

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN SYRACUSE STRATEGY OVERVIEW

## MAYOR WALSH UNVEILS PLANS FOR \$123 MILLION IN PANDEMIC AID TO SYRACUSE KEY INVESTMENTS IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES | INFRASTRUCTURE | JOBS | GOVERNMENT

The American Rescue Plan Act provides a substantial infusion of resources to help local communities address the pandemic, its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

### FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Funding for **Supporting Children, Families, and Neighborhoods** will direct strategic investments to for new housing construction and rehabilitation; lead remediation; youth employment; violence intervention; and family, youth and seniors assistance through community centers.
- Funding for **Transform Infrastructure and Public Spaces** will enable the City to pursue municipal sidewalks; bus rapid transit traffic signal prioritization; I-81 planning; broadband access; water infrastructure projects; urban forest tree planting; and neighborhood parks improvements and maintenance.
- Funding for **Investing in Jobs and Economic Opportunity** will create careers and jobs in applied trades, technology and I-81; economic development in minority and underinvested neighborhoods; and grants for arts and culture
- Funding for **Enhancing Government Response and Resilience** enables revenue restoration; fire training and emergency response; public safety and police accountability; programs for diversionary response to mental health related police calls; and digital infrastructure and cybersecurity for government.

### DIRECT U.S. TREASURY GUIDANCE



#### Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic



#### Address Negative Economic Impacts

Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector



#### Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure



#### Broadband Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access

**Note** According to federal guidance, funds designated to replace public-sector revenue-loss can be used in additional areas, including: maintenance of infrastructure; new infrastructure; cybersecurity and critical hardware and software; and public safety.

## Supporting Children, Families, and Neighborhoods

**\$34,840,000**

The City will make strategic investments in our children, families and neighborhoods. ARPA funds will be used to stabilize neighborhoods through the development of new and rehabilitated housing for ownership and rental; and, direct home owner and rental support. The City will also create summer jobs for young people and support youth development and enrichment programs including violence prevention. A key focus of each of these investments is racial equity, economic and environmental justice, and other issues that have historically hindered the prosperity of Syracuse residents and their neighborhoods.

### Revitalizing Neighborhoods

#### Resurgent Neighborhoods Initiative Housing Stabilization

**\$14,000,000**

Address housing stability through newly constructed homes for first-time buyer purchase; newly developed rental units for low-income residents; and investment in existing properties both occupied and vacant to address substandard quality issues. All development will occur within federally designated qualified census tracts.

#### Pandemic Related Rent Relief

**\$1,000,000**

Continue partnership with Onondaga County Department of Child and Family Services to provide direct financial assistance to assist individuals and families 80% or below AMI who are possibly going to be evicted due to severe financial difficulties caused by COVID related circumstances such as loss of income or employment. The assistance will ensure housing security while addressing significant income loss experienced by property owners.

#### Greater Syracuse Land Bank Property Stabilization & Demolition

**\$5,000,000**

Provide support to the Greater Syracuse Land Bank for strategic property stabilization and demolition of its properties within designated census tracts. Any demolition will be directly related to identified neighborhood and housing stability strategies.

#### Address Childhood Lead Poisoning

**\$4,500,000**

Address the environmental impact of lead through remediation efforts. Investment will include advanced technology for lead detection by housing inspectors and will be leveraged by existing federal and philanthropic grants.

#### Homeowner Support

**\$7,000,000**

Assist owner-occupied homeowners with grants, low interest home improvement loans, and first time homebuyer down-payment assistance.

#### Housing Market Study

**\$ 200,000**

The City of Syracuse will conduct a city-wide market analysis of current housing inclusive of vacant structures and market conditions across each of the city's neighborhoods. In addition to identifying neighborhood- and block-level housing conditions and trends, this report will aim to identify key principles to guide future housing strategy and decision-making around neighborhood interventions, in order to ensure that future development and investments are best aligned to each neighborhood's specific market conditions and needs.

### Supporting Children & Families

#### Summer Youth Employment Program

**\$1,290,000**

Provide summer employment and career skills development to youth ages 12-21 with funding for two program years.

