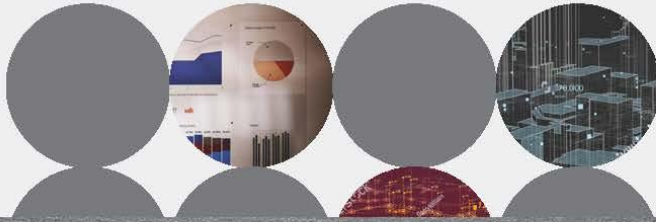
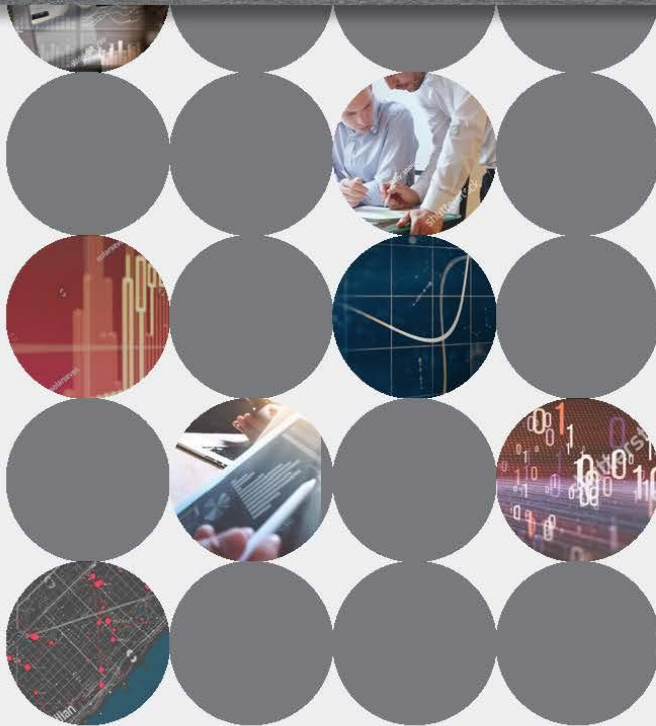


A collaboration among Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Johnson College, Keystone College, King's College, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Scranton, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, Penn State Hazleton, The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education, University of Scranton, Wilkes University, and the business community



THE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**ARPA 2023-
2025
Evaluation
Report**

March 2026

The Institute

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Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Research Methodology	4
Executive Summary.....	4
Grant Summaries	5
City Administrative and Improvement Grants	5
Wellness Programs.....	7
COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation	9
Home Buyer NeighborWorks Program.....	9
Educational Catch-Up Program Grants	10
Affordable Childcare Program Grants	10
Business Start-Up and Expansion Grants	12
Community Grants – Local Arts	13
Grants Administered by the Scranton Area Community Foundation	14
Grants Administered by United Neighborhood Centers	20
Primary Data Analysis	20
Summary, Findings & Conclusion.....	28
Recommendations	29
Evaluator Statement.....	31
Appendix A – Breakdown of Closed Business Start-Up & Expansion Grants	33
Appendix B – Breakdown of Local Arts Community Grants.....	54
Appendix C – Breakdown of Nonprofit Recovery Grants.....	64
Appendix D – Breakdown of Small Business Recovery and Wage Boost Programs	105

Introduction

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion federal economic stimulus bill. The City of Scranton received \$68.7 million in ARPA funds to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts. The mission of Scranton’s ARPA program is to give people access to resources, rebuild the infrastructure systems that impact their everyday lives, and foster equitable wealth generation that targets the needs of Scranton residents.¹

The following report is a synthesis of primary and secondary data related to the City of Scranton’s ARPA funding. The result of this synthesis includes conclusions and recommendations to foster an understanding of program effectiveness and impact.

Research Methodology

As part of this evaluation, The Institute collected primary data through two electronic surveys distributed by the City of Scranton and the Scranton Area Community Foundation. The surveys were conducted from October 10 through November 14, 2025. Of the 12 recipients, nine provided responses. The qualitative responses from each of the surveys have not been edited for syntax or spelling. Each section of this report contains sourced information.

Secondary data was collected as part of this evaluation as well. Documentation was pulled from Neighborly Software, a cloud-based technology platform for the administration and disbursement of governments funds for various programs, including housing, community development, and disaster recovery.²

Primary data was synthesized with the assistance of Microsoft Copilot and then reviewed and edited by a research analyst.

Limitations

When possible, the purpose of the grant, the beneficiary’s number/types of employees, and mission statement are identified in addition to the grant amount. In cases where limited documentation was available for an awarded grant, however, these details have been omitted.

Executive Summary

The City of Scranton’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) investments from 2023–2025 delivered measurable, wide-reaching success across all major program areas, strengthening economic stability, community well-being, public health, childcare capacity, arts and culture, nonprofit resilience, and critical infrastructure. The Institute’s evaluation finds that programs consistently met or exceeded their intended goals, as demonstrated by primary data, secondary documentation, and numerous success stories reported by beneficiaries.

Business Start-Up and Expansion Grants enabled small enterprises to remain open, modernize operations, and grow, with nearly 89.0 percent of surveyed respondents reporting expansion directly attributable to ARPA support and two-thirds noting improved productivity. Collectively, these grants helped protect existing jobs, enabled targeted job creation, and strengthened the long-term sustainability of small enterprises citywide. Noteology and Urban Co-Works, for example, enhanced their workspaces. Other successes include improvements to shipping and production, the development of a mobile app, refurbishment of retail spaces, and prevention of imminent closures. Similarly, Educational

Catch-Up Grants and Affordable Childcare Program investments expanded classroom capacity, stabilized staffing, and improved curriculum quality. Organizations exceeded enrollment goals, implemented high-quality learning tools, and improved facilities.

Additional investments strengthened arts and culture through grants that allowed musicians, performers, and organizations to restore programming, purchase equipment, and rebuild audience engagement, helping revitalize Scranton’s creative sector. For example, one grantee noted in an electronic survey that the awarded funds allowed him to better market his services at a time when community engagement was lacking. Another grantee revealed that the funding awarded helped the organization to expand its services and increase its wages. Other successes include hiring new employees, increasing productivity, and making essential payments (i.e., rent, wages, and business-related debts).

Furthermore, Nonprofit Recovery Grants provided vital stability for 49 organizations, enabling them to withstand pandemic-related financial strain, retain employees, and modernize facilities. Behavioral health and violence-prevention programs similarly reported major service expansions, improved capacity, and stronger long-term resilience. Disaster Recovery and Temporary Housing programs also proved effective, providing emergency assistance to residents displaced by the September 2023 flood and preventing homelessness among vulnerable families. Infrastructure projects funded under ARPA delivered improvements to stormwater systems, HVAC units in public buildings, municipal facilities, and pedestrian safety, significantly strengthening the city’s physical assets.

A major factor supporting the program’s overall effectiveness was the City of Scranton’s improved communication with grantees. Beneficiary feedback highlighted rapid responsiveness and clear guidance from city staff, which helped grantees navigate requirements more easily. Recommendations include continuing improved communication with grantees, supporting revenue sustainability post-grant, expanding eligible funding categories, increasing follow-up and documentation requirements, applying an equity and inclusion framework, and enhancing workforce-development supports to ensure long-term program effectiveness. Based on the totality of collected data, including survey feedback, exit reports, financial documentation, and success stories across all sectors, The Institute concludes that Scranton’s ARPA program fully met its objectives of keeping businesses open, retaining jobs, creating new jobs, improving public health, and improving infrastructure within the City of Scranton.

Grant Summaries

Below is a summary of grants that have been administered by the City of Scranton, Scranton Area Community Foundation, and United Neighborhood Centers.

City Administrative and Improvement Grants

The City of Scranton administered all City Administrative/Improvement grants. The City projects discussed below have been identified as closed, having all steps completed.

Project	Program Year	Budget
ACE ARPA Home Rehab	2022	\$400,000.00
City Paving	2022	\$1,200,000.00

East Mountain Stormwater Drainage Assessment Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc	2022	\$178,000.00
EMS Feasibility Study	2022	\$49,995.00
HVAC Emergency Services Building	2022	\$659,581.00
HVAC Improvements City Buildings	2022	\$181,065.00
Meadow Brook Culvert Repair	2022	\$165,260.00
Neighborworks Façade Program	2022	\$115,981.26
Oakmont Park	2022	\$468,053.53
Roof and North Tower Repair	2022	\$4,612,254.00
Scranton Tomorrow Façade Program	2022	\$52,715.46
Software Upgrades Heating/Cooling City Hall and Weston	2022	\$48,905.00
Parking Structure Improvements	2022	\$480,000.00
UNC Façade Program	2022	\$101,728.59
Walkability Study Action Plan	2022	\$239,800.00
Single Audit	2023	\$13,000.00
City Hall Heating and Cooling Pipes	2023	\$36,667.00
City Hall Repairs	2023	\$196,791.00
Connectivity Services	2023	\$120,561.50
Dale and Parrott Drive Stormwater	2023	\$18,000.00
DPW HVAC Project	2023	\$241,672.00
DPW Vacuum Truck	2023	\$597,730.00
Fire Dept Stormwater Project	2023	\$7,990.00
Living Alley	2023	\$25,273.65
Marketing – Train Rendering	2023	\$1,500.00
Snook Street Drainage	2023	\$123,709.92
ARPA Downtown Beautification – Scranton Tomorrow	2025	\$23,892.03
Total		\$10,360,125.94

ARPA funding supported a wide range of administrative and infrastructure improvement projects across the City of Scranton. Funding was used to complete an external audit of the City’s ARPA program, repair and replace aging heating and cooling pipes in City Hall as well as improve façades of multiple businesses across the city and provide administrative and legal support for ARPA program management and connectivity agreements. Additional grants enabled construction and drainage improvements at multiple locations, including Dale and Parrott Drive, the Department of Public Works facility, the Fire Department building, and Snook Street, addressing stormwater issues and essential infrastructure needs. Marketing funds were used to develop architectural renderings supporting a potential Amtrak route to Scranton,

helping advance broader economic development and transportation goals. Furthermore, EMS feasibility and walkability studies were funded through ARPA, providing city administrators with data-driven recommendations to improve emergency services and improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. Collectively, these projects improved municipal facilities, strengthened administrative oversight, addressed critical stormwater and HVAC issues, and supported long-term planning and community revitalization efforts.

Wellness Programs

The City of Scranton’s ARPA Wellness Grant program provides funding to organizations that support mental health, wellness, overdose prevention, and violence prevention initiatives. The program is part of Scranton’s broader use of ARPA funds to help residents recover from the COVID19 public health emergency. Applicants include nonprofits, private entities, and government agencies that have provided licensed services for at least six months and are not duplicating other federal COVID-related funding.

Wellness Grants Recipients

Recipients of ARPA Wellness Grants intended to use their ARPA Wellness Grant funding to strengthen community health and wellness by expanding essential services. Their plans included offering mental-health and substance-abuse education and workshops for refugee communities, scaling food-security programs such as school pantries and weekend backpack distributions with new equipment, staffing, and mobile outreach capacity, purchasing raw food ingredients to sustain home-delivered meals for seniors and disabled residents amid rising costs, funding cancer-screening navigation services to reduce barriers for low-income and underserved populations, and enhancing lifestyle-medicine initiatives through the creation and distribution of Wellness Kits to support healthier behaviors among high-risk patients.

Case Name	Budget
Bhutanese Cultural Foundation of Scranton Association	\$25,000.00
Child Hunger Outreach Partners	\$50,000.00
Meals on Wheels of NEPA	\$15,000.00
Northeast Regional Cancer Institute	\$50,000.00
The Wright Center for Community Health	\$50,000.00
Total	\$190,000.00

Behavioral Health and Violence Prevention Grants Recipients

Recipients of ARPA Behavioral Health and Violence Prevention Grants sought funding to expand trauma-informed behavioral-health services; enhance therapy, assessment, and counseling capacity; and increase access to mental-health, wellness, and prevention programming. They included proposals to launch new treatment modalities, train staff in specialized interventions, support after-school and emergency-assistance programs, improve housing options for vulnerable youth and seniors, strengthen services for individuals involved in the criminal-justice system, upgrade clinical technology and infrastructure, expand community-based wellness initiatives, and provide crisis-intervention training alongside expanded counseling for veterans, first responders, and low-income residents.

Case Name	Budget
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Children’s Advocacy Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania	\$98,379.00
Integrative Counseling Services	\$40,798.00
Lackawanna County Mental Health Court	\$10,000.00
Marywood University	\$13,411.00
NAMI PA Scranton Area Chapter	\$40,000.00
NEPA Youth Shelter	\$60,000.00
North East Pan African Coalition	\$30,000.00
Scranton Counseling Center	\$12,912.00
Scranton City Violence Prevention Program	\$69,374.00
Telespond Senior Services, Inc.	\$25,000.00
Valhalla Veterans Services	\$75,000.00
Valley in Motion	\$25,000.00
The Wright Center Medical Group	\$45,000.00
Total	\$544,874.00

Drug Overdose Prevention Grants Recipients

Recipients of ARPA Drug Overdose Prevention Grants sought funding to address pandemic-driven challenges affecting individuals with substance use disorders by expanding programming, retaining staff, and enhancing digital communication tools to reduce isolation and strengthen connections to recovery resources. Other proposed uses include offering specialized training on opioid use disorder and medication-assisted treatment for key community groups, providing case management and home-visit services, addressing transportation challenges through ride services and bus passes, and distributing Naloxone kits to prevent fatal overdoses.

Case Name	Budget
Treatment Court Advocacy Center of Lackawanna County	\$49,500.00
The Wright Center for Community Health	\$50,000.00
Total	\$99,500.00

Through ARPA, the City of Scranton funded a broad portfolio of wellness, behavioral health, violence prevention, food security, housing, and community support initiatives designed to mitigate the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Collectively, these investments strengthened local nonprofits, expanded health and human services capacity, and improved access to critical resources for thousands of residents, particularly low-income, underserved, and at-risk populations.

Funding allowed organizations to expand direct services, including mental-health counseling, trauma therapy, primary care, addiction recovery support, crisis intervention, youth services, and senior programming. Several providers, such as the Children’s Advocacy Center, Scranton Counseling Center, The Wright Center, and Valhalla Veterans Services, used ARPA dollars to hire staff, undergo specialized training, and establish new evidence-based programs that increase long-term community resilience. Others, such as Meals on Wheels, Child Hunger Outreach Partners, and Valley in Motion, addressed pandemic-related disparities by strengthening food access, social-connection programs, and community wellness initiatives.

Additionally, ARPA funding also enabled capital and infrastructure investments, including the purchase of vehicles for youth transport and food distribution, new technology for clinical services, and engineering work for new facilities such as the Older Adult Advocacy Center. Several projects, notably NEPA Youth Shelter's acquisition of a multi-unit property, will have lasting structural impact on Scranton's ability to serve vulnerable residents. Additional initiatives focused on violence prevention, through expanded youth diversion, training, and community-based outreach.

Across nearly all funded projects, organizations reported exceeding service goals, increasing program reach, and strengthening operational capacity. Programs collectively served thousands of residents, including seniors, children, individuals with disabilities, victims of abuse, refugees, veterans, justice-involved individuals, people experiencing homelessness, families in crisis, and those impacted by addiction. Many organizations noted that ARPA support filled critical gaps left by pandemic-era strain, enabling them to maintain or expand essential services at a time of heightened demand.

Overall, Scranton's ARPA Wellness & Health Programming investments created meaningful, measurable improvements in community health, safety, and stability. The projects demonstrate strong returns on public investment through expanded access to care, strengthened nonprofit infrastructure, and long-term capacity-building that will continue benefiting residents well beyond the grant period.

COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation

Additionally, the City awarded a grant to Hometown Health Care of NEPA to support its vaccine clinic. The award amounted to \$48,404.00 and was provided through the City's COVID-19 vaccination allocation. As reported in Neighborly, an additional \$1,687.22 in allocated COVID-19 vaccination funds was distributed to Scranton Printing.

The awarded funding enabled Hometown Health Care of NEPA to expand and sustain community-based immunization clinics across Scranton, reaching residents in schools, senior housing, public housing communities, and even homebound individuals. The support covered staffing and essential medical supplies, allowing the organization to administer 13,292 vaccines to 11,210 unique patients during the grant period, including 2,923 COVID-19 vaccines and 4,315 influenza vaccines. These efforts successfully addressed vaccination gaps by overcoming barriers such as transportation, long clinic wait times, and financial limitations, ultimately improving access for low-income, uninsured, and traditionally underserved populations.

Home Buyer NeighborWorks Program

The City of Scranton Home Buyer Program by NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania offers qualified first-time home buyers a forgiven, deferred payment loan to help with down payment and closing expenses. The budget for this program was \$549,900.00, and it assisted 101 applicants purchase homes in the City of Scranton. Furthermore, the Home Buyer Program notably increased opportunities for traditionally underserved populations: 81.0 percent of participating homebuyers were minorities, and services were made more accessible through free translation support and bilingual written materials, which benefitted individuals and families for whom English is a second language, including two Congolese refugee households. Overall, with higher income limits than other funding sources, the program served 14 low-income and 87 moderate-income residents, ultimately assisting 80 members of traditionally underserved groups. On average, \$5,500 in assistance was awarded per household, helping remove significant financial barriers for those at or below 300.0 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. All

program objectives were met or exceeded, demonstrating the initiative’s effectiveness in expanding affordable, equitable homeownership opportunities in Scranton. The funds for this program were administered in 2023 and 2024.

Educational Catch-Up Program Grants

The City of Scranton awarded nearly \$775,000 in ARPA grants to organizations providing educational catch-up programs to address pandemic-related learning loss. The two organizations below have their grants listed as closed.

Case Name	Program Year	Budget
Day Nursery Association	2022	\$89,225.00
Scranton JCC Early Learning Center	2022	\$185,000.00
Total		\$274,225.00

The Day Nursery Association operates an early childhood education program serving children aged 16 months to 5 years, with a summer program aimed specifically at preparing three- to five-year-olds for kindergarten. The program focuses on strengthening developmental, academic, and social-emotional skills impacted by COVID-19, providing research-based curriculum, field trips, arts experiences, and digital learning tools like Ignite by Hatch and Math Shelf. It prioritizes enrollment for current students, kindergarten-bound children, and disproportionately impacted populations. The program ultimately served 60 children, exceeding its goal of 54. Moreover, the program delivered academic reinforcement, social-emotional learning, and real-life experiences over ten weeks. Outcomes reflect that all objectives were met, with funds supporting field trips, staff salaries, professional development, and comprehensive programming.

The Scranton JCC Early Learning Center sought funding to enhance curriculum quality and stabilize operations affected by the pandemic. With the grant, the center adopted the Frog Street Pre-K curriculum, incorporating social-emotional learning, integrated STEAM activities, and digital resources. Funds also supported staff wage increases, maintenance, cleaning enhancements, and operational costs needed to maintain safe, high-quality child-care services. The program aims to continue offering accessible services to low-income and underserved families while expanding readiness programs, swim lessons, and wellness activities. Reported outcomes show successful implementation of the new curriculum, wage increases from \$10–\$12 per hour to \$14–\$17 per hour, and installation of new classroom cabinets, all of which improved educational quality and operational stability for the Early Learning Center.

Affordable Childcare Program Grants

The City of Scranton awarded more than \$725,000 in ARPA grants to local organizations to bolster affordable childcare services.

Case Name	Program Year	Budget
Agency for Community EmPOWERment of NEPA	2022	\$100,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Northeastern Pennsylvania	2022	\$223,275.00

Discovery Montessori	2022	\$160,000.00
Greater Scranton YMCA	2022	\$62,500.00
United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA	2022	\$130,000.00
The WellKind School for Early Learners	2022	\$50,000.00
Total		\$725,775.00

The ARPA Affordable Childcare Program supported a range of early-childhood and youth-serving organizations across Scranton, each addressing different gaps in childcare access, facility quality, and family well-being. Specifically, funding supported critical capital upgrades, program expansion, staffing, and wellness initiatives, ultimately benefiting thousands of children, particularly low-income, underserved, and vulnerable populations.

Agency for Community EmPOWERment of NEPA utilized ARPA funds to renovate its Scranton Pre-K Center, allowing the center to serve 130 children and create 12 new staff positions. By installing energy-efficient windows, a handicap-accessible entrance, insulation, security cameras, and basement heating, the organization was better able to support low-income, homeless, and disabled children and achieved full enrollment goals.

Additionally, the Boys & Girls Club of Northeastern Pennsylvania leveraged funding to restore pre-pandemic service levels. Daily participation increased from 50 to 150 youth through investments in staffing, program materials, utilities, and marketing. As a result, the organization exceeded its service goals.

Discovery Montessori used ARPA resources to acquire adjacent property to expand its North Scranton campus, enabling new childcare rooms, preschool capacity, after-school programs, and year-round operations for more than 100 students. The purchase was completed in October 2023, fully meeting its project goal.

The Greater Scranton YMCA applied its grant toward purchasing and installing five HVAC units essential to creating new infant classrooms. Though construction is ongoing, the HVAC component is complete, supporting a childcare program that has grown to 244 children in 2024 (an increase of 17 percent from the previous year) and continues to face high demand with a waitlist of 150.

United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA used its funding to purchase two nine-passenger transportation vans and upgrade indoor and outdoor spaces at three childcare centers, including safety equipment, flooring, playground improvements, and appliances. With the support of ARPA, enrollment increased from 49.0 percent to 85.0 percent of licensed capacity and expanded access for low-income families, English-learners, and other underserved groups.

Lastly, the WellKind School for Early Learners used its grant to deliver a range of enrichment and wellness activities, including yoga, movement, art, and mindfulness. These activities support children's social and emotional development post-pandemic. Damaged classroom flooring was replaced as well. All goals were exceeded, with about 80 to over 100 participants benefiting weekly.

Collectively, these ARPA-funded initiatives bolstered the capacity, quality, and accessibility of childcare services across Scranton, directly addressing pandemic-related learning, wellness, and economic challenges for children and families.

Business Start-Up and Expansion Grants

All Business Start Up and Expansion grants were administered by the City of Scranton. The City awarded \$349,610.00 to five small businesses in January 2023, \$301,160.30 to another five businesses in March, and \$556,588.00 to nine businesses in June. On February 27, 2024, nine more businesses were awarded grants for a total of \$540,231.00. Below is a summary of start-up and expansion grants that have been identified as closed. The breakdown of each of these awarded grants, including their outcomes, is included in Appendix A.

