Local Business Assistance
- Infrastructure

Each of these key themes is discussed in detail in the Community Engagement section of this report, starting on page 12.

Methodology

The City of Greenbelt engaged Raftelis to assist with the development and implementation of the City's ARPA community engagement plan. To accomplish this, Raftelis worked with the City Manager and members of the City's senior leadership team to finalize the ARPA Community Engagement Plan and timeline for implementation.

This project consisted of a mix of in-person and online stakeholder engagement, including four virtual focus groups with key stakeholder groups, three in-person community input meetings open to the public, the development of an online community engagement platform, and a community survey.

This report documents Greenbelt's ARPA community engagement initiative and includes summary information about the Federal ARPA program. It details the ARPA engagement plan that guided community engagement efforts and summarizes the key themes related to COVID-19 impacts and ideas for using ARPA funds that emerged through the community engagement process. It is provided in conjunction with a set of attachments that fully document the content provided through the online engagement platform, community survey, and community input meetings.

ARPA Funding

The American Rescue Plan Act was enacted to deliver direct relief to the American people, develop a national COVID-19 vaccination program, safely reopen schools, repair the American economy, and support communities and institutions that are struggling in the wake of COVID-19. The language of the ARPA Act along with subsequent guidance from the U.S. Treasury governs the allowable uses for funds provided through this program.

CITY OF GREENBELT ALLOCATION

The City of Greenbelt was allocated \$22.88 million in ARPA funds, half of which has already been received by the City. The remaining half is anticipated to be received later in 2022. In general, the purpose of these funds is to ensure that local governments can keep front-line public workers on the job and paid, while effectively distributing the vaccine, scaling testing, reopening schools, and maintaining essential services. Except for premium pay for essential workers, these funds are to be used for costs incurred between March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2024. Any funds not obligated by December 31, 2024, or expended by December 31, 2026, must be returned to the Department of the Treasury. The City is required to file quarterly reports with the Federal Government on the use and status of allocated funds.

ALLOWABLE USES

The Act identifies statutory categories of allowable uses and provides broad flexibility within these categories to support the unique needs of each community. The Department of the Treasury's Final Rule provides detailed guidance on the implementation of these funds, which are summarized in the following figure.¹



Figure 1: Eligible Uses of ARPA Funds

The Final Rule also outlines several ineligible uses for these funds, including:

- To offset a reduction in taxes (for state and territorial governments)
- Deposits into a pension fund
- Funding debt service
- Funding legal settlements or judgments
- Deposits into a rainy-day fund or financial reserves
- As a non-Federal match for grants where prohibited

A detailed explanation of the allowable uses identified in the Treasury's Final Rule is provided in Appendix A.

¹ Department of the Treasury. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Final Rule. Accessed at: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf?msclkid=17777163bc2a11ecbf744fac8ae6e4cd>

ARPA Investment Framework

An investment framework is a useful tool for supporting the Greenbelt City Council’s decisions about how to invest ARPA funds. Such a framework should include three components, which are described in the following sections:

- Guiding Principles
- Funding Priorities
- Evaluation Methodology

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles are intended to represent the values and philosophy of the organization and serve as guardrails for decision-making to ensure that the organization is strategic in its investment of ARPA funds.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has identified three general guiding principles in its resources for government finance officers. These principles may be helpful as the Council looks to prioritize the allocation of ARPA funds based on the needs of the community.

The following table provides a summary of the guiding principles GFOA recommends for the prudent use of ARPA funds²:

Table 1: GFOA Recommended Guiding Principles

General Principle	Detailed Guidance
Temporary Nature of ARPA Funds <i>ARPA funds are non-recurring so their use should be applied primarily to non-recurring expenditures.</i>	• Care should be taken to avoid creating new programs or add-ons to existing programs that require an ongoing financial commitment. • Use of ARPA funds to cover operating deficits caused by COVID-19 should be considered temporary and additional budget restraint may be necessary to achieve/maintain structural balance in future budgets. • Investment in critical infrastructure is a particularly well-suited use of ARPA funds because it is a non-recurring expenditure that can be targeted to strategically important long-term assets that provide benefits over many years. However, care should be taken to assess any ongoing operating costs that may be associated with the project.
ARPA Scanning and Partnering Efforts <i>State and local jurisdictions should be aware of plans for ARPA funding throughout their communities.</i>	• Local jurisdictions should be cognizant of state-level ARPA efforts, especially regarding infrastructure, potential enhancements of state funding resources, and existing or new state law requirements. • Consider regional initiatives, including partnering with other ARPA recipients. There may be many beneficiaries of ARPA funding within your community, such as schools, transportation agencies, and local economic development authorities. Be sure to understand what they are planning and augment their efforts; alternatively, create cooperative spending plans to enhance the structural financial condition of your community.

² GFOA. [American Rescue Plan Spending: Recommended Guiding Principles](#)

General Principle	Detailed Guidance
Take Time and Careful Consideration <i>ARPA funds will be issued in two tranches to local governments. Throughout the years of outlays, and until the end of the calendar year 2024, consider how the funds may be used to address rescue efforts and lead to recovery.</i>	• Use other dedicated grants and programs first whenever possible and save ARPA funds for priorities not eligible for other federal and state assistance programs. • Whenever possible, expenditures related to the ARPA funding should be spread over the qualifying period (through December 31, 2024) to enhance budgetary and financial stability. • Adequate time should be taken to carefully consider all alternatives for the prudent use of ARPA funding prior to committing the resources to ensure the best use of the temporary funding.

Funding Priorities

Given the magnitude and visibility of the ARPA funding received by Greenbelt, it is critical that the funds are invested in a manner that aligns with community needs and priorities. Identifying City funding priority categories can assist the City in categorizing and prioritizing proposals for ARPA funding.

As the City Council considers funding options, they may consider the City’s most recent (2021) Workplan as a starting point. These Outcomes and Top Priorities included:

- Enhance Sense of Community
- Economic Development and Sustainability
- Improve Transportation Opportunities
- Maintain Greenbelt as an Environmentally Proactive Community
- Improve and Enhance Public Safety
- Preserve and Enhance Greenbelt’s Legacy as a Planned Community
- Promote Quality of Life for All Residents
- Provide Excellent Constituent Services
- Maintain and Invest in Infrastructure

Evaluation Methodology

Following the receipt and review of this engagement summary, Greenbelt City staff will develop specific recommendations to be considered by City Council for the ultimate authorization and investment of ARPA funds. As staff develop and consider recommendations for initiatives to be supported by ARPA funding, it will be important to apply a consistent evaluation methodology that ensures that the City’s funding decisions are aligned with its funding priorities and legally allowable uses of ARPA funds. This review will include utilizing the State’s ARPA consultant to provide guidance on eligibility on a case by case basis.

The evaluation methodology should include consideration of factors such as:

- **Priority Alignment:** Is the funding initiative aligned with existing City funding priorities?
- **Eligibility:** Does the initiative meet the Treasury’s eligibility guidelines?
- **Alternative Funding:** Are other sources of funding available to replace or supplement ARPA funding?

- **Timeline:** How quickly could the initiative be implemented after the receipt of funds?
- **Cost:** What is the cost magnitude of the initiative?
- **Equity:** What is the impact of this initiative on equity and inclusion in the community?
- **Community Impact:** What portion of the community would benefit from this initiative?
- **Impact on Operating Expenses:** Will this initiative require ongoing City funding beyond what is available in the ARPA program? Will it reduce ongoing operating expenses?

ARPA Engagement Plan

The City of Greenbelt identified the importance of providing a wide range of engagement opportunities for community stakeholders. The purpose of these engagement opportunities was to provide multiple, varied opportunities for the Greenbelt community to share perspectives on COVID-19 pandemic impacts, learn about ARPA and the City's funding priorities, and identify potential areas of investment for ARPA funds. The following figure summarizes this effort, and was included in materials provided to participants.

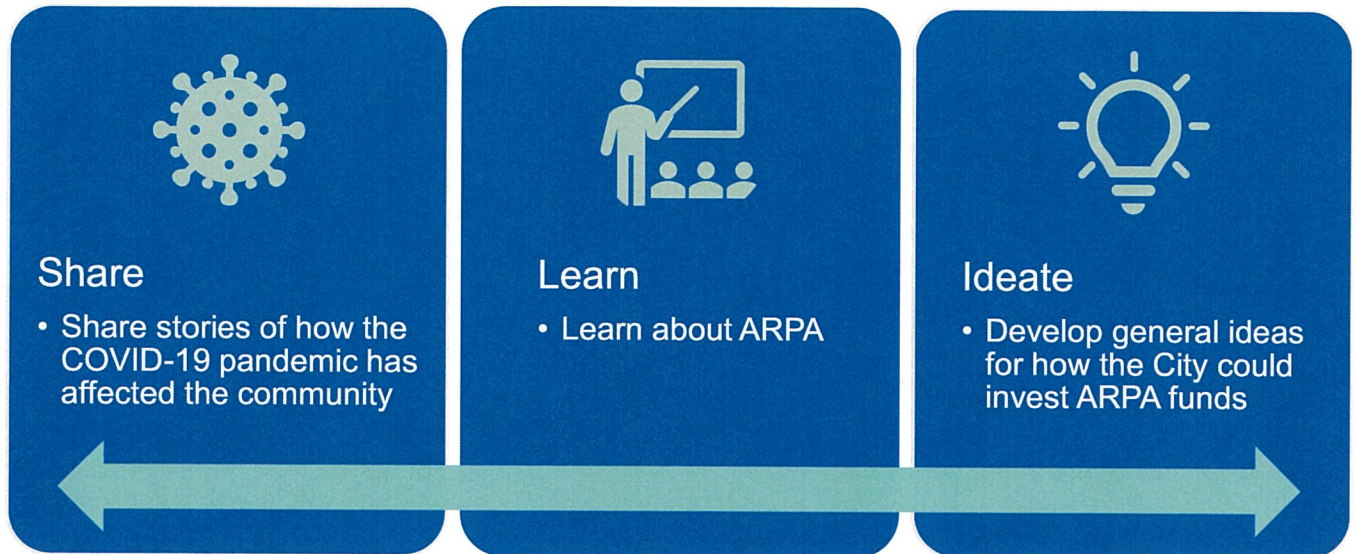


Figure 2: ARPA Community Engagement Outcomes

To ensure that these efforts reached the desired audiences, a detailed ARPA Engagement Plan was developed that included four components, described in the following sections:

- Stakeholder Audiences
- Communication Channels
- Online Engagement Platform
- Engagement Opportunities

Stakeholder Audiences

Stakeholders are individuals, groups, and organizations that have an interest in how the City invests ARPA funds. Stakeholders may be directly or indirectly affected by the outcome of these funding decisions. They may also recommend potential general or specific uses for ARPA resources. The following stakeholder audiences were identified as having a connection to the City's ARPA investments and were included in engagement and outreach efforts.

Table 2: Stakeholder Groups and Involvement

Internal/External	Group	Involvement
External	Residents • All residents • People of color • Residents who rent • Traditionally underrepresented groups Businesses • Faith-based organizations • Support organizations	• Participate in focus groups and community meetings • Participate in the online Engage Greenbelt platform • Share insights on individual and community wide COVID impacts • Identify ARPA funding ideas
	Internal • City Council	• Approve ARPA Investment Framework • Review Engagement Summary • Allocate ARPA funds
Internal	• Advisory Boards and Commissions	• Participate in focus groups and community meetings • Share insights individual and community wide COVID impacts, specific to their Boards/Commissions • Identify ARPA funding ideas

Communication Channels

Strategic communications have been critical in providing internal and external stakeholders with information and context for these ARPA community engagement efforts. The following communication channels were leveraged to share information and promote engagement.



City Website

The City has developed a robust online repository for information about the American Rescue Plan.³ Information about ARPA, the City's funding commitments, and the community engagement plan have been published on this site and updated regularly.



Engagement HQ™

[Engage Greenbelt](#)

Engagement HQ is an online community engagement platform designed to solicit input digitally. This platform was used to build [Engage Greenbelt](#), a site designed to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Greenbelt community, solicit ideas for potential project ideas, and host a community survey.⁴



Social Media

The City manages several social media accounts that have a wide base of followers. Information about the ARPA Community Engagement Plan was communicated on these channels to reach a wide range of potential participants.



Engagement Session Materials

Participants in focus groups and community meetings viewed and received materials that included general information about ARPA and the City's engagement strategy, and information about how share stories and ideas via the Engage Greenbelt website.

³ <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/city-administration/city-manager-s-office/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa>

⁴ www.engagegreenbelt.org

Online Engagement Platform

As part of the external stakeholder outreach efforts, Raftelis developed and maintained a community engagement website using Engagement HQ by Bang the Table™. Engagement HQ is an online community engagement platform designed to solicit input for local government and public sector organizations. This platform, hosted at [Engage Greenbelt](#), provided a forum for sharing stories about how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Greenbelt community, soliciting ideas for potential projects, and hosting a community survey.

