

**Investment Criteria for American Rescue Plan Funds**

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) is a historic relief package offering our community the ability to turn the local economy around from the pandemic, make strategic investments that set us up for a prosperous future and carry out these initiatives with equity at the core of decision making regarding the utilization of these one-time resources. As responsible caretakers of these unique public resources, we will use the following principles when evaluating investment options.

**Proposed Principles**

**Address the existing disparities that were exacerbated by the pandemic.** Helping historically marginalized populations (women, BIPOC[[1]](#footnote-1), and other communities), and those who were disproportionately harmed by the pandemic and the natural disasters of 2020 should drive decision-making.

**Make McMinnville more resilient.** The pandemic and historic climate-related events showed weaknesses in our infrastructure and society that we should work to shore up, leveraging our efforts to create a more environmentally sustainable community and city organization.

**Invest in programs where the pandemic has shown us there is a better way.** This last year has exposed deficiencies and challenges in many of our basic operations, facilities, city services, programs and ability to communicate effectively with our partners and constituents; addressing these deficits is entirely consistent with McMinnville’s value of being courageous as we embrace the future and change that is good for our community.

**Act where possible with local and regional partners to collectively maximize the impact of these dollars.** Working together to makeinnovations in providing local safety net services and economic support to local business has been vital over the last year and should continue to be an operational strategy in our investment choices.

**Seek investments that are aligned with MacTown 2032’s Strategic Priorities and Council goals.** Evaluate investment proposals that advance the locally-defined priorities of the community.

**These are one-time funds.** To the extent possible, investments made should not increase the city’s carrying costs. Selective use of a portion of the federal money to bridge what is anticipated to be a near-term budget gap as we endeavor to create a more sustainable financial footprint to support critical city services may make sense.

**Public accountability and participation will be key.** These funds are game-changing in size and scope, and the public needs to see - and weigh in – on how these dollars will work for them.

**The investment timeframe is generous.** Investments may be staged over the next several years to maximize impact. The award period covers project obligations made by December 31, 2024 with a final expense date of obligated dollars by December 31, 2026.

1. Black, Indigenous and people of color [↑](#footnote-ref-1)