

Temporary Policy Guidelines for Recreation Committee Capital Projects

During and following the COVID 19 pandemic, temporary funding was allocated to counties for various projects through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Initially there were requirements related to the allowable uses of funds, and those have been modified over time to allow greater flexibility for expenses related to the provision of government services and purposes. This could be an isolated situation, or there could be other opportunities in the future for flexible funding. In the event the county receives funds that were not previously allocated that can be used for **capital** projects, consideration can be given to projects that meet one of the authorized purposes under Wis. Stats. § 895.52 (1)(g) as a recreational activity which includes hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, picnicking, exploring caves, nature study, bicycling, horseback riding, bird-watching, motorcycling, operating an all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle, operating a vehicle, as defined in Wis. Stats. § 340.01(74), on a road designated under Wis. Stats. § 23.115, recreational aviation, ballooning, hang gliding, hiking, tobogganing, sledding, sleigh riding, snowmobiling, skiing, skating, water sports, sight-seeing, rock-climbing, cutting or removing wood, climbing observation towers, animal training, harvesting the products of nature, participating in an agricultural tourism activity, sport shooting and any other outdoor sport, game or educational activity. "Recreational activity" does not include any organized team sport activity sponsored by the owner of the property on which the activity takes place.

Requests must be directly related to a service or purpose of county government that is enumerated in Wis. Stats. § 59.56(9), and as a recreational activity as defined above.

The following parameters shall apply to requests that are made for consideration:

- Funds approved by the county cannot exceed 30% of the total project cost, with a maximum amount of \$50,000. An exception can be made when a specific funding source is allocated to the county for a specific purpose and the county is acting as a pass-through entity.
- The requesting entity must have 20% of the total project cost available to start construction
- The requesting entity must have identified sources for the remaining funding and have a commitment of funds
- The requesting entity is a local government unit or non-profit registered with the Department of Financial Institutions
- The requesting entity has the consent of the municipality where the project or improvement will be constructed as demonstrated through formal action by the governing body
- The requesting entity shall assure the county that there will be not be a request for additional operating costs associated with the project, and has identified funding available for operating costs
- Requests are "one time" only, and not for ongoing capital expenses

Requests will not be approved that require an allocation from the fund balances of the county.

Funds could be used as matching funds for projects when allowable. The requesting entity is responsible for ensuring the funds could be used for matching other funding sources and the county assumes no responsibility for compliance with any matching requirements. The county will advise the requesting entity of the source of funds for their documentation purposes.

Projects must be completed no later than December 31, 2026. Projects may not exceed the time limits of the American Rescue Plan Act, or other funding source.