All told, the Engage Greenbelt ARPA Community Engagement site received 2,450 site visits between March 7, 2022, and April 15, 2022. Visitors learned more about ARPA and the City's engagement strategies, contributed to community stories, shared ideas about how ARPA funds should be invested, and submitted survey responses. A summary of these online tools and their use is provided in the following table:

Table 3: Online Engagement Tools

Engage Greenbelt	
Description	The Engage Greenbelt site was used to provide visitors with reference documents, important links, and key dates related to the engagement process.
Details	The website contained links to the following: • ARPA Survey • Community Input Meetings • U.S. Treasury ARPA Resources • City of Greenbelt ARPA Information webpage
Engagement Summary	A total of 2,450 visitors accessed the site with 344 responses to the ARPA community survey, 109 ideas submitted, and 8 stories posted.
Stories	
Description	The Stories tool was used to encourage members of the community to share how the COVID-19 pandemic has personally impacted them. What are the ways that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted or continues to impact you and your community?
Prompt	We would like to hear from you about how the pandemic has impacted you and your community. Some of the pandemic's impacts have been apparent and experienced by many, while others are less so. Sharing your thoughts and experiences will help the City as it plans for how to invest ARPA relief funds.
Engagement Summary	A total of 26 visitors engaged with 8 stories submitted by members of the community. These stories included descriptions of the impact of the pandemic on medical professionals, senior citizens, and civic celebrations. Stories were also submitted related to the importance of the environment, open spaces, and safe drinking water. A document containing all the stories submitted through the Stories tool is included as an attachment to this report.

Ideas	
Description	The Ideas tool was used to let participants post their ideas and thoughts on an online idea board for how ARPA funds should be invested. In addition to posting their ideas, visitors could comment on and like the ideas posted by others.

Prompt	The City of Greenbelt has been designated as the recipient of \$22.88 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its impacts. Greenbelt can only use these funds for the following purposes: • Support public health expenditures, by, for example, funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff • Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harm to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector • 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 • Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors • Invest in water or sewer infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure
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How do you think the City should invest its ARPA funds?

Engagement Summary	A total of 434 visitors engaged with 209 contributors producing 109 funding ideas that were submitted by members of the community, posting 759 likes on these ideas. Funding ideas spanned a wide range of topics. The following eight ideas were the most popular accounting for over a quarter of the 759 likes: • Solar Panels on All City Buildings (28 likes) • Housing stability services (27 likes) • Broadband infrastructure in community centers (26 votes) • Enhance pre and after-school care (24 votes) • Offer funding for Greenbelt small business owners to improve the health and safety standards of their buildings (24 votes) • Fix the stormwater drainage/standing water problem at Greenbelt Elementary School (21 likes) • COVID premium pay for essential workers (21 votes) • Services for the homeless population (20 votes) A document containing all the funding ideas submitted through the Ideas tool is included as an attachment to this report.
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ARPA Community Survey	
Description	The Survey tool was used to identify new and lingering needs arising from COVID-19 pandemic.
Questions	The full set of survey questions is included as an attachment to this report.
Engagement Summary	A total of 344 community members participated in the survey. A summary of these responses is included in as an attachment to this report.

Engagement Opportunities

The ARPA Community Engagement Plan included several opportunities for internal and external stakeholders to participate in developing funding priorities, share information about individual and community COVID impacts, propose project areas and specific projects, score and prioritize potential projects, and ultimately recommend priority projects to be funded with ARPA funds.

These engagement opportunities took place in two distinct phases: the planning phase and the community engagement phase. The following tables identify the various engagement opportunities that took place during these two phases.

Table 4: Engagement Activities

Planning Phase	Activity	Dates & Delivery Method
City Council Meeting	City Council City Project Team Review and approve ARPA Community Engagement Plan	December 20, 2021 Online via Zoom
Engagement Phase	Activity	Dates & Delivery Method
Ongoing Online Engagement	- Share information about eligible uses for ARPA funds - Solicit information on individual and community COVID impacts - Identify ARPA funding ideas - Administer community survey	March 4, 2022 through April 15, 2022 Online via website Engage Greenbelt
Stakeholder Focus Group	- Discuss eligible uses for ARPA funds - Solicit information on individual and community COVID impacts - Identify ARPA funding ideas	Multiple Dates in March 2022 (4 sessions) Online via Zoom
Community Input Meetings	- Discuss eligible uses for ARPA funds - Solicit information on individual and community COVID impacts - Identify ARPA funding ideas	March 19, 22, 29, 2022 – In Person

Community Engagement Findings

The community engagement process gathered input from a wide cross-section of the Greenbelt community, including residents and business owners, medical and school professionals, and representatives from community organizations throughout the City. Engagement included:

- A total of 24 participants attended the four Stakeholder Focus Group sessions
- A total of 40 participants attended the three Community Input Meetings
- The Engage Greenbelt website received 2,450 visits
- A total of 344 community members responded to the community survey

While this report summarizes the input received throughout the engagement process, each individual idea shared by the community was documented. Included with this report is a companion document that details all of the input received via the online engagement website, the community survey, and community meetings, as well as direct emails to the City via ARPA@greenbeltnmd.gov.

Key Themes

Throughout the engagement process, community members shared their stories and experiences related to the COVID-19 pandemic, developed ideas for how ARPA funds could be spent to best support the Greenbelt community, and were provided information about how to submit specific proposals for ARPA funding.

Over the course of the engagement process, several common themes emerged from the experiences and ideas shared by the community. The sections that follow summarize these key themes and provide a summary of the community experiences that were shared and a sample of the related funding ideas that were identified throughout the community engagement process.⁵ These themes include:

- Household Needs
- Mental Health Resources
- Small/Local Business Assistance
- Infrastructure

HOUSEHOLD NEEDS

As the country continues to cope with the aftermath of COVID-19, the request to continue and expand existing efforts to mitigate the pandemic for homeowners, renters, and seniors was the most-mentioned theme for the use of ARPA funds.

Participants raised concerns about the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus outbreak reported by vulnerable groups such as people of color, seniors, people living with disabilities, and lower income households. Specifically, they shared concerns about vulnerable groups having reliable childcare, limited employment opportunities, transportation, and Wi-Fi/Broadband access. Many participants also expressed concerns for availability of paid

⁵ Note: these community-generated funding ideas have not been evaluated for compliance with Federal eligibility requirements

internships and jobs to people under 18, services for young children and Spanish-speaking people, and accessibility of data that recognizes disparities in race/ethnicity when it comes to recovery pathways.

Access to transportation was another frequently mentioned challenge lingering after the pandemic, as many public transit services eliminated or significantly reduced their operating hours. For residents working beyond current transportation operating hours, this significantly impacted their ability to maintain employment. Connectivity from neighboring communities, local schools, and the Metro to the center of Greenbelt and Roosevelt Park was another barrier mentioned when discussing transportation equity. These services are many residents' primary mode of transportation to work, school, medical appointments, and the grocery store.

Internet connectivity was also mentioned frequently in the context of household needs. Throughout the pandemic, reliable internet connectivity has been critical for residents to work from home, attend telemedicine appointments, and virtually attend school. Many reported that they do not have a high-speed internet connection at home and/or do not have adequate numbers or types of devices (laptops, tablets, etc.) to meet their family's needs.

Funding Ideas

Examples of funding ideas generated by the community related to Household Needs include:

- Provide financial assistance to renters facing eviction
- Provide direct financial support for residents and homeowners
- Expand unemployment benefits and childcare options
- Offer COVID premium pay for essential workers
- Provide City-wide Wi-Fi access to residents
- Increase access to public transportation options within Greenbelt

While individual project ideas related to Household Needs have not been specifically evaluated for ARPA eligibility, many of the ideas identified by the community may be eligible under the criteria associated with addressing negative economic impacts and equity focused services.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Throughout the past two years, the Greenbelt community has experienced immeasurable losses because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has created new barriers for people already suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders, as well as had negative impacts on those who may not have reported mental health issues in the past.

Another devastating effect of the coronavirus pandemic that was mentioned by the community is the impact that it has had on the mental health of teens and young adults. Participants reported experiencing long isolation and anxiety about serious effects of the virus as well as the urgency to expand current mental health resources for K-12 students impacted by the virus.

Funding Ideas

Examples of funding ideas generated by the community related to Mental Health include:

- Expand Greenbelt CARES so more help is available to homeless individuals/families and those dealing with mental health issues in need of day-to-day help
- Support funds for evidence-based mental health and wellness programs in the community or schools to respond to children and youth mental health needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Expand mental health programs

While individual project ideas related to Mental Health Resources have not been specifically evaluated for ARPA eligibility, many of the ideas identified by the community may be eligible under the criteria associated with supporting the public health response and equity focused services.

SMALL/LOCAL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Throughout Greenbelt, representatives of small and locally owned and operated businesses reported facing serious challenges due to the lingering impacts of the pandemic. Small business owners emphasized the need for more funds for small businesses that suffered economic harm due to COVID. Participants cited the urgency in providing direct support for local arts and culture venues and creative workers who lost significant portions of their income due to being unable to host events or to perform due to the pandemic. Responses grouped into this category include finding qualified employees, training new hires/existing staff, diminished connections to supplies/vendors, regaining clientele, and facing challenges to hire and retain staff and maintain a healthy workforce. Participants also noted paying more per hour to keep current staff.

Funding Ideas

Funding ideas generated by the community related to Small/Local Business Assistance included:

- Fund operating shortfalls for small and locally owned businesses
- Fund an art gallery at Roosevelt Center
- Provide onsite theatre art outside of building spaces/theatre in the park with outside performers
- Offer funding for Greenbelt small business owners to improve the health and safety standards of their buildings

While individual project ideas related to Small/Local Business Assistance have not been specifically evaluated for ARPA eligibility, many of the ideas identified by the community may be eligible under the criteria associated with addressing negative economic impacts and equity focused services.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The COVID-19 outbreak provided many people with the opportunity to explore outdoor spaces differently than they have in the past. As people were looking to escape crowded households and stay active, the outdoors became a prime destination open to all ages to enjoy. The community frequently identified a need for enhancements and improvements to some outdoor areas in Greenbelt throughout the engagement process. Participants noted aging neighborhoods and water infrastructure as an area of concern, a desire for improved parks and recreation facilities and athletic fields, and an opportunity to invest in the overall aesthetic look of Greenbelt.

Relaxed social distancing restrictions and more people returning to work and school have also mandated new safety requirements for facilities. Participants noted the increased cost of health-related modifications to facilities, including improvements to HVAC and air purification systems and installing new windows to support enhanced airflow.

Funding Ideas

Examples of funding ideas generated by the community related to Infrastructure included:

- Consider improvements to park and recreation facilities, such as synthetic turf fields, skate park improvements, and other enhancements
- Install disease detection systems in wastewater

- Install ultraviolet and other air purification systems in City owned properties
- Support initiatives to improve walkability throughout the Greenbelt community

While individual project ideas related to Infrastructure have not been specifically evaluated for ARPA eligibility, some of the ideas identified by the community may be eligible under the criteria associated water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure or lost public sector revenue.

Community Survey Analysis

The community survey consisted of six questions to gather input from the community on their level of connection to Greenbelt, input from the community on business and household impacts from COVID-19 pandemic, and input from the community on top priorities for allocation of ARPA funds.

- What is your connection to Greenbelt?
- What part of Greenbelt do you live in?
- What is your age?
- What has been the level of impact COVID-19 has had on your household/Greenbelt business?
- If COVID-19 has impacted your household/Greenbelt business, what assistance do you need, or have you needed throughout the pandemic? Please choose up to four (4).
- Please rank your top five priorities from the following, where 1 is your top priority.

The following sections provide a summary of the survey results. A comprehensive report of all results from the community survey is included as an attachment to this report.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

A total of 344 individuals responded to the community survey. Of those, 80% reported that they were City of Greenbelt residents, 14% reported that they work in the City, and 0.05% reported that they were commercial property and/or business owners.⁶ Among the respondents reporting that they lived in Greenbelt, 75% reported living in Greenbelt Central, 16% reported that they live in Greenbelt East, and 0.07 reported that they live in Greenbelt West. The majority of respondents (30%) reported that they are age 65 or older, followed by 20% reporting they are 55-64 years old, 18% reporting they are 35-44 years old, and 17% reporting they are 45-54 years old.

COVID IMPACT

Community respondents were asked the question, “What is the level of impact COVID-19 has had on your household/Greenbelt business?”. A total of 335 individuals provided input. The majority of respondents reported experiencing a slight negative impact. Other responses provided by respondents are summarized in the table below.

Table 5: Respondent Input Describing COVID-19 Impact on Household/Business

Responses	Number of Responses
Slight negative impact	167
Major negative impact	86
No impact	56

⁶ Please note- percentages may not total 100% due to overlap among categories.