Case Name	Program Year	Budget
119 Productions, Inc (Center City Print)	2022	\$100,000.00
Adezzo	2022	\$70,953.80
AMPP Café LLC	2022	\$53,000.00
Bazaar Skateshop	2022	\$11,797.16
Click-Video LLC	2022	\$79,240.00
Downtown Deli & Eatery	2022	\$77,234.00
Fellowship House Foundation	2022	\$100,000.00
G&A Family Investment LLC (Papi's Kitchen)	2022	\$83,600.00
Groove Brewing	2022	\$83,425.00
Little Wild Refillery	2022	\$19,376.00
The Loft	2022	\$7,486.75
Newave Enterprise	2022	\$25,525.00
Nlyten Corp.	2022	\$100,000.00
Note Fragrances, Inc. (Noteology)	2022	\$100,000.00
Saigon Corner	2022	\$32,000.00
Scranton Pilates LLC	2022	\$32,037.50
Scranton Premier Mart	2022	\$100,000.00
Showcase Ventures, Inc.	2022	\$100,000.00
Slick Leagues	2022	\$100,000.00
Spice Asian Market	2022	\$22,673.55
Tiddlywinks Boutique	2022	\$25,900.00
Unison Workforce Technologies, LLC	2022	\$100,000.00
Urban Co-Works	2022	\$100,000.00
Vecina	2022	\$41,000.00
Zummo's Café	2022	\$16,250.00
The Blushing Bridal Boutique	2023	\$5,216.25
Boccardo Jewelers	2023	\$76,969.75
Chef Von's Place	2023	\$100,000.00
Empanada King	2023	\$100,000.00

Frank's News Tobacco & Corner Store	2023	\$18,000.00
Joy World Wealth Partners	2023	\$47,610.00
Kind Cutz Barber Shop	2023	\$24,337.50
Northeast Title & Tag	2023	\$12,814.60
Pilgers' Pastries	2023	\$42,740.74
Ronald White for Ruddy's Landmark Café	2023	\$2,572.41
Sanh Investments LLC	2023	\$13,746.00
Sho Laboratories, LLC	2023	\$49,999.99
Sho Technology Solutions, LLC	2023	\$100,000.00
Sky Auto Sales	2023	\$49,000.00
Total		\$2,224,506.00

The awarded funds played a critical role in stabilizing, expanding, and strengthening small businesses across the City of Scranton. Grant recipients used the funding to address essential operational needs, including payroll, rent, utilities, equipment purchases, and inventory, which directly improved financial resilience for both new and existing businesses. Many businesses were able to undertake long-deferred renovations, expand physical space, upgrade technology, or launch new product and service lines, resulting in improved customer experiences and more efficient operations. The funding also supported workforce development by enabling job creation and retention across multiple sectors, with several businesses hiring full-time, part-time, or specialized staff as a direct result of the grants. Additionally, the funds strengthened local commerce and community vibrancy by allowing businesses to increase inventory, enhance marketing efforts, and, in some cases, open new locations or expand into adjacent spaces, ultimately driving increased customer traffic and long-term business sustainability. Overall, the funding played a crucial role in stabilizing small businesses, fostering growth, and expanding the availability of goods, services, and employment opportunities throughout the City of Scranton.

Community Grants – Local Arts

The City of Scranton awarded a total of \$346,417 in grants for 19 visual and performing artists and arts organizations on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024. Grants were offered as part of the City's \$68.7 million in ARPA funding. Those groups included independent artists, writers, and performers; theater companies and dinner theaters; musical groups and artists; and dance companies. Preference was given to entities based in Scranton. While beneficiaries received surveys to fill out once all awarded funds were spent, they were not required to complete them. The breakdown of each of these awarded grants, including their outcomes, is included in Appendix B.

Organization	Grant Amount
Arcadia Chorale	\$16,774.00
Ballet Theatre of Scranton	\$28,412.00
Christopher Capozza	\$6,774.00
The Dishonest Fiddlers	\$40,100.00
Gregory Kondrat	\$8,387.00
Jacob Cole	\$8,387.00
Jeannine Luby	\$5,050.00

Kouvaris Bibbins	\$8,387.00
Marko Marcinko	\$8,548.00
Michael J. Puskas	\$8,387.00
One Voice Studios	\$8,387.00
Philharmonic Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania	\$45,000.00
Scranton Civic Ballet Company	\$30,000.00
Scranton Jazz Festival	\$22,723.00
Scranton Music Academy	\$33,548.00
Scranton Music Association	\$20,000.00
Step By Step Dance Studio & Ballroom	\$33,279.00
Tony Vergnetti	\$8,387.00
Zach Sprowls	\$5,887.00
Total	\$346,417.00

Across Scranton’s Local Arts Community Grants program, funded organizations and individual artists used ARPA support to stabilize operations, expand programming, purchase equipment, market services, and offset pandemic-related revenue losses. For many beneficiaries, formal exit surveys were not completed, but electronic surveys reveal consistent themes. Beneficiary surveys indicate that ARPA support enabled artists, performers, and cultural institutions to restore lost capacity, expand programming, and continue serving the community. Funding helped recipients confront widespread challenges resulting from COVID-19, including cancelled events, reduced audiences, loss of revenue, and increased production costs. Organizations used grants to purchase equipment, invest in marketing, hire or retain staff, support wage increases, and resume or enhance public performances. Additionally, individual artists were able to replace essential tools, rebuild client bases, increase productivity, and broaden their reach through upgraded services and enhanced promotional efforts. Larger institutions reported that ARPA funding allowed them to bring back musicians and contractors, meet rising operational costs, resume live productions, and maintain full seasons of community programming. Overall, these investments sustained vital arts and cultural activity in Scranton, supported economic recovery in the creative sector, and ensured continued access to diverse artistic experiences for residents across the city.

Grants Administered by the Scranton Area Community Foundation

The Scranton Area Community Foundation (SAF) assisted the City of Scranton by administering four ARPA programs: Nonprofit Recovery, Small Business Recovery/Wage Boost, Childcare Providers Wage Boost, and Childcare Reimbursement for Small Business Employees. As a community steward, the Scranton Area Community Foundation leveraged resources and worked in partnership with the city government to develop allocation strategies to maximize the use of ARPA funding in the region.

Grant recipients were asked by the Scranton Area Community Foundation to fill out a 30-day summary after receiving the award and a final exit report once all funds were spent; however, they were not required to do so according to the City’s memorandums of understanding. In all instances, businesses have fulfilled the requirements of their grant for wage boost/recovery. All information recorded below was provided by the Scranton Area Community Foundation.

Nonprofit Recovery Grants

The grants listed below were awarded to nonprofit organizations and administered by SAF. In total, \$990,000.00 has been awarded to nonprofit organizations in Scranton. Of this total, \$996,500.00 has been spent. The remaining \$3,500.00 belongs to organizations that have yet to spend their funds. As of March 2026, only one organization has not expended the entirety of their awarded funds.

The program reached a diverse range of organizations serving Northeastern Pennsylvania, including cultural institutions, social services agencies, youth development programs, health and human service providers, educational institutions, and animal welfare organizations. Forty-nine organizations received support, which enabled them to better withstand and recover from pandemic-related disruptions.

Organization Name	Amount Awarded	Grant Total Paid	Grant Balance
The Arc of Northeastern PA	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Bhutanese Cultural Foundation Scranton Association	\$952.72	\$952.72	\$0.00
Boy Scouts of America Northeastern Pennsylvania Council	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Breathe & Prosper Corporation	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Catherine McAuley Center	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, Inc.	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Center for Health and Human Services Research and Action	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Center for the Living City	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Child Hunger Outreach Partners (CHOP)	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Clear Brook Foundation	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Discovery MI Preschool	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Electric City Steel Drum Project	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00

Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Friends of the Poor	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Goodwill Industries of Northeastern PA	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Greater Scranton YMCA	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Griffin Pond Animal Shelter	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Harrison House Personal Care Home	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Here For A Reason	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Jewish Community Center of Scranton	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Keystone Mission	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Lackawanna River Conservation Association, Inc.	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Linwood Nursing and Rehab	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Marywood University	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Maternal and Family Health Services	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Meals on Wheels of NEPA, Inc.	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
NativityMiguel School of Scranton	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
NEPA Pet Fund and Rescue	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Northeast Regional Cancer Institute	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Outreach - Center for Community Resources	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
PAWsitively for the Animals	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Ronald McDonald House of Scranton, Inc.	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Scranton Counseling Center	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00

Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple	\$10,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$3,500.00
Scranton Primary Health Care Center	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Scranton Public Library	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Scranton Tomorrow	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Serving Seniors, Inc.	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Skills in Scranton Business Education Partnership	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
St. Cats and Dogs of Scranton	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
St. Matthews United Evangelical Lutheran Church	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
TCS I Midtown Apartments	\$4,047.28	\$4,047.28	\$0.00
Telespond Senior Services	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Treatment Court Advocacy Center of Lackawanna County	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
The Wright Center for Community Health	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
SAF Admin Fee	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Total	\$1,000,000.00	\$996,500.00	\$3,500.00

The ARPA SAF Nonprofit Recovery Program strengthened the nonprofit sector in Northeastern Pennsylvania by providing targeted financial support to organizations significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding helped nonprofits address decreased revenue, increased operating costs, and financial instability, while also enabling essential upgrades such as health-and-safety improvements, technology enhancements, marketing, and facility buildouts. Through these strategic investments, the ARPA SAF Nonprofit Recovery Program helped stabilize essential community services, supported organizational resilience, and strengthened the region’s capacity to meet local needs during and after the pandemic.

Small Business Recovery and Wage Boost Programs

The list of organizations below are comprised of beneficiaries whose grants belonged to the Small Business Recovery and Wage Boost programs. Scranton’s Wage Boost grant raises wages for employees after estimating state averages per industry and position based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).³ The Wage Boost program provides small businesses in Scranton with up to \$50,000.00 in wage boost grants to raise their employees’ wages closer to the state average.

Organization	Wage Boost Amount Awarded	Recovery Amount Awarded
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119 Productions (dba Center City Print)	\$50,000.00	
Amendola Deli-cious		\$18,071.00
Amendola Foods		\$18,071.00
The ArtRoom		\$22,060.00
Autobahn Title & Tag		\$25,000.00
Bar Pazzo	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00
Bee's Backyard		\$25,000.00
Budget Hair Fashions		\$10,503.00
Buona Pizza	\$30,477.00	\$25,000.00
The Creative and Performing Arts Academy (CaPAA) of NEPA		\$25,000.00
Crotti's on Ash		\$25,000.00
The Dance Studio	\$27,648.00	\$25,000.00
DK USA Inc.	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00
Endeavor Audio & Lighting Services Inc.	\$50,000.00	\$13,848.00
Fork N' Bowl	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00
Jeff D'Angelo's Design Group		\$16,288.00
La'Olla de Doña Carmen		\$4,047.00
LaSalle the Image Maker		\$25,000.00
McCarthy Management Services	\$50,000.00	
New Laundry		\$25,000.00
Northern Lights Espresso Bar and Café		\$25,000.00
Note Fragrances	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00
Penn Shadecrafters	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00
Soko Investments (dba Sky Auto Sales)	\$35,000.00	\$15,000.00
Unison Workforce		\$25,000.00
Zummo's Café	\$24,154.00	\$25,000.00
SAF Admin Fee	\$9,156.66	
Total	\$526,435.66	\$517,888.00

The Small Business Recovery and Wage Boost programs collectively helped stabilize and strengthen Scranton's small business community during the ongoing economic recovery. Recovery grant recipients commonly used funds to address essential operating needs (e.g., rent, utilities, payroll, marketing, equipment, and supply purchases), which enabled many businesses to remain open, catch up on expenses, expand services, and avoid closure entirely in some cases. Reported impacts included increased marketing capacity, improved operational efficiency, expanded product or service offerings, and the ability to hire or retain employees.

Additionally, Wage Boost grants, designed to raise employee wages toward state averages, had not yet been widely spent at the time of reporting, but early data showed that most participating employers increased wages primarily through cost-of-living and merit adjustments and offered additional employee benefits. Across both programs, respondents indicated that ARPA funding supported job retention more than job creation, helped offset rising costs, and allowed businesses to better navigate post-pandemic challenges. Secondary data collection conducted in 2025 revealed that overall satisfaction with the programs was high, and businesses emphasized that the funding played a critical role in maintaining stability, protecting jobs, and supporting modest growth during a period of financial uncertainty.

Childcare Provider Wage Boost

The City of Scranton provided \$1 million in total funds to address the issue of affordable childcare and to offer childcare service providers with a means to pay their workers higher wages. The Scranton Area Community Foundation were selected to administer both the Childcare Providers Wages Boost Recovery program as well as the Childcare Reimbursement For Small Business Employees program.

Those grants awarded in 2024 to childcare providers comprise \$238,146.00 in Childcare Providers Wage Boost Recovery funds. Administrative expenses added an additional \$2,381.00 to the program’s expenses, bringing the combined total to \$240,527.00.

Organization	Awarded Funds
United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA	\$50,000.00
Jewish Community Center of Scranton	\$50,000.00
Tots & Tykes Inc. (dba Little People Daycare School)	\$50,000.00
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania	\$20,563.00
Small Wonders Learning Center	\$27,583.00
Christian Child Cares	\$40,000.00
SAF Admin Fee	\$2,381.00
Total	\$240,527.00

An exit report has been completed for this program, which indicated that the six recipients served 10,185 clients after receiving the awarded grants.

Childcare Reimbursement for Small Business Employees

Scranton residents can apply for up to \$40,000.00 in childcare support scholarships to address the high cost of quality services. A total of \$406,877.00 was awarded to 15 individuals. The initial total number of awardees was 18, however, three of the beneficiaries either failed to follow up about the award via email or indicated that they would not be accepting the award. Additionally, \$50,085.31 was rescinded due to reassessed need, bringing the total awarded amount to \$356,791.69. To maintain the privacy of these individual citizens, their names are not identified in this report. An exit report has yet to be submitted, as the program is ongoing and \$68,823.69 in awarded funds remain among seven of the awardees.

Disaster Recovery – Individual Assistance

As part of the various disaster relief programs created by the City of Scranton in response to the September 9, 2023, flood that impacted portions of Keyser Valley and North Scranton, the Scranton Area

Community Foundation handled applications for the ARPA Disaster Recovery Grant program. For 90 impacted individuals, a total of \$383,690.00 was granted in disaster relief assistance funds. As was the case for those who received assistance through the Childcare Reimbursement for Small Business Employees program, the names of small business employees who received funds for disaster recovery assistance are not identified in this report to maintain their privacy.

Grants Administered by United Neighborhood Centers

The United Neighborhood Centers of Scranton assisted the City of Scranton by administering the American Rescue Plan Disaster Relief Temporary Housing program. The following information was obtained through Neighborly.

Disaster – Temporary Housing

The American Rescue Plan Disaster Relief Temporary Housing Assistance grant funded temporary accommodated shelter for displaced households due to flooding that occurred on September 9, 2023. Grant beneficiaries were assisted with hotel stays and rental expenses to avoid becoming unsheltered. The program successfully provided temporary shelter and financial assistance to households displaced by the flooding, helping prevent street homelessness and easing the financial strain of hotel stays and rental costs while families worked toward securing permanent housing. In total, 18 low-income and 2 moderate-income residents received support, including members of traditionally underserved populations. In total, program expenses amounted to \$28,519.00. Through case management and advocacy, the initiative ensured that affected individuals had access to interim shelter options and guidance in returning home or obtaining new housing, ultimately stabilizing those impacted during a period of crisis.

Primary Data Analysis

The purpose of the survey was to gain insight into the experiences of those who were awarded grants, including any barriers and challenges. Electronic surveys were disseminated by the City of Scranton among 12 ARPA beneficiaries whose grants closed in 2025. A breakdown of the 12 businesses and organizations and the program to which their grant(s) belonged is provided below.

Grantee	ARPA Program	Budget
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania	Affordable Childcare	\$223,275.00
Frank’s News Tobacco & Corner Store, LLC	Business Start Up	\$18,000.00
Hometown Health Care of NEPA, Inc.	COVID-19 Vaccine	\$48,404.00
NAMI Northeast Region 1	Behavioral Health and Violence Prevention	\$40,000.00
NeighborWorks of Northeastern Pennsylvania	Façade Improvement Grant Program	\$115,981.26
Ruddy’s Landmark Café	Business Start Up	\$2,572.41
Scranton Counseling Center	Behavioral Health and Violence Prevention	\$12,912.00
Scranton Tomorrow	Façade Improvement Grant Program	\$52,715.46

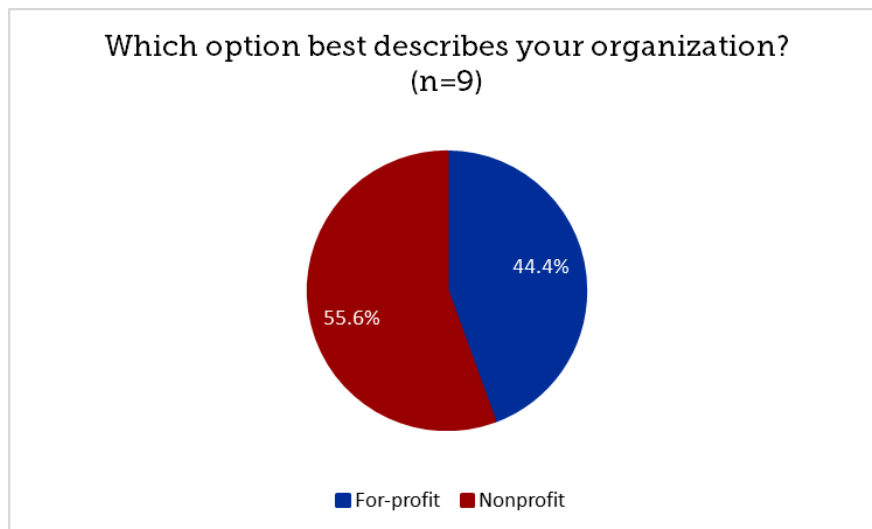
Sho Laboratories, LLC	Business Start Up	\$49,999.99
Sho Technology Solutions, LLC	Business Start Up	\$100,000.00
United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania	Façade Improvement Grant Program / Education Catch Up	\$231,728.59
Valhalla Veterans Services	Behavioral Health and Violence Prevention	\$75,000.00
Total		\$970,588.71

There was a total of nine responses to the survey. However, respondents did not provide a response to every survey question. Therefore, the number of respondents to each question is either explicitly stated in the narrative or identified in a table or graph by $n = \#$. Below is an analysis of the survey results.

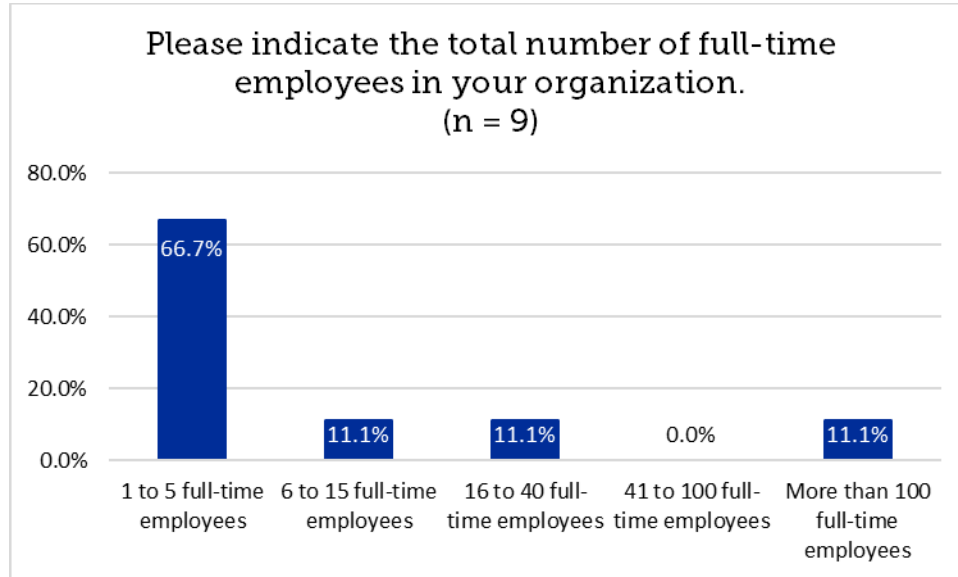
The primary data collected for this report is directional and exploratory, offering valuable context for understanding how grantees who most recently expended the entirety of their awarded funds perceive the ARPA program. The following analysis highlights perceptions and themes among these grantees, but is not intended to serve as statistically generalizable for the entire program. While not representative of all grantees, however, these findings reveal the impacts funding had on grantees who closed their grants in 2025.

Respondent Profile

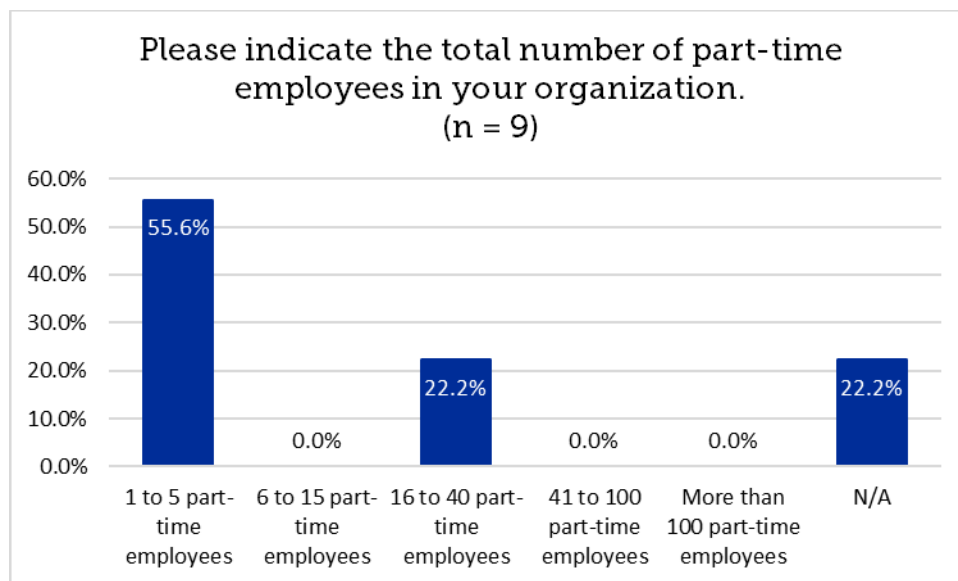
Firstly, respondents were asked to identify whether the organization or business they represented was a for-profit or nonprofit organization. Most surveyed organizations identified as nonprofits, with five of the nine respondents (55.6 percent) selecting this category and the remaining four (44.4 percent) identifying as for-profit businesses. Respondents represent a wide range of industry sectors, including community development, customized technology and software development, mental health services, food and beverage, convenience retail, and youth development. Mental health services appear multiple times as well.



