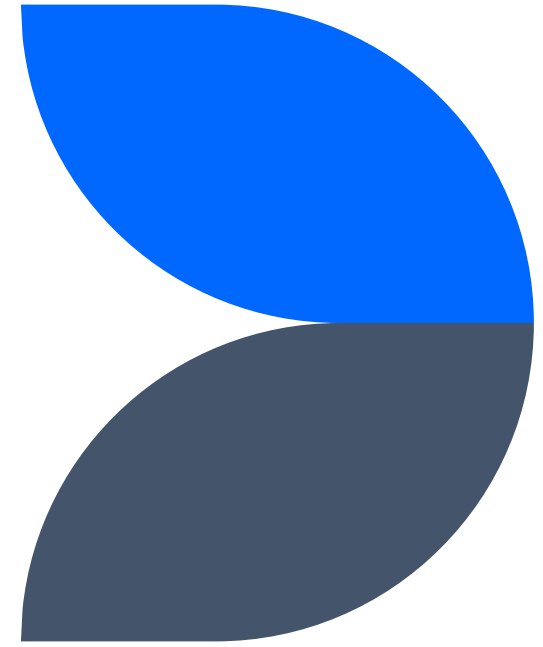# City of Medford's
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Content

- What is ARPA?

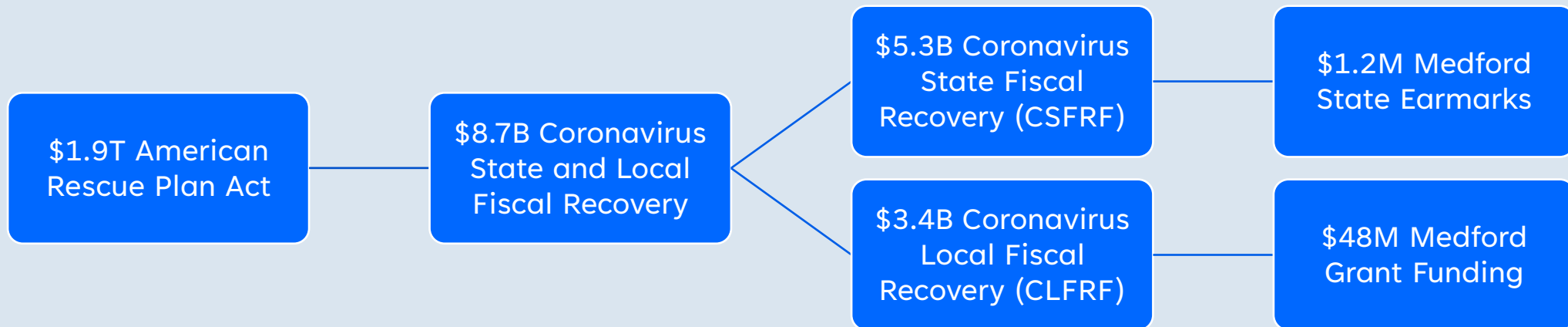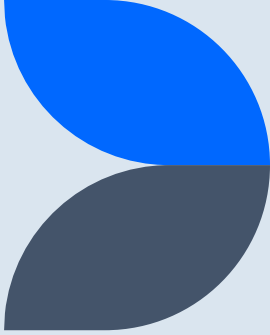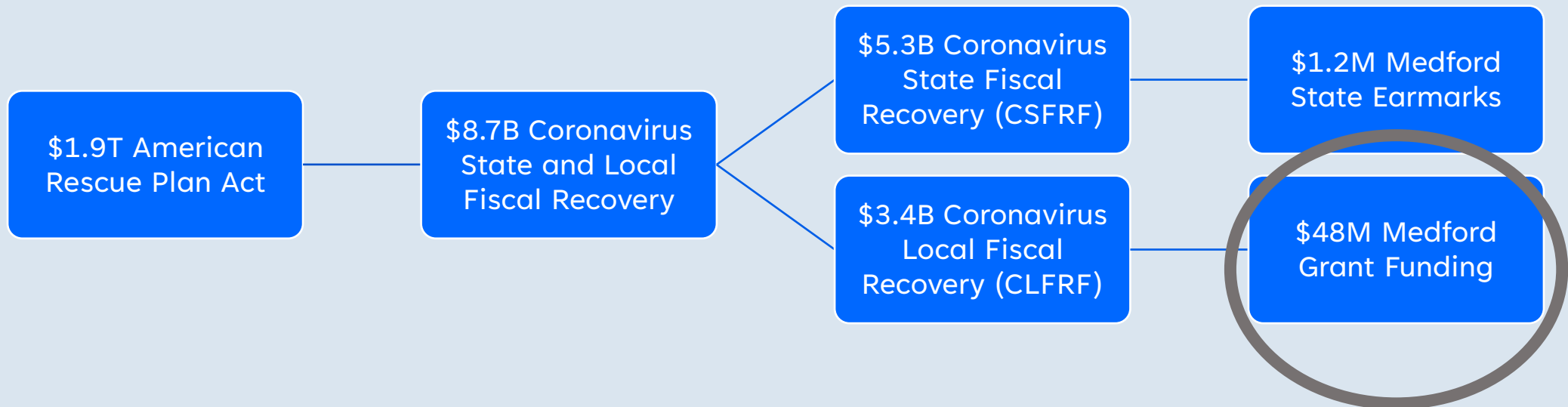- Community engagement