Responses	Number of Responses
Slight positive impact	14
Major Positive Impact	12

COVID ASSISTANCE

Community respondents were next asked the question, “If COVID-19 has impacted your household/Greenbelt business, what assistance do you need, or have you needed throughout the pandemic? Please choose up to four (4).”. A total of 267 individuals provided input. The top five responses included unemployment benefits, childcare resources, mental health/counseling resources, rental assistance, and internet access as summarized in the table below.

Table 6: Respondent Input Describing Assistance Needed Throughout Pandemic

Responses	Number of Responses
Unemployment benefits, emergency childcare services	128
Mental health services	19
Mental health services, counseling services	11
Rental assistance	8
Internet assistance	5

COVID PRIORITIES

Community respondents were next asked the question, “Please rank your top five priorities from the following, where 1 is your top priority.” A total of 334 individuals provided input. The top eight responses included unemployment benefits, childcare resources, mental health/counseling resources, rental assistance, and internet access as summarized in the table below.

Table 7: Respondent Input Describing Top Five Priorities Arising From COVID-19 Pandemic

Responses	Number of Responses
Rental/Mortgage Assistance	83
Infrastructure Maintenance	53
Mental Health Resources	31
COVID-19 Public Health Response	29
Sustainability	28
Essential Worker Resources	28
Small/Local Business Assistance	23
City Security Enhancements	22

Conclusion

The ARPA program is a once-in-a-lifetime funding opportunity for communities around the country to identify critical community needs that arose from and have been brought to light by the COVID-19 pandemic. Greenbelt's allocation of \$22.88 million represents a significant opportunity to invest in programs and projects that can have a lasting and meaningful impact on the community.

The input provided by the Greenbelt community as part of this engagement process provides important context and perspective for the City Council to invest these ARPA funds. Upon receipt and review of this engagement summary, Greenbelt City staff will develop specific recommendations to be considered by the City Council for the ultimate authorization and investment of these ARPA program dollars.

APPENDIX A:

**ELIGIBLE USES OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ARPA FUNDS**

Eligible Uses of Local Government ARPA Funds

Eligible Use Legislative Description	Final Rule Guidance ⁷
Support Public Health Expenditures Section 602(c)(1)(A): To respond to the public health emergency concerning COVID-19.	• COVID-19 mitigation and prevention • Medical expenses • Behavioral health care • Public health and safety staff • Expenses to improve the design and execution of health and public health programs • Address disparities in public health outcomes • Transportation to reach vaccination or testing sites, or other prevention and mitigation services • Capital expenditures that support an eligible COVID-19 public health or economic response
Address Negative Economic Impacts Caused by the Public Health Emergency Section 602(c)(1)(A): To respond to the public health emergency concerning its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.	• Assistance to impacted and disproportionately impacted households and communities • Assistance to impacted and disproportionately impacted small businesses • Loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship • Technical or in-kind assistance or other services that mitigate negative economic impacts of the pandemic • Small businesses operating in Qualified Census Tracts • Small businesses operated by Tribal governments or on Tribal lands • Small businesses operating in the U.S. territories • Rehabilitation of commercial properties, storefront improvements, and façade improvements • Technical assistance, business incubators, and grants for start-up or expansion costs for small businesses • Food assistance (e.g., child nutrition programs, including school meals) and food banks • Emergency housing assistance: rental assistance, mortgage assistance, utility assistance, assistance paying delinquent property taxes, counseling, and legal aid to prevent eviction and homelessness and emergency programs or services for homeless individuals, including temporary residences for people experiencing homelessness • Health insurance coverage expansion • Benefits for surviving family members of individuals who have died from COVID-19 • Assistance to individuals who want and are available for work, including job training, public jobs programs and fairs, support for childcare and transportation to and from a jobsite or interview, incentives for newly employed workers, subsidized employment, grants to hire underserved workers, assistance to unemployed individuals to start small businesses and development of job and workforce training centers • Financial services for the unbanked and underbanked • Burials, home repair, and home weatherization • Programs, devices, and equipment for internet access and digital literacy, including subsidies for costs of access • Cash assistance • Paid sick, medical, and family leave programs • Assistance in accessing and applying for public benefits or services • Childcare and early learning services, home visiting programs, services for child welfare involved families and foster youth and childcare facilities • Assistance to address the impact of learning loss for K-12 students (e.g., high-quality tutoring, differentiated instruction)

⁷ Department of the Treasury. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Final Rule. Accessed at: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf?msclkid=17777163bc2a11ecbf744fac8ae6e4cd>

Eligible Use Legislative Description	Final Rule Guidance ⁷
	• Programs or services to support long-term housing security: including development of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing • Certain contributions to an Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund • Pay for community health workers to help households access health & social services • Remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards • Primary care clinics, hospitals, integration of health services into other settings, and other investments in medical equipment & facilities designed to address health disparities • Housing vouchers & assistance relocating to neighborhoods with higher economic opportunity • Investments in neighborhoods to promote improved health outcomes • Improvements to vacant and abandoned properties, including rehabilitation or maintenance, renovation, removal and remediation of environmental contaminants, demolition or deconstruction, greening/vacant lot cleanup and conversion to affordable housing • Services to address educational disparities, including assistance to high-poverty school districts and educational and evidence-based services to address student academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs • Schools and other educational equipment and facilities • Responses available to respond to impacts of the pandemic on households and communities

Premium Pay for Essential Workers

Section 602(c)(1)(B): To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the State, territory, or Tribal government that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work.

- Offering additional support to those who bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors, including:
 - Healthcare
 - Public health and safety
 - Childcare
 - Education
 - Sanitation
 - Transportation
 - Food production and services staff
- Premium pay may be awarded to eligible workers up to \$13 per hour
- Amounts may not exceed \$25,000 per worker, must be entirely additive to a worker's regular rate of wages, and may not be used to reduce a worker's normal earnings
- Additional documentation necessary if premium pay exceeds 150% of average wages
- Premium pay may be retroactive for work performed at any time since the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency

Eligible Use Legislative Description	Final Rule Guidance
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Replace Lost Public Sector Revenue

Section 602(c)(1)(C): For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such State, territory, or Tribal government due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the State, territory, or Tribal government before the emergency.

- Recipients may use these funds to replace lost revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Applies to “general revenue” as reported under “General Revenue from Own Sources” in the annual Census Bureau survey of state and local government finances
- Specific and detailed methodology to calculate lost revenue annually through 2023 compared to an adjusted pre-COVID base year
- Recipients may elect a “standard allowance” of \$10 million to spend on government services through the period of performance
- Recipients may calculate their actual revenue loss according to the formula articulated in the final rule
- Recipients can use SLFRF funds on government services up to the revenue loss amount, whether that be the standard allowance amount

Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure

Section 602(c)(1)(D): To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

- Allowable water and sewer infrastructure investments are aligned with the eligible uses of the EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. These include
 - Projects to construct, improve, and repair wastewater treatment plants
 - Control non-point sources of pollution
 - Improve the resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events
 - Create green infrastructure
 - Protect waterbodies from pollution
 - Culvert repair, resizing, and removal, replacement of storm sewers, and additional types of stormwater infrastructure
 - Infrastructure to improve access to safe drinking water for individuals served by residential wells, including testing initiatives, and treatment/remediation strategies that address contamination
 - Dam and reservoir rehabilitation if primary purpose of dam or reservoir is for drinking water supply and project is necessary for provision of drinking water
 - Broad set of lead remediation projects eligible under EPA grant programs authorized by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, such as lead testing, installation of corrosion control treatment, lead service line replacement, as well as water quality testing, compliance monitoring, and remediation activities, including replacement of internal plumbing and faucets and fixtures in schools and childcare facilities
- Broadband infrastructure investments should be made with modern technologies in mind, specifically:
 - Projects delivering reliable 100Mbps download and upload speeds
 - Fiber optic investments
- Priority should be given to projects that achieve last-mile connections to households and businesses

CITY OF **GREENBELT**

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community Engagement Summary

ATTACHMENTS / May 2022

Engage Greenbelt Summary Reports

ARPA Community Engagement Project

ATTACHMENT DESCRIPTION

System generated report summarizing engagement for the ARPA Community Engagement project on www.EngageGreenbelt.org. This attachment is a 31 page document providing summary visitor statistics, and verbatim responses provided by participants for both the Stories and Ideas tools.

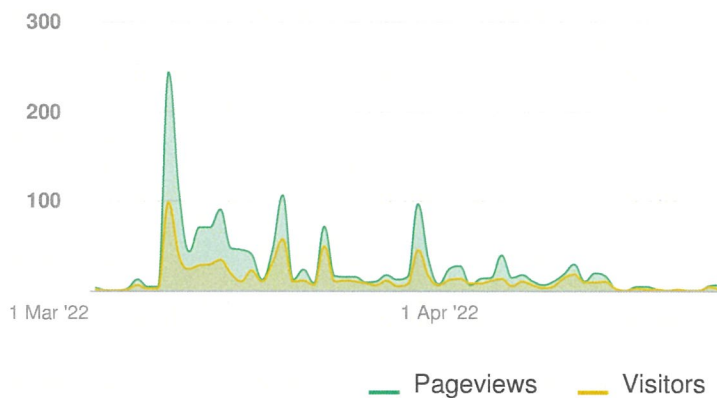
Project Report

25 February 2022 - 26 April 2022

Engage Greenbelt ARPA Community Engagement



Visitors Summary

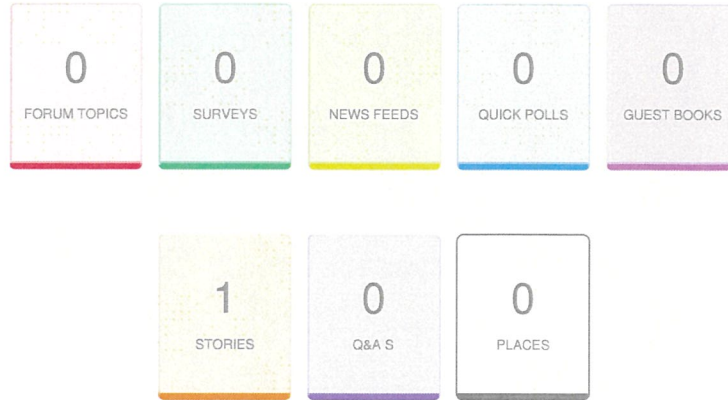


Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	
1.6 k	98	
NEW REGISTRATIONS		
17		
ENGAGED VISITORS	INFORMED VISITORS	AWARE VISITORS
215	349	584

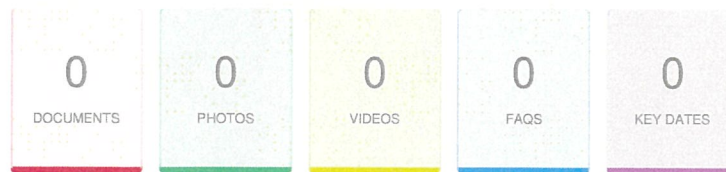
Aware Participants		584	Engaged Participants				215
Aware Actions Performed		Participants	Engaged Actions Performed		Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Visited a Project or Tool Page		584	Contributed on Forums		0	0	0
Informed Participants		349	Participated in Surveys		0	0	0
Informed Actions Performed		Participants	Contributed to Newsfeeds		0	0	0
Viewed a video		0	Participated in Quick Polls		0	0	0
Viewed a photo		0	Posted on Guestbooks		0	0	0
Downloaded a document		0	Contributed to Stories		0	8	0
Visited the Key Dates page		16	Asked Questions		0	0	0
Visited an FAQ list Page		0	Placed Pins on Places		0	0	0
Visited Instagram Page		0	Contributed to Ideas		10	67	132
Visited Multiple Project Pages		156					
Contributed to a tool (engaged)		215					

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Tool Status	Visitors	Contributors		
				Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Story Telling Tool	COVID 19 impact	Accepted	84	0	1	0
Story Telling Tool	Covid-19 Impact	Accepted	0	0	1	0
Story Telling Tool	Clean All of Greenbelt	Accepted	0	0	1	0
Story Telling Tool	arpa distribution	Accepted	0	0	1	0
Story Telling Tool	Create an app to provide timely information	Accepted	0	0	1	0
Story Telling Tool	Support Business Growth and Development	Accepted	0	0	1	0
Story Telling Tool	Support Business Growth and Development	Accepted	0	0	1	0
Story Telling Tool	Connecting and Ending Disparities in Greenbelt	Accepted	0	0	1	0
Story Telling Tool	Planning for the next generations	Accepted	0	0	1	0
Story Telling Tool	Planning for the next generations	Accepted	0	0	1	0
Ideas	How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?	Archived	438	9	67	132

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Key Dates	Key Date	16	16

STORY TELLING TOOL

COVID 19 impact

author: Julia

I've lived in greenbelt for over 10 years it's a nice area to live I stayed with my mom for 8 1/2 years I finally got my own apartment I have been on my own for a year in the middle of the pandemic I left and was able to receive an apartment for me and my child with autism but I knew I would struggle a bit due to being self-employed hairstyles and the dangers of close contact with clients and me having a child so my business was impacted greatly. I applied for erap 5 months ago and have heard nothing I had no idea that greenbelt cares program helped people in need during covid-19 I applied but I recently received an email that the funds were exalted so they were unable to help me. I believe that funds should be used to continue or some of the funds from the American rescue plan to help families in need rental assistance due to covid-19. it has impacted everyone in someway. And continue to help small business owners.