**Youth Development and Support Opportunities** **\$1,350,000**  
 Provide city youth education support, college preparation and career development; positive social opportunities; mental health support; and, violence intervention/prevention.

**Neighborhood-based Community Centers** **\$ 500,000**  
 Fund neighborhood community centers to provide continued food and programming assistance to seniors, families and youth to address continued impacts of the pandemic.

**Transforming Infrastructure and Public Space** **\$29,836,000**

Syracuse has critical infrastructure needs, both in maintaining our existing networks and in building onto those systems to provide new services to city residents. ARPA intentionally specifies the use of these funds to make necessary investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. ARPA funds will ensure that Syracuse remains a growing, inclusive city by pursuing new, innovative opportunities in transportation and broadband access while also addressing our current infrastructure challenges in areas such as water quality and park facilities.

**Reimagining Parks and Public Spaces**

**Urban Forest Tree Planting** **\$2,000,000**  
 Grow, protect, and care for Syracuse’s tree canopy through implementation of the Urban Forest Master Plan.

**Hiawatha Lake Wall** **\$ 861,000**  
 Rebuild and repoint historic stone lake retaining wall.

**Neighborhood Parks Improvements and Maintenance** **\$1,920,000**  
 Repair, replace, upgrade and improve neighborhood parks. Engage community in prioritizing projects and investments. Improve broadband and Wi-Fi access in pool areas and large parks.

**Burnet Park Pool** **\$ 800,000**  
 Repair and restore for reopening including concrete replacement, concrete crack repair, and removal and replacement of ladder steps and tiles.

**Meachem Pavilion** **\$ 55,000**  
 Complete pavilion to enhance access to Onondaga Creek from Meachem parks facilities.

**Public Transportation & Infrastructure**

**Municipal Sidewalk Program** **\$5,000,000**  
 Support the creation and implementation of a municipal sidewalk program to create more walkable neighborhoods to benefit residents, property owners and businesses.

**BRT – Traffic Signal Optimization** **\$2,500,000**  
 Fund traffic signal prioritization to improve the speed, reliability and overall user-experience of bus transit. This investment is a major component of bus rapid transit and also supports fire, police and all local traffic.

**Parking Infrastructure** **\$ 700,000**  
 Install new revenue control equipment and closed-circuit television security in City-owned garages to improve accessibility through use of cards, and reduce labor costs for payment collection and security.

**Broadband Access**

**\$5,000,000**

Launch a pilot program to deploy an innovative high speed solution to connect at least 2,500 households to the internet. High speed connectivity will be provided using Citizens Band Radio Service (CBRS) with targeted investment made in the fiber optic infrastructure to support the network. In addition, we will support the creation and launch of a Digital Navigator program to assist families and seniors with using the internet effectively, troubleshooting digital issues, and accessing affordable devices and service plans.

**Interstate 81 Project Community Engagement and Planning**

**\$1,000,000**

Community engagement and project planning to ensure alignment among existing projects; prevent neighborhood displacement and gentrification; and, coordinate land-use and development along the Business Loop 81 corridor including exploration of Community Land Trust. Investment will include city staffing for community outreach, consulting services to guide master planning, and infrastructure coordination with NYSDOT.

**Water Infrastructure Projects**

**\$10,000,000**

Funding to extend the City's No. 2 public drinking water intake pipe in Skaneateles Lake to deeper water to help prevent the need to construct water treatment facilities. This includes investments in other high priority water main replacements, pump station projects, or sewer upgrades.

**Investing in Jobs and Economic Opportunity**

**\$12,324,000**

The City will deploy ARPA funds to address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. The City will make strategic investments in the Syracuse Surge, our strategy for inclusive growth in the New Economy, and in the Syracuse Build program to ensure the local workforce and businesses are prepared to participate in the Interstate 81 viaduct project. The City will also invest in business districts and arts and culture to foster economic recovery and revitalization as we emerge from the pandemic.

