

Mr. Verret,

This email is in response to questions posed regarding the attached draft legislation to support United Way's 2-1-1 system.

First, committing American Rescue Plan funds to a potential sub-awardee in United Way to support its 2-1-1 resource center would be an eligible use of ARPA dollars as it would conform with the applicable law, regulations, and available guidance from the US Treasury. The proposed expenditure of local fiscal recovery funds would be eligible under the category of replacing lost public sector revenue/revenue replacement category or responding to negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the revenue loss eligible use category (the broadest eligible use category), recipients may use SLFRF funds on government services which would include any service or support traditionally provided by a government unless Treasury has stated otherwise. See SLFRF Final Rule at page 8 and SLFRF FAQ 2.21 and 3.2. Given current and/or past financial support of this organization and the services provided by United Way, this expenditure would be permissible under this category as there is no prohibitive language in the Treasury's Final Rule applicable in this context.

In the alternative, the proposed expenditure would also be eligible under the category "Responding to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic." In this case, the City of Toledo would enter into a subrecipient agreement with United Way to prescribe the use of funds as well as reporting requirements to ensure compliance. Given the scope of services and resources typically provided by 2-1-1, this expenditure would satisfy several of the enumerated eligible uses of this category. For example, the US Treasury has indicated behavioral health and mental health treatment; preventing and responding to violence; assistance to households (experienced unemployment, food or housing insecurity, children insurance and childcare subsidies, etc.) as enumerated projects under this category. See SLFRF Final Rule Overview at pages 12-20. As 2-1-1 is a public referral service that links or connects residents/users to programs and resources pertinent to the project areas included but not limited to those listed above, the use of City of Toledo ARPA funds to support this resource would conform to applicable law and regulations.

Second, you inquired as to the dates for the funding period within the requirements of ARPA regulations. Under the SLFRF, costs must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Spitler, Esq.
Senior Attorney
City of Toledo, Department of Law
One Government Center, Suite 2250
Toledo, OH 43604
419-245-1020 (office)
419-245-1090 (fax)