Visitors 84	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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No Responses

STORY TELLING TOOL

Covid-19 Impact

author: Vicki

Hi my name Vicki I have been living in Greenbelt for 4 1/2 years, Due to the pandemic I lost my job after 5 years of being t here. My property manager told me about the Greenbelt Cares program that help with rental assistance. I applied and I received help with my rent for one month. I recently try to reapply, there were any funds left. That shows that Greenbelt Residents are struggling still. I think the funds should be used to help residents and small businesses in the community.

Visitors 0	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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No Responses

STORY TELLING TOOL

Clean All of Greenbelt

author: SYRM

During the pandemic Greenbelt areas not in Old Greenbelt has been heavily neglected and has become very trashy. I am sure you are aware property tax payers don't only live in old Greenbelt so don't understand why it's ok to not tend to locations outside of Old Greenbelt. Covid Greenbelt looks like trash and have me wonder what is my property tax going to because it surely is not the appearance of Greenbelt. That should be one of the top things to be done. As a homeowner outside of Old Greenbelt I am not to happy with how things are being obligated but you take my money.

Visitors 0	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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No Responses

STORY TELLING TOOL

arpa distribution

author: sixties child

if it is within the scope of arpa, funds should be used to pay off residents' back rents/mortgages/utility bills so everyone can continue with a clean slate.

Visitors 0	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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No Responses

STORY TELLING TOOL

Create an app to provide timely information

author: UnitOwner20

we live in the 21st Century. We have access to apps for just about everything now. Why not use some of the money to create a COVID-19 recovery information hub? It can be used to access the latest information about such things as Covid-19 levels, access to tests, mitigation strategies, etc. People can set the app to be notified of urgent or important information.

Visitors 0	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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No Responses

STORY TELLING TOOL

Support Business Growth and Development

author: Greenbelt Tax Payer

We have been residents of Greenbelt for many years now. We love the small town feel and beautiful family centric city with parks, paths and numerous rec opportunities. There is one thing that is starkly missing in the city landscape.... higher end businesses. Shops, Grocery stores, and restaurants. These businesses are also needed as there are many folks living in the City limits that do have some level of disposable income. When we shop, dine or spend entertainment dollars, we sometimes leave Prince George's County, and we almost always leave Greenbelt. Not because we don't want our money to stay in the community, but because there is a complete lack of these types of businesses available in Greenbelt. Whole Foods, MOM's Organic Market, Burtons, Franklins, these are just a few businesses located right down the road in College Park, Riverdale and Hyattsville. All three adjacent cities are literally running laps around Greenbelt in the development arena. I strongly urge City Council to be more pro-business and start recruiting some of these types of businesses to our City.

Visitors 0	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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No Responses

STORY TELLING TOOL

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Visitors 0	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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No Responses

STORY TELLING TOOL

Connecting and Ending Disparities in Greenbelt

author: Tom Adams

Covid made painfully clear how Greenbelt's history of racism continues and divides the community. People of color in Greenbelt experienced a much different COVID time than white people. The lack of community connection among the three sections of Greenbelt limits communication and trust and makes community progress more difficult. How Greenbelt emerges from the time of isolation and zoom will influence our connections for generations to come. There is a need and an opportunity to go deeper in connecting neighbors on their blocks, in their condo or apartment building or court within GHI. This is a big organizing and listening project that needs block by block and community by community attention. For Greenbelt to get beyond its many physical and racial and ethnic barriers, now is the time to look at how to connect and engage neighbors so everyone benefits from Covid relief and how our tax dollars are used. Connecting Across Greenbelt is an organization committed to looking for ways to bridge these divides and encourages the Mayor and City Council to think creatively about how these funds can connect our community for long-term inclusion and equity.

Visitors 0	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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No Responses

STORY TELLING TOOL

Planning for the next generations

author: Friendly Neighbor

Covid made it necessary to spend a lot more time at home and in the immediate community, and I'm grateful to have been able to spend it in Old Greenbelt because it remained a safe place to walk the dog every day and enjoy nature. However, it also gave me time to see more of what happens here, and I became acutely aware that resource hoarding and inequitable services are an endemic problem in Greenbelt. Should city services (recreation, farmer's market) be centered in the part of town where there is little bus service from other parts of the city? Should there be such an emphasis on senior services when there are far more young children and Spanish-speaking people than seniors in the city? Does it make sense for the city to immediately offer moral support to the people of Ukraine, yet continue to remain silent on the issues that gave rise to the Black Lives Matter movement? To plan for the next generation, recreation programs need to move to the neighborhoods where children live, and offer free classes to every child whose family receives free and reduced price school lunches. Outdoor classrooms could be built to encourage time spent outdoors and provide a place for recreation programs to hold classes. The city needs to sponsor paid internships in public works and recreation so that low income kids who need to earn money over the summer can become responsible adults who have skills that make them competitive for real jobs. Too many jobs now are unavailable to people under 18, and too many internships are unpaid. This is not at all helpful to the low income families in the city. When the city becomes aware of a shortage of garden plots, perhaps it could intervene to make existing plots usable by more people, and expand the program. The 3 Sisters Gardens are meant to be inspirational, but many people have no where to garden-- time to follow through on the thought? The city needs to work with the state to make it safe for pedestrians to cross Kenilworth Avenue at Crescent; to cross Greenbelt Road at the Greenway Shopping Center and at Cherry Lane; and to cross Hanover Parkway at the pedestrian overpass. We can only reduce reliance on fossil fuels by reducing reliance on cars to travel about the city. And, finally, we need to take care of the city's green spaces proactively, rather than expecting native plants to "duke it out" with invasive ones and win. It's not enough for spaces to be "green" when English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, and other invasive plants are drowning out native plants that support native wildlife. Our green spaces need to be healthy in order to be valuable, now and in the future.

Visitors 0	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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No Responses

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Visitors 0	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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No Responses

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

Visitors 438		Contributors 209	CONTRIBUTIONS 868
04 March 22	Patrick Mullen		Solar Panels on All City Buildings I propose that the city use funds to install solar panels on the roofs of all city buildings. Doing so would be the first step in turning Greenbelt into a solar city, capable of self sustaining electricity generation. Doing so is in keeping with the city's history of being environmentally concious. It would allow the city to potentially sell back power to the grid, providing a new revenue stream. An expansion of the program could include grants for GHI to do the same. Lets make Greenbelt an example of renewable energy independence!
	VOTES 28		
04 March 22	AJ		Housing stability services Rent and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, etc.
	VOTES 27		
04 March 22	AJ		Broadband infrastructure in community centers Public wifi at the Community Center and Spring Hill Lake Rec
	VOTES 26		
04 March 22	AJ		employment programs Employment programs for people with barriers to employment who faced negative economic impacts from the pandemic such as residents of low-income neighborhoods, minorities, disconnected youth, the unemployed, formerly incarcerated people, veterans, and people with disabilities.
	VOTES 14		
04 March 22	TD		Limit further funds for apartments. Seek out property tax paying homeowners, until they are equally funded. Market equally to owners. City has not cared about homeowners in trouble, just renters.
	VOTES 11		

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

04 March 22

MJS

VOTES

13

Permanently fix the stormwater/flooding issues at 51 Crescent Road.

04 March 22

MJS

VOTES

21

Fix the stormwater drainage/standing water problem at Greenbelt Elementary School

04 March 22

SA

VOTES

21

More services for those with mental health issues

04 March 22

SA

VOTES

20

Services for the homeless population

Homelessness in Greenbelt is a Greenbelt problem, not just a country problem (no nearby shelters or limited services in the city). GILA and other providers (if any) are not enough to assist those who are homeless.

04 March 22

MLJ

VOTES

7

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

Foremost, so that the City of Greenbelt is not comforted with numerous and humiliating evictions, it should definitely assist those who urgently need rental/housing assistance. That aspect is priority as entire families and seniors with low income are involved. Various other needy programs as recreational financial assistance is secondary. The City of Greenbelt has programs that other county jurisdictions don't have, making it a more enriched and thriving community. And, its residents should be able to enjoy its enriched culture with the assistance they need.

04 March 22

juanjharo

VOTES

20

Let's make Greenbelt the Greenest city in the US!

It's in the name of the city, we could be the greenest city in the US. Let's make this city an example for the rest of the country, let's make Greenbelt a reference in sustainability and green policies. Making a more pedestrian-focused, clean and connected city. Let's help in the needed green transition.

04 March 22

JO

VOTES

20

Fix Springhill Lake Elementary School facility problem

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

04 March 22	Johanna	Permeable parking surfaces to manage runoff	
		Convert all city parking lots to permeable surfaces to reduce stormwater runoff	VOTES 14
05 March 22	Johanna	COVID premium pay for essential workers	
		Replicate successful programs like this https://www.nlc.org/article/2021/09/01/city-of-oxnard-leads-by-example-in-supporting-frontline-workers/ "essential worker COVID premium pay for retail grocery and drug store workers. The measure will give \$1,000 bonuses to anyone who worked at least three months in a grocery store or pharmacy during the first 12 months of the coronavirus pandemic"	VOTES 21
05 March 22	Johanna	Install air purification systems in city owned properties	
		Install ultraviolet and other air purification systems in city owned properties, especially buildings that serve senior citizens, to reduce circulation of air borne respiratory viruses	VOTES 19
05 March 22	Johanna	Provide assistance to families and individuals experiencing homelessness	
		Provide rental assistance (e.g. housing vouchers), assistance with basic necessities (e.g., gas or public transit, groceries, diapers, etc.), and case management services for up to two (2) years, to help participants become self-sufficient and maintain housing on their own	VOTES 15
05 March 22	Johanna	Fund evidence-based youth mental health and wellness programs	
		Funds for evidence-based mental health and wellness programs in the community or schools to respond to children and youth mental health needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as many residential or clinical programs in the region have been full	VOTES 21
05 March 22	Johanna	Fund small businesses that closed or had reduced operations due to COVID	
		Provide funds to small businesses that suffered economic harm due to COVID	VOTES 19
05 March 22	Johanna	Arts and culture fund for organizations and individuals unable to perform or host events during COVID	
		Direct support for arts and culture venues and creative workers who lost significant portions of their income due to being unable to host events or to perform due to COVID restrictions, especially individuals whose primary income came from arts and culture events before COVID	VOTES 15

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

05 March 22	Johanna	Green jobs training program	VOTES 19	Develop and launch an evidence-based Green Jobs Program to train youth or retrain adults to work in jobs that reduce negative impacts of climate change, similar to Boston https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2021/09/ARPA-Annual-Recovery-Plan-Boston-August-2021.pdf
05 March 22	Jan	Enhance pre and after-school care. Public schools haven't offered it since covid, private options have shrunk. What do working families do?	VOTES 24	Pre and after school childcare
06 March 22	BP	Replenish City Funds	VOTES 4	Replenish City funds used to cover revenue shortfalls in the aquatic center, rec staff, and other revenue-producing programs that were less attended because of the pandemic. And replenish City funds used to make facility modifications necessary as a result of the pandemic.
07 March 22	ABC	Prioritize homeowners! Greenbelt has forgotten taxing homeowners in lieu of renters for Covid funds. Property owners pay for everything.	VOTES 9	Homeowners first, for a change.
07 March 22	Keith Chernikoff	Resolve stormwater and pavement at entrance to B ARC on Research Rd.	VOTES 2	
07 March 22	Rachel quinton	Raise & better health care	VOTES 0	Deli
07 March 22	Bob Rand	Partner with other communities to create a Business Food Accelerator like Union Kitchen, DC	VOTES 11	Union Kitchen has helped launch so many food business startups, including many who sell at the Greenbelt Farmers Market. Let's start one in Prince George's County.

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

07 March 22

Bob Rand

VOTES

16

Expand youth summer employment program with spaces specifically for low-income households

Create more summer jobs for youth 2022 through 2026

07 March 22

Bob Rand

VOTES

12

Health care vouchers for low-income families

Partner with Old Greenbelt Family Health Clinic to pay for health services for households without insurance or with high-deductible insurance

07 March 22

Bob Rand

VOTES

8

Dental care vouchers for low-income families

Partner with McCarl and other dentists in Greenbelt to accept vouchers for dental care

07 March 22

Bob Rand

VOTES

8

Jobs for adults from low-income families

Provide a number of temporary 1- to 3-year city jobs for adults from low-income families. Include training. Yes, they would be temporary under ARPA (2022 to 2026), but could immediately help low-income families and build resumes to offer opportunities for employment elsewhere. The city could also use this pool for upcoming permanent jobs.