**Advancing the Workforce and Expanding Job Opportunities**

**Syracuse Build / Syracuse Surge**

**\$2,574,000**

Includes funding to expand Syracuse Build Apprenticeship programs; establish new Syracuse Surge paid training programs for high-tech sector jobs; create a new Syracuse Applied Trades & Technology Career Lab.

**Syracuse Minority Business One Stop**

**\$ 500,000**

Provide seed funding to establish a new program to assist minority businesses in the construction sector to become profitable, job-creating firms. The One-Stop will recruit, assist, train, mentor and provide capital for minority firms to help them achieve consistent work and growth opportunities.

**Accelerating Economic Recovery**

**Redevelop Distressed Commercial Properties**

**\$2,000,000**

Reimburse SIDA for COVID-19 grants issued in 2020 and enable acquisition and redevelopment of strategic commercial properties in the City to return them to productive use.

**Recapitalize SEDCO | Create Revolving Loan Fund**

**\$4,000,000**

Recapitalize SEDCO for COVID-19 relief programs and enable support for commercial redevelopment projects, with special focus on economically underinvested neighborhoods and minority owned businesses.

**Resurgent Neighborhood Initiative** **\$1,000,000**  
**Commercial Corridor Improvement Fund**

Establish a grant program to support building renovation and commercial corridor beautification projects to support business growth and attraction along key business corridors citywide.

**Reviving Arts & Culture**

**Arts and Culture Recovery Fund** **\$2,000,000**

Implement an arts and culture grant program to consider proposals from not-for profit arts and culture organizations. Ensure equity in fund allocation across five different funds: Innovation; Tourism and Economic Development; Capacity Building; Arts Equity; and Individual Artists. This includes a ticket voucher program to encourage patrons to buy tickets to support live performances, local performing arts shows and venues.

**"City as Canvas" Public Arts Initiative** **\$ 250,000**

Create citywide public art program to provide creative and economic opportunities to the arts community and create an empowering landscape of imagery through the city.

**Enhancing Government Response and Resilience** **\$46,000,000**

The pandemic delivered a devastating blow to city revenues. Our contingency budgeting required many difficult choices including reductions in the funding of critical services and necessary enhancements to the backbone of city services – safety, security, and resilience. ARPA specifically calls for the use of relief funds to replace lost public sector revenue and to support government services. With ARPA relief, Syracuse will make city government more responsive and resilient.

**Public Safety Enhancements** **\$4,000,000**

Fund Syracuse Fire Training and Emergency Response Center; Expand SPD ShotSpotter system and accelerate implementation of programs for diversionary response to mental health related calls and increased police transparency and accountability.

**Digital Infrastructure, Data Analysis & Cybersecurity** **\$2,000,000**

Upgrades to City of Syracuse cybersecurity systems; accelerate introduction of new digital solutions; and, expand data acquisition and analysis capabilities. These investments will translate into value to the city government and its constituents in the form of (a) operational process improvements; (b) financial return attributable to analytical efforts; (c) greater transparency; (d) a better digital user experience for constituents interacting with city services and, (e) preparedness for potential cyber-attacks to our digital infrastructure assets.

**Sanitation and Recycling Carts and Arms** **\$1,500,000**

Funding to create a more efficient, environmentally-friendly, safer and economical trash and recycling program through the introduction of uniform sanitation and recycling carts and automated pick-up arms.