- Spending strategy

What is ARPA?

Spirit of ARPA

- Fight the pandemic and support municipalities, individuals, families, and businesses struggling with public health and economic impacts

- Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue

- Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity.

Funding Amounts

$1.9T American Rescue Plan Act

$8.7B Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery

$5.3B Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery (CSFRF)

$3.4B Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFRF)

$1.2M Medford State Earmarks

$48M Medford Grant Funding

Funding Amounts

$1.9T American Rescue Plan Act → $8.7B Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery

$8.7B Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery → $5.3B Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery (CSFRF)

$8.7B Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery → $3.4B Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFRF)

$5.3B Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery (CSFRF) → $1.2M Medford State Earmarks

$3.4B Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFRF) → $48M Medford Grant Funding

ARPA Timeline

- Signed into law March 11, 2021

- Department of Treasury released the following:
  - May 17th, 2021, Interim Final Rule
  - January 6th, 2022, Final Rule
  - March 1st, 2022, Final Rule Compliance and Guidance

- Massachusetts
  - December 13th, 2021, Chapter 102: Act Relative to Immediate COVID-19 Recovery Needs
  - TBD approximately 2 Billion left for State to distribute

ARPA Timeline

Funds need to be spent by
December 31, 2026

Eligible Uses

Public Health Emergency

Premium Pay

Revenue Loss

Infrastructure

Prohibited Uses

Offset tax cut

You cannot use funds to offset a reduction in taxes

Pensions

Funds cannot be deposited into a pension fund (but covered benefits for new employees are okay)
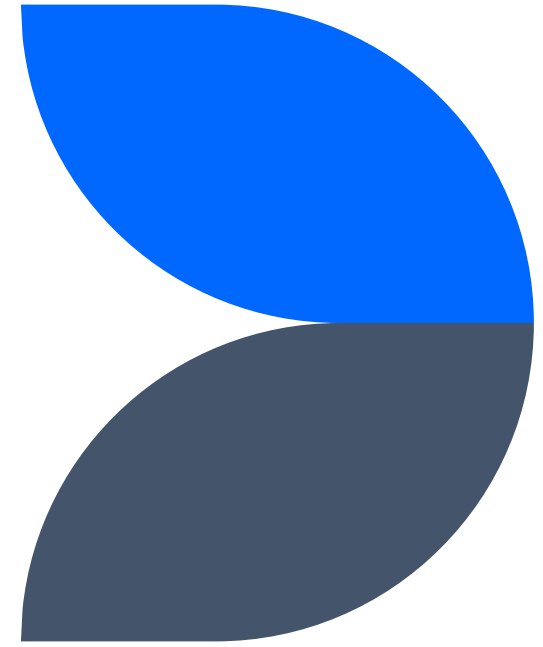
Debt Servicing

Infrastructure investments must be "pay go" investments

Stabilization Funds

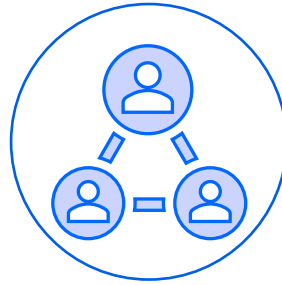You cannot deposit funds into a Rainy Day or Stabilization Fund
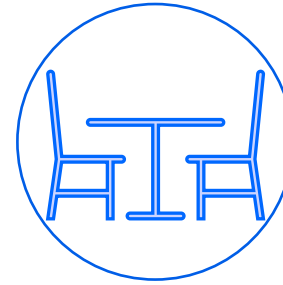
Explanation of Eligible Uses