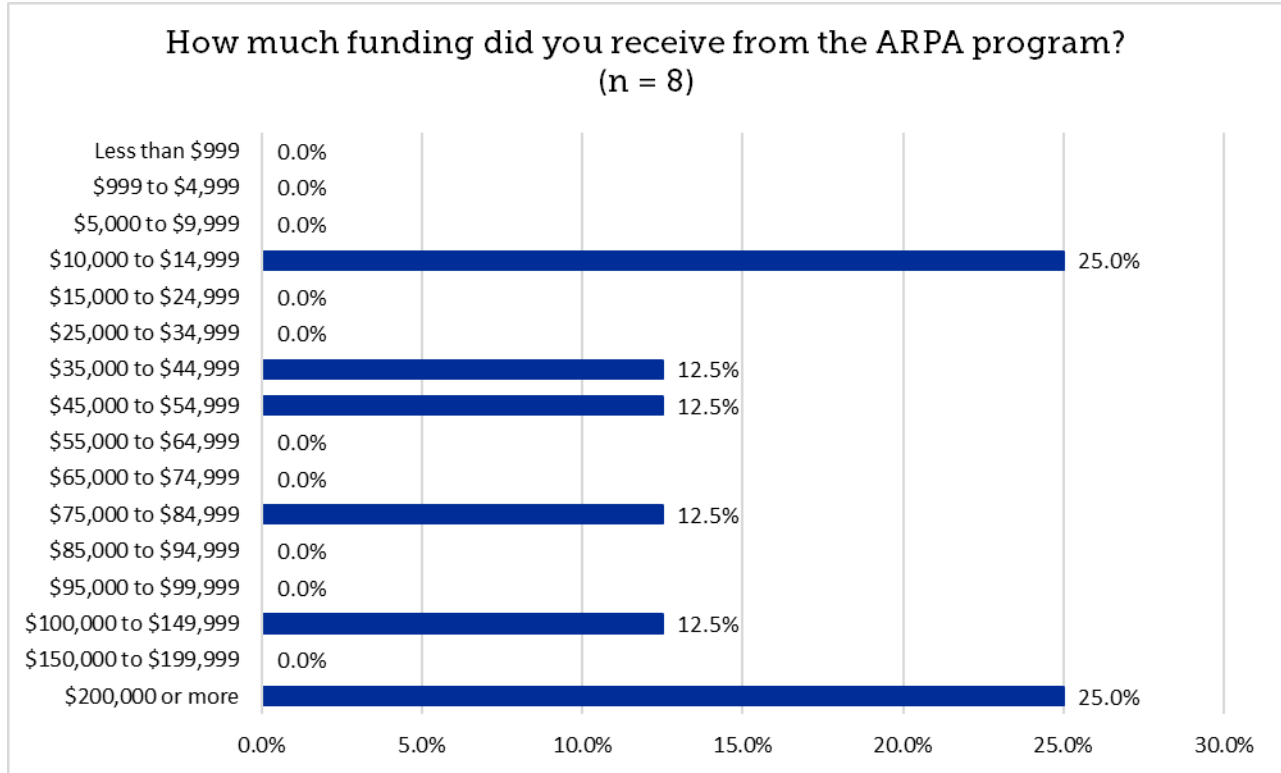
Most organizations surveyed are relatively small employers. Six of the nine survey respondents (66.7 percent) reported having between one and five full-time employees. Only one organization fell into each of the 6–15, 16–40, and more-than-100 employee categories, showing a distribution dominated by micro-employers with a single large outlier.



Conversely, part-time staffing levels varied modestly. Over half of respondents (55.6 percent) reported having one to five part-time employees, while two organizations (22.2 percent) reported having 16–40 part-time staff, suggesting part-time labor plays a meaningful role in some operations. Two organizations indicated “N/A,” reflecting those that rely entirely on full-time employees or operate with no hourly staff.

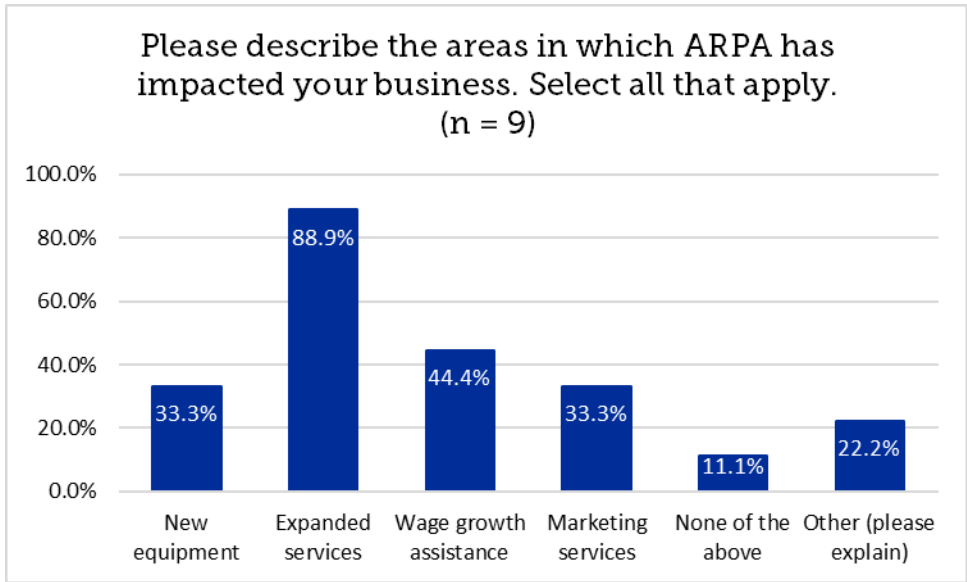


Funding amounts varied widely among the eight responding organizations. Two received relatively small awards of \$10,000–\$14,999, while two reported receiving \$200,000 or more, indicating a significant upper-tier allocation. The remaining awards fell across intermediate levels such as \$35,000–\$44,999, \$45,000–\$54,999, \$75,000–\$84,999, and \$100,000–\$149,999. This distribution suggests ARPA investments were tailored to organizational scale and project needs, with both modest and high-impact awards represented.

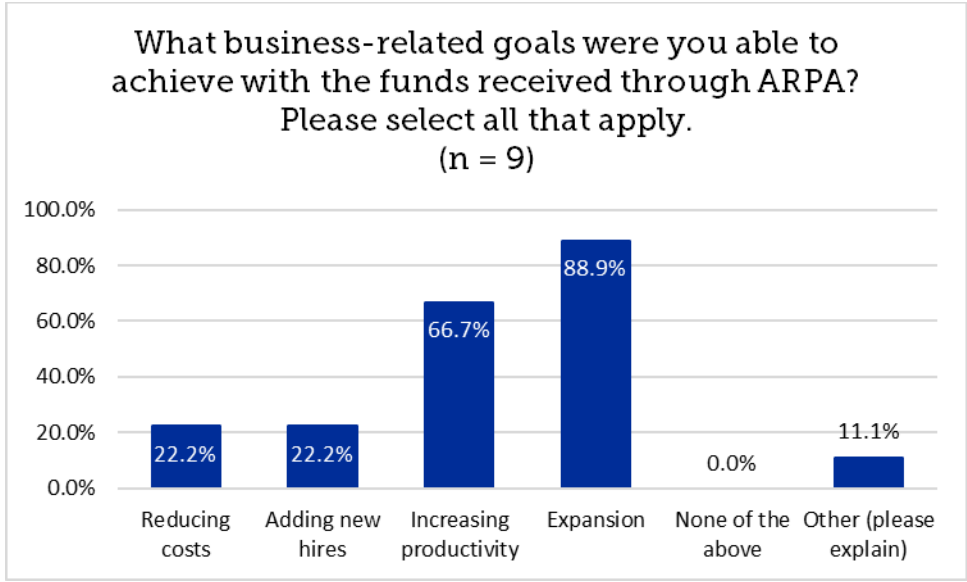


Funding Impact

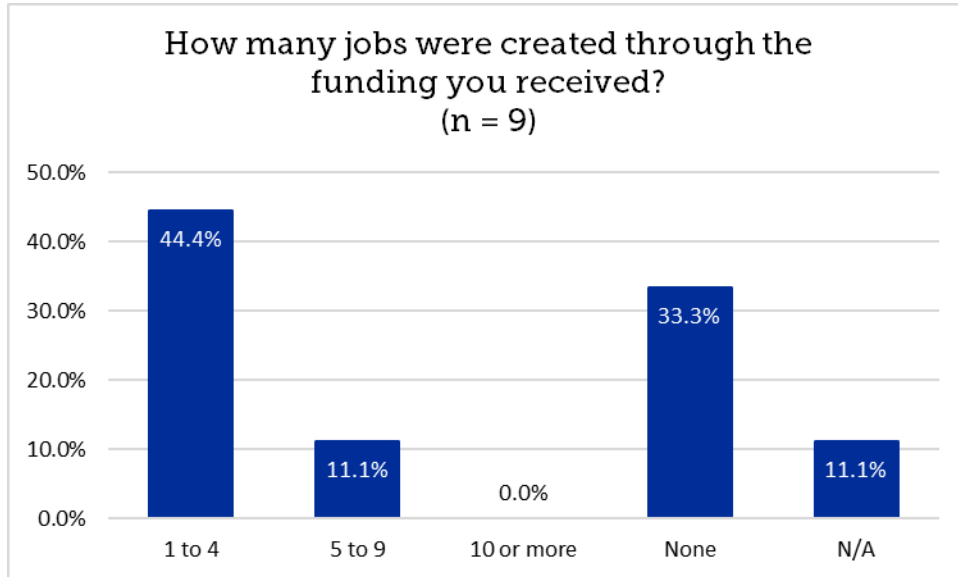
Organizations most frequently selected service expansion as the primary impact of ARPA support, with eight respondents (88.9 percent) identifying it as a key outcome. Many also reported wage-growth assistance, new equipment purchases, and marketing benefits. Additional comments highlighted professional development, assessment tools, and significant facility improvements such as façade repairs and new windows. Overall, the funding appears to have strengthened both operational capacity and service quality.



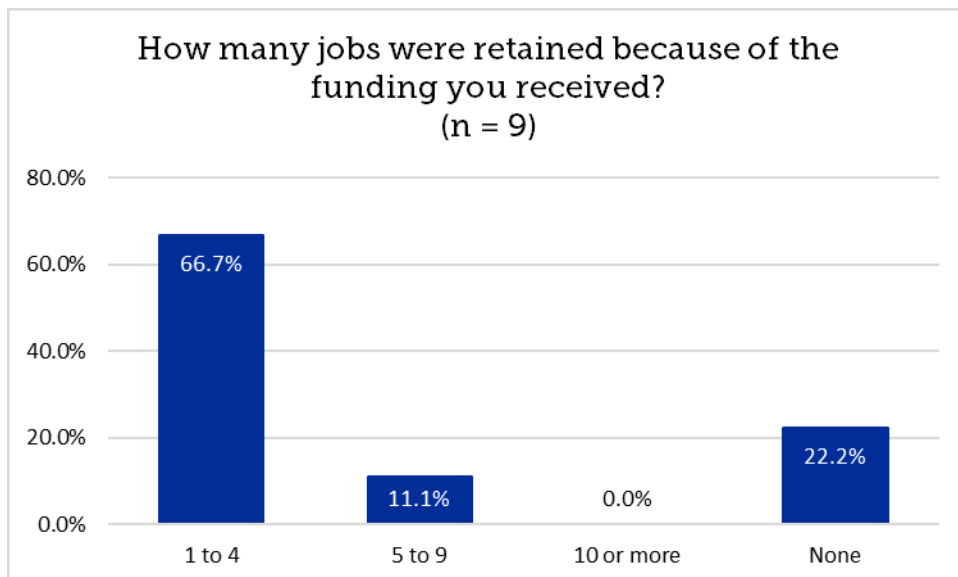
Respondents overwhelmingly credited ARPA funding with enabling expansion (88.9 percent) and increased productivity (66.7 percent). Only two organizations each reported new hires or cost reductions, indicating most gains were centered on growth and efficiency rather than staffing changes. One respondent highlighted the creation of new outdoor seating as an “other” goal achieved, showing the funds supported a range of tailored improvements. Organizations noted that ARPA funding allowed them to serve more clients, invest in technology (including AI-related hardware and cloud platforms), modernize equipment, and reduce budget pressures. Several highlighted transformative improvements such as training for staff, technology upgrades enabling more advanced projects, and critical building repairs that improved customer perception and kept the business viable. In some cases, respondents emphasized that the funding played a direct role in organizational survival.



Job creation varied among the respondents' organizations, with four organizations (44.4 percent) creating one to four positions and one adding five to nine jobs. Three respondents reported creating no new jobs, and one indicated that the metric did not apply. These results suggest that while ARPA funding did support some employment growth, its primary impact may have been stability and expansion rather than widespread new hiring.

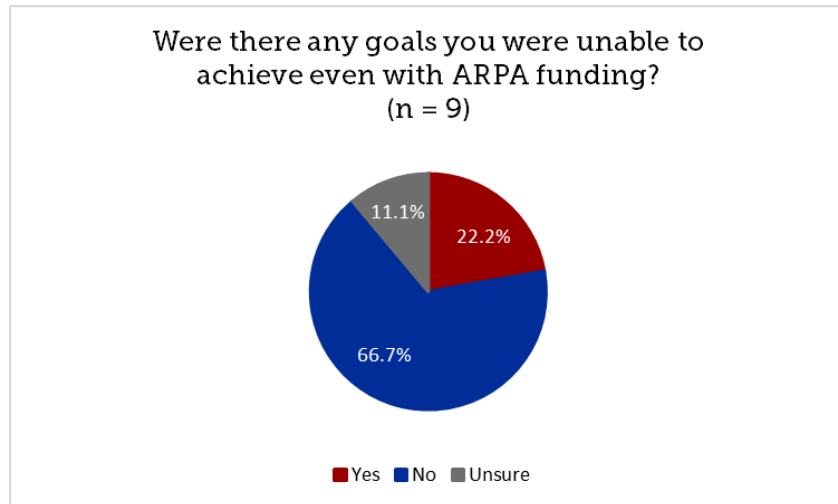


Retention effects were more pronounced than job creation. Six organizations (66.7 percent) reported retaining one to four positions due to ARPA funding, and one retained five to nine positions. Only two reported no retention benefits. This supports the view that ARPA investments played a critical role in preserving existing jobs within small organizations.



Unmet Goals, Persisting Challenges, and Ongoing Needs

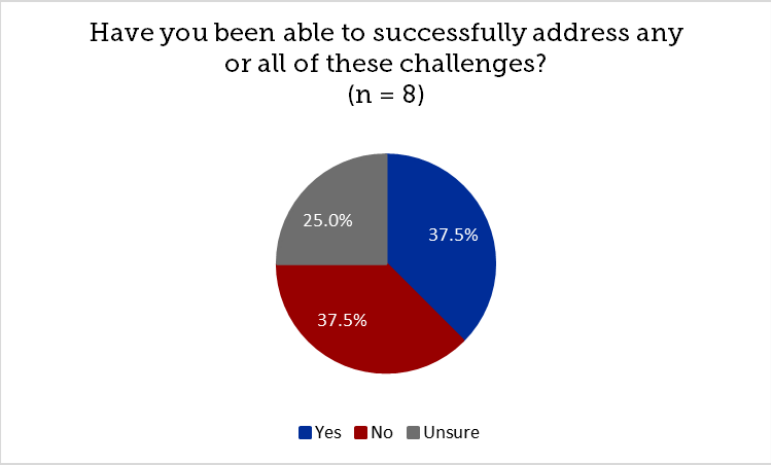
Two respondents (22.2 percent) indicated that some goals remained unachieved despite ARPA funding, while most reported accomplishing all objectives. Examples of unmet goals included converting an intern to full-time employment due to insufficient revenue and making costly sidewalk improvements that fell outside ARPA eligibility. These responses highlight that while the funding was highly beneficial, certain long-term or capital-intensive needs remained out of scope.



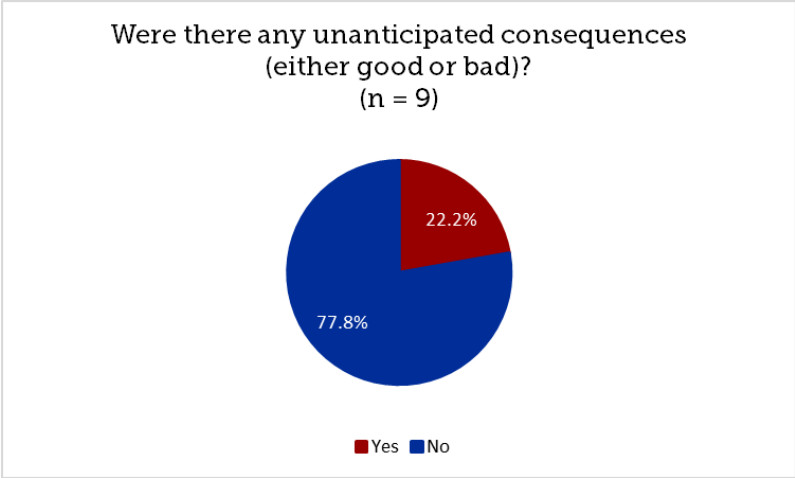
Furthermore, organizations highlighted several ongoing needs, including expanded staff capacity, securing more clients, consistent funding streams (particularly for community mental health programs), and continued investment in emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning. Some respondents cited pressing facility issues, general financial strain, and transportation challenges. Together, these needs reveal sustained pressures that persist beyond the initial ARPA support.

Additionally, respondents described persistent challenges such as recruitment and retention difficulties, unreliable client revenue due to shorter contracts and late payments, and the strain of meeting high community demand with limited staff. Several small businesses emphasized the burden of compliance-related costs that larger organizations absorb more easily, while others pointed to ongoing financial instability and transportation barriers. These issues reflect both structural and sector-specific obstacles.

Responses were split evenly between organizations making progress on addressing the identified challenges and those not yet seeing improvement, with the remainder unsure. Some organizations noted successful use of grants, employee incentives, or operational innovations like AI to address challenges. Others reported that major issues (e.g., financial instability and transportation) remain unresolved. These responses suggest mixed but ongoing efforts to strengthen resilience.

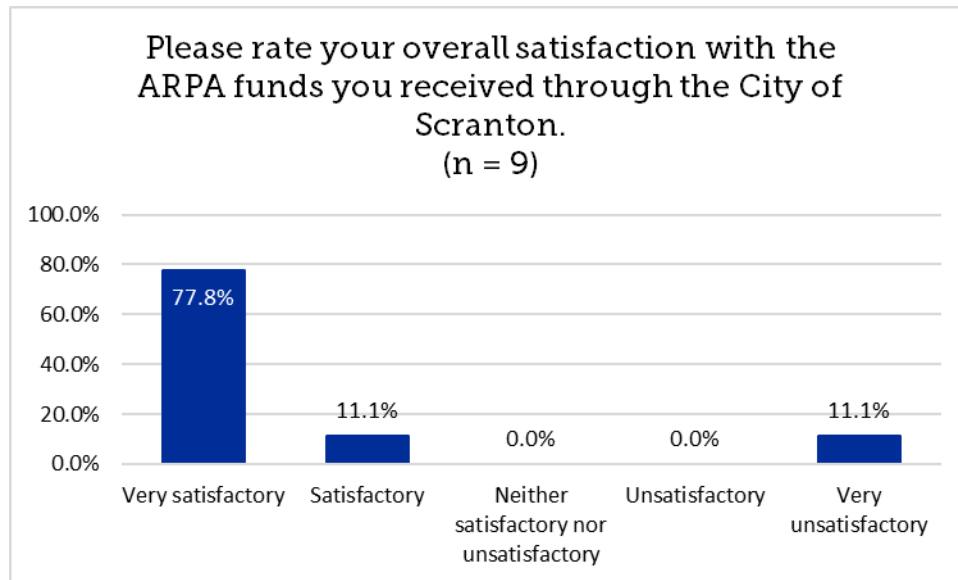


Most organizations did not experience unexpected outcomes, but two respondents noted unanticipated effects—one positive and one challenging. One organization mentioned disappointment that expected revenue did not materialize to support full-time hiring, while another reported spending twice their anticipated budget on a funded project.



Overall Satisfaction

Lastly, most respondents expressed strong satisfaction with the ARPA funding administered by the City of Scranton, with seven of nine rating their experience as “very satisfactory.” Only one respondent selected “satisfactory,” and one reported being “very unsatisfactory,” making this the only notable negative outlier. Overall, sentiment toward the program was overwhelmingly positive.



Implications

The primary data findings suggest that ARPA funding chiefly functioned as a stabilizing force for small organizations rather than a driver of large-scale job creation. Most surveyed beneficiaries reported significant gains in service expansion and productivity, with 88.9 percent noting expansion and two-thirds citing increased efficiency, while job impacts were more modest and centered on preserving existing positions rather than adding new ones. These outcomes indicate that ARPA investments helped these organizations rebound from pandemic-related strain by bolstering operational capacity, modernizing equipment, improving technology systems, and enabling organizations to serve more clients even with limited staffing. Yet the data also reveal persistent challenges: organizations continued to face staffing shortages, unstable revenue streams, and operational pressures such as compliance costs and transportation barriers, reflecting structural issues not easily resolved by one-time grants. Although satisfaction with ARPA funding was overwhelmingly positive, the presence of one highly negative outlier and several unmet goals underscores the need for clearer communication, more flexible implementation frameworks, and stronger post-award support to ensure consistent outcomes. Overall, the findings imply that while ARPA funding effectively strengthened organizational resilience and service delivery, long-term sustainability will depend on continued investment, strategic technical assistance, and systemic solutions that address deeper operational and workforce constraints.

Summary, Findings & Conclusion

The mission of Scranton’s ARPA program is to give people access to resources, rebuild the infrastructure systems that impact their everyday lives, and foster equitable wealth generation that targets the needs of Scranton residents. Below is a breakdown of closed grants awarded by the City of Scranton through January 2026.

Category	Budget
City Administrative / Improvement Grants	\$10,360,125.94
Wellness Grants	\$882,778.00

COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Grants	\$50,091.22
Home Buyer NeighborWorks Program	\$549,900.00
Educational Catch-Up Program Grants	\$274,225.00
Affordable Childcare Program Grants	\$725,775.00
Business Start Up and Expansion Grants	\$2,224,506.00
Local Arts Community Grants	\$346,417.00
SACF Nonprofit Recovery Grants	\$1,000,000.00
SACF Small Business Grants	\$1,044,323.66
SACF Childcare Providers Wage Boost Grants	\$240,527.00
SACF Childcare Reimbursement for Small Business Employees	\$356,791.69
SACF Disaster Recovery Individual Assistance Program Grants	\$383,690.00
UNC Temporary Housing Grants	\$28,519.00
Total	\$18,467,669.51

An overall evaluation creates a picture of community impact with wide-reaching effects of the ARPA funds. Through the ARPA funding, programming like the Disaster Relief Temporary Housing Assistance program reached socially and economically challenged community members, historically marginalized community members, families, children, and older adults. Additionally, City improvements were undertaken, improving all community members' lives. Mostly, however, ARPA funding helped the beneficiaries to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic disruptions that resulted. As a result, many were able to stay in business, expand their operations, and retain existing employees.

