COVID-19 Local Assistance Matching Grant Program Guidance

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 Local Assistance Matching Grant Program,established by HB 1004, COVID-19 Grant Program Amendments (M. Schultz, K. Cullimore), seeks to leverage American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds by using both state and local monies on projects which will have high return on investment for residents.

Utah has a long history of effectively managing government finances and maximizing the impact of taxpayer funds. Through this grant program, we will continue our legacy of fiscal responsibility and collaboration to ensure federal monies are spent on projects that will make the most difference for our communities. A five member selection committee, along with experts in ARPA eligibility areas, will review and rank each application using the guidance in this document before making final selections.

Selection Committee

1. Sen. Kirk Cullimore, Utah State Senate
2. Rep. Carl Albrecht, Utah House of Representatives
3. Sophia DiCaro, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
4. Cameron Diehl, Executive Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns
5. Brandy Grace, CEO, Utah Association of Counties

SCORING

Points will be awarded to projects in a general category (75 points), and in project-specific scoring categories (25 points). In the case that more than one category applies to a project, the top scoring category will be used. The maximum number of points which can be awarded to any project is 100. Applications that select an "Other" category will be eligible for up to 25 points based on comparison to other projects.

ARPA TREASURY ELIGIBILITY

Please note that no application will be considered which does not meet ARPA eligibility guidance as established by the U.S. Treasury.

APPLICATION PROCESS

COVID-19 Local Assistance Matching Grant Program application can be accessed at gopb.utah.gov/localmatch. The maximum upload size for supporting documents is 10 megabytes. Any documents larger than that may be added as a link. The portal will close on September 15, 2021. After that date, late applications will not be accepted.

With any questions, please contact Sarah Wright at smwright@utah.gov or 801-538-1418.

SCORING MATRIX

General	
The project has clear long-term benefits that are defined and measurable	25
The project is innovative	10
The project leverages other funding sources	10
The project has a sound plan and budget	10
The project benefits vulnerable populations that have been affected adversely by the COVID-19 pandemic	10
The project does not create a funding dependency	5
The project is a collaborative effort with multiple entities	5
	75

Project-Specific Category: Housing	
The project, if located with in an MPO boundary area, is in proximity to transit corridors*	10
The project serves individuals and families whose income is 50% or below Area Median Income (AMI)	10
The project has a gross rent no greater than 30% of household income	2.5
The project has a deed restriction to maintain affordability	2.5
**If not located within an MPO boundary area, the applicant will receive an automatic 10 points*	**25**

Project-Specific Category: Water & Sewer	
The project mitigates a public health challenge	5
The project supports community resilience related to water, drought, or climate change	5
The project provides a substantive water quality benefit	5
The project benefits a hardship community	2.5
The project conserves or expands current water storage capacity	2.5
The project integrates land use and water use planning	2.5
The project addresses an existing or impending water supply need	2.5
	25

Project-Specific Category - Broadband	
The project targets unserved or underserved areas	10
The project is located in an economically distressed area of the state	5
The project targets last-mile gaps in network connection	2.5
The project is unlikely to be funded by the private sector	5
The project addresses digital equity	2.5
	25

Project-Specific Category: Public Health Impact	
The project mitigates COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, or deaths, or increases vaccination rates	10
The project addresses (a) physical or behavioral issue(s) exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic	5
The project addresses a need related to the COVID-19 pandemic not funded elsewhere	5
The project targets (a) population group(s) at higher risk of being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic	5
	25

Project-Specific Category: Economic Opportunities and Recovery	
The project has a firm timeline to reach full impact	5
The project demonstrates capacity for impact with longevity	5
The project increases economic stabilization	5
The project targets areas of lowest recovery and highest geographical impact	5
The project increases capacity to recruit or retain employees	2.5
The project aligns with existing projects and programs	2.5
	25