

American Rescue Plan Committee Final Recommendations to the Town of Old Lyme

June 2022

In September 2021, the Old Lyme Board of Selectmen appointed an American Rescue Plan (“ARP”) Committee to make allocation recommendations for the Town’s \$2,162,215 in federal funding. The ARP Committee undertook an eight month process to seek out community input, design a fair and inclusive application process, and assess the admirable applications that came forth from community organizations to create a thoughtful, robust set of recommendations to the Town of Old Lyme.

Following a survey of Old Lyme residents, seasonal property owners, and business leaders, the Committee sought to address the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and support new, transformative opportunities in ten key recommendation categories. Please refer to the June 21, 2022 ARPC Presentation to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for further background.

The final recommendations of the American Rescue Plan Committee are as follows (within ten recommendation categories):

1. Invest in Old Lyme small businesses’ pandemic recovery

The following 23 small businesses (< 500 employees per the US Treasury Department) applied for and met the requirements to receive grants up to \$10,000, having substantiated pandemic-related economic loss occurring between March 3, 2021 and April 1, 2022:

- Advanced Emergency Products, LLC: Grant of \$10,000
- Anton Paving and Construction Company, LLC: Grant of \$10,000
- Bonne Sante, LLC: Grant of \$10,000
- Coffee’s Country Market, LLC: Grant of \$10,000
- David Griswold and Associates: Grant of \$10,000
- EZ Mini Mart Food Store, LLC: Grant of \$10,000
- H.S. Plaut Environmental Company, LLC: Grant of \$10,000
- Hair by Rsquare: Grant of \$8,700
- Lilywork Ceramic Ornament, LLC: Grant of \$10,000
- Marmon Associates dba Grandma’s Market: Grant of \$10,000
- Morrissey Cycles: Grant of \$10,000
- Old Lyme Landscape, LLC: Grant of \$10,000
- Old Lyme Pizza Palace, dba Teddy’s Old Lyme Pizza Palace: Grant of \$10,000
- Open Opportunities, LLC dba Old Lyme Inn: Grant of \$10,000
- P.L. Mountzoures, Inc.: Grant of \$10,000
- ReadCo Management, LLC: Grant of \$10,000
- Regulatory & Technical Associates, Inc.: Grant of \$10,000
- Restaurant Design & Equipment Corp.: Grant of \$10,000

- Scarpetta, LLC dba Sapore Pizzeria: Grant of \$10,000
- St Germaine Painting, LLC: Grant of \$10,000
- Sun-Shashi Corporation dba Andy's Deli & Market: Grant of \$10,000
- Subway DLCSub, LLC: Grant of \$10,000
- The Bowerbird: Grant of \$10,000

2. Provide financial assistance to nonprofit organizations that provided relief and services to Old Lyme residents during the pandemic

The following ten nonprofit organizations (501c3) applied for and met the requirements to receive grants up to \$10,000, having substantiated pandemic-related economic loss occurring between March 3, 2021 and April 1, 2022:

- Christ the King Church, Corp: Grant of \$1,888
- Florence Griswold Museum: Grant of \$10,000
- High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc: Grant of \$10,000
- Lyme-Old Lyme Lions Charities, Inc: Grant of \$10,000
- Lyme-Old Lyme Little League: Grant of \$8,061
- Lymes' Youth Service Bureau: Grant of \$10,000
- Music Now Foundation: Grant of \$10,000
- Old Lyme Children's Learning Center: Grant of \$10,000
- Shoreline Church, Inc.: Grant of \$10,000
- Sound View Beach Association, Inc.: Grant of \$10,000

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Businesses and Non-profit organizations were encouraged to submit Community Initiative Grant Applications that address the negative impact of the pandemic and create transformative opportunities in Old Lyme following the pandemic. A remarkable 37 Community Initiative Grant applications were received, with the total amounts requested outpacing the amount of grant money available. Because of this, partial grants were awarded in many cases with the understanding (shared by the applicant) that partial funding could help achieve a subset goal within the initiative or that other grant monies could be sought to meet the initiative's need. In the below list of grantees, a * denotes partial funding of the applicant's requested amount.

Five applications did not meet the grant requirements for reasons including: no clear fiduciary agent, not addressing community needs or benefiting the community, and no clear, attainable way to track requested expenditures during the future audit phase of the grant period.

The following Community Initiative Grants will help Old Lyme address the next eight of ten recommendation categories (in some cases grants address several categories but are shared below in one category only):

3. Invest in and support mental health services or public health services to assist Old Lyme residents

This category includes both direct services as well as activities or opportunities that support positive health outcomes.

- Lymes' Youth Service Bureau: \$114,160 to *increase the number of counseling hours thereby increasing individual therapy appointments, as well as support groups, skills groups, family counseling, and parent education for a four-year period.*
- Ledge Light Health District: \$21,622 to *support the Town's health district following its ongoing work tracking and reporting on the Town's Covid-19 cases, providing testing and vaccine clinics, and conducting contact tracing. The Ledge Light allocation was previously approved at the 3/21/22 Town Meeting and is not included in the July 2022 Town Meeting approval process.*
- Community Health Center, Inc: \$15,000 to *provide access to medical, dental, and behavioral health care to uninsured and under-insured Old Lyme residents at three CHC locations.*
- Sustainable Old Lyme: \$12,500 toward *funding two years of summer arts programming for teens, focusing on creative outlets for positive mental health.*
- Town of Old Lyme ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Committee: \$9,079 *two Mobi-mat pathways to create beach access for those residents with mobility issues at Hains Park and White Sands Beach.*
- Lyme Academy of Fine Art: \$25,000 *toward the improvement of walkways, stairs, ramps, and doors to provide unfettered access to individuals with mobility issues.*
- Lymes' Senior Center Board of Directors: \$1,700 *two year outreach to seniors through its birthday card program.*