Recommendations

The recommendations below have been informed by the research conducted, as well as an examination of the grant applications and documents provided through the ARPA portal, Neighborly. Moving forward, the City of Scranton and its partner organizations should consider these recommendations for future community investments. It should be noted that several of these recommendations have been carried over from previous reports.

Support Revenue Sustainability Post-Grant

Multiple respondents cited ongoing revenue challenges even after receiving grant funding. Two technology companies noted that clients are not committing to multi-month contracts, creating revenue uncertainty. One respondent stated that "finances have been difficult since COVID." Future programming should include business development training, revenue diversification support, and potentially extended assistance for organizations still struggling with post-pandemic recovery. Additionally, the program could explore multi-year grant options for qualifying organizations and create streamlined re-application processes for proven grantees who demonstrate effective use of initial funding. Connecting these clients with the University of Scranton Small Business Development Center for technical assistance and ongoing consultation will offer needed support as well.

Expand Future Funding Categories

The survey revealed unmet needs that fell outside current funding parameters. One respondent noted that sidewalk repairs were not covered despite being a critical business need, and another mentioned

ongoing facility maintenance issues like soffit repairs. Another respondent specifically cited transportation as their primary ongoing challenge. Should future grant monies become available, programming should consider expanding eligible expense categories to include infrastructure improvements, facility maintenance, and transportation assistance.

Improve Communication Between Administrators and Beneficiaries

Communication regarding grant awards should contain clear and concise language or framework for use of the awards. Virtual communication and resource hubs can also be created for City officials and grantees to have an open communication channel, ensuring all parties have organized and relevant information.

In addition, future grant activities create opportunities to further integrate community outreach and engagement. An assertive community outreach and engagement process also creates a chance for trust-building between the City and the community.

The City should frequently communicate grant opportunities as well as progress in these projects through news releases, community conversations, direct connections with residents, and inclusion of details on City websites. Information regarding ARPA spending on websites and social media should be contained in a dedicated area with progress updated continually. It is vital to use social media to advertise opportunities to community members and to ensure wider reach. The City should also consider direct email communication about grant projects when possible. Tutorials and webinars teaching grantees about all the facets of Neighborly may also be feasible.

In the most recent round of surveys, the program's communication approach received positive feedback and should be continued. One respondent specifically praised the responsiveness, noting that staff were "informative and got back to me very quickly" and that questions were answered "within 24 hours with a response or direction." This level of service should remain a priority.

Improve Follow-Up with Beneficiaries

In conjunction with improved communication between City and program administrators and ARPA beneficiaries, improved follow-up efforts will provide more insight into the impact of funding. Despite being closed, many of the grants in Neighborly Software as well as those administered by the Scranton Area Community Foundation do not contain a final exit report among their case documents. Moreover, the City has acknowledged difficulty in getting responses from grant recipients after funding. Without follow-up documentation, the determination of any outputs and outcomes is hindered.

Additionally, while most respondents rated their experience as "Very satisfactory" or "Satisfactory," one organization provided a "Very unsatisfactory" rating. Program administrators should conduct follow-up outreach to understand specific concerns and identify any systemic issues that may affect other grantees.

Apply Equity and Inclusion Framework

ARPA funding allowed the for-profit and non-profit business sectors to have access to flexible financial assistance. Continuing forward, it is critical to apply an equity framework to target these same outcomes and opportunities across historically marginalized populations, to rely on community input throughout the program lifecycle, and to revise programs for maximum accessibility and fairness.

Equitable Program Administration Strategies

Future grantmaking should include increased focus on access and opportunity to ensure that ARPA funds are distributed fairly, openly, and equitably. City officials should evaluate existing engagement practices, identify which populations have not been reached through the ARPA funding, and consider possible barriers that underserved and marginalized communities might face.

Opportunities to engage community members involve:⁴

Language access – Written materials intended for public consumption should be translated, and public meetings and events should be accessible in a variety of languages via interpretation.

Advance notice – Public meetings should be announced and distributed through multiple channels, such as local media, social media, and community-based organizations.

Work-friendly timing – Public events should be scheduled on different days and times so residents with different shift hours are able to attend.

Accessible locations – Public meetings should be accessible to people with disabilities, offer free parking, and be located near public transit. Additionally, public meetings should be held in different parts of the City.

Childcare – On-site childcare should be considered for public meetings, so families with children can fully participate.

Digital Inclusivity – In-person and online meetings should be held so that digital fluency or reliable internet access are not barriers to participation.

Utilize Trusted Sources - Community-based organizations can assist in reaching and engaging hard-to-reach populations effectively.

Given the critical role of small businesses as generators of economic mobility, equitable recovery strategies and equity-promoting investments should be the focus of future investments.⁵ To stabilize and grow businesses owned by people of color and immigrants, the City should also consider implementing an equity framework and equity impact assessment as a part of the selection and evaluation process.

Strengthen Workforce Development Support

Staffing challenges emerged as a recurring theme across respondents. Organizations cited difficulties with staff recruitment and retention, converting interns to full-time employees, and onboarding processes. The program could partner with workforce development agencies, create internship-to-employment bridge funding, or support human resource system improvements to help grantees build sustainable teams.

Evaluator Statement

The City of Scranton's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) investments from 2023–2025 delivered measurable, wide-reaching success across all major program areas, strengthening economic stability, community well-being, public health, childcare capacity, arts and culture, nonprofit resilience, and critical infrastructure. The Institute's evaluation finds that programs consistently met or exceeded their

intended goals, as demonstrated by primary data, secondary documentation, and numerous success stories reported by beneficiaries.

Appendix A – Breakdown of Closed Business Start-Up & Expansion

Grants

Adezzo

Adezzo was formerly a coffee shop in downtown Scranton. As well as providing quality espresso drinks and gourmet breakfast and lunch items, they aimed to create a “market” culture with the sales of fresh flowers, produce, honey, gifts, chocolates, etc., all from local vendors.

Grant Award	\$70,953.80
Grant Purpose	Start-up/Expansion
Mission	Bring a New York City-style Coffee Shop to Scranton.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested to pay rent, utilities, and other miscellaneous operating costs.

Outcomes

The grant funds were spent on utilities and operational costs. Adezzo has since closed its business. All funds were disbursed.

AMPP’s Café LLC

AMPP’s Café LLC, doing business as The Retro Café, provides coffee and quick casual fare to Pine Brook residents and visitors to the community. The public health emergency significantly delayed their opening due to supply and labor shortages and added additional costs.

Grant Award	\$53,000.00
Grant Purpose	Operating/Marketing costs
Mission	Provide coffee and quick casual fare to Pine Brook residents and visitors to the community.

Grant Request

The Retro Café, which opened on November 10, 2022, after a lengthy and challenging redevelopment of a former condemned landbank property, has exhausted its initial financial cushion due to construction delays, cost overruns, and increased expenses during the pandemic. Although the full build-out is complete and the cafe is operational, the requested \$53,000 in grant funding is needed to support the business through its early months by covering essential costs such as food inventory, marketing and promotion, and employee wages until the cafe becomes profitable and self-sustaining.

Outcomes

Funds were used for initial startup costs and to fund the shortfall of the first year of business. There were no changes to the original request. The grant funds allowed AMPP to operate until enough sales were made to cover the payroll. It also allowed AMPP to pay two full-time and three part-time employees.

Bazaar Skateshop

Bazaar provides all items necessary to build and fix complete skateboards. They also provide clothing and accessories representing the culture of skateboarding and all current trends in the scene. The shop is also home to an art gallery wall that is connected to their partnership with Scranton's First Friday.

Grant Award	\$11,797.16
Grant Purpose	Recoup operating costs
Mission	Grow a community of skateboarding in NEPA. To give kids/adults a place to connect with others through a passion for skating culture.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested to be used for inventory, merchandising, and advertising. In the sense of community impact, the funds will help us run their annual community events.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not been completed to date.

Center City Print

119 Productions, Inc, doing business as Center City Print, is a locally owned commercial print shop offering a wide range of printing, design, and marketing services.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Furniture/Equipment
Mission	At Center City Print, our goal is simple- we want to ensure that you have access to high quality printing services that are sure to take your business, non-profit organization, special event, or even school project to the next level!

Grant Request

The grantee requested funds to purchase equipment. The company is relocating from 119 Penn Ave to the adjacent space at 121 Penn Ave, where it plans to create a new storefront offering expanded services such as office supplies and instant photo printing. The move will also allow for a larger production area, enabling more efficient operations and updated equipment.

Outcomes

The awarded funds permitted the grantee to purchase Xante flatbed printer and Duplo laminator. These equipment purchases enabled the grantee to increase production on signs, business cards, and menus for clients. Additionally, the grantee was able to reduce external expenses and hire additional staff.

Click-Video LLC

REACHUM is a learning platform developed by Click-Video LLC that enhances engagement and learning through activity-based and gamified methods.

Grant Award	\$79,240.00
Grant Purpose	Administrative/Personnel Costs
Mission	To build the world's most powerful and effective online communication platform.

Grant Request

The grantee noted that REACHUM has demonstrated strong value among early customers, prompting the need to scale both the platform and associated marketing efforts. To support this growth, the organization plans to use the awarded funds to hire two full-time marketing professionals and add engineering capacity equivalent to one full-time engineer. Additionally, a new patent application is required, resulting in substantial legal costs. The company also must secure D&O insurance to support a world-class board of directors and expand its office space and equipment to accommodate an increase in on-premises staff.

Outcomes

Awarded funds were spent on administrative costs, patent filing, personnel, software engineering, and consulting. Furthermore, the grant was used to accelerate REACHUM product development and marketing. The grantee asserted that as a direct result of the program, a full-time director of marketing was hired.

Downtown Deli & Eatery

A family-owned and operated business serving full breakfast and lunch daily indicated planned to expand dating back to January of 2019 when the pandemic hit, and all plans were put on hold. Monies were used elsewhere to try to keep the business alive during the closing and opening at a decreased occupancy.

Grant Award	\$77,234.00
Grant Purpose	Business expansion
Mission	To serve and contribute to the downtown district and surrounding areas.

Grant Request

Funds were requested to expand into a catering business that would serve up to 50 people on-site for funerals, small gatherings, business meetings, etc., and off premises for up to 300. This required expanding into the room next to their restaurant, adding a handicap-accessible bathroom, fixtures, furniture, painting, and necessary start-up equipment. Downtown Catering is now open as an extension of Downtown Deli and Eatery.

Outcomes

All funds were disbursed. The grantee added a catering room that seats up to 55 customers. Additionally, two full-time and two part-time employees were added to the staff.

Fellowship House Foundation

Fellowship House is a comprehensive substance abuse treatment facility dedicated to supporting individuals on their journey to recovery from Substance Use Disorder (SUD). It provides three levels of evidence-based clinical care—Partial Hospitalization (PHP), Intensive Outpatient (IOP), and General Outpatient (OP)—allowing clients to receive the level of support best suited to their needs as they progress through recovery.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Administrative/Personnel Costs

Mission	The Fellowship House carries a mission and vision to help chemically dependent individuals find long-term sobriety and personal dignity through clinical treatment and the practice of twelve step principles.
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Grant Request

The grantee requested funds to cover various costs for their business, including wages, taxes, utilities, insurance, repairs, maintenance, marketing, and accounting.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not been completed to date.

G&A Family Investment

G&A Family Investment, doing business as Papi’s Kitchen, is a restaurant offering Puerto Rican cuisine.

Grant Award	\$83,600.00
Grant Purpose	Operating costs
Mission	Offer Puerto Rican cuisine with an American twist that will not break your budget. Honoring my family’s tradition of the classic home experience you know and love.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested for start-up capital, equipment, renovation, and to address staffing needs.

Outcomes

G&A Family Investment was able to expand their business with the food trailer. Grant funds were spent on a food trailer, truck, supplies, technology, and payroll. G&A was able to expand their business through the food trailer, which added to their branding, marketing, and sales. Additionally, G&A was able to hire two employees.

Groove Brewing

Groove Brewing is a craft microbrewery located in the Pine Brook neighborhood of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Grant Award	\$83,425.00
Grant Purpose	Supplies
Mission	To manufacture craft beer and sell it regionally.

Grant Request

The grantee requested funds to expand the space of their business, which included renovations such as interior flooring and HVAC installation.

Outcomes

Awarded funds were used to expand the business location Expenses included plumbing, electrical outfitting, HVAC installation, and flooring installation.

Little Wild Refillery

Little Wild Refillery exists to help solve a problem: plastic waste. Little Wild Refillery offers sustainability education and products handmade by other local small businesses. The Refillery carries the highest quality of products at a low cost to ensure a low-waste and sustainable lifestyle is attainable to all.

Grant Award	\$19,376.00
Grant Purpose	Business costs
Mission	Educate people on the growing plastic pollution problem and, as a solution offer natural, handmade in the United States refillable products for home cleaning and personal care.

Grant Request

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting supply chain issues, the cost of ingredients and supplies to make items for the store has increased. The cost of inventory purchased from other small-batch makers and wholesalers for the store has also increased along with shipping costs. Grant funds were requested to expand the store's product range, help pay rent, hire a part-time employee, and advertise and market.

Outcomes

The grant funds were used to purchase more inventory as well as pay rent, purchase new furniture (display shelves, counter) and equipment (dishwasher, printer). The only change to the initial funding request was the hiring of a part-time employee. Little Wild Refillery indicated that the store is not busy enough yet to need an employee.

SUCCESS STORY

“Being able to purchase more inventory for my store meant being able to provide customers with even more plastic-free and low-waste alternatives to use in their daily lives. It led more new customers to my store who are now repeat customers. More inventory also meant more profit and being able to sustain the business. Being able to pay rent with the grant money meant I was able to spend profit made on even more inventory. More plastic-free and low-waste options for my customers is not only better for them and their household but better for our community and planet.”

The Loft

The Loft is a multi-functional event venue located in downtown Scranton, PA.

Grant Award	\$7,486.75
Grant Purpose	Supplies

Mission	The Loft is a multi-functional event venue with an elegant and industrial vibe located in downtown Scranton, PA. Perfect for hosting micro weddings, showers, social functions, photo shoots, and creative projects.
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Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to remodel and update the current space as well as expand the space for more public events. Additionally, funds were used for equipment and furniture purchases.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not been completed to date.

Newave Enterprise

Newave is an art and publishing company that has moved into the real estate space. The property at 1818 Jackson Street is known as the Africa Freedom Mall. The building is used as a community space, business hub, and safe haven for children and families. It will offer emergency shelter free of charge for anyone living in the 18504-zip code for at least a week. The property has a community garden and compost center available for community use.

Grant Award	\$25,525.00
Grant Purpose	Renovations
Mission	Art and publishing company that has moved into the real estate space.

Grant Request

Funding was requested for the renovation of one emergency housing space and one short-term rental on the second floor of the Africa Freedom Mall.

Outcomes

The grant funding enabled the completion of framing for the entire second-floor layout of the Africa Freedom Mall. This financial support closed an important funding gap, allowing the project to move forward without delay and positioning the awardee to complete the upstairs space within the year.

Nlyten Corp.

Nlyten Corp., doing business as GUIDE, located at the Scranton Enterprise Center, 201 Lackawanna Avenue, is a tech startup that has launched a mobile app designed to deliver proven behavioral health and wellness practices to veterans and first responders.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Mission	GUIDE's mission is to awaken the power of human potential. We leverage theories and practices from personal development, positive psychology, ego development, and transformative learning that promote growth and cross-cultural competency. These tools help people to adjust their thinking and work towards successful and sustainable change, and our mobile app deploys these principles through daily practice, achievable tasks, peer support, and accountability. With daily reinforcement, users can create new behaviors in daily life that can enhance mental

	and emotional well-being, improve life satisfaction, and protect against suicide risk factors.
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Grant Request

The grant funding will enable GUIDE to hire recent graduates from local colleges and universities and expand its team, filling roles such as Office Manager, Community Manager, Customer Success Manager, Marketing Manager, Human Resource Manager, Course Creator, and Account Executive. Although nearby institutions like The University of Scranton, Marywood University, and Lackawanna College produce highly skilled graduates, many leave the region to find career opportunities elsewhere. GUIDE aims to retain this local talent by providing meaningful employment in Scranton, helping strengthen the community and positioning the organization as a global leader in mental and emotional wellness.

Outcomes

The awarded grant enabled GUIDE to expand its capacity and impact by funding two key hires. It supported the hiring of a new Director of Course Creation, who created over 100 courses for the organization’s mobile app, directly benefiting Veterans and First Responders through expanded educational content. Additionally, the grant made it possible to bring on a new Chief Operating Officer, strengthening operational leadership and helping the company scale its mission to better serve the community.

Note Fragrances (Noteology)

Note Fragrances, Inc., doing business as Noteology, is a boutique perfumery and custom studio where customers make their own fragrances with Scent Designers through their patented process. They have a retail and online store that sells the products they manufacture and resale from other local and national makers. They also manufacture for other brands with their private label and custom manufacturing services.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Expansion
Mission	Help people feel good by smelling amazing through the powerful effects of aromas on our mind, memories, and emotions.

Grant Request

The grant funds were requested to offset the expansion expenses as well as allow the opportunity to continue to grow and expand their reach within the Scranton community and beyond.

Outcomes

Funds were used to offset the expansion expenses, which included shipping, production and assembly spaces and the introduction of the Custom Candle Studio. There were no changes to the approved use of funds. Three full-time jobs and three part-time jobs were retained as well as two part-time jobs created as a result of the ARPA funds.

SUCCESS STORY

“This grant allowed us to make the necessary improvements to expand our shipping, production, and assembly spaces so that we may scale our business both nationally with our e-commerce business and accommodate more customers with our expanded retail space. We are also able to offer the community another experience, our Custom Candle Studio, where customers can make their own candles alongside our Custom Perfume Studio.”

Saigon Corner

Saigon Corner is a Vietnamese restaurant located inside The Marketplace at Steamtown in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Grant Award	\$32,000.00
Grant Purpose	Rents and Food/Supplies Costs
Mission	Saigon Corner exists to create memorable experiences of the new taste of Vietnamese Cuisine in a lunch time environment.

Grant Request

The funds will be used to cover the restaurant’s highest operating expenses: inventory and labor. Estimated monthly payroll is \$5,350, food costs are projected at \$3,000 per month, and rent is \$2,000 per month.

Outcomes

The grant enabled Saigon Corner to move forward confidently with opening the restaurant, covering essential startup needs such as major equipment purchases, supplies, and initial food inventory. This support allowed the owners to open full-time with a complete and consistent menu rather than adding items gradually. Additionally, the funding made it possible to hire more staff immediately, ensuring the restaurant was well-prepared to serve customers from the start.

Scranton Pilates LLC

Scranton Pilates is a Pilates studio offering group, privates, and semie-private sessions in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Grant Award	\$32,037.50
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Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel/Construction Costs
Mission	<p>Organization Mission Statement: At Scranton Pilates, our mission is to provide the Scranton community with a holistic approach to fitness and well-being through the practice of Pilates. We are dedicated to empowering individuals to improve their physical strength, flexibility, and mental clarity while fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.</p> <p>Primary Purpose: Our primary purpose is to establish a state-of-the-art Pilates studio in Scranton that offers comprehensive Pilates classes, personalized training, and wellness programs. With a focus on promoting physical and mental health, we aim to help individuals of all ages and fitness levels achieve their wellness goals.</p> <p>Our mission and primary purpose reflect our commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle and empowering individuals in the Scranton community through the practice of Pilates. By securing grant funding, we can create a lasting positive impact by providing accessible fitness options and wellness services to a diverse range of individuals in Scranton.</p>

Grant Request

Through our grant application for the ARPA program, we seek funding to support the launch and operation of Scranton Pilates in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our primary purpose aligns with the program's objective of addressing the pandemic's impact by providing support to businesses and organizations that contribute to the recovery and well-being of the community.

By establishing Scranton Pilates, we aim to address the decreased demand for in-person fitness activities caused by the pandemic and provide a safe and welcoming space for individuals to prioritize their health and well-being. Our programs and services will help individuals recover physically and mentally from the challenges brought on by the pandemic, improving their overall quality of life.

Outcomes

The awarded funds were used to purchase equipment, including furniture and a computer, and subscribe to an online booking system. Moreover, the grant enabled Scranton Pilates to create a group environment for community members and visitors interested in Pilates. It also provided essential financial support that strengthened the studio's revenue, helping improve the business's overall financial stability.

Scranton Premier Mart

The Scranton Premier Mart serves as a grocery market and bar.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Furniture/Equipment
Mission	Retail convenience store

Grant Request

Funds will be used to pay for 25 percent of the startup costs for a new business located at 2010 Pittston Ave, Scranton, Pennsylvania, in an economically distressed zone.

Outcomes

All grant funds were used to purchase equipment as part of the business startup costs. The grant enabled the launch of a new business in an economically distressed area of Scranton, playing a crucial role in getting the startup off the ground. The business is expected to benefit the community by creating jobs for local residents and generating additional tax revenue for city, county, and state governments. The owners express sincere gratitude to the City of Scranton for the opportunity to receive this support.

Showcase Ventures, Inc.

Showcase Ventures, Inc. (Showcase) is a music discovery platform developed by the Founder and CEO, David Yeager.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Development, marketing, employment
Mission	To become the iconic brand for music and artist discovery.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested for their Go To Market strategy for public launch in early 2023, adding more personnel and development costs for v.2 of their MVP product.

Outcomes

The grant funds were primarily used for payroll and contractors as they hired and contracted with several people over the past few months. It also allowed Showcase Ventures to launch their MVP product in May and put their efforts toward growing the platform and company and solidifying their corporate headquarters in Scranton. Two full-time jobs were created with the help of ARPA funds.

Slick Leagues

Slick Leagues is a software development company that provides an online sports management platform that streamlines tasks such as scheduling, registration, and payment collection.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Mission	Our mission is to be the world's leading youth sports platform transforming the way our clients attract, manage and engage their customers. To make youth sports a safer more rewarding experience for athletes, parents, volunteers, administrators, families, and fans.

Grant Request

The funding will be used to finish/refine the development of our product, create a sales & market strategy, and create a sales staff.

Outcomes

The beneficiary has not completed an exit survey to date.

Spice Asian

Spice Asian is a specialty grocery store offering authentic Asian cuisine ingredients in downtown Scranton. The market is designed to help customers find traditional ingredients and snacks.