08 March 22

Kim Kash

VOTES

24

Offer funding for Greenbelt small business owners to improve the health and safety standards of their buildings.

Business owners and their landlords are recognizing the need to provide better ventilation and environmental safety in aging buildings all around Greenbelt. Funds to retrofit older buildings with newer HVAC technologies and windows that open (and are energy efficient) would benefit the health and safety of workers. This would also help to bring more energy efficiency to Greenbelt's aging commercial buildings.

08 March 22

Kim Kash

VOTES

16

Create a grant program for Greenbelt tenants to help them buy homes in Greenbelt

Many Greenbelt tenants are paying more per month in rent than they would if they purchased a home in Greenbelt. Many of these renters would qualify to buy a home, but they struggle to save the necessary down payment because their rent is so high. For this group of people, a grant fund to help cover down payment costs would allow Greenbelt tenants to become Greenbelt owners (and property tax payers!)

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

10 March 22	David	Retroactive Premium Pay for Public Works Employees	5	The Department of the Treasury's Final Rule stated that premium pay should be focused on "lower-income" and "frontline essential workers". In City of Greenbelt terms that means Public Works employees. The Police and Public Works are the only two departments to be fully operational during the pandemic. Given that Public Works employees make \$16 and some change it's obvious they fall into the "lower-income" category. According to Prince George's County state and local fiscal recovery funds 2021 report, PG has already spent 13% or \$23.5 million dollars in retro pay. So, why is Greenbelt so far behind the eight ball? It's no secret that Public works is understaffed and given the added health risk their employees have undertaken it's a shame they have not been fairly compensated.
11 March 22	sixties child	if it is within scope, funds should be used to pay off residents' back rents/mortgages/utility bills so all can continue with a clean slate.	6	
12 March 22	L	Water issues have been a problem here in the past years with old pipes. I think one thing to be done is definitely looking into that.	4	
12 March 22	L	Using that money to help those impacted the most- with health and housing relief- supporting our community with practical resources.	5	
12 March 22	Mike	Expand Greenbelt CARES so more help is available to homeless, those dealing with mental health issues, and those in need of day to day help	14	
12 March 22	Olivia	Increased pay for teachers & health care workers	5	We are facing startling labor shortages in these critical fields and should do anything we can to encourage and support teachers and health care workers.

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

13 March 22	Bill Jones		
		VOTES	
		4	Pay a bonus of \$1000 to any person who has worked at a local retail business at an hourly rate of less than \$18/hr for the past 12 months.
			Bonus for customer-facing workers
13 March 22	Irosado		
		VOTES	
		6	Create a computer lending library; expand Board Band; upgrade computers at Springhill Lake RC; expand youth mental health services
			Expanded Technology and Mental Health Services
14 March 22	Melissa Ann Ehrenreich		
		VOTES	
		5	Violence Interruption programs
			I would like Greenbelt to coarser running a violence Interruption pilot in Franklin Park. This program has shown to decrease violence in hyper local communities of up to 70% and treats violence through an epidemiological lens. This program would bring crucial community based counselors into the community to interior crime before it starts with an local youth. Violence Interruption programs are proven to work by connecting the police, school systems, health care workers, and community leaders focused on restorative justice and community based outreach and relationship building.
14 March 22	Melissa Ann Ehrenreich		
		VOTES	
		13	Green infrastructure improvements
			Removal of impervious surface at Buddy Attick park, Center Way business district, and Schrom Hills with pervious paving and green roofs subsidies for Greenbelt organizations.
14 March 22	Melissa Ann Ehrenreich		
		VOTES	
		6	Food forests installed at City parks and medians
			New landscaping across city owned properties, medians, and parks to emphasize native plants, pollinator gardens, and food forests to support food security and reduce runoff. Get rid of the invasive Bradford pear trees and replace them with vibrant and edible habitats
14 March 22	Melissa Ann Ehrenreich		
		VOTES	
		8	City wide curbside composting
			Integrate curbside composting into Public Works services with job training, landscaping internships, and community outreach to boost sustainability and storm water infrastructure.
15 March 22	Joanie		
		VOTES	
		5	GREENBELT should consider curbside composting

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

15 March 22

Joanie

VOTES

3

Greenbelt should focus on supporting homelessness and good insecurity through city wide programming and cash support

15 March 22

JW

VOTES

8

Business Incubator at the center in Old Greenbelt

This will encourage and attract start up businesses to Greenbelt. Will help revitalize the center as well as provide employment opportunities of a different kind right in Greenbelt.

15 March 22

Mike

VOTES

1

Replace any lost public sector revenue

16 March 22

James M.

VOTES

15

Create a Network of Safe Walking/Biking Paths

The Pandemic disrupted public transit throughout the region, making it even more difficult for folks to access services, shop, and commute. A network of safe, protected bike and pedestrian paths can alleviate this problem by allowing members of the community who can not afford to maintain and insure a car to travel freely. The network should focus on connecting schools, offices, retail, housing, transit, and recreation areas. The paths should be physically protected from car traffic whenever possible so that they are safe and appealing to users.

17 March 22

Karen G

VOTES

6

Broadband at home for students

Use ARPA funds to revive school-based wifi and make it permanent for underserved students.

17 March 22

Patrick_Gleason

VOTES

24

Fund a city operated artificial turf field to support youth sports participation.

All available city fields have poor drainage, poor turf management, and dangerous conditions for youth athletes. Most fields are patchy grass or completely void of grass with poor grading, leading to swampy conditions after precipitation. An artificial turf field would allow for year-round practice in all weather conditions as opposed to the current permitting system that closes the fields for a third of the year. Finally, less youth would have to seek opportunities outside of the city.

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

19 March 22

SD

Improving Athletic Fields

VOTES

1

Safe high-quality athletic spaces are vital to the health and wellness of our community members of all ages

19 March 22

dnwhiteman

Athletic Field Improvement/Replacement for Teen Programs

VOTES

3

Teens drop out of recreational athletics increasingly as they age. This is at the same time that drug use, pregnancy and crime involvement are all increasing with age in the teen years. In order to help maintain those teens in athletic programs, improved athletic field facilities are needed.

19 March 22

Cynthia A

Improve the grass athletic fields in the city and install an artificial turf field

VOTES

4

19 March 22

Ragu

I believe that improving our athletic fields would really help with the disparities that our county faces compared to other counties.

VOTES

2

19 March 22

J

Improve athletic fields or add an artificial turf field

VOTES

2

To promote healthy childhood environments

20 March 22

Actual Taxpayer

Prioritize homeowners, lifelong Greenbelt Seniors, small business owners over renters for a change! Help actual property taxpayers finally!

VOTES

6

Prioritize actual property tax payers for once

20 March 22

Lesley Kash

CARES education program (afterschool, GED, tutoring, ESOL) could do even more (pre-K? vocational?) for Greenbelt's most vulnerable students.

VOTES

3

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

21 March 22

Kamilla

VOTES

1

Installing artificial turf field and/or better grass field for youth athletics

The lack of accessibility to safe and well managed fields in the city is very restricting and discouraging to some teens and youth who want to play sports but don't have the opportunity near them. Along with that, playing on these unsafe fields with ditches and fields that are easily altered by the weather can lead to injury harsh enough to put these kids sports dreams on hold or end them completely.

21 March 22

Inonge K.

VOTES

1

Installing turf fields in Greenbelt

By improving the athletic fields available to children, we can work to close health disparities that we see in PG County in comparison to other counties that have more recreational resources.

21 March 22

D.J.

VOTES

1

Funding a free COVID Testing/Vaccine Site

COVID is not going away. Once COVID is no longer on the front page, we're still going to need a site that ensures reliable access to testing and vaccines. A public testing and vaccination site will help keep local infection rates as low as possible, taking pressure off Greenbelt medical staff and hospitals

23 March 22

Ginger Brown

VOTES

5

Rental and Utility assistance should be our priority. Families are being evicted in scary numbers right now. Please save the families.

23 March 22

JT

VOTES

1

Install field lights to extend usage hours to Schrom Hills and Braden Field. Also, consider a synthetic turf field.

23 March 22

JT

VOTES

3

Improve the design of the skate park. Local skater go somewhere else for friendlier parks.

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

27 March 22

Greenbelt Business
Owner

VOTES

7

More Grant funds for Greenbelt Businesses

Provide business assistance to Greenbelt businesses who contribute to the Citizens of Greenbelt, have employees that are paid well, pay taxes, consume local services and are residents of either the City of Greenbelt or Prince George's County. Do not tie grant qualifications to "loss of income". Many businesses did better during COVID but incurred a human cost that is not quantified on a profit/loss statement.

27 March 22

Greenbelt Business
Owner

VOTES

6

Tax Relief for Homeowners and property tax paying residents

Rental relief is a nice quick fix and a great headline, but the fact remains that the single family home owners of Greenbelt still had property taxes to pay during COVID as well. Falling behind on your mortgage leads to similar results as not paying your rent. Cash for "some" should be equal as cash to "all". All owners of property in Greenbelt should be offered a similar "relief" package.

26 March 22

MM

VOTES

4

Provide Premium Pay to the City's Essential Worker

S

The City's essential workers (largely, public works and police) have not received any hazardous duty pay and their raises have been delayed throughout the pandemic. Public works' wages are already among the lowest in local jurisdictions. Every little bit will help with the City's recruitment and retention problem.

26 March 22

Sandra L.

VOTES

2

Enhance public spaces with gardens, creative and adaptive playgrounds. Increase programs for children and adults with disabilities.

26 March 22

Homeowner

VOTES

3

Now target homeowners and actual property taxpayers

We need to finally prioritize homeowners and local business owners who pay the taxes that support everyone else getting benefits from Greenbelt. City government overlooks these groups.

26 March 22

C

VOTES

2

Premium pay (or tax relief?) for Greenbelt teachers and daycare workers, to show our appreciation and so we don't lose them all

No clue if that is feasible - but it is an idea...

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

28 March 22	C	Support expanded mental health programs
	VOTES	I understand that such care is hard to get
	3	
29 March 22	Murray Malveaux	Youth Intervention Program(modify bad choices and negative behaviors).
	VOTES	Youth Intervention Program(modify bad choices and negative behaviors).
	2	
29 March 22	Murray Malveaux	Franklin Park Friendly
	VOTES	Assist Franklin Park in it's effort to become more Greenbelt Friendly and livable for the resident and the city. "One Greenbelt"By Any Means Necessary
	0	
29 March 22	Murray Malveaux	Franklin Park Friendly
	VOTES	Assist Franklin Park in it's effort to become more Greenbelt Friendly and livable for the residents and city. "One Greenbelt"
	1	
29 March 22	Murray Malveaux	Franklin Park Dog Excrement Waste Intervention
	VOTES	Assist them in enforcing code regulations regarding dog excrement.
	0	
29 March 22	fan of greenbelt	invest in improving the amenities available at Green belt parks and recreation facilities to serve the entire community.
	VOTES	
	2	
30 March 22	Dan	Reimburse businesses that financially incentivized employees to get vaccinated
	VOTES	many businesses paid for staff time or gave direct payments or other incentives to help get more people vaccinated. This was especially true of essential worker employers.
	3	

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

30 March 22	Johanna Goderre	Contract CASA to engage residents	1	CASA has long standing, trusted relationships with residents that are difficult for city agencies and property managers to reach. Contract with CASA and their multilingual staff to aid in delivery of city ARPA programs like rental assistance, mental health, etc.
30 March 22	Johanna Goderre	Replicate other new ARPA programs	1	Many ideas suggested here have been done in larger cities to address mental health, homelessness, etc. and seem to have been approved by the feds https://www.cbs17.com/news/10m-awarded-to-raleigh-nonprofits-from-american-rescue-plan-funds/
30 March 22	Johanna Goderre	Provide funds to renovate city owned and private land to have permanent street dining	4	Construct permanent "streeteries" that provide outdoor dining options for restaurants and partnerships to support struggling small businesses
31 March 22	Sandra L.	Invest in art projects that inspire future generations. Infrastructure projects are funded through our taxes. Create something beautiful.	2	
01 April 22	Amethyst	Support local music, arts, and cultural venues!	4	Local music & arts venues have taken a catastrophic hit during the pandemic. We need to support them because they unify the community, strengthen the economy, and improve individual well-being. The arts are fundamental to our humanity and are a core component of a healthy community—strengthening them socially, educationally, and economically—benefits that persist even in difficult social and economic times.
02 April 22	Johanna Goderre	Install disease detection systems in wastewater	2	Biobot has a simple sampling strategy to detect COVID and other diseases in wastewater. Greenbelt could have precise and reliable reporting on COVID rates independent of the county, state, or feds. The portable units could be managed by the city. https://biobot.io/biobot-customer-success-story-the-city-of-harrisburg-pennsylvania/

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

02 April 22

debdaniel

Help New Deal Cafe recover from pandemic

VOTES

2

The New Deal Cafe has struggled to provide music, art, and affordable, good food to Greenbelt residents and incurred expenses in doing so. After the last COVID wave, Greenbelt and other Maryland residents are returning to enjoy the outdoor music festivals and indoor activities although the expenses incurred are still requiring repayment.

