

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

“Comeback Colchester” Grant Program

Program Description

The *Comeback Colchester Grant Program* helps small businesses and non-profit organizations complete capital improvement projects to improve the appearance and/or function of real property and enhance business personal property. “Real Property” is defined as the physical structure and permanent exterior assets occupied by a business or non-profit. “Capital improvements” are defined as projects which:

- Substantially add to the value of real property, or appreciably prolong the useful life of the real property.
- Projects that become part of the real property or permanently affixed to the real property so that removal would cause material damage to the property or article itself.
- Projects intended to become a permanent installation.

Eligible projects may include but are not limited to:

Interior Improvements

- The upgrade of flooring, ceiling, wall systems, and similar aesthetic upgrades.
- Construction of permanent walls, office space, production space, retail displays, restrooms, and similar construction work.
- Plumbing and electrical upgrades.
- The purchase and installation of certain “fixed assets” which, if removed, would cause material damage to the space. This may include restaurant/food preparation equipment and certain manufacturing equipment.

Exterior Improvements

- Door, window, permanent lighting, awning, roofing, signage infrastructure, and other façade improvement projects.
- The paving/repaving of driveways and parking areas.
- Construction of outdoor dining areas, including permanent decks and patios.

“Personal Property” is defined as any item used to conduct business that is movable and may be taken when moving locations, not affixed or associated with the land, such as and not limited to inventory, furniture, supplies, materials, tools, and equipment. Eligible projects may include and not be limited to:

- Avoiding supply chain delays to accommodate customers and clients with supply and material purchases.
- Retention of employees by providing furniture, equipment, and supplies to improve productivity.

- Tools and equipment purchase to enhance services business conducts.

Applicants pursuing projects that don't align with the guidelines above are encouraged to contact the Town's ARPA consultant, UHY Advisors, at 860-221-7609 to determine eligibility.

Funding Information

Award Amounts

The *Comeback Colchester Grant Program* may award a business applicant a maximum grant award of up to \$25,000. If the cost of the project exceeds the allotted amount or the total costs increase during the project the applicant is responsible for costs above the original total project amount.

Project Cost Matching

Projects may be matched using private funding. In the case of non-profits, matching funds may include State of Connecticut grant funding or, in certain cases, Federal funding. Please contact the ARPA Consultant UHY Advisors at ARPAprojects@uhy-us.com to determine matching eligibility.

Eligible Costs

Grants may help fund the costs of materials, installation/construction, permitting, design, engineering, and similar costs.

Project Period

All projects must be complete and fully funded by December 31, 2024, to meet ARPA requirements. In the event awardees do not demonstrate progress to ensure project completion by the project period deadline, the ARPA Consultant, on the advice of the Town will cancel the grant contract and pursue any ARPA funding provided for the project to that point.

Release of Grant Funding

It is the Town's preference to award grant funds on a reimbursement basis. However, applicants may request the release of up to 50% of the total award amount during project activities to ensure project completion.

Grant Bidding Requirements

Written quotes from at least three (3) bidders are required and must be retained to justify expenditures for interior and exterior improvements. [Do It Yourself projects are not allowable.]

Additional Grant Requirements

A webinar will be held in advance of application process to go over grant requirements to provide applicants with ARPA background and requirements for receiving ARPA funding.

Requirements include and are not limited to the following:

- DUNs number
- SAM.gov registration
- Records retention

- Reporting

Award “Clawback”

Grant award contracts may include “clawback” provision requiring grantees to repay all or a portion of the grant award in the event the organization relocates from Colchester. If a business is sold during the “clawback” period, grant award obligations will be formally transferred to the new business owner via an updated grant contract.

Applicant Eligibility

Businesses and 501(c)(3) organizations with operations in Colchester, registered by the State of Connecticut to conduct business for not less than six months, in good standing with the Town of Colchester, and employing not more than 150 employees.

Applicants must provide their federal taxpayer identification number.

Applicants must show a current Certificate of Good Standing from the Connecticut Secretary of State.

Applicants must demonstrate that their organization has been negatively impacted by the COVID pandemic. This demonstration can take on many forms, such as:

- Demonstrated income loss during the pandemic
- Demonstrated reduction in employees during the pandemic
- Demonstrated reduction in service hours or number of customers served
- For non-profits, increased demand for services without a similar increase in the ability to provide services

Applicants may be the owner of real property or the lessee. Lessees must provide a copy of their lease and demonstrate project approval by the building owner/landlord. Also, lessees must demonstrate that projects for which funding is sought are the sole financial responsibility of the tenant and not work funded by the property owner.

Approval Process

All applications for funding will be completed by the business/non-profit organization with assistance from the Town’s ARPA Consultant. After review by the ARPA Committee, Grant awards are to be formally approved by the Town.

First Selectman

From: Jack Faski <jack@skyview-realty.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 8:23 PM
To: First Selectman
Subject: Arpa committee

Andreas,

After further consideration, I would like to rescind my resignation from the ARPA Committee. Thanks for helping me reach that decision. Although I still agree with the items brought forth in my letter, I feel that the committee is too important to the town departments and all the businesses, to leave the committee.

I feel we have done a lot of good work together, and I look forward to working with the rest of the Board of Selectmen to work together to bring this over the finish line.

Thanks

JACK FASKI- Owner/Broker
SKYVIEW REALTY LLC
860-214-1147 Cell
[1-800-733-5176](tel:1-800-733-5176) e-fax
[35 Hayward Ave. Colchester, CT 06415](http://www.skyview-realty.com)

www.skyview-realty.com

Thanks for referring friends and family my way. Your referrals are greatly appreciated!

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