Grant Award	\$22,673.55
Grant Purpose	Expand inventory
Mission	To provide imported Asian products at a competitive price to Scranton residents.

Grant Request

The grant funds were requested to expand inventory and to purchase shelves, display racks, and cases. Funds were also used to pay for advertising on social media.

Outcomes

The grant funds were used exclusively for inventory growth. There was no change in the proposed use of funds. The grant gave Spice Asian the ability to add over 100 food and household products to their inventory. Their Asian household section has been completely reimagined. They have also added a Dessert category and stocked it. The addition of these food items has given customers a better variety of products and this has expanded the customer base.

Tiddlywinks Boutique

Tiddlywinks Boutique (now operating as Tiddlywinks Parties) is a children’s entertainment company specializing in mobile birthday parties and high-quality character visits.

Grant Award	\$25,900.00
Grant Purpose	Supplies
Mission	To bring the magic of fairy tales and superheroes to life for young children. Offering a very unique and exclusive experience that allows those who attend to meet their favorite character and interact with them in a small group environment. From craft nights to birthday parties and everyone in between, your child will create unforgettable memories in a space that is themed precisely to the fairy tale of choice. We also have a boutique with an assortment of clothing and accessories keeping up with what's "in".

Grant Request

The awarded grant funds will be used for rent and upgrades in decorations or character costumes. The funds will also be used for inventory expansion to offer the most “in style” items to customers.

Outcomes

The beneficiary has not completed an exit survey to date.

Unison Workforce Technologies, LLC

Unison Workforce Technologies, LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary of Applied Cadence, LLC) was awarded funds for the development of its all-in-one app, FY\$H (Fuel Your Side Hustle). The app was designed to support the self-employed gig economy.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
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Grant Purpose	Development, marketing, employment
Mission	Our Mission and Purpose is to assist individual users to work in or hire from the side-hustle economy (including Scranton residents) by providing a mobile platform that will help workers and customers connect with each other through a marketplace. This marketplace will allow side-hustlers to advertise and grow their personal business. Also, Unison Workforce projects to employ a total of 6 employees in 2023, 24 employees in 2024, and 84 employees by the end of 2025.

Grant Request

The grant funds were requested for the following:

Development – The marketplace will require building an XD file that identifies each screen and creates an experience for users to find work or find workers based on their services. These XD screens will be sent to developers who will evaluate the code requirements before development begins. After completion of the initial steps, development will begin, including placement in the app. Quality testing will take place by the team, and user testing will look at the ease of use and likelihood of successful customer adoption.

Marketing – Upon completion of development, marketing will determine the benefits and features that best solve the users' needs. Marketing will include writing articles, promoting key themes, advertising keywords, and creating videos that motivate use. Telemarketing will be used to engage users' experiences and isolate needs to modify the app for easier use and higher engagement.

Employment – The team will continue to engage users directly to understand the needs and barriers users experience. Marketing and development are necessary to modify and improve the app continually. Continued collaboration between marketing and development will determine a successful evolution of the app as well as satisfaction by users of the app. They are forecasting 84 high-paying employment as the project accelerates in the City of Scranton.

Outcomes

All funds were disbursed and went towards the reimbursement of development and marketing expenses associated with FY\$H.

SUCCESS STORY

“The benefit and positive impact of this grant enabled Unison Workforce Technologies to start and continue the progress of development of the mobile app to better suit the users in our area as well as advertise to potentially new users in order to help others fuel their side hustle business.”

Urban Co-Works

Opening for business in December 2023, Urban Co-Works meets the needs of today's professional workforce through a variety of affordable and flexible office packages that include daily, weekly, and monthly plans.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Business expansion
Mission	Urban Co-Works creates vibrant professional communities by providing affordable, flexible and amenity-rich office solutions to remote workers, executives, companies and other organizations.

Grant Request

The funding request was for the purchase of furniture, technology, and accessories that will be used in the coworking space.

Outcomes

Urban Co-Works used the awarded funds to purchase essential furniture, equipment, legal services, and IT resources that strengthened its coworking operations. These investments helped create a more dynamic and flexible workspace for professionals, offering affordable options for remote workers and contributing to a vibrant, collaborative community in downtown Scranton. The grant was fully utilized within the approved reimbursement period, with no changes to the intended use of funds.

SUCCESS STORY

“The ARPA grant award significantly enhanced the Urban Co-Works coworking business, fostering a dynamic environment for professionals to thrive with flexible office solutions. This support not only has helped to create a robust workspace but also helped to provide an affordable solution for remote workers, positively contributing to a vibrant and collaborative professional community in the heart of downtown Scranton.”

Vecina

Vecina is a sewing manufacturing and retail business in Scranton that designs and sells home goods and accessories in their downtown retail store. The primary purpose is to employ talented local sewers and to manufacture for other brands and companies, such as government contracts, domestic apparel companies, etc., in addition to the product lines sold in downtown Scranton. Vecina has a retail store and is also a sewing manufacturer for small-batch orders for domestic consumer product companies.

Grant Award	\$41,000.00
Grant Purpose	Furniture/Equipment

Mission	Vecina is a sewing manufacturing and retail business in Scranton. We are manufacturers who design and sell home goods and accessories in our downtown retail store. The primary purpose is to employ local talented sewers and to manufacture for other brands and companies such as government contracts, domestic apparel companies, etc. in addition to the product lines sold in downtown Scranton.
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Grant Request

Funds were requested to expand the store and cover the cost of raw materials, equipment, build-out, fixtures, rent, and wages.

Outcomes

All funds were disbursed and used to expand Vecina, opening a second space.

SUCCESS STORY

“The \$41K kept my business open & running through a very financially trying time. I would have had to close if it wasn’t for my ARPA grant. Positive impact it had for my family & household was allowing us to use any revenue from the store & reimbursement to pay necessities such as the mortgage, taxes [sic] auto payments & food. We were struggling in every sense of the word.”

Zummo’s Café

Zummo’s Café is a neighborhood coffee shop located at 918 Marion St., Scranton, PA. It is positioned as a community-focused café that serves high-quality locally roasted coffee, homemade food, baked goods, and a selection of products from local woman-owned businesses.

Grant Award	\$16,250.00
Grant Purpose	Construction Costs
Mission	Our Mission at Zummo’s Café is to be a homey and comfortable neighborhood Coffee Shop in the city of Scranton.

Grant Request

Funds were requested to cover expenses related to remodeling, equipment, design, and labor.

Outcomes

In an exit survey, the grantee explained that funds were spent on café innovations. Moreover, the grantee was able to change the flow of service and improve customer service.

The Blushing Bridal Boutique

Located in Scranton, Pennsylvania, The Blushing Bridal Boutique offers designer gowns, veils, and bridal accessories. Stylists are also available to help customers achieve their bridal vision.

Grant Award	\$5,216.25
Grant Purpose	Business Costs

Mission	The Blushing Bridal Boutique as a company prides itself on dressing the modern, sophisticated woman of all generation from around the world, with its collections that are classic and timeless, while remaining fashion-forward. Impeccable service and superior client experiences are of paramount importance. At The Blushing Bridal Boutique, we serve and partner with you in creating beautiful memories to last a lifetime. At The Blushing Bridal Boutique, our focus from day one is “YOU”
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Grant Request

The Blushing Bridal Boutique requested funds to pay its monthly Verizon bill and rent.

Outcomes

Grant funds were used to help The Blushing Bridal Boutique pay bills and receive new product. An exit report has been completed and all funds have been expended.

Boccardo Jewelers

Boccardo Jewelers is a family-owned jeweler that is the oldest continuous retail business in downtown Scranton. Its services include but are not limited to sizing, repair, diamond setting, and watch servicing.

Grant Award	\$76,969.75
Grant Purpose	Business Remodel
Mission	Provide service and quality related to fine jewelry, watches, and more.

Grant Request

Boccardo Jewelers requested funds to remodel its showroom to meet the ongoing needs and demands from their exclusive vendors.

Outcomes

Funds were used for the remodel of Boccardo Jewelers. An exit report has been completed and all funds have been expended. The following comment was taken directly from the exit report submitted by the beneficiary.

SUCCESS STORY

“Helped us afford to put more into our business for our customers and to make way towards the future.”

Chef Von’s Place

Family Affair, LLC DBA Chef Von’s Place is a restaurant that offers New American and innovative food to the downtown Scranton area.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Mission	To provide an unforgettable culinary experience to every customer, using ingredients of the freshest and highest quality.

Grant Request

Chef Von’s Place LLC requested funds to update the store front and install new floors, a kitchen, and countertops. Aside from renovation, funds would also cover the cost of new equipment, furniture, marketing, and rent deposit.

Outcomes

Grant funds were used to cover business expenses like rent and renovation. Additionally, funds were also used for equipment, furniture, and marketing purchases. An exit report has not yet been completed by the beneficiary.

Empanada King

Empanada King is a restaurant located in downtown Scranton.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Payroll and Supplies
Mission	Food

Grant Request

Empanada King requested funds to cover the cost of inventory and equipment purchases and payroll as well. Additionally, funding went towards the creation of a second location for the original Wilkes-Bare-based business in downtown Scranton.

Outcomes

According to the exit survey, funds helped with payroll as well as inventory and equipment purchases. When asked to briefly summarize the benefits the grant aware created and the positive impacts it created, the beneficiary explained that it allowed their business to expand. Moreover, it helped to fill their inventory, which allowed them to reduce the price of several items. And lastly, the grant helped market the business.

Frank’s News Tobacco & Corner Store, LLC

Frank’s News Tobacco & Corner Store, LLC is a business located in downtown Scranton offering a wide variety of products.

Grant Award	\$18,000.00
Grant Purpose	Business Costs
Mission	To provide goods and services to the general population, especially the elderly housing complexes that are within one block walking distance of Franks News Tobacco & Corner Store.

Grant Request

The awarded funds will be used to install new freezer and cooler units in the back room of Frank’s News, Tobacco & Corner Store, LLC, allowing the owner to expand the frozen food selection requested by elderly and mobility-impaired residents from nearby high-rise buildings, including Mulberry Tower. This upgrade will help customers shop locally rather than traveling farther to chain stores. The funds will also cover the replacement of a misspelled storefront sign and support general business expenses during the slower winter season.

Outcomes

Funds were used to update outdoor signage and the store’s interior. Additionally, awarded funds provided the beneficiary with an opportunity to install a new air conditioning system and pay for utilities and rent. The beneficiary also noted that there was an increase in customer traffic since upgrades were completed. Overall, awarded funds enabled the business to expand and continue providing products and services to the local community.

Joy World Wealth Partners

Joy World Wealth Partners is a woman owned and operated wealth management startup that caters specifically to the financial needs and goals of women, families, small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in our local community.

Grant Award	\$47,610.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Mission	Joy World Wealth Partners is committed to providing expert financial guidance, tailored to the unique needs and aspirations of women, young adults, families, not-for-profit organizations and small businesses enabling them to build and preserve wealth.

Grant Request

The beneficiary outlined their needs for funding below:

Technology and Operational Enhancement: “A significant portion of the grant funds will be allocated towards our technological needs. This will include investments in office computers, printer, cutting-edge financial analysis software, security system, cybersecurity measures to safeguard client data, and CRM tools to enhance client management and communications. These improvements will not only ensure the highest level of service to our clients but also increase the efficiency of our operations.”

Staff Development and Training: “A core component of our business is our team. We plan to use a portion of the grant funds to invest in training and professional development programs. This will empower our staff with the latest industry knowledge and certifications, ensuring they can provide superior financial advice and support to our clients.”

Outreach and Community Engagement: “We are committed to empowering women in our city through financial literacy programs and workshops. Grant funds will be allocated for organizing and marketing these initiatives, helping to increase financial education and awareness among women along with our entire community.”

Marketing and Branding: “Effective marketing is crucial for the growth of our business. A portion of the grant funds will be used to enhance our online presence, develop marketing materials, and conduct targeted advertising campaigns to reach a wider client base.”

Emergency Fund: “A small portion of the grant will be set aside as an emergency fund to provide financial security in case of unforeseen circumstances that may affect our business operations.”

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary.

Kind Cutz Barber Shop

Kind Cutz Barbershop and Salon is a new venture aimed at providing high-quality services to the residents of Scranton, Pennsylvania. It offers a range of services, including precision haircuts, beard trims, hot towel shaves, and grooming treatments for men as well as cuts for women and children.

Grant Award	\$24,337.50
Grant Purpose	Supplies
Mission	With a commitment to traditional barbering techniques, personalized customer experiences, and a welcoming atmosphere, we aim to establish ourselves as the go-to destination for individuals seeking top-notch haircuts and hair care services in the area.

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds for inventory and business expenses.

Outcomes

Funds were used to purchase new equipment and supplies. This new equipment will be used for events whereas the supplies are for assisting the beneficiary when cutting Autistic children's hair. An exit report has been completed and all funds have been expended.

Northeast Title & Tag, Inc.

Northeast Title and Tag, Inc. provides online messenger services across 15 sites in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Grant Award	\$12,814.60
Grant Purpose	Furniture/Equipment
Mission	Northeast Title & Tag, Inc. has been a trusted provider of Online Messenger Services in Pennsylvania since 1995.

Grant Request

Northeast Title & Tag, Inc. requested funds to establish a new decentralized service center at 930 S Washington Ave, Scranton, PA 18504, Lackawanna County.

Outcomes

An exit report has been completed by the beneficiary. Reportedly, grant funds were spent on labor expenses, materials, and office furniture for the expansion and update of two Scranton offices.

SUCCESS STORY

“The benefits of the grant reached our customer base by providing updated, refurbished offices to improve the customers’ experience, making it more convenient for our older customers to come to a closer location, and providing our services to more potential customers around the area.”

Pilgers' Pastries

Pilgers' Pastries is a bakery located in downtown Scranton. It intends to emphasize fresh, high-quality ingredients, sanitary kitchen management, excellent customer service, and multichannel marketing.

Grant Award	\$42,740.74
Grant Purpose	Start-Up Funds
Mission	Our mission is to offer our creative pastries, as well as fresh and vibrant food choices, in a small, casual, neighborhood eatery in the Scranton market with top notch customer service. We strive to build community ties and we plan to offer a relatively inexpensive, simple menu in a warm, inviting atmosphere.

Grant Request

Pilgers' Pastries applied for a grant from the ARPA Fund to convert a previous specialty ice cream shop into a neighborhood bistro to begin full-time operation.

Outcomes

The beneficiary has submitted an exit survey. Funding was used to pay rent and utility bills that were past their due date. Additionally, equipment was purchased using the awarded funds, including a sandwich and salad cooler, espresso machine, shelving, and small wares (i.e., plates, silverware, glasses, etc.). Furthermore, inventory, packaging, and a label machine were purchased to "make our items look more professional." Lastly, a sink and counter area were added to the drink station.

Moreover, when identifying the positive impacts created by the funding, the beneficiary explained that it helped relieve stress, catch up with late expenses, and expand their offerings to the community.

Ruddy's Landmark Café

Ruddy's Landmark Café is a pub and restaurant located in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Grant Award	\$2,572.41
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Mission	Ruddy's Landmark Café will provide a relaxed comfortable space where everyone, not only the neighborhood locals and workers, is able to come and consume a nutritious wholesome meal and enjoy their favorite beverages. Ruddy's Landmark Café boasts all of the original tin ceiling and walls, however, the original floor to ceiling wood and mirrored bar is the Café's real masterpiece. Combining a polished original masterpiece, offering a daily homecooked nutritious and wholesome meal with fresh ingredients and delightfully serving everyone will be our success.

Grant Request

This grant request is driven by the inability to obtain a required Certificate of Occupancy from the City of Scranton, which has halted progress on the project. Unexpected major expenses—including the installation of a new interconnected fire alarm and security system, as well as the replacement and installation of a furnace—have exhausted the funds originally reserved for completing these requirements. Grant funds will be used to cover the cost of the new furnace and its installation and the comprehensive fire and security system. These improvements are essential for meeting city code and securing the Certificate of Occupancy.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been submitted by the grantee.

Sanh Investments, LLC

Sanh Investments, LLC, doing business as Express Title and Tag, offer services such as notarial acknowledgement, notarial copy certification, jurat, signature witnessing, apostille or authentication, fingerprinting, and notarization.

Grant Award	\$13,746.00
Grant Purpose	Advertisement and Signage
Mission	Title and tag agency contracted with PennDOT.

Grant Request

Sanh Investments, LLC, requested funding for the creation of a new business in South Scranton.

Outcomes

Funds were used to pay for building signage and advertisement. Moreover, it helped improve the exterior appearance of the business and visibility. Consequently, there was an improvement regarding customer traffic. Grant funding also supported payroll and general operating expenses. An exit report has been completed and all funds have been expended.

Sho Laboratories, LLC

Sho Laboratories, LLC is a research and development company located in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Grant Award	\$49,999.99
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Mission	Sho Laboratories, LLC is a research and development company focused on integrating hardware/IoT into newly created IP/products specifically for automated and enhanced manual data collection for multiple verticals and emerging markets for NEPA.

Grant Request

The grantee is looking to hire a recent/upcoming college graduate in the information technology field to perform R&D on Sho Labs first software product and help bring it to market.

Outcomes

Sho Laboratories used the grant funding to successfully advance two major technology products, complete its planned expansion budget of \$207,000, and support significant business growth. The funding enabled the company to outsource necessary technical services, hire a recent Computer Science graduate, deploy a full Microsoft Azure cloud environment, and acquire high-performance hardware for AI development. These investments collectively strengthened Sho Labs' operational capacity, expanded its client base, and accelerated its overall development trajectory.

Sho Technology Solutions, LLC

Sho Technology Solutions, LLC, is a computer software organization focused on delivering software solutions to its clients. As an Application Service Provider (ASP) paired with powerful cloud infrastructure

partners, the business creates and/or obtains software solutions. Sho Technology Solutions, LLC, also serves as a Managed Service Provider (MSP) by supporting and maintaining its client's existing software.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Mission	Providing software development and consulting solutions for small business productivity software.

Grant Request

Sho Technology Solutions, LLC requested funds to invest in personnel and training. Additionally, these funds will be used to invest in technology infrastructure.

Outcomes

Funding helped the beneficiary to achieve a variety of business goals, including the expansion of physical space, installation of computer networking infrastructure, and the recruitment of additional staff members. Moreover, because of the awarded ARPA funds and additional funding provided by the business's owner, the beneficiary has experienced significant client growth, expanded its staff, implemented up-to-date technology, and provided training to its employees.

Sky Auto Sales

Sky Auto Sales is a local used car dealership that offers a variety of pre-owned vehicles.

Grant Award	\$49,000.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Mission	To provide affordable vehicles for transportation and service to the Scranton area.

Grant Request

The awarded funds will be used to purchase storage containers that will be used to store all equipment and supplies.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been submitted by the grantee.

Appendix B – Breakdown of Local Arts Community Grants

Arcadia Chorale

Arcadia Chorale is a musical performing group that serves Northeastern Pennsylvania with a variety of choral performances. Some of these performances include the annual Messiah Sing-Along and NEPA Bach Festival, as well as a fall concert, Christmas concert, and a Pops concert in conjunction with the Doug Smith Jazz Trio. In addition, Arcadia Chorale sponsors an annual Pasta Dinner fundraiser.

Grant Award	\$16,774.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: None Part-Time: One Other: Accompanist and singer who are paid on a per-service basis; hire musicians for at least three events
Mission	The Arcadia Chorale is committed to promoting the highest standard of excellence in the performance of choral music for the education and enjoyment of the membership and the community at large.

Grant Request

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both the Bach Festival and Pops concert were cancelled in 2020. Because Arcadia Chorale’s musicians are paid per service, they were not paid for these two events. Only Arcadia Chorale’s music director received payment since he is salaried. For the 2020-2021 season, Arcadia Chorale did not perform any in-person concerts, but instead produced three videos. The music director continued to be paid his salary, whereas none of the other musicians were not paid because there were no in-person concerts. However, Arcadia Chorale’s singers and accompanist were paid for the services required to produce the videos.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary. However, the impact of funding was revealed in electronic surveys. Funding allowed Arcadia Chorale to expand its services and marketing. Additionally, the grant enabled it to put on major choral work for the 2025 NEPA Bach Festival and helped to pay for the increase in musician costs needed for this concert. It also provided resources to market the concert “more vigorously.” Moreover, the individuals associated with Arcadia Chorale are hopeful that the grant will help with audience development. However, the funded events have yet to be held.

Ballet Theatre of Scranton

The Ballet Theatre of Scranton is Northeastern Pennsylvania’s oldest existing performing organization. The Company plays an active role in promoting the arts in the community and has participated in area educational programs at the University of Scranton, Keystone College, and Marywood University. In addition, the Ballet Theatre of Scranton conducts outreach to educate children about the arts and performs at a variety of community events throughout the region.

Grant Award	\$28,412.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: None

	Part-Time: None Other: Had two independent contractors in Q4 2019
Mission	Ballet Theatre of Scranton enriches Northeastern Pennsylvania through dance performances and education programs.

Grant Request

The Ballet Theatre of Scranton requested funds to address administrative and independent contractor expenses.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary. However, the impact of funding was revealed in electronic surveys. Funds were used during the COVID-19 pandemic for outdoor performances and to assist with 'Nutcracker Film' costs. Moreover, funds were used to expand services and meet increased costs to present multiple ballet performances.

Christopher Capozza

Christopher Capozza is an independent instructor associated with the Scranton Music Academy.

Grant Award	\$6,774.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: None Part-Time: None Other: Independent artist with no employees
Mission	We make it our mission to help our students explore and develop their talents, wherever their curiosity and interests lead them.

Grant Request

Christopher Capozza noted that the Scranton Music Academy has not been able to enroll enough students to retain extra teachers.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary.

The Dishonest Fiddlers

The Dishonest Fiddlers is a musical group based in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Grant Award	\$40,100.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: Four Part-Time: None Note: Had six full-time members in the band in Q4 of 2019, but experienced personnel changes

Grant Request

When in-person events and gatherings were cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the beneficiaries were unable to provide live in-person performances in any capacity.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary. However, the impact of funding was revealed in electronic surveys. Funding helped the beneficiaries to purchase new equipment, and both expand and market services. As they explained, funding helped when it came to recording, mixing, and mastering their new album. Additionally, it also allowed the beneficiaries to extend their touring and recoup financial losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. As the beneficiaries explained, “The Arpa program helped us recover from the many setbacks the group endured during covid as our entire industry completely stopped.” Furthermore, they identified wage growth assistance as being impacted by funding.

When identifying business-related goals that were achieved with the funds they received through ARPA, the beneficiary identified new hires, increased productivity, and expansion. Moreover, the beneficiary explained that they plan to host a folk festival in Scranton.

