To: Key and Elected Municipal Officials

From: David Barrett, Interim MMA Executive Director

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021

RE: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update

Although MMA had expected the funds allocated to Maine communities under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) would be distributed today, the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS) has decided to apply for a second 30-day extension. As a result, disbursements to the state’s 479 non-entitlement communities will be delayed until September.

DAFS is currently finalizing contract negotiations with a national organization, which will be tasked with deploying a website-based portal and assisting the state with implementing and monitoring other aspects of the rescue plan. It is expected that the state’s portal will be up and collecting data from communities on or before September 3. The collected data will be used to ensure each municipality receives its federal revenue.

In the meantime we invite you to visit MMA’s website at www.memun.org, which on the left-hand side of the main page includes a section dedicated to ARPA. Here you will find the latest updates on the Act, as well as information on the steps your municipality needs to take to prepare to receive the federal revenue.
Municipal officials from non-entitlement communities might find it most beneficial to start exploring the American Rescue Program Act “Non-Entitlement” Allocation, Tools section of the website. Here you will find information on how much revenue your community will receive under the Act. Please note that the total allocation will be distributed over two payments, with the first payment occurring next month and the second payment one year later. The link provided above will also take you to resources describing how to use and account for these federal funds.

Additionally, if your community has not yet completed the ARPA Priorities Survey, please consider doing so. The information you provide will help MMA communicate your investment priorities to state and county officials, non-profit groups and regional organizations. Our goal is to ensure that municipalities have the information necessary to make the best use of these revenues.

Finally, MMA has established an in-house team dedicated to answering your ARPA-related inquiries. Please do not hesitate to contact Kate Dufour or Neal Goldberg, in MMA’s State and Federal Relations Program or the attorneys in MMA Legal Services with any questions.

Thank you for your ongoing patience.