

# Allocating American Rescue Plan Act funds for Housing Activities in Arlington

Presentation to CHAPA Making the Case

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Town of Arlington

January 10, 2021

# Centering Community Need and Equity

- Experience administering CARES Act funding
- Process led by Town Manager with input from most Town Departments and some Boards/ committees and community-based organizations (mirroring CDBG process)
- Decision making by Select Board
- Community needs discussed annually relative to CDBG process and this past year with Fair Housing Action Plan creation and plan updates (including open space and housing)
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion focus emerged pre-pandemic and strategy emerged as a result of National League of Cities assistance (Racial Equity Action Plan)

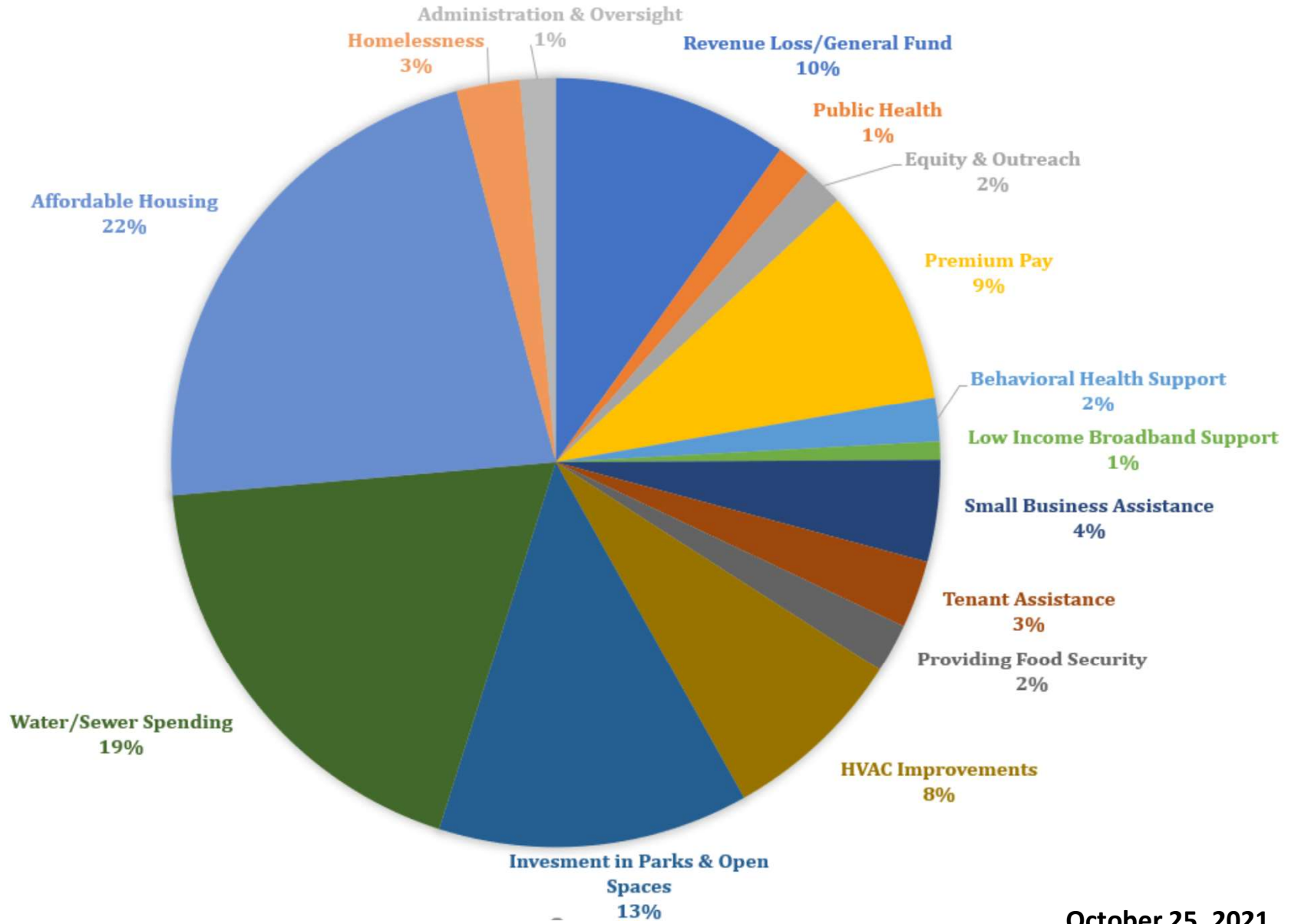
# Arlington's ARPA Framework

*Funding for meaningful and lasting impact for Town government and the Arlington Community.*



American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

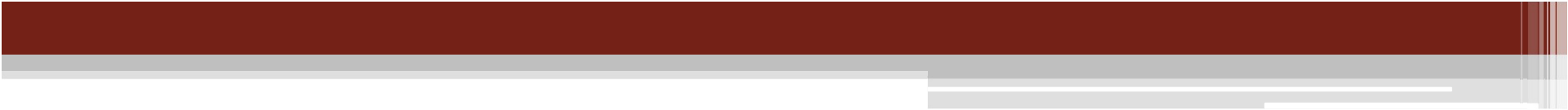
# ARLINGTON'S ARPA FRAMEWORK



October 25, 2021

- Department of Planning and Community Development provided a memo describing the funding opportunity as a *one-time opportunity to address economic issues in Arlington and strengthen housing affordability and stability while serving our most vulnerable residents including public housing residents, low-income households, and seniors.*
- Followed then-known spending requirements:
  - Public Health/Negative Economic Impacts - decrease the spread of COVID-19 and bring the pandemic under control; address costs incurred in addressing public health and economic challenges resulting from the pandemic; address the systemic public health and economic challenges that may have contributed to more severe impacts of the pandemic among low-income communities and people of color; and build on eligible expenditures under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CAREs), including some expansions in eligible uses.

- Outlined three potential uses of ARPA funds for:
  - Tenant and Homeowner Assistance Fund
  - Small Business and Nonprofit Sustainability Fund, and
  - Affordable Housing Preservation and Development
- \$8,770,000 for Housing and Homelessness in Framework
- \$600,000 total for Equity and Outreach – (\$100,000 Equity Audit)

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- Clearly define issue, outline program goals, identify targets
  - Memo outlined:
    - Background on issue being addressed
    - Program Design
    - Eligibility Criteria
    - Staff Recommendation

# Tenant and Homeowner Assistance Fund

- Program forthcoming in February, outsourced application review and selection
- Funds offered to Arlington households that rent or own their home and have demonstrated inability to make rent or mortgage payments due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The program provides assistance of up to \$2,500 per month, payable to the household's landlord or mortgage loan servicer. Not to exceed actual rent/ mortgage payment. Households earning 80% or less of the Area Median Income may receive up to four months of assistance. Those earning more than 80% AMI are eligible to receive up to two months of assistance
- All incomes are eligible, preference given to low- to moderate-income households



# Affordable Housing Preservation and Development

- Housing Corporation of Arlington funding for capital and future projects
- Deepen subsidy for inclusionary zoning projects in progress or forthcoming and other affordable housing developments
- Arlington Housing Authority
- Social services- more comprehensive in proposal
  - Funds provided to HCA for Homelessness Prevention Program
  - Funds to programs addressing food insecurity
- Homelessness coordination and prevention – coordinated by Health and Human Services

# Questions?

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