Gregory Kondrat

The beneficiary is a performing musician and music instructor who has maintained his business for twenty years.

Grant Award	\$8,387.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: One Part-Time: None

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to address administration and personnel costs, as well as funds lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary.

Jacob Cole

The beneficiary is an independent artist, specifically a professional musician rooted in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Grant Award	\$8,387.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: None Part-Time: None Other: Independent artist with no employees
Mission	I hope I can either inspire or move you through my music.

Grant Request

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the beneficiary has experienced a general reduction in hours. His in-person teaching opportunities decreased from four days a week to one day a week. He has also lost a lot of performance opportunities with live music being cancelled and venues closed.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary. However, the impact of funding was revealed in electronic surveys. Funding helped the beneficiary to purchase new equipment, as well as expand his services and marketing efforts. Moreover, through ARPA funding, the beneficiary increased his productivity and was able to expand his business. As the beneficiary explained, “It helped me be able to set up an LLC and buy new equipment to expand my business as well as cover marketing and business costs.”

Jeannine Luby

The beneficiary is an individual artist who facilitates laughter yoga sessions for organizations to help their employees relieve stress.

Grant Award	\$5,050.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: One Part-Time: None
Mission	Stress management using laughter exercises.

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to address administration and personnel costs, as well as funds lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary.

Kouvaris Bibbins

No Regrets Records is an independent music label founded in 2019 that specializes in the genres of Pop, R&B, Hip-Hop, Experimental, Electronic, and Urban.

Grant Award	\$8,387.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: One Part-Time: None
Mission	No Regrets Records mission is dedicated to giving our artists the best and most prime opportunities to live out their dreams and aspirations as professional artists as well as provide them with the tools and give them the space for them to grow, develop and soar high in the elements of music.

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to cover the cost of equipment, construction, legal fees and permits, marketing, furniture, and other supplies.

Outcomes

An exit report has not yet been completed by the beneficiary.

Marko Marcinko

The beneficiary is an individual artist that makes a living from performing, booking, and hosting musical events.

Grant Award	\$8,548.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: One Part-Time: None Note: There were two full-time employees and two part-time employees in 2019 Q4.
Mission	By providing free or low-cost performances, in a variety of settings, from parks to restaurants, to clubs, I am opening myself, other musicians, and students, to the opportunity of performing for all our society.

Grant Request

As the beneficiary explained, funding would provide fiscal allowances to lift the burden of amassed debt caused by both the 2020 shutdown and the drawing of personal finances to support his professional career. A funding award would also allow the beneficiary to continue teaching, performing, and growing his exposure as a professional musician.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary.

Michael J. Puskas

The beneficiary is an independent artist.

Grant Award	\$8,387.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: None Part-Time: None Other: Independent artist with no employees

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to recover from financial losses inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary. However, the impact of funding was revealed in electronic surveys. Funding helped the beneficiary to purchase new equipment, as well as expand both his services and marketing efforts. In terms of business-related goals that were achieved through ARPA funding, the beneficiary identified increased productivity and expansion.

One Voice Studios, LLC

One Voice Studios, LLC is owned and operated by a full-time performing artist. Since 2018, One Voice Studios, LLC has supplemented the artist's income by providing vocal lessons to private students.

Grant Award	\$8,387.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs

Employees	Full-Time: One Part-Time: None
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Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to help pay rent and other debts, as well as musicians, venues, and sound technicians for recitals.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary. However, the impact of funding was revealed in electronic surveys. Funding helped with paying rent and debts, as well as musicians, venues, and sound technicians for recitals. Moreover, the artist asserted that, “without programs like this, I may not have been able to survive through all that and still thrive. So, I thank you from the bottom of my heart!”

Philharmonic Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania

The Philharmonic Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania provides live symphonic performances and music education to the community. The Philharmonic Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania was formed in 1970 after the separate Philharmonics groups of Wilkes-Barre and Scranton came together. Today, the group is the only fully professional symphony in the region.

Grant Award	\$45,000.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: Four Part-Time: 96 Note: Since March 2020, no musicians are on payroll and staff was reduced by two people.
Mission	The NEPA Philharmonic’s mission is to present live symphonic performances and music education at the highest level of artistic excellence, enriching, and engaging the people of our region.

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to “recover from the pandemic’s financial impact.”

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary. However, the impact of funding was revealed in electronic surveys. With ARPA funding, the beneficiary paid staff wages for three full-time employees and one part-time employee between August and October 2024. The remaining funds were used for 38 musicians on the payroll in October 2024, as well as musician wages for October auditions. As the beneficiary explained, “The City of Scranton ARPA grant helped us pay musicians their contracted wage increase and pay the Pilharmonic staff without pay cuts.” Furthermore, the beneficiary asserted that without the grant, “it may have been necessary to reduce the number of concerts in our 2024-2025 Season and/or reduce our already limited staff.”

Scranton Civic Ballet Company

The Scranton Civic Ballet Company is a pre-professional ballet company and dance school and was founded in 1978 by Helen M. Gaus. Additionally, the objective of Scranton Civic Ballet Company is to educate its students and the public in the art and appreciation of dance.

Grant Award	\$30,000.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: None Part-Time: Seven Note: Since March 2020, staff at the Ballet Company decreased by one part-time employee.
Mission	It is the Company's mission to educate our members and the public in the art of dance while bringing the talents of well-known artists, choreographers and master teachers into Northeast Pennsylvania for our students as well as our audiences.

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to address administration and personnel costs, as well as funds lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary.

Scranton Jazz Festival

The Scranton Jazz Festival is an annual three-day festival that attracts international, national, and regional jazz/blues and world beat artists to showcase their talent. The event has been held at the historic Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in downtown Scranton since 2007.

Grant Award	\$22,723.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: Two Part-Time: Five Note: 2019 – Scranton Jazz Festival had eight employees: two full-time and five part-time positions. 2021 – dropped to six employees: two full-time and three part-time positions. 2022 – additional decline in employees: two full-time and two part-time positions.
Mission	Our mission is to bring Jazz, Blues and World Beat Music to our community and offer a cultural and educational experience to all.

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to address administration and personnel costs, as well as funds lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary. However, the impact of funding was revealed in electronic surveys. With ARPA funding, the Scranton Jazz Festival was able to expand its services, increase its wages, and better market its services. In terms of business-related goals that were

achieved with the funds received through ARPA, the beneficiary identified expansion. As the beneficiary explained in an electronic survey, “Funds will be able to defray costs due to inflation, assist building with our ongoing festivals, and allow compensation for committee members.”

Scranton Music Academy

The Scranton Music Academy is Northeastern Pennsylvania’s largest music school, offering a variety of lessons to its students.

Grant Award	\$33,548.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	First-Time: Four Part-Time: None Other: 34 Independent Contractors Note: Scranton Music Academy went from 34 independent contractors/teachers in 2019 to 23 contractors/teachers in 2024. Employees went from four in 2019 to two in 2021 through 2024.
Mission	To provide students of all ages with the skills they need to enjoy music for a lifetime!

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to address higher costs of operation, business expenses, and financial losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary. However, the impact of funding was revealed in electronic surveys. With ARPA funding, the Scranton Music Academy was able to purchase new equipment, expand its services, and increase its marketing and advertising. Moreover, with the funds received through ARPA, the Scranton Music Academy was able to accomplish its business-related goals of adding new hires and increasing productivity.

Scranton Music Association

The Scranton Music Association provides musical events to the public as a professional society and association in arts, culture, and humanities. Its programs revolve around bringing music events to the community with special outreach to older adults.

Grant Award	\$20,000.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: None Part-Time: 355

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to recoup lost funds because of inactivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary. However, the impact of funding was revealed in electronic surveys. With ARPA funding, the Scranton Music Association was able to expand its services and increase its wages. In addition, more programs for senior citizens are now being facilitated. Furthermore, ARPA funding helped the Scranton Music Association to accomplish its business-related goals of adding new hires and expanding its business. However, as related in an electronic survey, the Scranton Music Association is still unable to meet “increased demand and make up for lost programs during COVID.”

Step By Step Dance Studio & Ballroom

Step By Step Dance and Studio & Ballroom is a dance studio located in Scranton, Pennsylvania, offering instruction in a variety of dances.

Grant Award	\$33,279.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: One Part-Time: One Other: Five independent contractors Note: Had to decrease number of part-time employees from five to one because of the pandemic.
Mission	Our mission is to teach each student to dance together, have fun and achieve their own dance goals respectfully, in a safe, positive and fun studio environment, using the most current and effective dance instruction methods and equipment available.

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to address administration and personnel costs, as well as funds lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary.

Tony Vergnetti

The beneficiary is a self-employed musician providing services including musical performances and other music related activities.

Grant Award	\$8,387.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: One Part-Time: None

Grant Request

The beneficiary requested funds to address administration and personnel costs, as well as funds lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary.

Zach Sprowls

The beneficiary is a musician based in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Grant Award	\$5,887.00
Grant Purpose	Administration/Personnel Costs
Employees	Full-Time: None Part-Time: One

Grant Request

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the beneficiary lost all work “for several months.” The beneficiary also asserts that audience attendance and work opportunities are still not back to pre-pandemic level. Consequently, the beneficiary applied for ARPA funding.

Outcomes

An exit survey has not yet been completed by this beneficiary. However, the impact of funding was revealed in electronic surveys. With ARPA funding, the beneficiary was able to better market his services. The beneficiary also explained that the funding “supported other local artists and businesses” and “increased awareness in the community.” When identifying business-related goals that were achieved with the funds he received, the beneficiary identified expansion. Conversely, the beneficiary felt that greater community engagement is still needed.

Appendix C – Breakdown of Nonprofit Recovery Grants

Where available, the specific request and outcomes of each awarded grant are included in their respective breakdown.

The Arc of Northeastern PA

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania is a grassroots organization formed in 1955 by a group of parents seeking public education for their children with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD). The Scranton School District was the first in the state to have a classroom for children with intellectual disabilities. Since that time, a growing number of parents, neighbors, and members of the business and professional communities have faced numerous challenges in advocating for children and adults with IDD.

The Arc continues to be a strong voice for education rights, community support, progressive legislation, and public awareness. The Arc of the US is the largest organization dedicated to individuals with IDD and their families.

Program and Services:

- Adult Day Service
- Vocational Services
- Community Participation Supports
- Senior Program
- Supported Employment
- Advocacy
- Recreation
- Community Residential Program
- Supported Living
- Life Sharing through Family Living

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Revenue loss
Employees	Full-time – 95 Part-time – 53
Mission	The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. We support children and adults with IDD and their families through a variety of programs and services.

Grant Request

The grant funds were requested to cover COVID-19-related economic losses due to a reduction in revenue. Funding would also allow recovery from the loss in their Adult Day Program from a closure that occurred due to COVID-19.

Outcomes

In response to one of the electronic survey questions, the beneficiary revealed that because of funding, the organization was able to retain its employees. As the beneficiary explained, “The Arc did not lay-off any employees during the closures associated with the pandemic.”

Bhutanese Cultural Foundation of Scranton Association (BCFSA)

The Bhutanese Cultural Foundation of Scranton Association (BCFSA) was established in 2016. The Foundation was established initially to bring awareness in areas such as mental health, drug, and alcohol abuse, as well as suicide prevention. Presently, BCFSA also continues to promote volunteerism opportunities with various entities, free interpretation services, teaching ESL, citizenship class, job opportunities and orientation, free transportation to medical appointments, and crisis counseling for domestic violence and drug and alcohol abuse.

Since the pandemic, BCFSA has had to shift its focus to additional support through COVID (Moderna and Pfizer) and Flu vaccine clinics through the Department of Health. The organization has also provided free COVID Kits for at-home testing, nutrition classes, health screenings, educational information discussed above, as well as COVID information. BCFSA has also contributed to Kick COVID-19 with other organizations to provide awareness about the importance of vaccines in Lackawanna County and hold food and personal protective equipment (PPE) drives during the pandemic. Additionally, BCFSA actively participated in the 2020 census and held voter education and voter registration opportunities.

Grant Award	\$952.72
Grant Purpose	Loss in funds directly related to COVID
Employees	Full-time – One Part-time – Two
Mission	Bhutanese Cultural Foundation of Scranton Association (BCFSA) was founded in 2013 to Protect, Preserve, and Promote Bhutanese Cultural, Traditions, Values and Language to facilitate early integration into the mainstream of American Society.

Grant Request

The purpose of the BCFSA grant request was to cover the loss of funds directly related to COVID-19 so that the BCFSA can continue to promote the quality of life of Bhutanese Refugees in Scranton, as well as raising mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide prevention awareness to the community.

Specifically, BCFSA will start payroll and will host a reach out event for those in Lackawanna County to inform them they are providing services again and hold religious events. Through the grant BCFSA will provide more services to the community, including the elderly.

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary’s electronic survey response, grant funds helped to provide health education at its community health fairs.

Boy Scouts of America Northeastern Pennsylvania Council

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Council, BSA delivers the programs of the Boy Scouts of America (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Learning for Life) to the youth and families in Scranton and throughout the Council's territory (Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties). The Council delivers Scouting programs to 1,521 youth members in 97 local Scouting "units"

(Cub Scout packs, Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews, and Learning for Life groups). The Council operates an administrative office in Moosic and camps at Goose Pond Scout Reservation in Lake Ariel and Camp Acahela in Blakeslee.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Funds will be used for operating costs
Employees	Full-time – Nine Part-time – None
Mission	Boy Scouts of America prepares young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Grant Request

The COVID-19 public health emergency adversely impacted Scouting membership, membership-based revenue, fundraising, and overall earnings in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council. BSA Funds were requested for operating costs.

The primary objective of the grant funds is to use the funds to ensure that opportunities for youth to participate in Scouting are available to youth and families throughout the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council territory.

Their goal is to serve 2000 youth by December 31, 2022, and to serve 3,000 youth by December 31, 2025. Based on their current membership of 1,520, they will need to recruit 480 young people to ensure that they are on track with their long-term objective.

To reach 3,000 youth, they will need to establish new partnerships with community organizations, especially those serving underserved populations in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. They also need to expand the Exploring and Learning for Life programs, which provide career-focused programs for young adults between the ages of 14 and 20. To expand the Exploring and Learning for Life program, the Council will establish partnerships with businesses and emergency-service providers (rescue squads, fire departments, etc.).

The ultimate impact of the grant requested will be to deliver Scouting's program of character-development, citizenship-development, leadership-development, fitness-development, and socialization to more youth and families.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Founded in 1899, chartered in 1916, and incorporated in 1927, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania has been at the forefront of youth development activities and working with young people from a variety of economic, social, and family circumstances. The initiatives are aimed at building self-confidence and self-esteem.

The After School, Summer, and Virtual Programs comprise five core programming areas geared to the overall health and wellness of at-risk children. The core programs encourage activities with adults, peers, community leaders, and family members.

Below are the five core areas of BGNEPA.

- Health And Life Skills
- Sports, Fitness, and Recreation
- Character And Leadership Development
- Education And Career Development

- The Arts

Grant Award	\$45,000.00
Grant Purpose	Loss in Fundraising revenue for operations
Employees	Full-time – Seven Part-time – 15-20
Mission	The mission of the Club is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Grant Request

Prior to the pandemic, BSA served 1,000 boys and girls, ages six to 18 years old, annually. Grant funds were requested to replace funds lost due to cancelling in-person special events because of COVID-19. The following special in-person events were canceled or modified with loss of revenue due to COVID-19: Wings at the Waterpark, Banking on our Kids, Hurl the Pearl, Champion of Youth, Golf Tournament, and Designer Purse Bingo. Special event funds are used to pay for organizational expenses not covered by grants that are for specific programs or purposes. Additionally, funds were requested to allow them to continue to provide the many programs and activities free of charge or discounted to the children who need them most.

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary’s electronic survey response, grant funds helped “us get back on our feet after the pandemic.”

Breathe & Prosper Corporation

Breathe & Prosper is a meditation and mindfulness healing art nonprofit. The organization was created to provide resources to those pursuing mindfulness and practicing meditation. Moreover, it provides access to space and necessary materials to practice and explore meditation and mindfulness.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Mission	We have one mission, and all our goals serve this mission. We are bringing to underserved populations the full circle of wellness of body, mind and spirit, through the abundant avenues of the healing arts as a complementary or alternative medicine plan.

Catherine McAuley Center

The Catherine McAuley Center provides a variety of programs and resources to the community, including family support programming, emergency shelter, housing, food, menstrual health items, and gifts for families in need each holiday season.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Mission	The mission of the Catherine McAuley Center is to serve those experiencing homelessness in NEPA through housing programs, case management and supportive services.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, Inc.

The Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is a nonprofit community service organization operating on a non-sectarian basis that can trace its origin back to 1877 with the founding of St. Patrick’s Orphanage in Scranton. Today, it provides drug and alcohol services to individuals and families. Additionally, Catholic Social Services offers family and youth service programs; pregnancy and maternal health resources; relief assistance programs; mental health resources; and assistance to individuals to become citizens of the United States. Moreover, the Catholic Social Services provides food assistance by operating out of Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre and several food pantries across Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Mission	Rooted in the Gospel, the mission of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is to serve individuals and families in poverty and hardship, as we are called by Christ to do, and to respond compassionately to their needs. As a Catholic agency, we advocate for individual dignity and self-sufficiency and actively give of ourselves to replace despair with hope.

Center for Health and Human Services Research and Action

The Center for Health and Human Services Research and Action represents county government, academic experts, and a wide range of human services and health providers. This representation fosters collaboration across different specialties. Moreover, it means that there is access to data and the means to support making the results actionable.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Mission	The mission of The Center for Health & Human Services Research and Action is to promote/ensure the optimal integration and performance of the Integrated Health and Human Service Delivery System using analysis, planning, action and oversight to inform and support our human service, behavioral health and physical health systems of care.

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary’s electronic survey response, grant funds provided the funding “needed to launch business.”

Center for the Living City

Launched by a group of activists, practitioners, and academics in 2005, the Center for the Living City holds the singular distinction of being the only urbanist organization founded in collaboration with Jane Jacobs. Social, environmental, and economic justice forms the core of its purpose. The Center works to invite all perspectives, particularly those of the marginalized, to participate in the creation of solutions that are empathic, responsive, and community based.

Grant Award	\$5,000.00
Grant Purpose	Staff salaries/General operations
Employees	Full-time – One

	Part-time – One
Mission	<p>To inspire civic engagement and leadership, invite creative urban solutions; and expand understanding of the ecology of cities. We develop programs that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broaden civic engagement and cultivate leadership with increased concentration on marginalized populations (equitable engagement) • Encourage and assist collective inquiry and utilization of community-based participatory planning • Invite problem-solving through innovation and community-generated creative responses • Elevate the position and perspective of women and girls and marginalized voices in all initiatives • Advance as a conceptual and strategic framework the “ecology of cities” (integration of social, environmental, and economic systems in addressing urban challenges) • Advocate progress from conventional best practices to a collective vision of best possibilities.

Grant Request

A \$50,000 grant was requested to allow staff to get programming rooted in the community. These funds were requested to support staff time to work in administrative, grantsmanship, and fundraising efforts/expenses as well as local programming such as the Jane Jacobs Collegiate Consortium, the Jane Jacobs Lecture Series, Observe Youth programming, and community design projects.

Outcomes

The \$5,000 grant award was spent to assist in general operations by supporting staff time to work on programming, administration, grantsmanship, and fundraising. The \$5,000 grant allowed the Center for City Living to pay their 1.5 full-time employees. The grant funds were spent as initially intended and agreed upon to cover staff salary and general operations.

One critical accomplishment was building upon the Jane Jacobs Collegiate Consortium and establishing a strong partnership with Marywood University to create the Living City Lab. The Living City Lab is a co-created space for experiential learning, where students address global challenges on a local scale. It consists of three key components: education, projects, and networking (community). Through integrated coursework rooted in urban ecology and sustainability, students across all disciplines create action-oriented local impact, work on real-life public design projects, connect with local leaders, and develop strong interdisciplinary career-connected pathways and local relationships. This new endeavor would not have existed without the grant funds helping to support these efforts.

SUCCESS STORY

“The \$5,000 grant gave the Center for City Living the necessary time and resources to support their work. They were able to create a multi-year funded Living City Lab; hold an incredibly successful second biennial Jane Jacobs's First City Festival in Scranton where nearly 1,000 community members attended programming, events, and displays at the Scranton Lace Building and the new Living City Lab.

Additionally, they were able to support students and their Glacier Jane project that won second place at the final stage of the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Design Challenge. These students are now working to build their design in our new Living City Lab to create two floating houseboats on Ely Lake and the Girl Scout Troop House at the Girl Scouts of PA's Camp Archbald

The Center for City Living gained support from the 2023 Women in Philanthropy Awards for STEAM Education for teenage girls at Camp Archbald in conjunction with Living City Lab's Glacier Jane project. And they also held their Jane Jacobs Lecture Series with support from American Institute of Architects NEPA and Marywood University.

Additionally, they presented the Center for the Living City's inaugural Jane Jacobs Leadership Award to Kimberly Dowdell, AIA President elect. This award and honoree helped the Center garner international support for our work.”

Child Hunger Outreach Partners

Child Hunger Outreach Partners (CHOP) serves children through various hunger-relief programs, including the following:

Backpack Program- Students are given a bag of food every Friday to take home and get them through the weekend. Bags include easy-to-prepare, nutritious foods and fresh produce.

In-School Pantries - At the high school level, an in-school pantry is self-serve to all students. This is self-policed and teaches students to self-advocate for their needs. Foods are grab-and-go nutritious snacks, as well as food to be taken home and prepared.

Pop-Up Pantries- Pop-Up Pantries allow CHOP to come into a community with a box truck full of food, including pantry staples, fresh produce, frozen meats, and dairy. There are no income restrictions.

Summer Meal Programs - Depending on the program, the distribution model varies. Sometimes, the team will host a weekly summer program with a meal/snack; other times, backpack-like boxes are distributed to families.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Expand existing food programs
Employees	Full-time – six Part-time – six
Mission	The mission of Child Hunger Outreach Partners is to create an entire generation that doesn't know hunger through innovative and collaborative outreach partnerships.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to expand existing food programs due to the increased level of service due to the pandemic. This included purchasing an additional cargo van that was necessary to launch services in Scranton, as well as staffing and supply increases such as bags, food, and fuel.

Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA (CAC/NEPA)

The CAC/NEPA provides the following services to City of Scranton residents:

Forensic Interviews: These occur in a comfortable space in our Center by a trained forensic interviewer. To minimize the number of times a survivor must disclose their abuse, the interview is recorded.

Advocacy: A Child Advocate is assigned to each child, and they help the family navigate this crisis and refer them to any support services they may need.

