



COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT - EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY APPLICATION

For the past three years, Albany County has been leading our community through COVID-19 response, monitoring, and recovery. The infusion of \$1.9 trillion in flexible funds provided through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) allows local governments, like ours, the opportunity to invest in technology to support long-term recovery efforts while delivering better services to our constituents now and in the future.

To take advantage of this opportunity, the County is soliciting Departmental proposals for up to \$100,000 in ARPA funds for projects that will improve service delivery through investments in data analysis, program evaluation, process improvement, community engagement, and public accessibility to programs and services.

Applicants are encouraged to identify non-ARPA funding sources to complement their ARPA funding requests. Applications for projects with total budgets exceeding \$100,000 must identify all other funding sources that have been secured to support their project. While applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the \$100,000 funding cap, projects in need of more than \$100,000 in ARPA funds may be considered by the County Projects Subcommittee on a case-by-case basis if they are deemed to be high-impact and will be fully funded after receiving ARPA funds.

As you develop an application consider strategic technology investments your Department can make to ensure the required digital infrastructure is in place to provide stability for citizen-facing and backend services. Projects should target needs identified during the COVID-19 pandemic and should further improve your Department's ability to maintain successful continuity of operations while also supporting future needs.

Completed applications form should be emailed to: tvouzakis@capmark.org by November 3rd, 2023

Applicants are encouraged to include backup materials with their submissions that justify the project need, impact, and budget

<i>Project Name</i>	Paperless Pre-Employment Orientation
<i>Department</i>	Department of Human Resources
<i>Project Manager</i>	Jennifer Clement, Commissioner
<i>Select ARPA Expenditure Category</i>	SELECT FROM DROPDOWN

1. Project Eligibility

Please identify which of the following categories best describes your project:

- 1) Program evaluation
- 2) Data analysis: resources to gather, assess, share, and use data
- 3) Technology infrastructure to improve access to/user experience of government IT systems and/or increase public access to services
- 4) Community outreach and engagement activities
- 5) Capacity building resources to support using data and evidence to improve service delivery
- 6) Equipment purchase to improve service delivery

2. Project Overview

Summarize your proposed project including a description of how it will improve the way your department delivers services

Albany County's Department of Human Resources is responsible for onboarding all new hires for more than 30 departments and divisions. As part of the pre-employment orientation (PEO) process, each individual is required to complete a printed 21-page packet. The Department of Human Resources is proposing purchasing thirty (30) Apple iPads, which would allow the County to transition from a paper to paperless/digital process. Not only would this further the County's green initiatives, it would increase efficiencies in the filing system, enhance security measures, improve overall document organization and accessibility, and save the County money on resources, such as physical document storage space, paper and printing costs (ink, maintenance).

3. Project Need

Please describe how your project responds to a need that was caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic

During the COVID-19 shutdown, it became evident that the need to modernize traditional paper-related processes, such as PEO, were essential to day-to-day operations, not only for the Department of Human Resources, but County-wide. The purchase of iPads will continue this upward trajectory.



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APPLICATION

4. Project Implementation

Describe the major steps in your project implementation including coordination with any internal and external partners, especially coordination with the Division of Information Services.

Following the procurement of the 30 iPads, the Department of Human Resources will rely on the expertise of the County's Information Technology to install the proper software, connect to the County network, and conduct any routines and upgrades. PEO specialists will then need to be trained to ensure they can easily navigate the system and communicate with new employees using the iPads to complete their online paperwork. iPads will need to be charged regularly and stored in a secure location.

For IT-related project, have you consulted with the Division of Information Services? ☒ YES ☐ NO

5. Project Timeline

All ARPA funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. Please provide the estimated date that requested funds will be fully expended and highlight key project milestones

The Department of Human Resources will have expended the funds well before the December 31, 2026 deadline. The targeted deadline is as follows: During the sixty (60) days following the purchasing thirty (30) iPads for PEO (to the cost of \$13,500) the County's IT team should have each device fully operational to meet the needs of PEO. During that time, the appropriate software will be installed and each device will be securely connected to the County network. It is expected to take an estimated ten (10) hours per device (at the rate of \$50/hour for 300 hours, to the cost of \$15,000). The remaining \$12,000 is expected to be used for routine maintenance, software upgrades, training and the occasional device replacement.