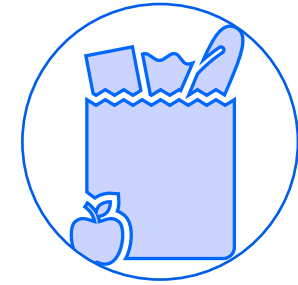# Part 1: Responding to the Public Health Emergency

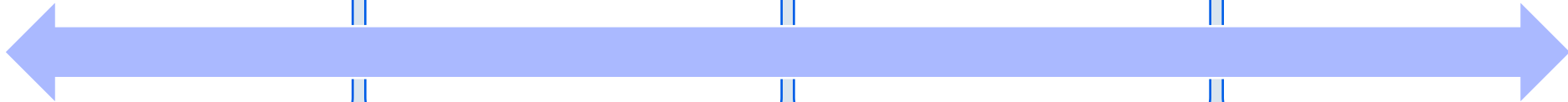Public health: Covid-related cost, staff, infrastructure, capacity, facilities

Support staff and up to pre-pandemic levels of the public sector
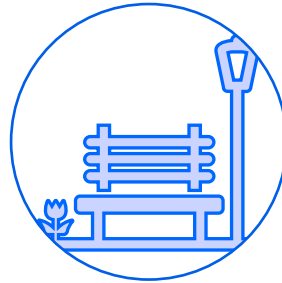
Direct Aid to impacted small business and non-profit

Direct Aid to individuals: food, housing, cash assistance, personal health and economic subsidies

Part 1: Responding to the Public Health Emergency

Educational disparities - learning loss, mental health; Educational equipment and facilities
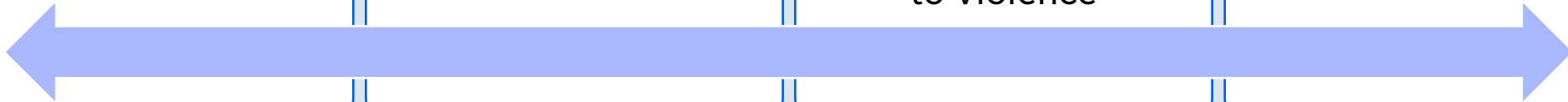
Investments to neighborhoods and public buildings. Greening, demo, rehab, remediation etc