Therapy: Without intervention, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) like abuse and neglect can contribute to lifelong negative health outcomes, including chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse. With 82 percent of therapy clients relying on medical assistance due to low income, CAC ensures trauma therapy is available to all children.

Prevention Education: In partnership with Penn State University and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, CAC/NEPA will implement Project Safe and Smart, a pilot project to educate 2,000 students in second grade, including all Scranton School District second grade classrooms, and their caregivers over a two-year period. By providing evidence-informed, age-appropriate information about the signs and symptoms of abuse and how to report it, CAC/NEPA will implement one of the strongest tools against child maltreatment: prevention education.

On-Call Services: CAC/NEPA provides on-call services for Lackawanna and the surrounding counties, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Forensic interviewers, medical personnel, and victim advocates are always on-call and prepared to handle any cases that may be referred after hours, including nights, weekends, and holidays.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Loss of fundraising revenue and reduction in program participant fees.
Employees	Full-time – Ten Part-time – Nine
Mission	The mission of the Children’s Advocacy Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania (CAC/NEPA) is to provide excellence in the assessment and treatment of child

abuse and neglect. As the designated Child Abuse Center of Lackawanna County, CAC/NEPA has served over 18,000 victims of child abuse and neglect since 1998.
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Grant Request

The grant was requested to help with the loss of fundraising revenue and the reduction in program participant fees.

CAC/NEPA used grant funds for the following:

- Funds to Cover COVID-19-related economic loss (e.g., loss of fundraising revenue, reduction in program participant fees).
- Funds to cover direct expenses related to COVID-19 (e.g., purchase of PPE, staff cost related to increased demand for services)
- Funds to cover costs associated with the implementation of preventing or mitigation measures to contain the spread of the virus.

Outcomes

These grant funds were used to support the salary of CAC/NEPA's Executive Director from January through April 2023, as approved.

This ARPA grant provided valuable support to the organization during the COVID-19 recovery period. By funding a portion of the Executive Director's salary, this grant helped the organization continue providing vital services to child victims of abuse and neglect.

In 2022, CAC/NEPA provided 960 child abuse intervention services to 560 children, including: 474 Forensic Interviews; 389 Services; and 97 referrals to therapy. Of those served in 2022, 73 percent were victims of sexual abuse, 25 percent were victims of physical abuse, five percent had witnessed violence, and three percent had experienced neglect.

This grant program was an effective resource for mitigating the impacts of the pandemic. In 2022, CAC/NEPA's revenue fell by nearly 14 percent from the year prior. This reduction is due to a decrease in referrals for services, fewer individual contributions to the organization, fewer grant awards, and decreased grant amounts. By supporting one of its core operating costs, a portion of the Executive Director's salary, this grant helped mitigate the financial impacts created by the pandemic.

SUCCESS STORY

- CAC/NEPA gathers quarterly feedback from children and families about their experience at the center. What follows are some recent examples of their responses:
- Parents and guardians have shared that they were informed about everything about our center; CAC/NEPA staff made them feel comfortable and safe enough to talk;
- They were offered multiple programs to help them, including therapy; that they felt like they were really being listened to; and that they received helpful information about parenting their teenager.
- Children and youth shared that the CAC/NEPA team was nice, friendly, helpful, trustworthy, careful, and patient; CAC/NEPA staff made them feel like they belong and made them feel safe; and that staff understood their challenges and knew how to help.

Expense Description	
Executive Director Salary – January 2023	\$6,338.46
Executive Director Salary – February 2023	\$6,338.46
Executive Director Salary – March 2023	\$6,338.46
Executive Director – April 2023	\$5,984.62

Clear Brook Foundation

The Clear Brook Foundation is dedicated to creating opportunities, developing educational programs, and establishing environments that foster sustainable well-being for those individuals with substance use disorders and their loved ones who are committed to living a life in recovery.

Their families helping families program provides attendees with a forum where they have the opportunity to learn about drug and alcohol addiction from professionals and those in recovery. The program is designed to present information that provides the knowledge to understand and confront the issues that accompany this disease as it relates to families dealing with drug and alcohol addiction.

Many attendees benefit from weekly meetings where the addicted and family members come together to focus on learning solutions to support long-term recovery.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Loss in Fundraising revenue for operations and PPE
Employees	Full-time – Two Part-time – None
Mission	The Foundation is dedicated to creating opportunities, developing educational programs, and establishing environments that foster sustainable well-being for those individuals with substance use disorders and their loved ones who are committed to living a life in recovery.

Grant Request

These funds are not intended to support new programs, just to reinforce and strengthen the existing programs. Grant funds were requested to offset diminished fundraising and donations during the COVID period, which is Clear Book’s main operating revenue, as they do not charge for any of the services that they provide. Clear Brook also used funds to continue to purchase PPE as necessary to provide the cleanest and safest possible locations in which to run their programs.

Clear Brook anticipated on being able to continue to offer programs going forward and providing their services to over 25,000 people as they look to continue to increase the number of meetings offered and to also increase the number of people attending the meetings.

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary’s electronic survey response, grant funds “assisted with payroll costs during lockdowns.”

Discovery MI Preschool

Discovery Montessori (legally known as Discovery MI Preschool) provides early childhood education and childcare services at locations in East Mountain and Providence Corners (North Scranton). MI serves 90 children across both locations, and in keeping with their mission, more than half of all students are from families with low to moderate incomes who pay reduced or no tuition.

Their facilities offer half-day and full-day programs with wrap-around care throughout the school year. They also have a summer camp program and a Ready for School camp program.

Their education programs foster students' social, emotional, physical, and academic growth to meet their individual needs. Through Montessori philosophy, practice, materials, and curriculum, they provide a nurturing environment where children can learn the academic foundations in math, literacy, science, geography, self-care, independence, self-regulation, and autonomy.

Discovery accepts students from across Lackawanna County, but the majority of their students are from Scranton and located within the Qualified Census Tract.

Through their programs, Discovery works in partnership with their families to build a sense of community and shared belonging, regardless of socio-economic background. All classrooms are economically integrated to ensure an equitable approach to our programs and services. Also, they have an established network of providers to support families and refer them to social support services as needed.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	HVAC improvements
Employees	Full-time –14 Part-time – Two
Mission	Discovery Montessori's mission is to provide high-quality Montessori education to a diverse range of children aged 3-6 in the Scranton Area.

Grant Request

Since COVID-19 emerged, Discovery has worked to improve ventilation and air quality in their classrooms by installing ceiling fans and air purifying filters. They also opened a section of wall between a classroom and the adjacent gym to increase the classroom size and provide more space for the children to work safely. While these measures have been effective in mitigating the risks of COVID-19, they have created domino issues for their HVAC systems. Funds were specifically requested to:

1. Install new air handling units in the gym / multi-purpose room to improve air quality while maintaining temperature.
2. Split the reticulated heating system that currently heats two classrooms into two separate zones and put the ceiling fans in those classrooms on two separate electrical circuits.
3. Purchase and install a new air handling unit along with associated ductwork to improve airflow and quality throughout the common areas, meeting spaces, and staff areas.

Outcomes

Both a 30-day summary and recovery final report have been assigned to the beneficiary by the Scranton Area Community Foundation. According to the 30-day summary submitted by the beneficiary, an additional staff member was hired to ensure any COVID-related absences were covered. This additional staff member was considered a “floater” and was able to work in a classroom if a member of the teaching staff was absent. As the beneficiary explained, “This additional staffing was instrumental in ensuring we were open for our students and their families, providing critical care and education programs for our students. Thanks to this grant, we were able to remain open for all but 3 days in the 2021-22 school year which was a remarkable feat for that period of the pandemic.”

As per the exit report, funds were used to employ an additional full-time staff member to ensure any COVID-related absences were covered and that the center could remain open for students and their families. Furthermore, the following success story is taken directly from the exit report.

SUCCESS STORY

“Thanks to this ARPA grant, Discovery Montessori was able to remain open for the entire school year, with the exception of 3 days. This ensured our students received continuous early childhood education programs and minimized learning loss. This also meant that our working families - more than 50 per cent of which have low to moderate incomes - were able to continue working and studying and continue their economic recovery from the pandemic.”

“The ARPA program has been incredibly effective in providing much needed, targeted support to those industries and families most impacted by the COVID pandemic. Without ARPA funds, our center would not have been able to operate effectively, at great cost to our students and families. Providing stable, quality childcare and early childhood education is essential for families to recover from the social, emotional, educational and economic impacts of the pandemic.”

Electric City Steel Drum Project

The Electric City Steel Drum Project is a nonprofit music program that provides steel drum lessons and concerts for all members of the Scranton community.

Grant Award	\$5,000.00
Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage personal responsibility and self-discipline of participants • Create opportunities for the development of leadership qualities in participants • Cultivate a spirit of cooperation among participants • Create an attitude of service to the community • Advance the appreciation of a variety of genres of music • Develop an understanding of the language and fundamentals of music • Motivate participants to apply their musical ability beyond the Steel Band Project • Encourage participants to evidence improvement in personal skills and musical talent to effectively contribute to the ensemble.

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary’s electronic survey response, grant funds helped them to provide supplementary instruction to many of their participants.

Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art

The Everhart Museum is a nonprofit cultural museum located within Nay Aug Park in Scranton. The museum was founded in 1908 by Dr. Isaiah Fawkes Everhart, and is the largest public museum in the region.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Mission	We believe in the power of the Everhart Museum to spark the imagination; challenge thought and provide enjoyment. Through our collections, exhibits and programs, we strive to integrate natural history, science and art into the lives of people.

Friends of the Poor

Friends of the Poor is a nonprofit organization founded by Sister Adrian Barrett, IHM in 1986, in Scranton. It provides food, clothing, and other assistance to people in need in the community.

Grant Award	\$45,000.00
Mission	The mission of Friends of the Poor is to bring together in friendship those who have the desire to live with those who are in need of assistance, in order to ease the burden of living in poverty and enhance the quality of life for all.

Goodwill Industries of Northeastern PA

Goodwill Industries of Northeastern Pennsylvania is a private nonprofit organization that serves 11 counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania including Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming. The organization provides services to adults, children, and elderly residents who are intellectually and/or developmentally challenged. Among these services are transitional and employment services, community participation support, and specialty programs.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Mission	To provide supportive opportunities for individuals with disabilities or other barriers, to enhance their lives.

Outcomes

Both a 30-day summary and recovery final report have been assigned to the beneficiary by the Scranton Area Community Foundation. According to the 30-day summary, the grant was intended to provide funds to replace LED lighting in the Theater at North to address health and safety issues with obsolete lighting in the theater. The Theater at North was closed to in-person audiences from March 2020 through March 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic gathering restrictions. Consequently, the loss of revenue during the pandemic had a substantial impact on the beneficiary's ability to maintain and upgrade equipment and maintain safety standards.

Additionally, according to the exit report, the upgrades increased energy efficiency and support the health, well-being, and safety of their crew. Expenses are outlined below:

- Lights, cables, lighting clamps, jumper cables, adapters, ground plugs, and grounded extension cords – \$7,243.21
- Data accessory kit and retrofit kit – \$2,790.49

Furthermore, the following success story is taken directly from the exit report.

SUCCESS STORY

“This economic investment by the city of Scranton afforded by ARPA funding that supports theater programming that is affordable for and valued by the local community. It supports other local businesses in the community and sustains the commitment of economic investment in the north Scranton neighborhood. This investment maintains a viable use for a cherished historic landmark and local artists, dance companies, and musicians with an opportunity to perform locally in a state-of-the-art venue. The Theater at North also draws in a regional and national talent to the city of Scranton which expands the city’s reputation as a destination area for arts and culture and supports economic growth.”

Greater Scranton YMCA

The Greater Scranton YMCA offers something for everyone in the community, including City of Scranton residents. Currently, 30 percent of the Greater Scranton YMCA’s membership lives in Scranton, translating to 1,750 people. Scranton residents represent the organization’s largest membership group.

The Greater Scranton YMCA provides a safe, enriching place for children to learn and grow, whether through out-of-school time offerings or through essential childcare for parents. The YMCA is a leading childcare provider in the region and is proud to offer full and partial daycare and preschool programs, a summer day camp, youth sports and enrichment programs, and a before and after school program for school-age children.

The YMCA’s early learning, childcare, and out-of-school time offerings are staffed with people who understand the cognitive, physical, and social development of kids. At the Greater Scranton YMCA, infants develop trust and security, toddlers and preschoolers experience early literacy and learn about their world, and school-age kids make friends, learn new skills, and get help with schoolwork. The Greater Scranton YMCA also offers numerous wellness initiatives, including chronic disease prevention and management programs. These programs include the YMCA’s Diabetes Prevention Program, EnhanceFitness, Matter of Balance, and Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program. Greater Scranton YMCA members and non-members are welcome to participate.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Previous mortgage payments
Employees	Full-time – 30 Part-time – 67
Mission	The Greater Scranton YMCA is a cause-driven non-profit organization that focuses on youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The YMCA believes that positive, lasting personal and social change can only come when all work together to invest in our kids, health, and neighbors.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to cover previous mortgage payments. The Greater Scranton YMCA applied for eight months of mortgage payments, totaling \$94,416.63.

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary’s electronic survey response, funding helped with the purchase of a new HVAC system. Furthermore, as the beneficiary explained, “By relocating the previous HVAC system from its

former location, we are able to renovate the space to create three more classrooms, which will open an additional 30 child care spots annually upon completion of the project.”

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter works closely with Scranton Animal Control and Police officers from Boroughs throughout Lackawanna County, where they pick up stray/sick dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, ferrets, etc., from the City of Scranton and the surrounding area of Lackawanna County and bring them to Griffin Pond Animal Shelter for intake or medical care.

Griffin Pond provides intake of animals, medical care, surgeries for any injured animals that come in from Scranton Animal control or by police officers throughout Lackawanna County, Emergency Veterinary services, which are provided by an emergency veterinarian clinic that they pay for, and they also help with reuniting any lost animals back to their owners. Additionally, they provide (for a fee) microchipping for the residents of Scranton and Lackawanna County.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Funds for utilities and Operational Costs
Employees	Full-time –Six Part-time – 29
Mission	Investigate, help prosecute and prevent cruelty to animals while also promoting adoption awareness and humane education, plus responsible pet ownership.

Grant Request

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the shelter could not host public fundraisers, which is an integral part of the shelter meeting its operational expenses. Grant funds were used for operational expenses such as direct care for the animals, utilities, insurance expenses, repair and maintenance, professional fees, event expenses, depreciation, cleaning supplies, veterinarian services, medical supplies, spaying/neutering, replenish our medical fund for surgeries other than spays and neuters and emergency visits. This grant helped to ensure a cushion in their depleted medical fund to help those most in need on a case-by-case basis.

Outcomes

The funds were used for utilities and emergency vet care, allowing Griffin Pond to maintain financial stability and the health and welfare of the animals in its care.

Expense Description	
UGI/PPL	\$10,000
Emergency Vet Care	\$15,000

SUCCESS STORY

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter was able to help numerous animals in need with emergency vet care. Griffin Pond Animal Shelter provided the public with a low-cost vaccine and microchip clinic on two occasions this year.

In one example, a puppy was saved using emergency vet care. Her name is Mama. Mama had parvo and was being delivered from Mexico to her new owners in Wilkes-Barre, where they noticed that Mama was very sick. Mama was surrendered to Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, and we brought her to Northeastern Veterinary Referral Hospital in Plains, Pa., where she was hospitalized for over a week.

Once Mama was released from the hospital, Mama was quarantined for over eight weeks before she could be introduced to the shelter or world. Mama was adopted by an incredible family who introduced Mama to every person and environment possible. They started in basic training and continued with advanced training, and Mama completed her Good Canine Citizen test, where she is now a therapy dog.

Mama and her family visit nursing homes, children's hospitals, and many other places for free. Mama's family is paying it forward because Griffin Pond Animal shelter and the ARPA grant saved her life.

Harrison House Personal Care Home

Harrison House is a 54-bed licensed personal care home licensed by the Department of Public Welfare and located in the city of Scranton. Harrison House offers a safe, home-like environment to ensure the comfort and well-being of residents. Harrison House serves low-income individuals who struggle with severe and persistent mental illness, co-morbid intellectual disabilities, and the aging population. Individuals who would otherwise struggle to afford housing and live independently are provided safe housing, access, and transportation to behavioral and physical health treatment, medication management and/or administration, outreach, case management, and prosocial activities.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Offset staffing costs
Employees	Full-time – Nine Part-time – Three
Mission	To provide services, support, and a safe residence that allows our consumers to remain as independent as possible in a home environment while enabling a quality of life for our consumers and their families, which cannot be achieved on their own.

Grant Request

In the fiscal year 2021-22, our organization spent \$76,462 on temporary staffing services through a staffing agency called Interim Healthcare. These grant funds would help to offset the tremendous cost of temporary staffing related to time-off due to COVID exposure or infection and/or workforce shortage requiring these services.

Here For A Reason (H4AR)

Here For A Reason sought to address the issue of food insecurity in Northeastern Pennsylvania. They believe that by joining together, they can address the need for food that is prevalent within the city of Scranton and the surrounding areas.

In Scranton, the need is so great that every child in the district receives a free breakfast and lunch. On weekends, many go hungry. H4AR is able to provide a meal for children to take home to their entire family on the weekends so they won't fear going hungry when they aren't in school. They currently work with half of the elementary schools in the city, in which 85 percent of the students fall at or below the poverty level. They give over 4,000 meals a month, providing nutrition, comfort, and hope to the children in the City. Additionally, they recently partnered with CHOP for expanded food distribution.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Funds for utilities and Operational Costs
Employees	Full-time – None Part-time – Three
Mission	Create an entire generation that doesn't know hunger through innovative and collaborative outreach partnerships.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to be used to supplement the loss of fundraising events and reduction in donor contributions. Funding to enable Here for a Reason to purchase the ingredients needed to fulfill demand, as well as pay the salaries of our part-time employees.

Jewish Community Center of Scranton

The JCC is a community center for adult and family health, wellness, and educational programs. Our programs strengthen and build community family togetherness and foster personal growth. Everyone is welcome to participate in JCC programs and services. They promote healthy living and strive to nurture physical, emotional, cultural, and educational well-being.

In addition, they have fitness facilities and provide a wide range of wellness programs for the community. Furthermore, their Early Learning Center includes childcare, preschool, and a summer camp for children aged three through 13. Also, the programs they run help seniors combat social isolation, provide much-needed support to those with chronic illness and assist low-income families so their children can receive educational enrichment programming, preschool, and childcare.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	General operations
Employees	Full-time – 20 Part-time – 30
Mission	The mission of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Scranton enriches & inspires lives by connecting individuals & families through inclusive wellness, recreational, educational, and cultural programs guided by Jewish values to build a community of well-being.

Grant Request

The grant funds were requested for general operations to help attract and retain staff to provide the critical needs programs/services offered to the community. Subsidize costs that have increased due to inflation and provide financial assistance to families in need of their wellness programs, day care, pre-school, summer camp, swim lessons, and family and senior educational programs. The grant funds are meant to enhance the curriculum for these programs.

A major focus was to fund programs that would combat senior social isolation, which has become a bigger problem since the start of the pandemic. It also allowed the JCC to conduct food distribution programs, kindergarten readiness programs, stronger early learning curriculum, swim lessons, and social, wellness, and exercise programs for older adults.

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary’s electronic survey response, funding helped to retain current day care staff and recruit new members. Additionally, due to substantial revenue loss from program fees and fundraising, this grant helped their ability to rebuild from the pandemic. The funds were also used for the increase in costs of cleaning supplies and additional maintenance staff needed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the facility.

Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania

The Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania offers confidential, professional counseling for individuals, couples, families, and groups facing challenges such as addiction, domestic abuse, depression, anxiety, and life transitions. In addition to therapy, the agency provides relationship-building support, community referrals, and accepts most insurance plans—including Medicare and Medicaid—with a sliding fee scale available. Its licensed clinical social workers deliver accredited services, complemented by extensive older-adult programs that promote independence through assessments, care planning, counseling, home visits, support groups, and resource coordination. JFS also provides guardianship services for individuals deemed unable to make personal decisions, ensuring their well-being and dignity. To support community members with nutritional needs, the organization operates Kosher Meals on Wheels—which delivers balanced kosher meals to homebound individuals—and the Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry, which supplies food and essential items to people experiencing financial hardship, including isolated seniors, unemployed adults, and new refugees.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Economic loss
Employees	Full-time – Six Part-time – Three
Mission	Jewish Family Service is a human service organization that reflects the Jewish tradition of caring and compassion for all people in need. Through professional counseling, advocacy, and educational programming, our services seek to enhance and strengthen the quality of individual, family, and community life. JFS is a human service organization established in 1915 to meet the financial and emotional needs of those in our community. Jewish Family Service is a private, non-profit organization with 501 (c) (3) status and is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. JFS is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) for its Outpatient Mental Health Services, Counseling, Support and Education Services, Case Management Services, and Adult Guardianship Services, which sets mandatory standards of professional

	practice and compliance. Our clinical social workers and Executive Director have Master of Social Work degrees and are Licensed Clinical Social Workers in the State of Pennsylvania. Our staff completes ongoing professional training to upgrade their expertise and maintain their social work licenses. JFS is a member organization of the United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne Counties, and The Jewish Federation of NEPA.
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Grant Request

Funds were requested to cover COVID-19-related economic loss (e.g., loss of fundraising revenue, reduction in program participant fees) as well as to cover direct expenses related to COVID-19 (e.g., purchase of PPE, staff cost related to increased demand of services).

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary’s electronic survey response, funding helped pay for the organization’s electronic health records system. This allowed the organization to continue “streamlining processes to increase the number of clients and sessions given.” Moreover, funding allowed the organization to continue to provide Telehealth counseling sessions.

Keystone Mission

Keystone Mission is an Evangelical, faith-based non-profit organization that provides emergency shelter, clothing, and food distribution services for people experiencing homelessness.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Expansion
Employees	Full-time – Ten Part-time – Nine
Mission	To be the Catalyst for the Community, providing help and hope to the hungry, hurt, and homeless in NEPA.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to expand their Innovation Center and dayroom services. The funding will allow them to no longer use county facilities and have a more permanent solution for winter shelters. Funds will be used for administration and salary costs.

Lackawanna River Conservation Association, Inc.

The LRCA is a non-profit, community-based river and watershed conservation organization. The Lackawanna River Conservation Association serves to promote the restoration and conservation of the Lackawanna River and its watershed resources in the Scranton area and all of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

LRCA conducts public outreach and education focused on water resource conservation and protection, organizes, and manages volunteer-based stewardship activities, and conducts community events to involve residents with the river in mutually beneficial ways. Through the LRCA affiliate, the Lackawanna Valley Conservancy (LVC), they acquire and manage land for conservation, recreation, and environmental restoration.