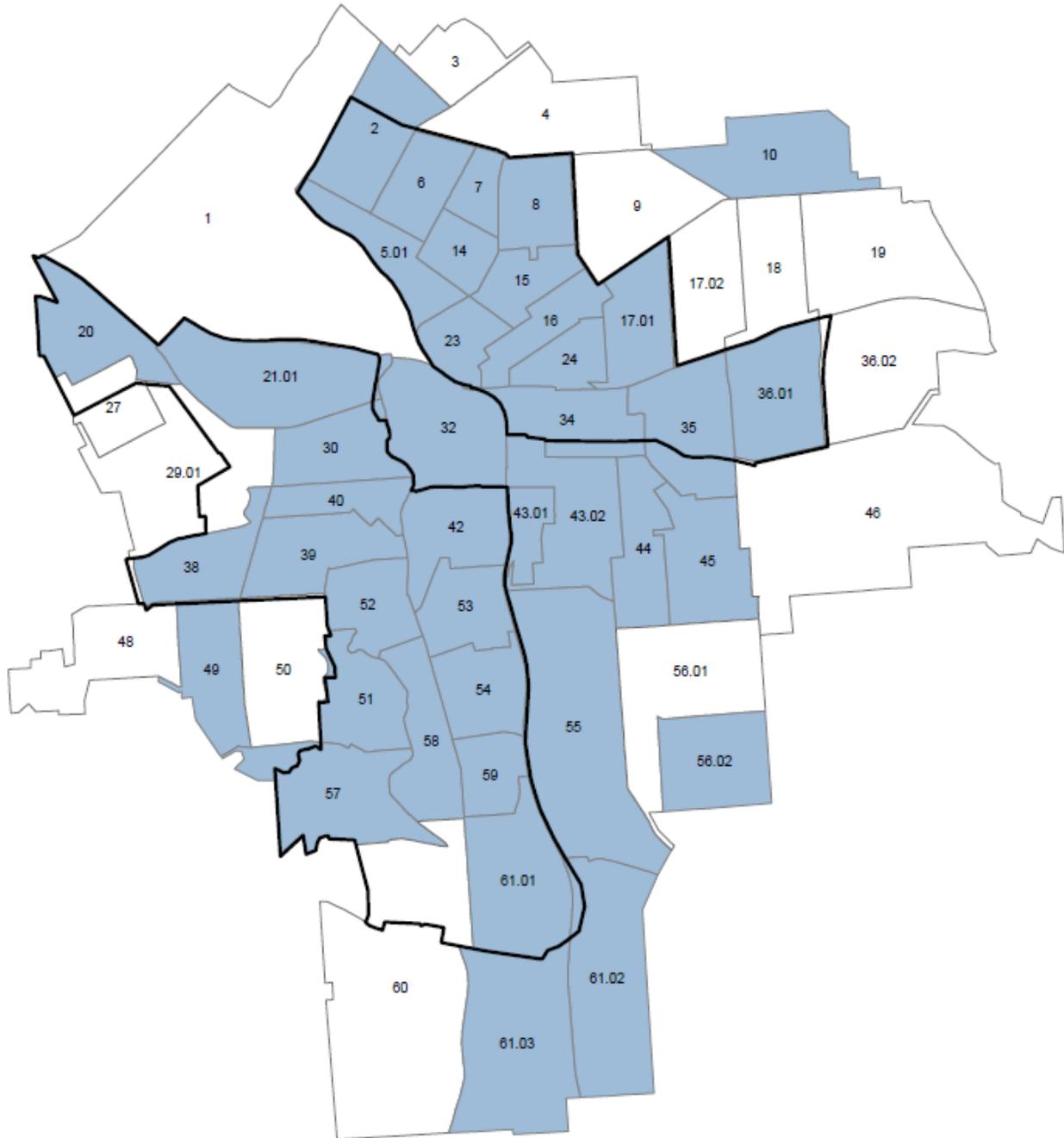
**Revenue Replacement**

**General Fund Revenue Shortfalls** **\$38,500,000**

ARPA provides broad latitude to use funds for the provision of government services to the extent of a calculated loss of revenue. Government services can include, but are not limited to, maintenance of infrastructure or pay-go spending for building new infrastructure, including roads; modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure; health services; environmental remediation; school or educational services; and the provision of police, fire, and other public safety services.

### City of Syracuse Qualified Census Tracts

U.S. Treasury Guidance allows maximum flexibility in spending of ARPA relief funds within qualified census tracts. These defined tracts, shown in the map below, represent a large portion of the City of Syracuse.



### City of Syracuse | ARPA Qualified Census Tracts

This map was prepared by the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development based on current property records and is provided for planning purposes only. MLS | 06/10/2021



#### MAP KEY

- Qualified Census Tracts**
- Not Qualified
- Qualified Census Tracts
- NRSA Boundary

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