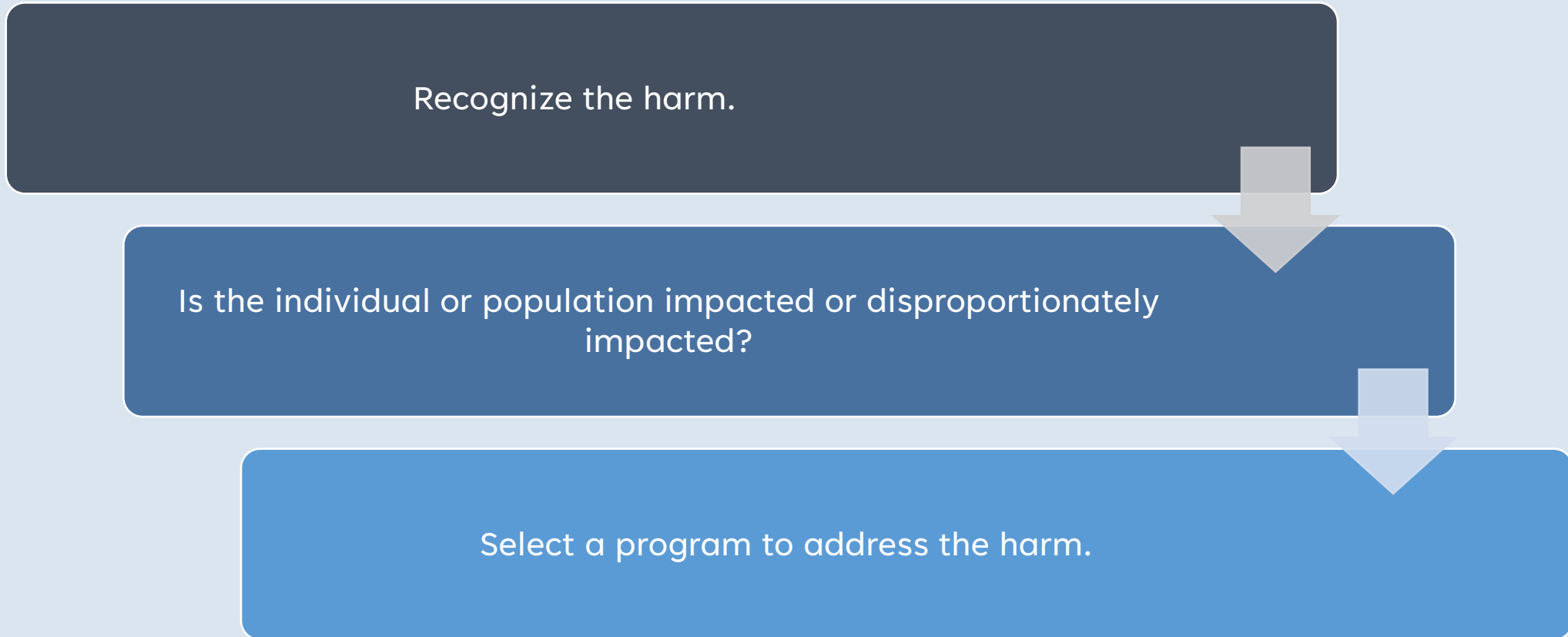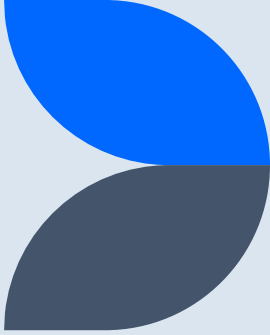Community health: staffing, infrastructure, equipment, paid leave, prevention/response to violence

Long-term financial security programs: housing, banking, health cost

Part 1: Responding to the Public Health Emergency
How to create a program

Recognize the harm.

Is the individual or population impacted or disproportionately impacted?

Select a program to address the harm.

Part 2: Revenue Replacement

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                    ┌──────────────────┐
                    │   Government     │
                    │    Services      │
                    └──────────────────┘
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Public Safety	Education	General Government Administration	Health Services	Environmental Remediation
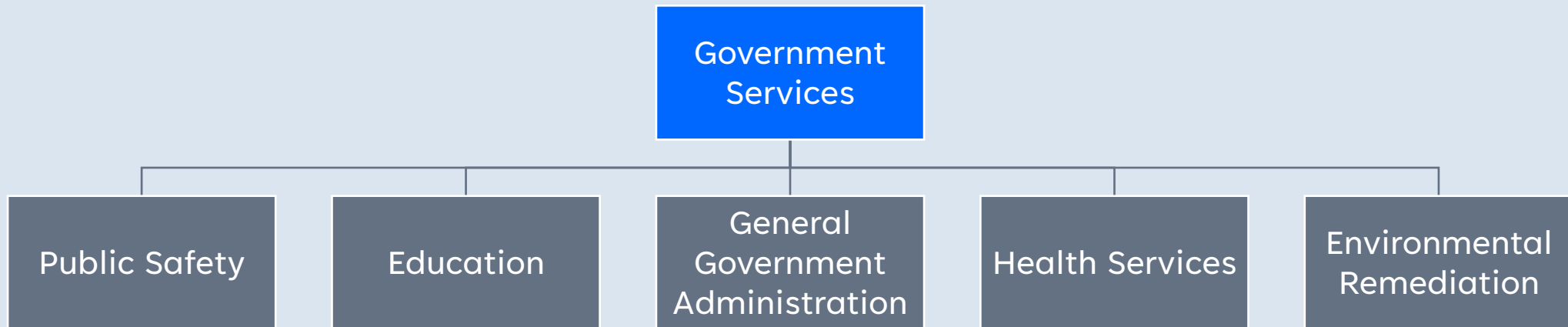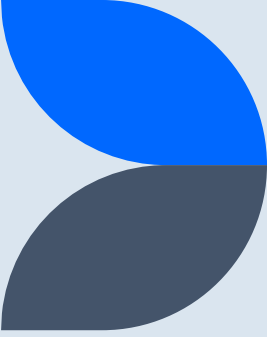
Part 3: Premium Pay

What is it?