03 April 22

Ms. Lowe

Education

VOTES

1

Provide scholarships for high school graduates who want to go to college but can't afford it. Also provide training for trades such as auto mechanic, electrician, locksmith, hair stylist, or medical assistant for those who do not want to go to college. The \$23 million, carefully managed, could possibly provide post secondary education in perpetuity for Greenbelters.

05 April 22

Lauren S.

Add & Enhance Playgrounds

VOTES

3

We have some wonderful playgrounds in Greenbelt, but most of them are located in Old Greenbelt. Let's add more playgrounds to the rest of the city. Let's also enhance existing, older playgrounds. Adding and enhancing playgrounds are a long-term investment in our children and families, provides safe outdoor space, and encourages movement.

06 April 22

Deanna

Add computers with broadband access and other resources at SHL Rec Center and Schrom Hills Park for use by residents of Greenbelt W & E

VOTES

2

Recruit volunteers or partner with CASA to train or assist those who need it

06 April 22

Johanna Goderre

Use ARPA equity funds for Reparation Commission

VOTES

1

City staff found examples of ARPA funds being used for equity work like the new Greenbelt Reparations Commission

09 April 22

DEF

Emergency/ public health

VOTES

1

The Community Emergency Response Team was very helpful during the pandemic, especially at Greenbelt market and other food distributions. I would like to see our emergency management and such services be expanded. Maybe accessible AEDs (automatic defibrillators), more public First Aid/CPR training and starter preparedness kits.

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

11 April 22

DennaLambert

Renovate Older Playground Equipment

VOTES

1

Many of the playgrounds in the central portion of Greenbelt need renovating. Ideally, it would be nice to have a combination of equipment for toddlers and those for older kids. Seating and shading should be available for parents and caregivers.

11 April 22

DennaLambert

Add Little Libraries to existing Playground areas

VOTES

1

Installing small little free libraries at playgrounds can provide an additional option for children and families. Also, it would be great to install an area where community announcements and postings could be placed for parents and caregivers can see. Even better would be a system for the community can share postings digitally that could be simultaneously posted online as well as on the screens.

11 April 22

AJ

Emergency Temporary Housing

VOTES

1

Invest in local single family homes or apartment/condo style housing stock to be managed by CARES as emergency housing for the houseless, refugees, and/or those evicted from their current housing etc

12 April 22

A.C.

Help fund the Greenbelt Museum visitor center and programs

VOTES

2

12 April 22

ArtisticZen

Support The SPACE Free Art For All

VOTES

8

Since 2018, The SPACE Free Art For All has provided free art, tech, wellness and mental health services and resources to West Greenbelt and beyond. During the COVID-19 lockdown, The SPACE remained open to give community members access to much-needed creative and educational outlets through curated art kits for pick-up and virtual workshops/tutorials. Through the Free Market, visitors have access to free clothes, shoes, and housewares that are donated from Greenbelt residents. With the Community Bookshelves and Greenbelt Library partnership over 1,500 books were distributed. The SPACE has become a staple within the community and a vehicle to connect all of Greenbelt through the arts.

13 April 22

N.C.

Acquire and repurpose the scrapyard near Greenbelt Station as a recreational center and park

VOTES

2

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

13 April 22

N.C.

VOTES

1

There should be funds invested in digital solar-powered signage around the city to save paper.

13 April 22

Gooberpea

VOTES

0

Greenbelt Lake Dredging

Water MGMT is covered. Since Greenbelt Lake is essentially a water MGMT system it's time to finally dredge the lake.. since the dirt is considered hazardous we can build another peninsula that starts at the Dam wall vs and is built out vs having to haul to a land full.. Greenbelt Lake is now Greenbelt Swamp. Not that swamps are bad but I prefer to maintain it as it was originally designed back in the 1930's

14 April 22

Charlotte Yonge

VOTES

0

Improve Luminis Emergency Care

the emergency room is awful with broken vending machines and uncomfortable chairs and waiting time over 7 hours

14 April 22

Charlotte Yonge

VOTES

1

Clean up the trash along hanover parkway and 193

The end of the parking lot at greenway center drive and hanover is full of trash. Fund someone in the police to work with/fine the property owners

14 April 22

Frank Gervasi

VOTES

0

Purchase M.O. contracts for three GHI townhouses to temporarily house refugee families, include a budget for living expenses

Just as Green Ridge house provides for seniors in need, these homes would provide a safe haven for refugees

15 April 22

Janice

VOTES

0

Improve the city's visible infrastructure, from the city pool and dog parks, to the walk- and bike-ways connecting east, center and west.

That a sidewalk runs adjacent to a ten-lane roadway is appalling and does nothing to enhance walk- or rideability between the city neighborhoods, let alone any sense of cohesiveness. Improve the pool's facilities: install outdoor showers like the county pools have (see the Ellen Linson or J. Bourne pools); it will help keep sand and sunscreen out of the outdoor pool and help keep the shower and changing rooms cleaner during summer. Other area rec facilities likely could use some TLC too. And dog parks need better fences/locks, and more frequent patrolling, from what I hear. These are just examples.

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

15 April 22

Janice

VOTES

0

Use part of the ARPA funds to seed a fund for the purpose of buying back Roosevelt Center from its absentee landlord.

So much more could be done with and to the city center to enhance its appearance and bring in the kind of small businesses that would help make Greenbelt a destination. The theatre upgrade and current variety of restaurants was/is good start.

15 April 22

Janice

VOTES

0

Enhance transportation to and from the Metro (e.g., keep the UMD bus) and support more bus service later and on weekends.

A few years back, the UMD bus was discontinued because of a rather small cost. Calculating based on current ridership is misleading; if there were more frequent, later buses, more would abandon their cars. (Same goes for Metro but that is not in our purview now.)

15 April 22

Coalition for a Greener Greenbelt

VOTES

2

Remove PG Scrap! Greenbelt West Needs a Park and Community Rec Center

PG Scrapyard is a hazardous source of toxic pollutants located directly adjacent to Greenbelt Station, next to Franklin Park Apts. This industrial business should never have been permitted to stay where residential homes are. This Environmental Justice issue must be solved to protect our health and well-being. The immediate removal of PG Scrap is undeniable. Heavy metals are poisonous to humans, animals, and ecosystems. Our air, water, and soil must no longer be subjected to toxins such as lead, cadmium, freon, sulphuric acid, lead acid, and countless other industrial hazards emitted from metal scrapyards. Other US cities have successfully removed scrapyards from residential areas. If PG Scrap is not removed, people living in Greenbelt West will continue to be subjected to Environmental Injustices harming humans' (as well as pets') health and safety. COVID recovery includes at minimum clean waterways, requisite open green spaces, stormwater and sewage systems, sustainable ecosystems, and clean air -- especially for asthmatics. Old Greenbelt has a plethora of parks and community recreational services and resources. Greenbelt West still has comparatively next to none -- yet comprises anywhere from 50% to 70% of Greenbelt City's total population. Environmental Justice, Community Health and Well-Being demand equal community recreational services and resources, immediately, serving the Needs and Best Interests of Greenbelt West.

18 April 22

ahall

VOTES

0

Longterm renters: Funds for housing purchase

Have you thought about assisting longterm renters to buy a house or condo in Greenbelt? I am in that category, having rented in Parkway Gardens for over ten years now. Needs: Cash help with the downpayment and other costs. Counseling assistance with the process. (These would likely be first time buyers.) Rents for even small apartments are going to over \$1,400. I am currently paying \$1025 which will go up May 1. (As Parkway Gardens rehabs apts, they rent for over \$1,400.) If someone can afford to pay the monthly rent at an apartment, it seems they should be able to pay the monthly GHI mortgage and co-op fees. If someone has rented in Greenbelt a long time they might be the kind of people you'd like to encourage to buy. I appreciate your attention to this idea. Thank you. Diane Shandor

IDEAS

How should Greenbelt invest its ARPA funds?

16 April 22

ahall

Assistance to the Berwyn Heights VFD

VOTES

0

Good afternoon, The Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad provides the primary Fire/EMS services to the City of Greenbelt. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on our Department, especially with our volunteer-owned and staffed Ambulance handling the increased call volumes of the past two years. We actually had to purchase a new ambulance last year, which was placed in service in Winter 2021 to serve the citizens of Greenbelt and the surrounding communities. Is there any possibility or interest that the City of Greenbelt could assist with funding our new ambulance through its ARPA Funds?

16 April 22

ahall

ARPA Funds suggestion

VOTES

0

I can't imagine how difficult it must be for a family to have to cancel their internet because someone lost a job, is supporting someone who lost a job, is re-employed but hasn't recovered from losing a job or simply has to choose between food and broadband. Not to mention families who have never had the resources to subscribe to internet service in the first place! School age students rely on internet access to do research and to complete homework assignments. The public library provides access to the internet but it is limited. I doubt teachers make assignments based on library hours and transportation to a library could be an obstacle. The few internet cafes in Greenbelt are focused on dining, social gathering and entertainment, not education. When public schools went online during 2020 and 2021 wifi hotspots were made available to students who didn't have internet at home. Using the school's wifi service made this a safe option as it prevented access to inappropriate or irrelevant content. But when in-person schooling resumed the program was withdrawn leaving some students once again left out. Students who have resources and feel included are more likely to succeed long term with purpose and less likely to become disengaged, abuse drugs/alcohol or participate in illegal activities. I suggest that using (a portion of) the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to create/ expand (if feasible) the school-based internet into a reliable and permanent (possibly year-round) broadband infrastructure for underserved students in Greenbelt so they won't get left out or left behind academically is a wise investment in our community and everyone's future. Let's use this money where it's most needed! Thank you for allowing me to contribute to this important conversation. Best regards, Karen Gregoire Greenbelt MD

16 April 22

ahall

GVFD Back parking lot

VOTES

0

We brought to your attention some major repair issues. One which Prince Georges County isn't responsible for is the repaving of the GVFD back parking lot. Per the Greenbelt News Review the City is going to receive 23 million by ARPA. The Fire Department should be allotted some of this money, because it falls under public health expenditures. Which impacts public health and safety.

18 April 22

ahall

Improved fields

VOTES

0

Good afternoon, I am including pictures of our current field conditions at Mandan Field, home of Greenbelt Soccer Alliance practices. One of the focuses for the ARPA funds currently being discussed is to "address health and educational disparities and promote healthy childhood environments." I believe improving our fields—or installing an artificial turf field—to serve our community is paramount to providing a more equitable and healthier climate for our youth.

ARPA Survey

ATTACHMENT DESCRIPTION

System generated report summarizing engagement for the ARPA Survey administered on www.EngageGreenbelt.org. Hardcopy submissions were coded to the site to reflect all participant responses. This attachment is a 9 page document providing summary visitor statistics, and aggregated responses to the survey.

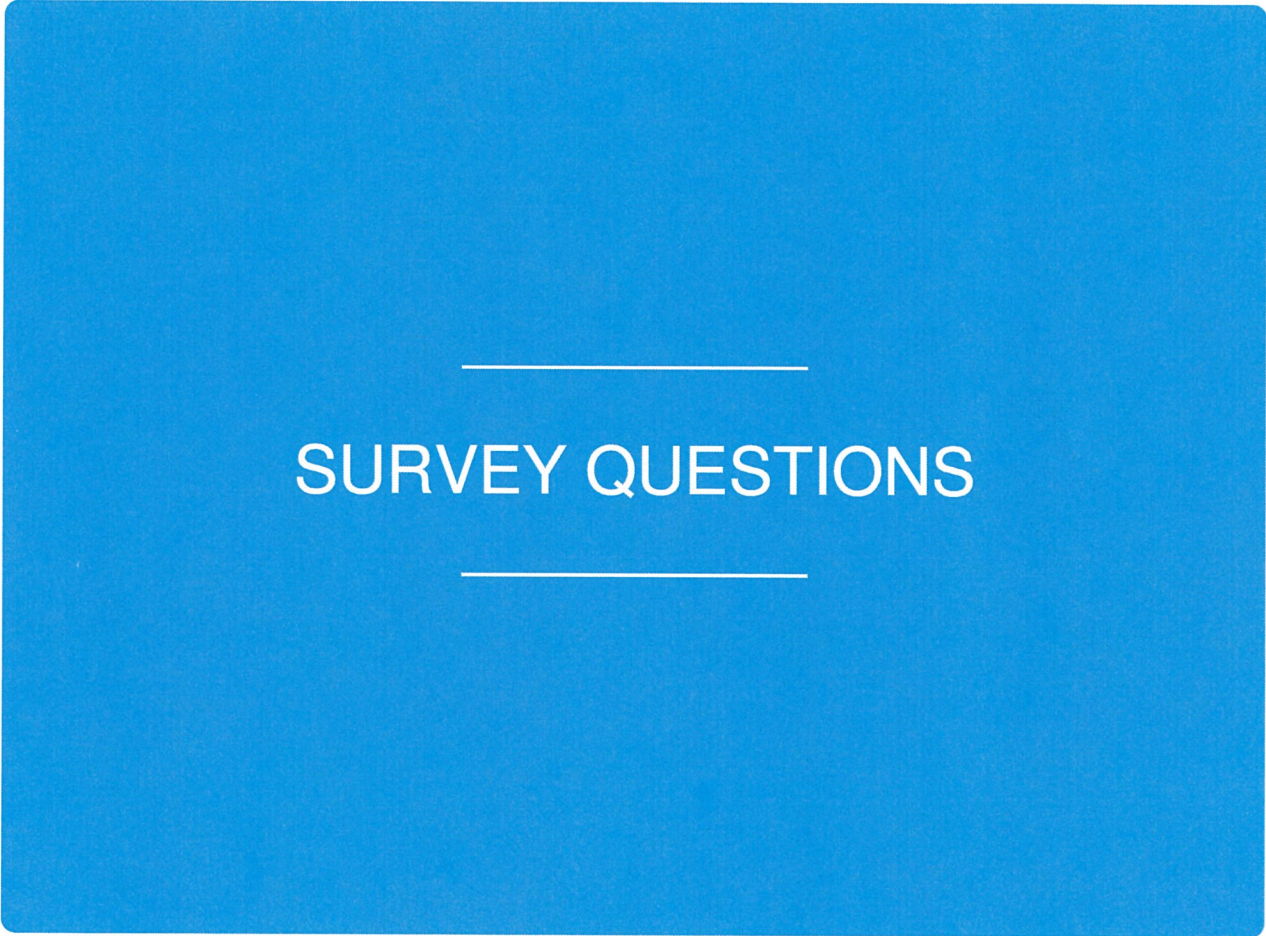
ARPA Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

