

VOCA – Frequently Asked Questions- American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA)

- **What are ARPA funds?**

Missouri received approximately \$2.7 billion in State Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (2021). Signed into law on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) included funding for states and local governments to mitigate the negative impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As passed by the Missouri General Assembly and Signed by Governor Parson, House Bill 3020 (2022) details the budget for Missouri’s State Fiscal Recovery Funds. Within the overall identified main categories of spending, states and local governments have flexibility to decide how best to use this funding to meet the needs of their communities.

The Department of Social Services was granted \$24 million for grants to organizations for services and programs to assist victims of crime. (Section 20.630 of HB3020)

- **What is the timeframe to spend ARPA funds?**

The period of performance ends no later than December 31, 2026. Funding will end on September 30, 2025 with a final invoice due by October 15, 2025.

Note: All allocated funds shall be invoiced within the contract period, there will be no carry over allowed.

- **What can I spend the ARPA funds on?**

ARPA funds will follow current VOCA allowable and unallowable guidelines

- **How will expenditures be invoiced under ARPA?**

Expenses/Expenditures will need to be invoiced on a separate invoice and expenditure report specific for ARPA only. A copy of the invoice and expenditure report will be sent out to all subrecipients and posted to the VOCA website. **You will not be able to combine DOJ VOCA fund expenditures and ARPA expenditures on the same invoice and expenditure reports.**

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- **How do I submit my ARPA invoice?**

The ARPA invoice will be submitted to the same email inbox as your regular DOJ VOCA invoices. W&CI.INVOICES@dss.mo.gov

To ensure your ARPA invoice is quickly identified please state “ARPA” in the beginning of the subject line of the email.

- **How will ARPA invoices be processed?**

Once the invoicing team receives the invoice, they will follow all current processes in reviewing and validating the information. Once the validation is complete, they will send the invoice and request for payment to Division of Finance and Administrative Services (DFAS). DFAS will submit the payment request to the Office of Administration for payment.

- **How will payments be disbursed?**

Payments will be disbursed in the same manner the agency currently receives reimbursement. For example: If you are currently set up for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), your payment will be processed through EFT, etc.

- **How should I track our service metrics?**

Any services provided by expenditures paid by ARPA funding, will need to be tracked separately on the ARPA specific data sheet. Regular Department of Justice (DOJ) VOCA funding and ARPA funding expenditure service metrics cannot be tracked together.

- **How should I track our service metrics for the quarterly report?**

Each agency that receives ARPA money will report zero in the quarterly reports for the month’s ARPA money was used. Each agency will be responsible for tracking when VOCA funds end and ARPA funds begin, to ensure accurate performance metrics are reported to DOJ.

Example: January and February VOCA funds were used, March ARPA funds were used.

Note: in the additional comments section please state which months VOCA funds and ARPA funds were utilized for tracking purposes.