



TOWN OF LINCOLN

ARPA Funding Request Form

SUBMISSION ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 9, 2021

DATE: December 7, 2021

1. DEPARTMENT / COMMITTEE:

Submitting Official, title: Abigail Butt, Director, Council on Aging & Human Services

Contact Phone: 781-259-8811

Contact Email: butta@lincolntown.org

2. ARPA ITEM / PROJECT REQUESTED: Emergency Assistance Fund Recipient Housing Grant

3. ARPA ELIGIBLE SPENDING CATEGORY: Address Negative Economic Impacts

- a. All eligible projects must fall under one of the federal categories. If you are unsure of the spending category, town administration will complete.**

4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (including how it responds to the effects of the pandemic):

Background

In May 2020, requests to the Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) related to the economic crisis created by the pandemic lockdown began. Those making requests were residents who lacked robust social networks and had very little financial cushion to weather the crisis. Requests were from homeowners and renters alike of all ages. Recipients have included single adults, multigenerational households, families with children, several small business owners, recent immigrants or refugees (with jobs but the pandemic shut down green card/visa processing making them illegal to work), long-time Lincoln residents who have simply fallen on hard times, veterans, and more.

To qualify for assistance from the EAF, a Lincoln resident must furnish proof of eligibility. This is done by providing proof of participation in one of a specific list of means-based program (e.g. SNAP/Food Stamps, WIC, Medicaid, etc.) or proof of income below \$44,800 for a household of 1, \$51,200 for a household of 2, \$57,600 for a household of 3, \$63,950 for a household of 4 (more for larger households). Qualifying for a grant from the EAF is indicative of a household living in or near poverty. Requests during the pandemic were often for rent, property taxes, or other related housing expenses, but not always. When able, residents were putting available income toward their housing so they would not become homeless. Other requests were associated to car related expenses (e.g. so they could keep looking for work) or credit card debt (created by purchasing basic necessities on credit), for example.

Between May 1, 2020 and November 1, 2021, the EAF gave out nearly \$41,500 in grants on the behalf of 28 Lincoln residents towards their debts. The average grant provided was \$1,480.

Proposal

Provide individual EAF recipients with a one-time grant of \$1,500 toward housing related costs.

Eligibility Guidelines

- ✓ Recipients must be current Lincoln residents who received a grant from the EAF between May 1, 2020 and February 1, 2022. *This guideline is based on a similar grant where the Southern Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) used ARPA funds to provide one-time grants to any household that received fuel assistance during FY21 heating season, regardless of the household's FY22 economic status.*
- ✓ Grants must be paid directly toward housing related expense (e.g. rent to the landlord), not to resident. *This guideline is based off the current EAF practice of not paying the benefit directly to the debtor but instead to the debt holder to ensure funds are used appropriately.*
- ✓ Qualify housing related expenses include: rent, mortgage, condo fee, property tax, and/or home owners insurance. *Qualify housing related expense are based of the preset list used to calculate housing costs when applying to the Low-Income Heating/Energy Program (aka Fuel Assistance).*

5. POPULATION TO BENEFIT FROM PROJECT:

The population to benefit from this project would be those who have already been shown through their approved Emergency Assistance Fund application to be economically vulnerable and had significant and substantial economic hardship during the pandemic.

6. FISCAL YEAR IMPACT: FY22

- a. **Does project affect multiple fiscal years?** NO
- b. **If so, please indicate all fiscal years impacted:**

7. DOES REQUESTED PROJECT INVOLVE A THIRD-PARTY? NO

- a. **If yes, please provide third party name:**
- b. **Are you able to establish reporting requirements for third-party distributions?**

8. TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$43,500

ARPA funds totaling \$43,500 would ensure that the 28 EAF recipients during the outlined period plus one additional resident, should one apply to the EAF between now and Feb. 1, 2022, each receive \$1,500 toward housing expense.

- a. **Is the request for a capital item/project or for operations?** No
- b. **If a capital request, are soft costs included in requested amount above?** n/a
- c. **If yes, enter amount of estimated soft costs:** n/a
- d. **If the request is an operating request, will it result in recurring expenses?** No
- e. **If yes, please state plans for future funding:** n/a

9. ENTER ANY OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE PROJECT, INCLUDING AMOUNT:

NONE.

10. IS PROJECT TIMELINE ESTIMATED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN ARPA TIMELINE (December 2024, except for construction projects which have a deadline of December 2026):Choose an item.

YES.

11. IF NOT FUNDED THROUGH ARPA, WILL PROJECT BE REQUESTED IN FUTURE CAPITAL OR OPERATING REQUESTS: No

QUESTIONS?

Contact Colleen at 781-259-2673 or wilkinsc@lincolntown.org OR Tim at 781-259-2604 or higginst@lincolntown.org

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Please complete a separate form for each request. This form should be completed, saved as a PDF, and submitted to Tim AND Colleen at the above email addresses, with all supporting documentation.