25 February 2022 - 26 April 2022

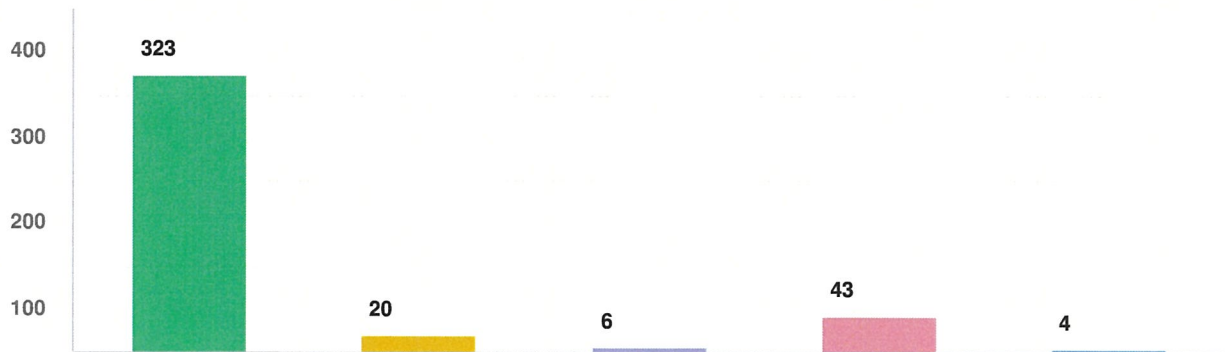
PROJECT NAME:

ARPA Survey



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 What is your connection to the City of Greenbelt? (Check all that apply)



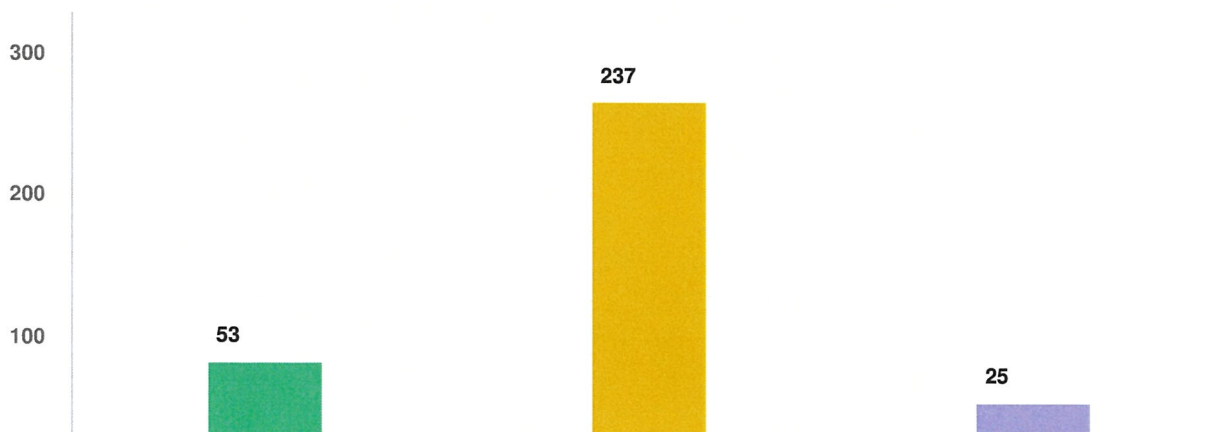
Question options

- I am a City of Greenbelt resident
- I own a business in the City of Greenbelt
- I am a commercial property owner in the City of Greenbelt
- I work in the City of Greenbelt
- I do not live in the City of Greenbelt

Optional question (342 response(s), 2 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q2 What part of Greenbelt do you live in?



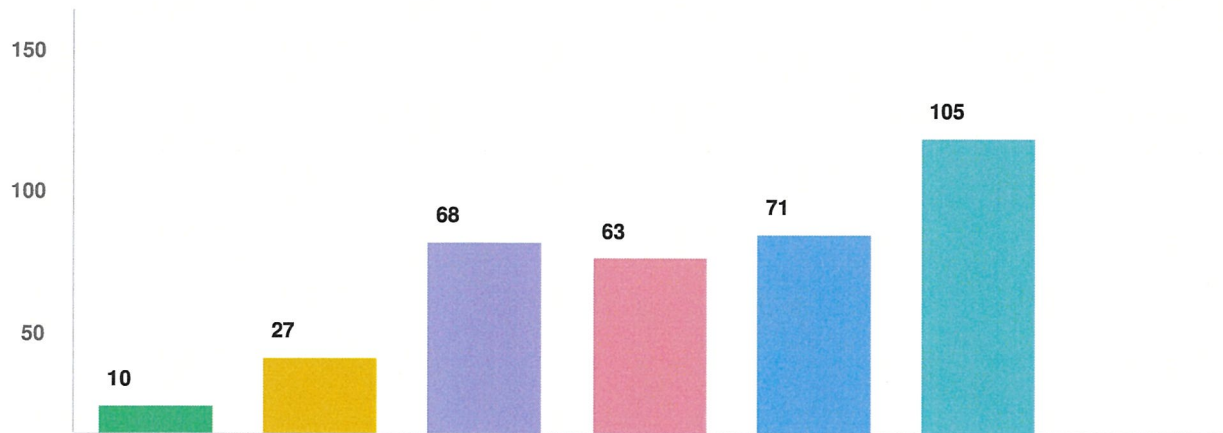
Question options

- Greenbelt East
- Greenbelt Central
- Greenbelt West

Optional question (308 response(s), 36 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q3 What is your age?

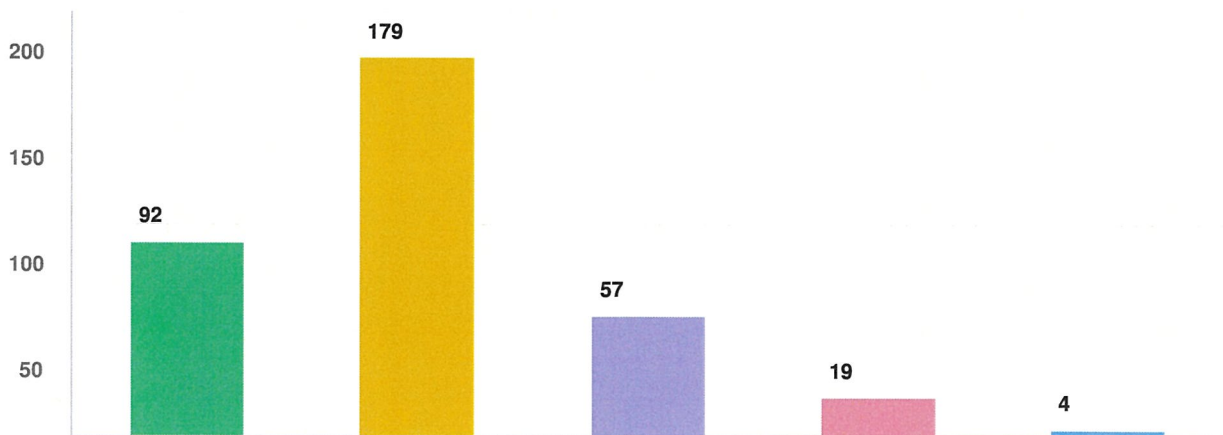


Question options

18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+ Under 18

Optional question (344 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q4 What has been the level of impact COVID-19 has had on your household/Greenbelt business?

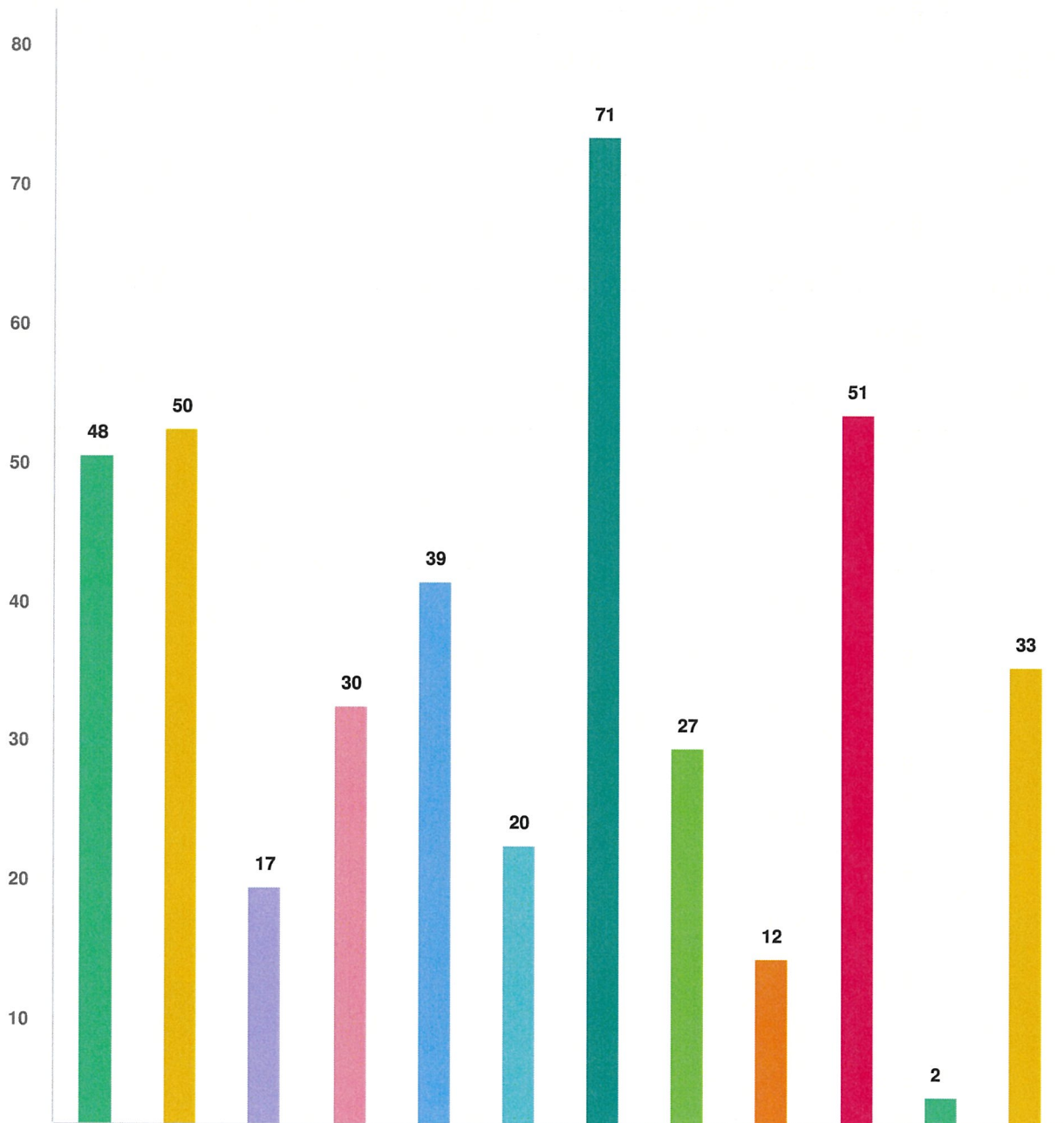


Question options

Major negative impact Slight negative impact No impact Slight positive impact Major positive impact

Optional question (339 response(s), 5 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q5 If COVID-19 has impacted your household, what assistance do you need, or have you needed throughout the pandemic? Please ch...