6. Project Impact

Please describe in detail how this investment in your Department will allow you to address the project need identified above and more effectively deliver services to the public. Describe whether the project directly or indirectly benefits County residents Use quantifiable metrics where possible and discuss how project impact will be measured

This project will allow the Department of Human Resources to develop a more streamlined, efficient onboarding process for new employees. It will create a more secure platform for storing employees' sensitive data and will minimize the use of outdated practices, such as the printing, filing and storing of documents. While this will not directly benefit County residents, it will impact those who join County service.

7. Project Budget

Please Identify:	
1) ARPA Funding Requested	\$60,000
2) Total Project Budget	iPad cost: \$450 x 30 = \$13,500 iPad charging carts and as needed replacements: \$20,000 County ITS Support (estimate): 530 (hours) x \$50/hour = \$26,500
3) Non-ARPA Funding Sources and Amounts	N/A
4) Recurring Costs	Equipment updates and replacement as needed.

8. Project Sustainability

Will the project be sustained after ARPA funds are expended? ☒ YES ☐ NO

If yes, describe how your Department will address any ongoing project costs

Yes, once fully transitioned to a paperless PEO process, the Department of Human Resources will not revert to the printing and physically filing method.

SELECT FROM DROPDOWN

1: Public Health COVID-19 Testing^
1: Public Health COVID-19 Contact Tracing^
1: Public Health Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools)
1: Public Health Personal Protective Equipment^
1: Public Health Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)^
1: Public Health Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation)
1: Public Health COVID-19 Assistance to Small Businesses^
1: Public Health COVID 19 Assistance to Non-Profits^
1: Public Health COVID-19 Aid to Impacted Industries^
1: Public Health Community Violence Interventions*^
1: Public Health Mental Health Services*^
1: Public Health Substance Use Services*^
1: Public Health Other Public Health Services^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Food Programs*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Cash Transfers*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Paid Sick and Medical Leave^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Health Insurance*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Services for Un/Unbanked*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Survivor's Benefits^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, job placement)
2: Negative Economic Impacts Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involvement
2: Negative Economic Impacts Healthy Childhood Environments: Early Learning*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Housing Support: Housing Vouchers and Relocation Assistance for Disproportionately Impacted Communities
2: Negative Economic Impacts Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigation
2: Negative Economic Impacts Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Medical Facilities for Disproportionately Impacted Communities^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High-Poverty Districts^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Addressing Educational Disparities: Mental Health Services*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Contributions to UI Trust Funds^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^

2: Negative Economic Impacts Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvements^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Business Incubators and Start-Up or Expansion Assistance*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Enhanced Support to Microbusinesses*^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Aid to Other Impacted Industries^
2: Negative Economic Impacts Economic Impact Assistance: Other*^
3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers
3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity Public Sector Workforce: Remaining Public Sector Staff
3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity Public Sector Workforce: Other
3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery
3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs
4: Premium Pay Public Sector Employees
4: Premium Pay Private Sector: Grants to Other Employers
5: Infrastructure Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment
5: Infrastructure Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance
5: Infrastructure Clean Water: Decentralized Wastewater
5: Infrastructure Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows
5: Infrastructure Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure
5: Infrastructure Clean Water: Stormwater
5: Infrastructure Clean Water: Energy Conservation
5: Infrastructure Clean Water: Water Conservation
5: Infrastructure Clean Water: Nonpoint Source
5: Infrastructure Drinking water: Treatment
5: Infrastructure Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution
5: Infrastructure Drinking water: Lead Remediation, including in Schools and Daycares
5: Infrastructure Drinking water: Source
5: Infrastructure Drinking water: Storage
5: Infrastructure Drinking water: Other water infrastructure
5: Infrastructure Water and Sewer: Private Wells
5: Infrastructure Water and Sewer: IJJA Bureau of Reclamation Match
5: Infrastructure Water and Sewer: Other
5: Infrastructure Broadband: "Last Mile" projects
5: Infrastructure Broadband: IJJA Match
5: Infrastructure Broadband: Other projects
6: Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services
6: Revenue Replacement Non-federal Match for Other Federal Programs
7: Administrative Administrative Expenses
7: Administrative Transfers to Other Units of Government

	Priority	
	1 - High	Yes
	2 - Medium	No
chools, Child care facilities, etc	3 - Low	Unknown

ation/Quarantine)^

subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)^

involved in Child Welfare System)^

proportionately Impacted Communities)^

navigators)^