American Rescue Plan … A Brookline Approach

Engagement Is Essential

Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF)

Brookline's allocation of federal funds is $32,406,450

Potential allocation from Norfolk County is $11,466,154

❑ We have our ½ allotment and are actively investing it $16,203,225

❑ We are developing an on-line portal for transparency and accountability

Deadlines:

For spending starting in March 2021

Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024.

The period of performance will run until December 31, 2026, which will provide recipients a reasonable amount of time to complete projects funded with Fiscal Recovery Funds

Transformational change

Think big to drive long lasting innovations in Town with this once in a lifetime investment

Brookline is a town form of government so, inclusion is essential

Project Types / Process Categories

Non-Discretionary

COVID response, grant administration and transparency. Projects under this category will be subject to the Town Administrator's approval.

Government services

Restoration of COVID cuts, new departmental initiatives. Projects under this category will undergo review, final approval by Select Board.

Community initiatives

Determine feasibility and cost, further review by relevant Board Commission or Committee, final approval by Select Board.

Transformative Transparency and Public Engagement

Treasury guidance reflects the need for engagement, transparency and accountability

How Do We Begin?

- Select Board provides policy guidance for community engagement

- Department Heads provide expertise
  - Working groups to study / collaborate on requests

- Residents, Boards and Commissions help perform engagement efforts / assist with prioritization

- OpenGov tool will help facilitate requests and provide transparency

Types of Community Engagement

- Use an engagement expert –
  - Likely Brookline Community Foundation
- Conduct a range of community engagement events/activities
  - Charette to provide broad overview
  - Survey to assess community's priorities
  - Forums
  - Social media
- Utilize community feedback
- What priorities has town meeting agreed on?

Process

Budget development tied to existing process

This Is Bigger Than Town Government

- **Partner with the Brookline Community Foundation** to lead the Town's efforts to reach households most impacted by COVID and the organizations that work with them. The BCF is well positioned in the community to lead and coordinate these strategies.
- **Enlist the support of key organizations and groups** that are comprised of or work directly with those most impacted by COVID to get their views on three things:
  - The Town's engagement plan,
  - Their willingness and ability help with community engagement, and
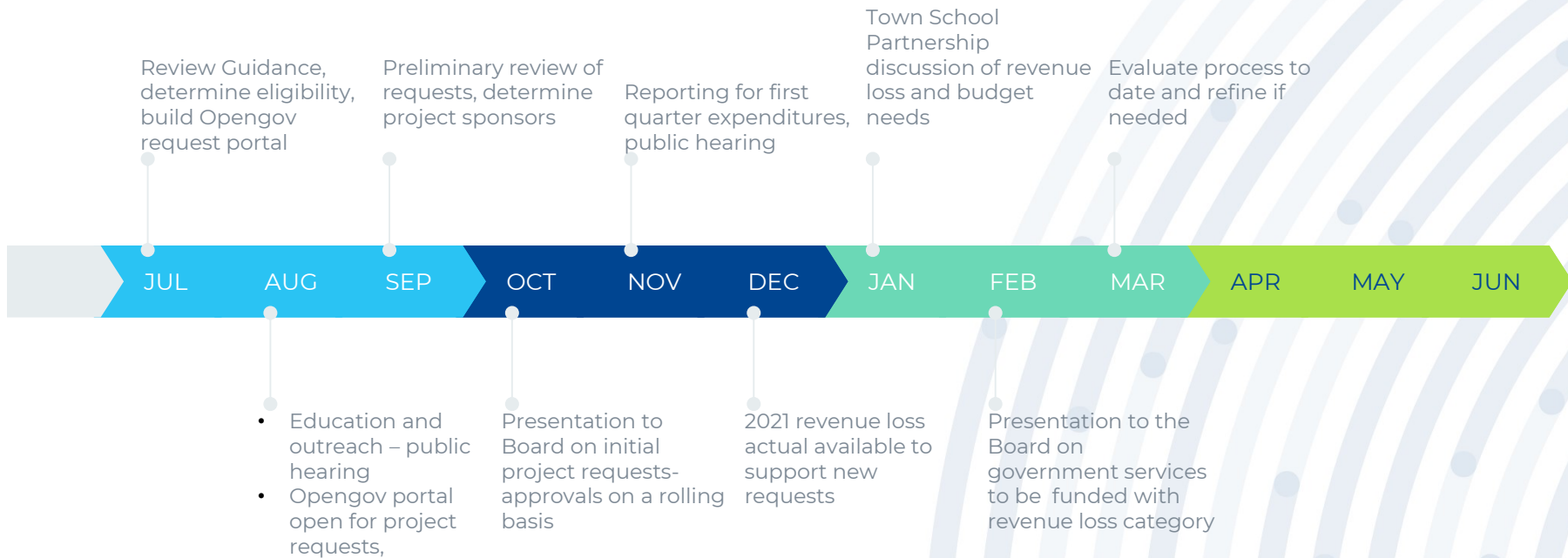 - Thoughts on the community's needs.

Town Process

- ○ Project updates provided at Select Board meetings

- ○ Proposed use of funds to mirror CDBG and/ or existing budget process

- ○ Project specific proposals with spending timelines identified and performance measures in place to support the program

- ○ Project details updated in Opengov

Community Process

- Notify community groups via email about programming
- Focus on people most impacted by COVID-19
- Coalesce to organize funding requests
- Make sure that people appreciate the import of funds
- Organize applications –
  - What are resident's priorities
  - How to apply (Opengov tutorial)
- Align with town process and schedule

Town's Preliminary Milestones

Review Guidance, determine eligibility, build Opengov request portal

Preliminary review of requests, determine project sponsors

Reporting for first quarter expenditures, public hearing

Town School Partnership discussion of revenue loss and budget needs

Evaluate process to date and refine if needed

| JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |

- Education and outreach – public hearing
- Opengov portal open for project requests,

Presentation to Board on initial project requests- approvals on a rolling basis

2021 revenue loss actual available to support new requests

Presentation to the Board on government services to be funded with revenue loss category

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Potential Expenditures (examples only)

Non-Discretionary	**Government services**	**Community initiatives**
Remote meetings	Capital restorations	BHA / Affordable Housing
COVID Testing	Restore government services	Broadband improvements
Vaccine Clinics		Food Security / SafetyNet
Grant Administration		
Software/technology		

Other Project Ideas

- Food insecurity
- Housing
- Education
- COVID-19 Public Health
- Transportation (buses, the T and bicycles)
- Mold remediation

- Infrastructure (roads, bridges, parks, etc.)
- Sustainability and Fossil Fuel free businesses, homes and town
- People of color and other small businesses
- Other uses

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Establish Measures

- People reached through outreach
- Number of applicants
- Funds distributed and on schedule
- People fed
- BHA housing repairs
- New affordable housing starts
- Pb eliminated from drinking water in Lbs.

- Increased bus ridership in Brookline
- Increased home ownership among lower income
- Lbs. of fossil fuels eliminated from businesses and homes

Next Steps

- Steps
  - Select Board Presentation and Schools Coordination
  - Robust community engagement
- Is this a model for other communities?

Resources: Town of Brookline, Melissa Goff; Build a Better Brookline, David Lescohier and ASPIRE