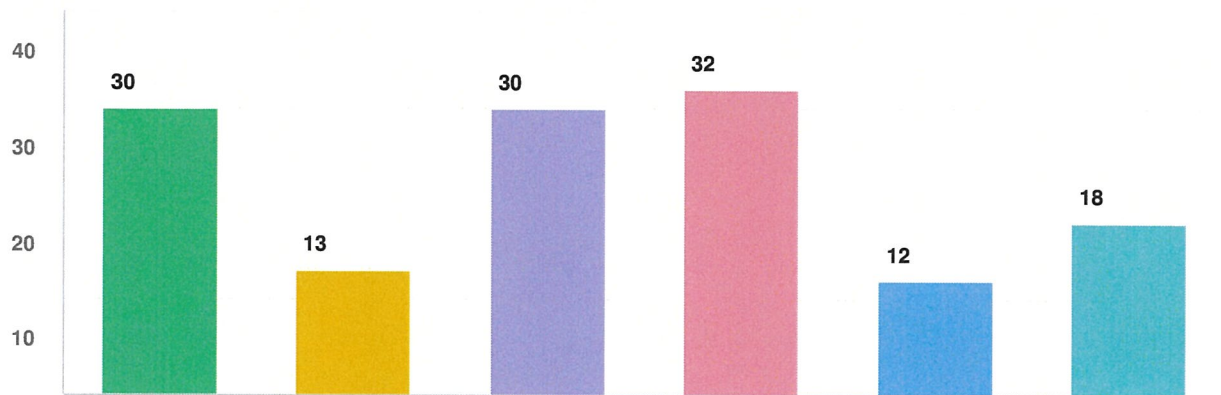


Question options

- Food assistance
 ● Rental assistance
 ● Mortgage assistance
 ● Unemployment benefits
 ● Utility assistance
- Emergency childcare services
 ● Mental health services
 ● Internet access
 ● Job training
 ● Counseling services
- Substance use treatment services
 ● Other (please specify)

Optional question (190 response(s), 154 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q6 If COVID-19 has impacted your Greenbelt business, what assistance do you need, or have you needed throughout the pandemic? ...



Question options

- Finding qualified employees
- Training new hires/existing staff
- Funding for capital improvements
- Funding to fill operating shortfalls
- Connections to supplies/vendors
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (72 response(s), 272 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q7 Please rank your top five priorities from the following, where 1 is your top priority.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Housing Assistance (mortgage/rent/utility assistance, etc.)	2.80
Infrastructure (road/sidewalk improvements)	3.32
Mental Health Resources and Healthcare (CARES/GAIL)	3.48
Essential Workers/Public Safety Public Health Response	3.66
Green/Solar Initiatives Citywide	3.95
Support the COVID-19 Public Health Response	4.05
City Security Enhancements	4.12
Business Recovery & Workforce	4.17
City Facility Improvements	4.36
Digital Equity Initiatives (Broadband Infrastructure/expansion)	4.70
Park Enhancements	4.75
Arts and Culture Assistance	4.87
Citywide Aesthetics	5.76

Optional question (337 response(s), 7 skipped)
Question type: Ranking Question

Community Input Meeting Proceedings

ATTACHMENT DESCRIPTION

Transcription of hand-written notes taken by participants during community input meetings.

City of Greenbelt

ARPA Community Input Meetings

Overview

The purpose of the community input meetings is to provide general information on the ARPA program and eligible uses of ARPA funds and solicit general ideas for ways in which the City could invest its ARPA resources.

Participants were given the opportunity to choose whether to participate in table-based dialogue or independently circulate through multiple stations to develop ideas for ways that the community could use ARPA funds. In both cases, participants were provided with five idea-generating prompts, each of which contained a set of example ideas of eligible project types. Other ideas, not related to these five prompts were also collected. Participants were also provided with voting stickers, and were given the opportunity to note which ideas they agreed with by placing voting dots near them.

Discussion Prompts

- What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to support the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic? Eligible uses include:
 - Contain and Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19
 - Public Health and Medical Expenses
 - Behavioral Healthcare Services
- What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to address the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic? Eligible uses include:
 - Assistance for Workers and Families
 - Support Small Businesses
 - Speed the Recovery of Impacted Industries
- What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure? Eligible uses include:
 - Clean Drinking Water
 - Stormwater
 - Broadband
- What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to provide premium pay to essential workers? Eligible uses include:
 - Education and Childcare
 - Healthcare, Sanitation, and Transit
 - Grocery and Food Services
- What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds for providing equity focused services? Eligible uses include:
 - Invest in Housing
 - Address Health and Education Disparities
 - Promote Healthy Childhood Environments

Meeting Notes

The following sections capture the ideas and votes provided by participants in each of the community input meetings.

MARCH 19, 2022

10:00 am

Greenbelt Community Center

Ideas	Votes
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to support the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic?	
Immediate upgrades to Braden field	2
Reimbursement for funds spent on mitigation effects (VAX checks, HVAC systems)	2
Mental health care for children in the form of groups or play therapy to improve trauma due to pandemic	3
Mental health core groups to treat PTSS	2
Improve the air quality of schools to assist with asthma concerns in children	2
Provide health fairs with access to free screenings	1
Provide free Vax, covid tests and masks	1
Healthcare vouchers for Greenbelt clinic	1
Develop summer and after school programs to encourage social interaction	2
Dental care vouchers	2
Food assistance	1
Support public safety responses by focusing on policing, support equity, youth division sports	
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to address the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?	
Greenbelt families especially BIPOC families were hit hard. Reward them for keeping their kids active	
Underwrite all fees for sports/rec fiscal year 2022	4
Workers and families need affordable childcare and transportation	1
Help businesses modify their practices to stay profitable	1
Payments for small business, covid relief loans will challenge small businesses when they become due	3
Eviction counseling legal aid	2
Fund the less of city funds for infrastructure needs	1
Job training	1
City can provide temp internships and jobs for 1-3 years	2
Rent, mortgage, utility assistance	1
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure?	
Upgrade aging water and sewer pipes in conjunction with WSSC	2
Invest in broadband infrastructure that provides variety and affordability to all Greenbelt citizens	4
Improve storm water at Park Crescent Apt	
Internet access digital literacy assistance	
I would love to see broadband throughout the City	
Immediate upgrades to Braden Field	4
\$3,000 emergency supplement for new catcher's gear and new mats for cage	4
Invest in stormwater improvements in flood prone areas of Greenbelt	2
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to provide premium pay to essential workers?	
Braden is the crown jewel of Greenbelt and offers a gathering place for all upgrades it in 3 phases: upgrade to Braden Field	5
The City and City Council needs to push the county to replace Spring Hill Lake School ASAP. it is a travesty in its present state	2
Income-based child-care stipends for all who are returning to work	2
Grocery cards for food pantry so families can buy perishable food	1
Open city run free or reduced cost childcare facilities	2
Transportation stipend to essential workers who commute	1
Childcare stipend to essential workers	3
Grocery stipend to essential workers	2
Immediate upgrades to Braden field	3

Ideas	Votes
Ask the essential workers what would help	1
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds for providing equity focused services?	
Multi-lingual access to information about all these efforts	1
Ensure that Greenbelt has a sufficient mix of housing for all income levels	3
Hire facilitators to reach out and reenroll people in Obamacare and MD Health Exchange and Medicaid	1
Design programs for healthy eating and exercise that can be included in childcare facilities	2
Transportation assistance	1
Help for people affected by the isolation of covid	
After-school tutoring programs	1
Affordable housing to supplement income to help people afford renting for having to move to a new place to live	1
Household income-based scholarships for students seeking higher ed but having trouble funding	4
Franklin Park needs outdoor play areas	2
Targeted outreach to the media accessed by the various BIPOC communities	1
Develop affordable housing	1
Turf field can be used 12 months a year and in poor weather grass fields required excessive maintenance and can only 9 months a year in optimal weather	
Direct cash payments for low-income residents	1
More money for people facing evictions. After more than 24 months, we need to raise the cap from \$10k to closer to \$24k	3
Adolescent gift participation rates drop so we must improve facilities to encourage youth participation	1
Childcare subsidies and preschool programs	2
Accelerated education programs to train LPNs, Nursing, assistants	1
Improvements to city grass athletic fields and construction of artificial turf field. City org (Greenbelt Babe Ruth Baseball and Greenbelt Soccer Alliance) are only able to practice 9 months	2
Other Ideas	
Help renters in Greenbelt immediately; tap the EHV program. Those in Section 8 vouchers were given to HAPGC in July 21 yet the utilization rate is 17.99%. These vouchers can be used for people at risk of eviction.	2
Community violence intervention programs	
Immediate upgrades for Braden	
Bilingual outreach and access to interpreters and translators during public input sessions	
All ARPA money should be directed to the human needs identified by the pandemic; infrastructure and business support should be addressed by the budget process	

MARCH 22, 2022

7:00 pm

Greenbriar Community Building

Ideas	Votes
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to support the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic?	
Immediate upgrades to Braden field	2
Increase lights at Franklin Park	1
Covid tests, doctor visits should be free. A resident should be able to get tested at a nearby pharmacy without fee. Copays to ER should be waived.	
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to address the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?	
Immediate funding for Braden field	1
Security infrastructure and systems need upgrading and improvement. We need to protect our City staff.	
Government should help residents with job loss with water bill	1
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure?	
Our aging infrastructure in the City should be given priority	1
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to provide premium pay to essential workers?	
All essential workers should have childcare compensation	
Transportation assistance	1
Develop affordable housing	1
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds for providing equity focused services?	
Help renters in Greenbelt immediately; tap the EHV program. Those in Section 8 vouchers were given to HAPGC in July 21 yet the utilization rate is 17.99%. These vouchers can be used for people at risk of eviction.	6
Bilingual outreach and access to interpreters and translators during public input sessions	

MARCH 29, 2022

7:00 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center

Ideas	Votes
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to support the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic?	
Mental health!	
Expand Greenbelt CARES services	
Behavioral health care services & counseling	3
Regular free testing: BMI, Cholesterol, Glucose	
Public health medical expenses	
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to address the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?	
Assistance for workers	
Improve appearance of shops/centers in order to attract more customers	1
Advertise more for small businesses to attract customers	
Speed recovery of industries	
Independent professional artists have fallen through the cracks. No public art exhibitions, no venues for traditional financial support. Artists are invisible. Rely upon other employment which was lost or personal savings. The starving artist is a genuine condition. Perhaps a very tiny fund compared to the 23 mil \$ devoted to an art gallery at Roosevelt Center in one of those empty small stores. A partnership between the City and a nonprofit.	
Families and workers need the assistance because we lost our jobs. We need help paying rent.	
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure?	
Broadband & computer lending library	1
Clean drinking water	1
Broadband at SHL rec center	2
Affordable internet access	
Outdoor Wi-Fi at SHL rec center for outdoor classrooms	
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds to provide premium pay to essential workers?	
Education in mental health	
Provide food assistance/subsidies	
Education and childcare	1
Grocery and food services	
English language classes	1
Tutoring/reinforcement of academics at SHL rec center	
What are some ways that the community should consider using ARPA funds for providing equity focused services?	
Health & education disparities	
Promote mental health	
Relief for tenants	3
Explore affordable green housing	
Area behind SHL rec center – standing water – children can't play in grassy area	
Invest in affordable & subsidized housing	1
I want them to invest in rental assistance. It is my biggest burden and Greenbelt should help us	
Toward rental assistance – I do not want to be left homeless	
Rental assistance – I have family and would not want us evicted	
Help us with rental assistance, it is what affects us all, we need help for rent	
Rental assistance should be the first thing. There have been too many evictions already.	
Rent is the first thing we have to cover to protect all families. Put it toward rental assistance.	
Put it for rental assistance. I have 3 children and they need a roof over their head.	
Find ways to alleviate poverty	
Produce sharing in Franklyn Park, not just in Central Greenbelt	
Greenbelt CARES needs an outreach person who speaks Spanish	
Greenbelt CARES needs to have an office in Franklyn Park	
Establish an ongoing relief fund	
Franklyn Park needs an attorney to help tenants deal with evictions	
Other Ideas	
Youth peer counseling	

Ideas	Votes
Invest in aesthetic look of Greenbelt, to make it more attractive to people to move to Greenbelt	
Bring public art and performing arts to Greenbelt	
Convert Roosevelt Center to art district of Greenbelt	
Improve the appearance of Roosevelt Center in order to bring more businesses	
Improve 1) signage and 2) lighting in Roosevelt center in order to attract more visitors	