Payments to essential workers

Eligibility

Lower-income essential workers

Examples Industries: healthcare and nursing home; farm and food; janitors; public health and safety, truck and transit, and warehouse; childcare and educators; human and social service
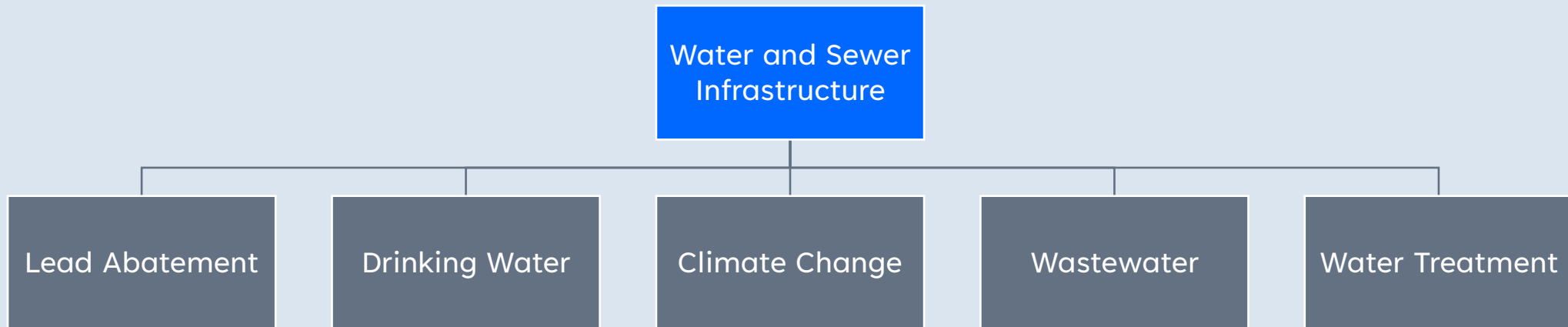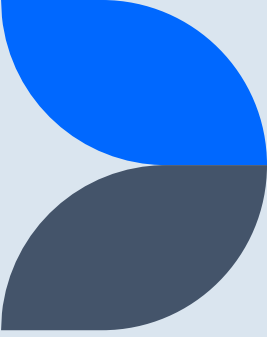
Part 3: Premium Pay

The State of Massachusetts is distributing Premium Pay in the "COVID-19 Essential Employee Premium Pay Program"

This program will distribute **$500 million to lower-wage** frontline workers who put themselves at risk with admirable commitment to their communities.

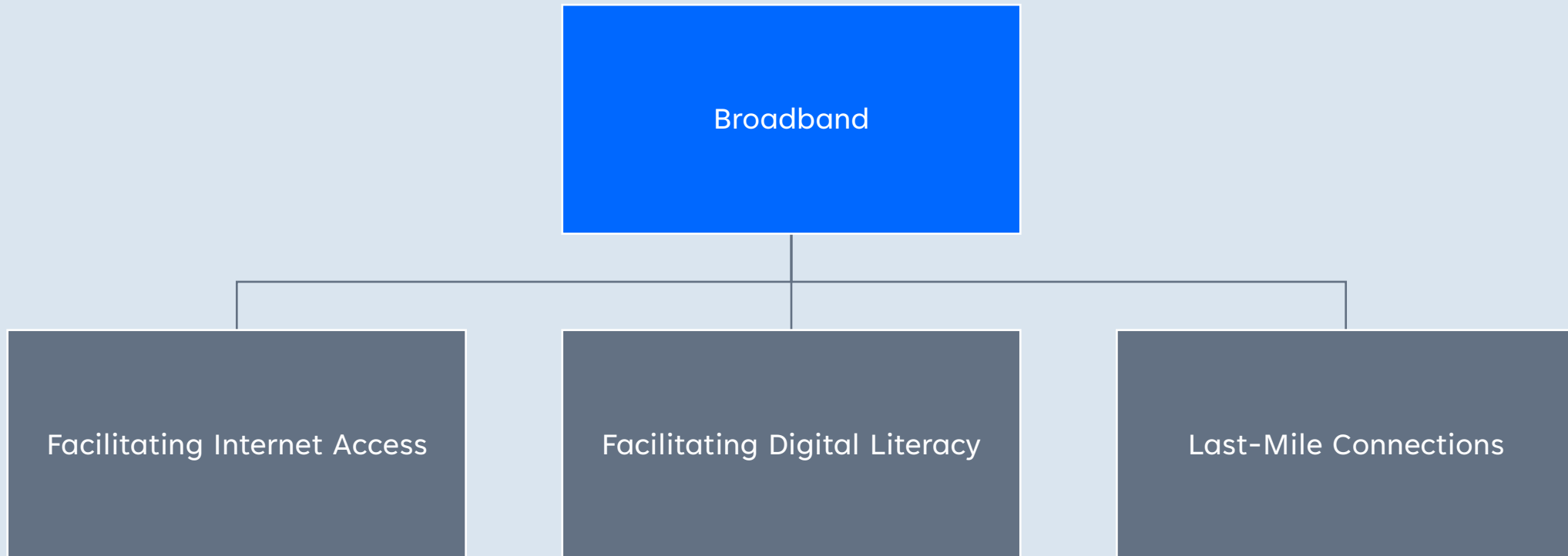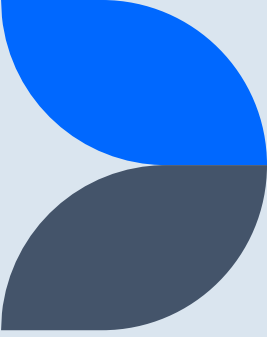**$500 payments will be delivered to 500,000 people in March.** These payments represent the first round of funds to be distributed as part of the program.

