

**CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING ROUND 2**

**Question & Answer Part-1
Updated: September 27, 2023**

Below are questions we have received to date from interested parties including questions from attendees at the informational webinar held on September 25th. The Q & A document will be updated again on October 6th with any new questions.

1. Who can apply for the funds:

Ans: Businesses and community organizations with active secretary of state registration and non-profits profits with 501 (c) 3 status and also active registration with the state. Individuals cannot apply.

2. Are only Brooklyn Park or Brooklyn Center organizations eligible:

Ans: No, organizations that are not in Brooklyn Park or Brooklyn Center but provide services to Brooklyn Park and/or Brooklyn Center residents are eligible to apply. However, priority will be given to Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center organizations.

3. When is the deadline for submission of applications?

Ans: October 13th at 5pm

4. What's the maximum grant amount?

Ans: Grants will be between \$25k-\$50k. Around 6 organizations for the City of Brooklyn Park. And the City of Brooklyn Center will award between \$25k-\$50k

5. Is it allowable to pay for expenses in cash and submit receipts to the city? Some businesses give discounts if I pay in cash.

Ans: No, cash is not an allowable method of payment and would not be an acceptable practice for federal funding. Some examples others are gift cards payments. Anything using federal grant dollars, cash is not an acceptable form of payment.

6. Are there transportation provisions? Some clients have difficulty getting to the site for programs. Can we submit reimbursement for Uber, for example?

Ans: It should be built into the proposal budget. They could be allowable, but this award does not allow for cash payments to program participants. How will you provide assistance and how would you overcome the challenge of not paying cash this should be in your program design. You'll also want to pay attention to liability considerations if you're transporting residents as well.

7. African immigrants prefer cultural food at events. Sometimes they prefer uncooked food to be given to them. Is that allowed?

Ans: Yes, but this must be included in the initial proposal . Food distribution falls under basic needs and is eligible. Organizations should include the specifics in your program design.

8. Small businesses have great needs, how many small business consultants do you plan to award in total?

Ans: We don't have a specific number in mind. Small businesses have great needs for support and so we'll be looking for proposals on this, but don't expect we'll be able to meet all the needs. We also have other resources.

- a. City has a variety of technical and business resources. Ex: Brooklyn Park Development Corporation (BPDC) – small business micro loan will be rolled out soon. Will have max of \$10,000 loans. BPDC also gives assistance for purchase of real estate and acquisition for businesses up to \$300k. There are also other fundings. More info on city programs at the city's webpage. <https://www.brooklynpark.org/businesses/>
- b. We also refer people to Elevate – Hennepin County's technical assistance program. <https://www.elevatehennepin.org/>

9. How is the city looking to engage youth participants in this funding? Are there specific goals the city has for youth-related funding?

Ans: It's a broad category – workforce development, but also housing, out of school time youth enrichment programs, mentoring, etc. For instance, in the last round we funded TreeHouse, Avenues for Homeless Youth. Ensure the program provides youth enrichment and has positive impact – housing after school care, workforce, mentoring.

10. Is it allowable to use CashApp or other similar platforms?

Ans: City staff to research more. Include the use of that in the application. Using alternative forms of tender (cash, CashApp, Venmo, etc.) typically requires a written policy and adequate documentation of transactions. Expenses for the purpose of barrier reduction for participants (transportation, childcare, etc.) need to be included in your proposal budget. If the organization does not have a business account, some partners in the past made payments using an App and then we helped them set up their financial systems.

11. If an organization is not a 501 © but have a fiscal agent would it still be eligible?

Ans: If they are registered, they would be eligible. That means the fiscal agent is responsible for your financial reporting.

12. Does funding allow for salaries for the fiscal agent?

Ans: No, not for the fiscal agent. They should be compensated outside of the award funds within your agreement with them.

13. Are organizations only picking one program such as Economic Empowerment, Resource Support and or Basic Support?

Ans: You can only propose one program under the 3 categories. For Brooklyn Park it can be either of the three categories; for Brooklyn Center, it can only be 3b – workforce development.

14. How can we determine if the program we want to propose is eligible?

Ans: Review the eligible program list in the RFP (pg. 2). Determine if the program you want to propose falls within any of the three categories. Respond to the questions in the RFP and design your proposal around the program and the work you plan to implement.