

## **New London Department of Human Services ARPA ROUND 2**

The Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is providing funding to New London and cities and states around the country. The purpose of the funds are to “respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, by supporting the health of communities, and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries, nonprofits, and the public sector recover from economic impacts.” The Department of Human Services is in charge of ensuring a portion of these funds are used to address the emergency and system needs of our residents whose wellbeing has been most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **A reminder about our approach**

Over time our social safety net has become increasingly focused on addressing problems with an often-disconnected set of services. While good has been done, we have too often lost a focus on the whole human being we hoped to benefit. We also haven't always paid attention to equity. Too often what progress people can make as a result of receiving services doesn't add up to thriving, and our community is struggling. People need services, but adding more services alone won't help us see the whole person and help our neighbors build the capacity to live the life that truly matters to them and the communities they call home. So with ARPA funds, we seek to move outside of the traditional service model to promote healing and access to wellbeing across New London. Neighbors helping neighbors, peer-support, and other approaches are all of interest. Together, we have an opportunity to begin the life-changing work of organizing our social safety net not so much around problems but primarily on what drives all of us: the search for wellbeing.

This will take more than just human service programs. The work of wellbeing has implications for our infrastructure, for our schools, for how our neighborhoods are organized. But it can't happen unless the human service system is committed to working in a new way. So, we're stepping up to do our part.

We're so glad you share our commitment to using ARPA funds to continue to make transformative, systemic change in New London for our neighbors and our community.

### **Community of Practice**

As part of receiving this funding, you will be required to participate in a Community of Practice (CoP). A Community of Practice (CoP) is a group of practitioners coming together to support each other, call on each other, share with each other, and grow in their craft. This Community of Practice is an opportunity to hold the wellbeing of people and the community of New

London at the heart of our collective work. Its aim is to envision and hold a New London where everyone has a fair shot at wellbeing. Members of the CoP are leading the way for the city and will be collecting data on systemic barriers in order to push for systems change (it will not be a huge data collection lift). The Full Frame Initiative will be facilitating the CoP and providing capacity building to this group to shift towards a wellbeing orientation. Our individual pieces have the most impact when they can click into what matters most for New London and the people who live here.

### **What's new or different in Round 2**

- ***We have clarified several questions and made the budget a fillable form to help with your calculations.***
- ***There is \$500,000 available. Proposals for more than \$175,000 over 18 months will not be considered in this round.***
- ***25% of your budget must be designated for Emergent Needs.*** Emergent Needs Funds (also known as Flex Funds) are to be used to directly benefit an individual rather than paying for staff salaries or program supplies. It may be used at the organization's discretion to pay for costs (e.g., utility bills, fix car brakes) or items an individual needs. You will be required to track the use of flex funds to inform systems change efforts, as well as to meet federal reporting requirements for ARPA.
- ***We are making the scoring sheet available to applicants*** for transparency.
- ***Clarified eligibility:*** Funding is not be limited to nonprofit organizations – businesses, schools, hospitals and other organizations are welcome to apply.

### **Instructions for submission:**

1. You **MUST** submit your cover sheet and answers to the questions below in either one envelope or electronically by email. Proposals will be evaluated as follows:
  - i. Responses to each of the 8 questions below will be scored, for a total of up to 80 points.
  - ii. Your budget will be scored for up to 20 points.

The Committee will use scores to guide its decision making, but reserves the right to rely on additional factors to ensure that funds are meeting a range of needs.

2. You **MUST** answer all eight (8) questions below in the order they are listed.
3. You **MUST** include at least 25% of your budget for flex funds.
4. Your budget may not exceed \$175,000 for 18 months.
5. Should your proposal be selected, you must be willing to enter into a contract with the city of New London, CT and meet all required terms set forth in that contract starting July 1st.

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**A complete application consists of this cover sheet, your answer to  
proposal questions, and your budget**

COVER SHEET:

Organization name:

Organization address:

Telephone:

Executive Director or CEO:

Contact person and title for this proposal if different from above:

Contact person email address and phone number:

Amount requested Round 2 (total for July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023):

Please submit this complete packet electronically by 5 PM ET June 1, 2022 to Jeanne Milstein  
[jmilstein@newlondonct.org](mailto:jmilstein@newlondonct.org).

In seven pages or less, please answer the following questions in this order:

1. **Tell us about how your idea is centered on the needs and demands of the community, and who will participate in this project. (8 points)** What was the role of the community in shaping this idea? How do you tap participants' and residents' expertise, and how are they involved in the implementation of the project?
2. **Tell us about what the project is. Please make sure that someone who is not familiar with your organization would be able to understand your plan. (12 points)** What will you do? If you have a plan that may adapt and improve with time and learning, that's great-- tell us how, please.
3. **Tell us about how you're asset-based. (8 points)** How does this project build on the assets and informal networks (not just the human services) that already exist in the community? What are the collaborations that make this project possible? Are these new or existing collaborative relationships?
4. **Tell us about how you're addressing inequities. (12 points)** How does this effort address inequities and racism, which New London has declared to be a public health emergency? How does your project direct as much funding as possible to the communities hardest hit in the last two years? How do you increase accessibility for people with disabilities or limited mobility, those with no or limited English proficiency, and those who are undocumented?
5. **Tell us about how you plan to use flex funds. (12 points)** What do you anticipate flex funds will allow your participants and your project to do that aren't otherwise possible? How do you plan to approach using flex funds to ensure that they are available quickly, accountably and flexibly, given that these are finite resources?
6. **Systems change. (8 points)** Think about [the wall, the trampoline and the chute](#): What do you hope to try out or change using ARPA funding that would help fix systems or change how you operate?
7. **Tell us about your organization. (12 points)** Why is your organization the right one to carry this out? Is this project an expansion of what you already do or are you trying something new?
8. **Participating in a learning community is a required part of funding. (8 points)** What are you hoping to learn or improve as part of the Community of Practice?