[COVID-19 Essential Employee Premium Pay Program | Mass.gov](#)

Part 4: Water, Sewer, and Broadband

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                    Water and Sewer
                     Infrastructure

Lead Abatement   Drinking Water   Climate Change   Wastewater   Water Treatment
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Part 4: Water, Sewer, and Broadband

Broadband

Facilitating Internet Access

Facilitating Digital Literacy

Last-Mile Connections

Community Engagement
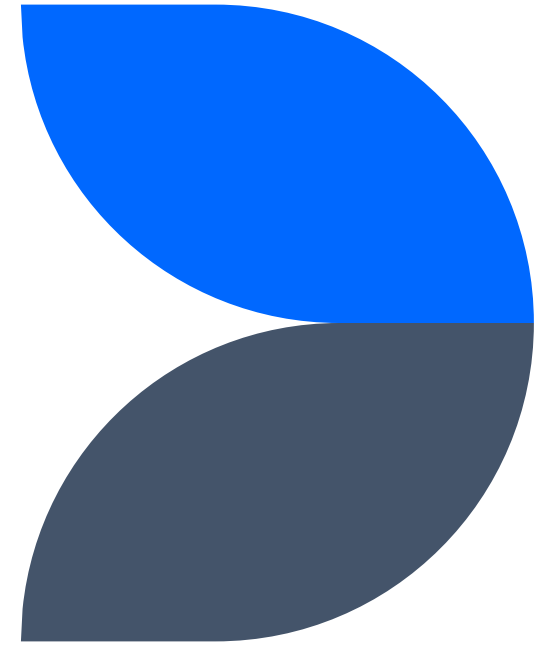
Community Engagement Strategy

The purpose of engagement:

- **Develop** a base of collective knowledge and learning about how ARPA funding can be used in Medford
- **Engage** key stakeholders in conversations around ARPA; Additional focus on populations hardest hit by the pandemic, its economic impacts, including communities of color, renters, low-income residents, and non-English speaking residents
- **Explore** community priorities for how the funding should be used
- **Share** with city staff what we heard were resident priorities

Engagement activities will focus on:

- Providing clear and accessible information about the ARPA funding; including what the money can and can't be used for and what the City's high priority initial emergency spending plans are
- Creating opportunities for Medford residents to share priorities and program suggestions with the City to inform further ARPA spending that best serves the community

Equity Priorities

Accessibility

• Develop an outreach team to conduct proactive outreach, surveying, and listening that meets people where they are

• Translate materials for a range of outreach formats designed to overcome participation barriers

• Clear information, "de-technicalized" language, analysis provided during engagement events

