



State of Connecticut  
**Department of Aging and Disability Services**

April 17, 2023

Dear Municipal Leader:

I am thrilled to share more information about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that is available for senior centers through the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS).

The majority of this funding (\$9,000,000) has been set aside for Connecticut senior centers; in February the SUA sent out a chart that illustrated the available allocation, broken down by municipality. All allocations contain two parts: the base allocation and a formulaic allocation. All municipalities receive a base allocation of \$5,000. The remainder of the allocation is calculated using 2020 Census data on town demographics.

I want to encourage all senior centers to take advantage of this funding opportunity. The definition for an entity that qualifies as a "senior center" is as follows:

***Senior centers include municipal senior centers and 501(c)(3) senior centers. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, senior centers are defined as those that provide multiple services including the core services of information, referral, and assistance. Additional services could include nutrition, wellness, educational, social, and recreational activities.***

Municipalities with multiple senior centers that meet the funding definition of "senior center" shall allocate funding to each senior center in the municipality. Municipalities without a senior center within town limits are encouraged to partner with neighboring municipalities who host senior centers that serve their town's residents. When municipal leadership allocates a dollar amount to either a senior center, or another municipality, they must communicate that allocation on letterhead to the entity to whom the funds are appropriated.

Included in this communication is the electronic "Beneficiaries Information Form" (BIF) created for the purposes of collecting information regarding how senior centers anticipate using ARPA funds to support older/aging residents and users.

Municipalities are responsible for completing and submitting the form once they have a proposed plan in place regarding potential use of their allocation of ARPA funds. There is a separate "Non-profit senior center Beneficiaries Info Form" that leadership at non-profit senior centers will complete once they are aware of their portion of their respective municipalities' funds are available for their center. Funds will be sent directly to the entity who completes the BIF that is appropriate to them.

ARPA funds may be used for certain purposes or "eligible uses." These eligible uses fall under two categories of expenditures within "Provision of Government Services" and are "facility improvements" and "programming"; both definitions are embedded within the BIF and some examples are included in the FAQ's.

Upon receipt of completed BIFs, the SUA will review the information and upon approval of the plan, a Beneficiary Agreement will be drafted. Once the Beneficiary Agreement is fully executed funds will be dispensed. Periodic and End of Project reporting will be required by all recipients of ARPA funds.

Virtual information sessions are scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> (9:30-11AM) and April 26<sup>th</sup> (2-3:30PM) where SUA program staff will provide an overview of the funding, eligible uses, and address general questions pertaining to the Beneficiaries Information Form; program staff will also walk attendees through the process of completing the form.

The SUA anticipates accepting Beneficiary Information Forms on a rolling basis through June of 2024, giving communities ample time to thoughtfully put together plans.

This letter, the BIF templates and the FAQ's will be shared with senior centers through the Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel (CASCP) as well as the five Area Agencies on Aging senior center distribution lists.

This is a great time to formally support senior centers and communities in Connecticut and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Porter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Porter".

Amy Porter  
Commissioner