4. Reinvest in Old Lyme government services that were deemed essential during the pandemic (such as emergency services) to ensure future preparedness

- Old Lyme South End Volunteer Ambulance, Inc (dba Old Lyme Emergency Medical Services) \$275,000 to *fund a replacement ambulance with a power loader required for patient stretcher.*
- Old Lyme Fire Department: \$62,583 to *fund an off-road UTV with patient transport module and fire attack pump/tank with 18ft enclosed transport trailer.*
- Old Lyme Fire Department: \$123,990 to *fund 25 sets of firefighter personal protective equipment.*
- Town of Old Lyme Office of Emergency Management: \$24,122 to *fund two mobile electronic message boards (which have been borrowed in the past).*
- Town of Old Lyme Facilities Department: \$50,000 to *install and maintain fiber optic cabling at the Boughton Road Emergency Operations Center to enhance rapid communication services for emergency services personnel and first responders.*
- Town of Old Lyme Selectman's Office: \$44,444 to *improve the Town's municipal website through an upgraded content management system.*
- Town of Old Lyme Town Clerk: \$38,500 to *fund the historic preservation of land records by digitizing land record books and corresponding grantor/grantee books.*

- Town of Old Lyme Assessor's Office: \$31,500 *to digitize (thereby providing remote public access to) historical assessment cards.*
- Town of Old Lyme Facilities Department: \$12,000 *to upgrade air filtration in Town-owned buildings.*
- Town of Old Lyme Registrar's Office: \$7,290 *to fund three State of CT CVRS laptops to improve the processing of absentee ballot applications.*
- Town of Old Lyme Animal Control Department: \$4,510 *to fund replacement of deteriorating flooring in the building's cat shelter space.*

5. Invest in current and future infrastructure challenges such as clean water and sewer/waste treatment

- Town of Old Lyme WPCA: \$158,347* *toward the shared forced main exiting the Sound View neighborhood and traveling Route 156 in an effort to avoid repaving Route 156 twice.*
- Town of Old Lyme Selectman's Office: \$55,000 *to repair the Swan Brook outlet's wood outfall*

6. Invest in town-wide broadband (internet) improvements and/or cell services

- Town of Old Lyme Facilities Department: \$36,000 *toward funding improving remote access to Town meetings (priority), upgrading IT infrastructure, and providing wi-fi at various town locations (such as playgrounds).*

7. Invest in early childhood care, and education

- CT Audubon Society/Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center: \$157,095* *to help fund the creation of an accessible science discovery and environmental learning center for children.*
- Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut: \$14,600* *funding toward PARJE educational and community events using the arts as a springboard to address diversity and inclusion.*
- Old Lyme-Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library: \$6,350 *to fund a mobile/outdoor library service with the purchase of a Library e-assist Book Bike.*

8. Invest in bringing visitors to our Old Lyme attractions, restaurants, shops, and accommodations

- Sound View Beach Association: \$137,599* *toward funding the SVBA Shoreline Community Center Renovations Project.*
- Town of Old Lyme Halls Road Improvement Committee: \$135,000* *toward the bridge and walking trails development project on Halls Road.*
- Black Hall Outfitters: \$30,875* *to fund targeted tourism marketing bringing paddling and boating enthusiasts to Old Lyme.*
- Old Lyme Historical Society: \$9,000 *to support promotion of the history of Old Lyme through various publications and a self-guided audio tour of historic Lyme Street.*
- Old Lyme Arts District: \$8,000 *to support the 2023 Midsummer Festival.*

- Town of Old Lyme Economic Development Commission: \$2,700 *for economic promotion outreach efforts.*

9. **Invest in affordable housing to meet the needs of those working and living in Old Lyme**

- Town of Old Lyme Affordable Housing Commission: \$150,000* *toward offsetting costs related to the McCulloch Family Open Space affordable housing opportunity.*

10. **Provide (direct and indirect) financial assistance to Old Lyme families and households having difficulty recovering from pandemic losses**

- Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries: \$10,000 *to partially fund (along with ten other municipalities) the purchase of a refrigerated truck.*
- Town of Old Lyme Social Services Department Discretionary Fund: \$20,000 *to assist Old Lyme families and individual with fuel assistance, housing assistance, food and other needs deemed necessary.* The American Rescue Plan Committee (ARPC) recommends this allotment outside of the Community Initiatives Grant process in an effort to provide assistance to those Old Lyme residents most in need. Additionally, the ARPC recommends any grant funds not expensed prior to the December 2026 federal deadline be reallocated to the Social Services Discretionary Fund.

In addition to the ten recommendation categories above, the American Rescue Plan Committee has included in its recommendations:

- Reserving up to \$20,000 to cover fees by an independent consultant retained to administer the Economic Recovery Grant applications (this expenditure was approved by the Town in its 3/21/22 Town Meeting)
- Reserving up to \$20,000 in legal, outreach, and administrative costs associated with the survey and application, and granting processes.

Summary

The Town of Old Lyme was awarded \$2,162,215 in American Rescue Plan Funding. The Town previously awarded in its 3/21/22 Town Meeting spending:

- \$21,622 to Ledge Light Health District, representing 1% of Old Lyme's ARP funding
- Up to \$20,000 in fees for the Town's Economic Recovery Grant consultant

Now, a Special Town Meeting will consider and act upon whether to approve the remaining disbursement of \$2,120,593 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as further outlined above as well as in the 6/21/22 ARPC Presentation, and as recommended by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance of the Town of Old Lyme on June 21, 2022.