• Share with city staff what we heard were resident priorities

Targeted Outreach

• Meet communities where they are

• Priority is to focus on communities that:
1. Can be underrepresented in public policy decision making
2. Have resource needs that can be addressed through ARPA money
3. Have been identified by the City as priority for involvement

Communications

Media	Format	Materials
Website	City Website	Graphics, Video, Reports
TV	Medford Community Media	Chyron, Recorded Videos
Municipal Email/Newsletters	Departmental email list and newsletters	Graphics, Text, and Links
Public Space	Soofa Boards	Graphics, Text and QR Codes
Phone	Robo Calls, Multilingual Resource Line, City Hall Phone number	Voice
Social Media	City of Medford Twitter and FB	Graphics, Text and QR Codes
In-Person	Table and Chair at Local Events	Fact Sheet, QR Code, Translated Materials

Community Engagement
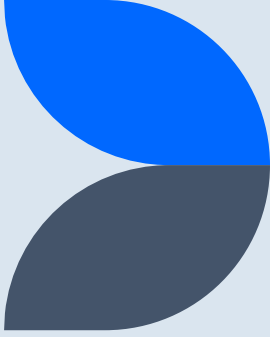
1. Translated into: Haitian Creole, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese
2. Print out hard copies for community centers and schools
3. Share with Community Groups

Community Priority Survey

1. What is ARPA, how to get involved, and Q/A

2. Survey results

3. Funded Projects

Community Meetings
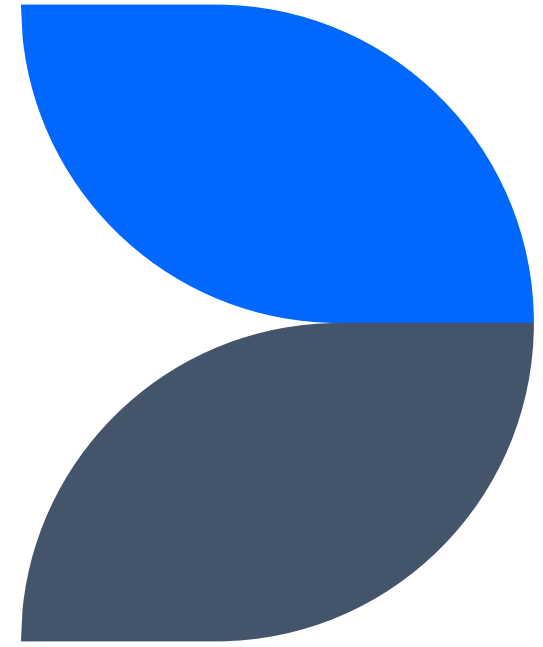
Bring ARPA information and survey to people

Outreach series

Community Engagement Timeline

March 2022

City Council Meeting

Community meeting: What is ARPA and how to I get involved?

Summer 2022

Community Outreach Series

Winter 2022

Survey results shared in community meeting and online.

Multilingual Survey

Spring 2022

Survey Close

Fall 2022

Spending Strategy

How will the City choose projects?

Public feedback and values

Emergency need

Project readiness

Priorities identified in earlier processes

How will the City choose projects?

Public feedback and values

Emergency need

Project readiness

Priorities identified in earlier processes

- Medford Comprehensive Plan
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Climate Plan
- Housing Plan
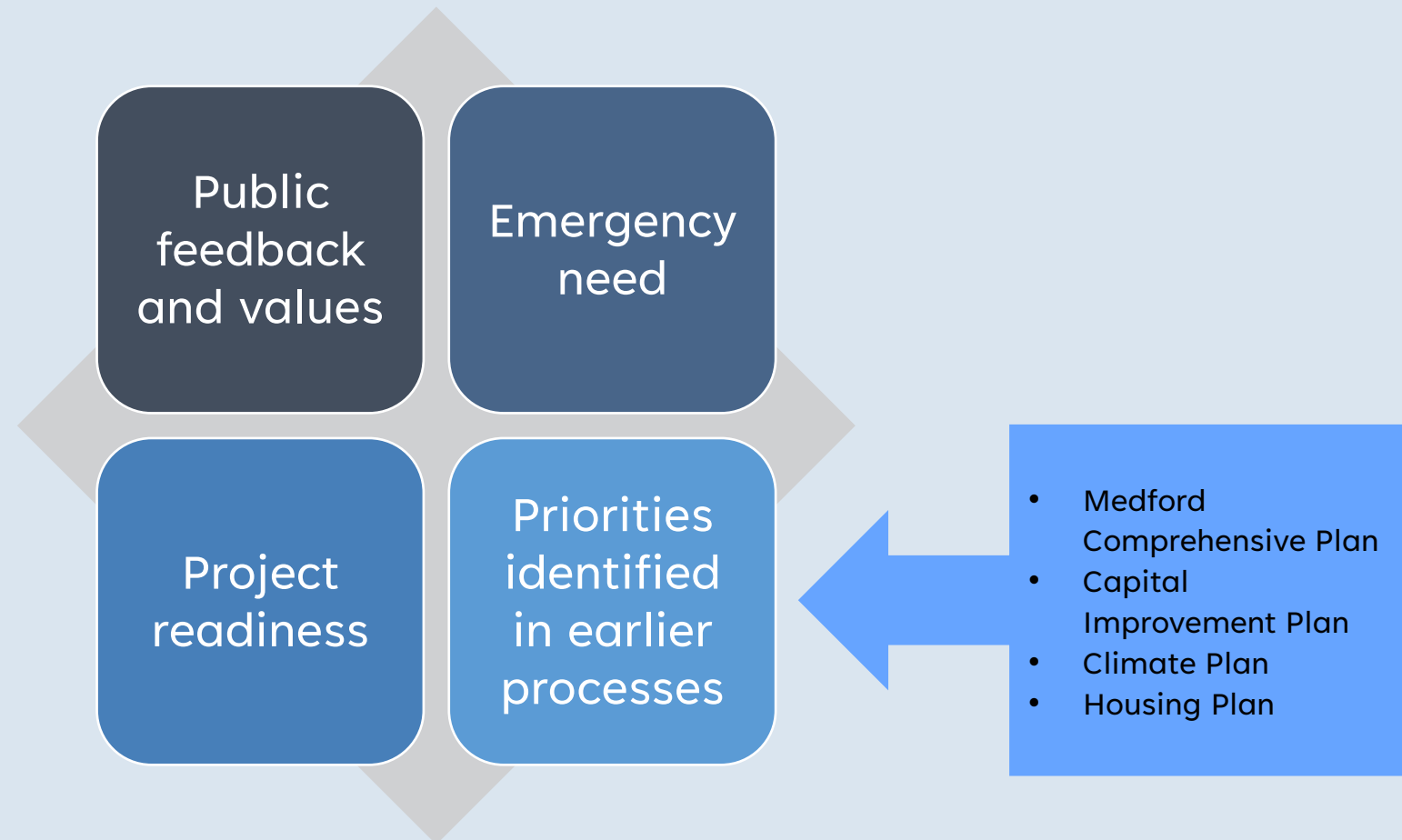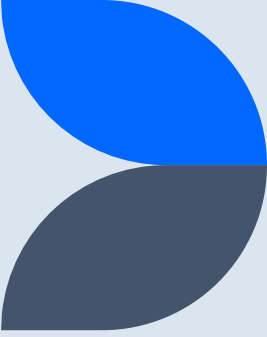
How will your feedback impact these decisions?

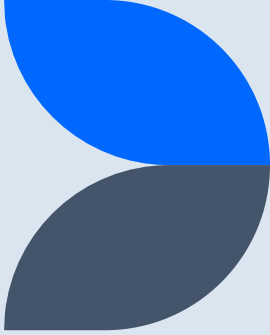Public values about ARPA spending will help guide the City's decision-making process.

Your feedback

Emergency needs

Department priorities

Previous plans

Is the project ready to go?

YES!

Let's fund it!

How can I share my ideas?

https://www.medfordma.org/arpa/

What are other cities and towns doing?

Salem: $35.5M
- Housing: Rental Asst, Landlord Education, Tenant Right's program etc
- Climate Crisis Mitigation
- Rental assistance
- Exploring free or reduced transit program

Malden: $45.7M
- Free membership to Malden Chamber of Commerce
- Winter Festival for local businesses and artist
- Affordable housing

Pittsfield: $40M
- Childhood Development & Youth Intervention (including daycares)
- Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders
- Disabled, Elderly & Veterans
- UBI program

Somerville: $77.5M
- Government services
- Exploring free or reduced transit program
- Rental assistance
- Childcare subsidy