Additionally, they collaborate with other community organizations and governmental agencies on conservation-based community and economic development activities.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Salary/Program Costs/Supplies
Employees	Full-time – One Part-time – Three
Mission	The mission of the Lackawanna River Conservation (LRCA) is to involve citizens of the Lackawanna River watershed with conservation and stewardship of the Lackawanna River, its tributaries, and water resources.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to assist LRCA with several new initiatives, including a mile-long Providence Riverfront Trail development project in North Scranton; Trail and Greenway planning on Roaring Brook and Leggett’s Creek; a reauthorization program for Stillwater Dam, additional collaboration with the City on Storm Water management tasks; and a staff transition program to secure new executive leadership that the onset of the COVID pandemic has delayed.

Linwood Nursing and Rehab

Linwood Nursing and Rehab provides skilled nursing and short-term rehabilitation services with an emphasis on quality care. The majority of the residents are from Scranton.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Professional Services
Employees	Full-time – 92 Part-time – 22
Mission	Provide a good home with proper, competent care for those who cannot care for themselves and promote an enriched community life that fosters an atmosphere of freedom from abuse and neglect where each resident will be treated with consideration, respect, and full recognition of his/her dignity and individuality.

Grant Request

Grand funds were requested to supplement facility costs for agency usage for the direct care of their residents. In addition, funds were used to recruit nursing staff as well as cover past-due balances.

Marywood University

Marywood University enrolls more than 3,000 students in an array of undergraduate and graduate programs. Committed to enriching human lives through ethical and religious values and a tradition of service and motivated by a pioneering, progressive spirit, Marywood provides a framework for educational excellence that enables students to develop fully as persons and to master professional and leadership skills necessary for meeting human needs.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Professional Services/Supplies from the pandemic
Employees	Full-time – 407 Part-time – 279
Mission	Marywood University prepares students to have a positive impact on society at regional and global levels while providing each student with the foundation for success in an interdependent world.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested to assist with practices and infrastructure that will continue supporting health and well-being measures, per CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines. The initial grant request was for \$100,000 to cover expenses related to 1) maintenance of air systems and 2) health service-related expenses such as COVID-19 testing at diagnostic labs, and 3) COVID-related cleaning and PPE costs. Grant funds were approved for \$10,000.

Maternal and Family Health Services

Maternal and Family Health Services (MFHS) is a nonprofit organization that has been serving eastern Pennsylvania since 1971. It delivers services to clients in 12 counties through direct service sites and subrecipient agencies, including city or county health departments, hospitals, school-based health centers, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and FQHC Look-Alikes. MFHS works to meet the health and nutrition needs of women, children, and families with information, education, and quality care.

Grant Award	\$45,000.00
Grant Purpose	Recruitment/Retention Bonuses
Mission	The mission at Maternal & Family Health Services, Inc. is to be an innovative health and human service organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the community through information, education and quality care.

Outcomes

Both a 30-day summary and recovery final report have been assigned to the beneficiary by the Scranton Area Community Foundation. In the submitted 30-day summary, the beneficiary identified potential social and economic impact that was expected from funding. These impacts largely pertain to an increased capacity to effectively deliver “much-needed care to low-income individuals.” Newly hired healthcare professionals are also expected to remove barriers related to fear, stigma, language, and finance. According to the beneficiary, these barrier removals will occur through the delivery of trauma-informed care.

The beneficiary also noted in their 30-day summary that competition for nursing and healthcare professional staff has remained significant since the pandemic. Because Maternal and Family Health Services does not have the resources to compete with hospitals, ARPA funding will enable it “to offer sign-on bonuses in order to recruit and onboard much-needed healthcare personnel.”

Moreover, in their exit report, the beneficiary explained that all grant funds were used to support recruitment and retention efforts through sign-on bonuses for Circle of Care Scranton healthcare personnel. The following success story is taken directly from the exit report.

SUCCESS STORY

“The City of Scranton ARPA Nonprofit Grant enabled MFHS to offer sign-on bonuses in order to recruit and onboard much-needed healthcare personnel. With the support of this grant funding, MFHS added ten new hires between October 17, 2022, and September 11, 2023.”

“The City of Scranton ARPA Nonprofit Grant program increased MFHS’s capacity to effectively deliver much-needed care to low-income individuals served at its Circle of Care clinic in Scranton. Ten newly hired healthcare professionals delivered trauma-informed care to remove barriers including fear and stigma as well as language and financial barriers to ensure continuity of care. The proximity of Circle of Care to Scranton’s low-income communities ensured that transportation barriers were also mitigated. The removal of these barriers encouraged independence, helped to break the cycle of poverty, and empowered vulnerable individuals to engage in their own care.”

Meals on Wheels of NEPA, Inc.

Meals on Wheels of NEPA has developed programming over the last 53 years to become the major provider of nutritional services and support for older and disabled adults of Lackawanna County, with a majority of consumers (63.0 percent) residing in the City of Scranton. In recent years, Meals on Wheels has developed an array of community health initiatives to further serve isolated individuals across the region. These initiatives use robust community partnerships to provide nutrition, personal assistance, pet care, and healthcare to reach isolated individuals.

Meals on Wheels of NEPA offers a range of nutritional and supportive programming that is designed to meet the needs of isolated and underserved adults. The core programming component of Meals on Wheels of NEPA is the Home Delivered Meal program that provides fresh, professionally prepared, and nutritious meals Monday through Friday. Socially isolated older and disabled adults benefit from a daily wellness check when they receive their meal delivery. Meals on Wheels of NEPA programming directly addresses both food insecurity and social isolation in elderly and adult clients throughout the City of Scranton.

Meals on Wheels promotes community partnership and engagement through its innovative event space - the SPACE at Olive. The SPACE at Olive offers an event and catering venue at an affordable rate to residents (and community partners) of the City of Scranton. In turn, this event space generates crucial revenue to sustain Meals on Wheel's programmatic endeavors.

Grant Award	\$45,000.00
Grant Purpose	Administration, Professional Services, Training, Supplies and Software
Employees	Full-time – 14 Part-time – Nine
Mission	The mission of Meals on Wheels of NEPA is to support the independent living of homebound seniors and disabled persons through the delivery of nutrition and supportive services. The Agency provides relief from hunger, helps decrease the onset of disease through proper nutrition, and increases home-based support to delay or prevent expensive institutional care. MOWNEPA provides regular contact with clients through the Home Delivered Meals program and its robust set of

	Community Health Initiatives. These programs build a rapport with clients that decreases social isolation and helps fight depression. The Agency is the major home-delivered nutrition and support provider for older and disabled adults in Lackawanna County and the City of Scranton.
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Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to counteract the economic loss directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the pandemic, Meals on Wheels of NEPA has experienced a drastic decrease in revenue combined with an increase in operating costs, resulting in financial insecurity.

Due to the current economic instability, the agency is challenged by the increased cost of essential resources without the ability to balance the increased cost by proportionally increasing service prices. This burden creates a situation in which the organization cannot withstand future financial hardship. An additional challenge is presented when vital equipment breaks, needs repairs, or even for costly routine maintenance.

Nativity Miguel School of Scranton

Nativity Migue is a private, Catholic, co-educational, tuition-free middle school proudly serving ethnically and religiously diverse students of greater economic need. For the 2021/22 school year, 61 of their 64 students resided in the City of Scranton.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Expenses related to COVID-19
Employees	Full-time – Nine Part-time – Four
Mission	Through the lens of the Catholic faith, the Nativity Miguel School of Scranton seeks to empower students of all races and beliefs to reach their full potential. Nativity Miguel offers a holistic approach to academic and character development through our core values of faith and honor, integrity and respect, leadership and perseverance.

Grant Request

Grant funds were used to cover direct expenses related to COVID-19, specifically for staff costs related to increased demand for services. Specifically, these funds would support one-half the compensation of our school's Director of Graduate and Student Support. This position was created in late 2020.

Outcomes

According to an electric survey response, funding came at a “critical time.”

NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania

NeighborWorks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community development organization that has, for more than 40 years, helped to revitalize neighborhoods and improve lives throughout the region by addressing the housing needs in our community. Their vision for strong, healthy neighborhoods is built on resident empowerment, neighborhood revitalization, sustainable homeownership, and public-private partnerships.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
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Grant Purpose	Operating expenses
Employees	Full-time – 15 Part-time – None
Mission	NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania (NeighborWorks) creates stable, vibrant communities by empowering our neighbors to improve their neighborhoods with quality housing, financial guidance, and critical partnerships.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to help cover the added expenses the organization has incurred/is incurring for additional staffing and operating/program costs required to address specific community needs that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, NeighborWorks has had to add four staff positions directly tied to the growth experienced over the past 2 ½ years during the pandemic as they sought to meet the needs of our neighbors during this unprecedented period.

Outcomes

NeighborWorks used the grant funding exactly as proposed, helping cover the additional staffing and operational costs that became necessary as community needs grew during COVID-19. The added staff supported key programs such as Aging in Place, HomeOwnership Counseling, financial coaching, foreclosure prevention, and senior-focused services, including reducing isolation, connecting older adults with resources, assisting with testing and vaccination, and completing home modifications. The grant also enabled important investments in information technology, allowing the organization to deliver services more efficiently through virtual meetings, digital intake, and cloud-based client systems. These enhancements strengthened organizational capacity at a time of sharply increased demand, ultimately allowing NeighborWorks to create two new full-time positions, expand service delivery, and respond more holistically to residents’ evolving needs during the pandemic.

Expense Description	
Server (Operating cost – IT equipment)	\$4,550.43
Homeownership Assistant (additional staffing)	\$13,638.35
Community Services Navigator (additional staffing)	\$6,811.22

SUCCESS STORY

One of the programs directly impacted by the ARPA grant is NeighborWork's first-time homeownership program. Partnering with the City of Scranton, NeighborWorks is typically able to assist upwards of 25-30 new homebuyers each year. With help from this grant, they were able to serve two Congolese families who originally came to Scranton as refugees. Additional staff capacity was used to help identify and coordinate translation services and to spend as much time as was needed to guide the families through the home purchase process. These two families can now call themselves homeowners in the City of Scranton because of these efforts.

NEPA Pet Fund and Rescue

Northeast Pa Pet Fund and Rescue is a 501(c)3 registered non-profit that helps seniors and low-income/economically disadvantaged citizens with their pets. They provide financial assistance with veterinary care, spaying/neutering, emergency services when funds are provided, flea and tick prevention, food, transport, and heartworm prevention. They provide educational materials to English and Spanish-speaking residents on the important reasons to spay and neuter pets. They pay for spaying/neutering dogs and cats through the Eastern PA Animal Alliance and Carbondale Veterinary Hospital for anyone who cannot afford it.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Program costs, tech upgrades
Employees	Full-time- None Part-time – None
Mission	To reduce the overpopulation and suffering of animals while advocating for humane behavior by providing rescue, rehabilitation, and sanctuary to abandoned and abused animals. Their primary purpose is to help sick dogs and cats. We do that by raising money through adoptions, fundraising, grant writing, and donations.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested for medical care, boarding fees, and a small number of supplies.

Outcomes

All of the grant funds were used for medical care, boarding fees, and a small amount for supplies. Due to the grant amount received, the rescue elected not to purchase an iPad. According to NEPA Pet Fund and Rescue, "making sure the dogs and cats receive the highest quality of veterinary care is our top priority and \$1200 is too large of an amount to spend on a computer when an untold number of dogs and cats could be helped instead. There was no change to the approved use of funds."

Because of the grant award, Northeast PA Pet Fund and Rescue was able to assist 34 dogs and 11 cats. All the dogs in the rescue were able to be completely caught up with bloodwork, dentals, surgeries, shots, preventatives, and checkups.

Eleven cats were spayed and neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, examined, and given flea/parasite prevention. Additionally, all the cats were adopted.

Six dogs were spayed and neutered. Another six dogs were treated in the emergency hospitals.

SUCCESS STORY

Sully, a bulldog puppy, was saved from pneumonia by having the funds to pay for his hospital stay at the emergency hospital in Plains. Thanks to the grant award, Sully also received facial surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. He most certainly would have died if funding was not there to help.

“Without this grant award, our rescue would never have been able to help as many dogs and cats as we did this year. We also would not have had the ability to provide such a deep amount of veterinary care.”

The award also allowed them to transfer puppy mill dogs from a small rescue that needed help in Central PA. These dogs needed an enormous amount of medical care and cost almost \$7,000 for workups alone.

Expense Description	
Boarding	\$2,148.75
Boarding and pee pads	\$923.00
Dr. Paws Vet care	\$9,079.83
Richmond Valley Vet	\$561.00
NVRH Emergency Vet Care	\$6,640.17
NVRH Cardiac workup	\$688.80
EPAA Cat spay/neuter	\$2,300.00

PennVet surgery	\$1,784.11
PennVet emergency vet care	\$885.00

Northeast Regional Cancer Institute

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute is a local, nonprofit organization working to ease the burden of cancer in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The three main program areas that the organization focuses on are: community and patient services, hospital and practice support services, and cancer surveillance.

Grant Award	\$45,000.00
Mission	<p>The mission of the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute is to ease the burden of cancer in Northeastern Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus programming on community needs • Apply data-based knowledge in setting and evaluating actions • Seek collaborative opportunities and solutions to programming needs • Maintain an entrepreneurial culture • Seek to balance public and private funding

Outreach - Center for Community Resources

Outreach assists families by delivering a variety of wrap-around services. Outreach provides evidence-based family programs and robust workforce development. Outreach provides unique workforce development and integrated child/family programs using a variety of approaches for delivery that other organizations do not offer. Outreach provides customized case management to identify the specific services needed for families to gain the skills to be better parents, support their children's educational needs, and gain family-sustaining employment, stability, and self-sufficiency.

Grant Award	\$45,000.00
Grant Purpose	Lost revenue and program costs
Employees	Full-time – 33 Part-time – 7
Mission	To promote family stability and economic self-sufficiency.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested for lost revenue and program costs.

Outcomes

Outreach used the grant funds to support revenue losses that occurred during the pandemic when all Adult GED services in the Lackawanna County Prison were halted and Outreach pivoted to provide these services at their Center in Scranton, without funding to support these services.

Outreach had expenses for the Adult GED program during 2021-2022 of \$143,907. All the ARPA funding was used to support the revenue lost while these services continued to be provided to economically disadvantaged residents of Scranton.

Outreach used these funds to support revenue losses from August 5, 2021, to August 4, 2022. There were two changes in the summary of expenses that were submitted with the request. Outreach secured some of the funding for the losses during the period where the services were delivered but they were not adequate to cover all the costs of delivering the services.

Outreach provided subject-specific tutoring to adults that were residents of Scranton, allowing them to gain improved literacy and the subject skills necessary to prepare for the GED exam. Outreach provided General Education Development programs and services to 90 Scranton residents from August 5, 2021, to August 4, 2022. Adult education and GED services allow the economically disadvantaged adults Outreach serves to gain improved literacy and the skills necessary to achieve a GED credential. Outreach provided these services at their Center in Scranton without funding support.

During the 12 months this funding supported Outreach GED programs, and their case managers served 436 Scranton residents with their services and programs including GED. The following Scranton residents received GED services:

- 34 adults at their Center
- 59 adults at the Lackawanna County Prison
- 256 Scranton residents received workforce development services with 128 adults attaining employment with the others continuing to apply and seek employment

Expense Description	
GED program staff that delivered GED services	\$15,707.42
Employee benefits for GED program staff	\$22,692.58
Program admin and compliance for GED program	\$6,600

SUCCESS STORY

“Cal Bieryla was one of the first to participate in the community GED program at Outreach. Cal was extremely motivated to learn while managing multiple responsibilities, such as being a single Dad and having a full-time job. But utilizing the in-person and online instruction offered by Outreach, Cal was able to attend Math class in the morning after working all night. Then, he worked on English on his own time via Google Classroom. Cal’s goal was not simply to pass the GED exam, but to obtain scores that would allow him to be accepted into college. On July 18, 2022, he officially became a graduate with college-ready scores. Outreach supported his desire to pursue post-secondary education by connecting him with assistance to explore careers, complete college applications, and financial aid paperwork. Within a few days of completing his GED, Cal was officially accepted into Lackawanna College and is now studying Cyber Security.”

PAWsitively for the Animals

Founded in 2015, PFTA is a 501c3 non-profit organization made up solely of volunteers who give their time to support pet adoption, pet rescue, low-cost spay/neuter programs, a four-legged food bank, a veterinary assistance fund, and education regarding responsible pet ownership.

PAWsitively for the Animals gives Scranton residents the resources necessary to care for and keep their pets at home rather than having to surrender them due to financial limitations. With many individuals and families currently struggling, PFTA's Maddie Fund provides area residents with basic and emergency assistance.

Grant Award	\$5,000.00
Grant Purpose	Program costs/supplies
Employees	Full-time – None Part-time – None
Mission	The purpose of PFTA is to raise, receive, and distribute funds and donations to help sick, homeless, or hungry animals.

Grant Request

PFTA requested grant funding to support two programs: The Maddie Fund and PAWS for a Cause. All proceeds of this grant go directly toward buying pet food or supplies and providing monetary assistance towards veterinary care for residents in the Scranton area.

Ronald McDonald House of Scranton, Inc.

Ronald McDonald House of Scranton has helped thousands of families who have children receiving medical care in the Scranton area. The Ronald McDonald House is located in the Hill Section of Scranton, one block from Geisinger Community Medical Center. The House has eight bedrooms and is equipped to support up to 32 guests. Each room has its own private bathroom, is furnished with all of the comforts of home, and is equipped with food supplies, drinks, etc., for families. All these amenities are provided so families can focus solely on the health and well-being of their child in the hospital.

While the House program serves guests who live in the surrounding areas of Scranton and beyond, their Family Room program serves every family with a child in the NICU or Pediatrics unit at Moses Taylor Hospital (MTH). Its NICU family room is right outside the unit at MTH, while the Pediatric family room is directly in the Pediatrics unit at MTH. Each room is equipped with a living room area for sitting and relaxing, a kitchenette, food, and drink, and even a game table for siblings who come to visit. Each room serves families from both near and far.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Program costs and supplies
Employees	Full-time – Five Part-time - None
Mission	The Ronald McDonald House of Scranton is a home away from home for families with seriously ill or injured children in local medical facilities.

Grant Request

Fundraising efforts were limited due to COVID. As such, grant funds were requested to cover program costs and supplies. A grant award would enable the Ronald McDonald House to help even more families stay close to their children while also providing support for transportation, supplies, and food.

Outcomes

The beneficiary submitted a final exit report, revealing that the grant helped to offset funds that were incurred during the pandemic. Specifically, the funds received from this grant were used to cover the overnight stays and transportation support that the Ronald McDonald House of Scranton provided for families during the pandemic. Furthermore, as part of the submitted exit report, the beneficiary shared a success story about one of the families served during the time frame in which the grant was utilized.

SUCCESS STORY

"On April 10th, 2021, our daughter Rosie was born at Geisinger. Due to some issues after a C-section, Rosie had to immediately go to the NICU. Seeing her for the first time hooked up to machines and a feeding tube was terrifying. When my husband and I were finally able to visit we were told she had some breathing issues and had to stay a day or two. A few days turned into a week. Since we lived an hour away we were struggling to even leave our daughter and go home when I was discharged. A doctor recommended we checked with the local Scranton Ronald McDonald house. I put in a form in the morning and by the afternoon someone was in contact with me! Since it was during COVID they weren't able to house us in the Ronald McDonald House but instead booked a local hotel room! It was SUCH a relief to be minutes away from the hospital and not have to stress about where we should go. The volunteer I spoke with was so kind and understanding, and the entire experience brings tears to my eyes now. Rosie was finally discharged 13 days later and is a healthy six-month-old now. We can't thank you enough."

Scranton Counseling Center

Scranton Counseling Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation governed by a community-based board of directors. The Center has been serving Scranton area community members since 1949 and is one of the largest, fully integrated behavioral health providers in Northeastern Pennsylvania, serving children, adolescents, and adults. SCC's population is primarily made up of underserved individuals who come from low socioeconomic status and struggle not only with mental and behavioral health needs but also with other social determinants of health. Services are provided to any community member, regardless of their ability to pay.

SCC provides a full continuum of outpatient and community-based behavioral health care, including psychiatric evaluation and services, outpatient therapy, adult partial hospitalization, psychiatric rehabilitation, 24/7 crisis services, family-based services, assertive community treatment, blended case management, school-based behavioral health, drug and alcohol treatment, forensic services, and early intervention service coordination.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Marketing and advertising for SCC
Employees	Full-time – 224 Part-time – 23

Mission	Scranton Counseling Center's mission is to promote wellness and recovery by providing an environment that is considerate of and sensitive to the unique, personal, and cultural attributes of those we serve and which empowers them to make choices about their lives, pursue their personal goals and maximize their quality of life while respecting their individual dignity and confidentiality.
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Grant Request

The grant funds were used to fund the continued marketing efforts to keep our services at the forefront of the consumers and families we serve. Funds received would help to offset the \$224,445 spent on marketing in FY 21-22. This would allow SCC to invest in more marketing strategies to ensure that the community is aware of the full continuum of outpatient and community behavioral health services they provide.

Outcomes

In response to one of the electronic survey questions, the beneficiary explained that the “funds awarded to the organization helped obtain training and materials that otherwise would have been cost prohibitive.”

Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple

The Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple provides performance arts, entertainment, and cultural experiences to the community.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Mission	The mission of the Scranton Cultural Center is to enrich our community through culturally diverse programming and events while preserving a national historic treasure.

Outcomes

The grant for this beneficiary is not yet completed. However, the beneficiary did provide some insight into how the awarded funds have impacted their organization in one of their electronic survey responses. As the respondent explained, “We were able to work on the organization website and to purchase a new sound system for the main theatre.”

Scranton Primary Health Care Center

Scranton Primary Health Care Center (SPHCC) provides primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care to everyone regardless of their ability to pay. This includes pediatrics, family and internal medicine, women’s health, gynecology, pre-natal and post-partum care, infectious disease care, behavioral health, and general dentistry. Scranton Primary also assists residents in navigating the health insurance marketplace.

In addition, they provide COVID-19 vaccinations and testing to all City of Scranton employees and have hosted numerous vaccine clinics with the city since the start of the pandemic. The organization also offered flu shots to city employees. They provide the required comprehensive physicals for all Scranton Fire Department candidates at no charge to the city and have made the same offer to the Scranton Police Department.

Grant Award	\$45,000.00
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Grant Purpose	Capital project to build out 3rd floor of the existing building and construct elevator to second floor
Employees	Full-time –75 Part-time – Four
Mission	The Clinics at Scranton Primary Health Care Center will provide quality primary medical, dental & behavioral care at a reasonable cost for everyone in our community, including those under-insured and uninsured.

Grant Request

The grant funds were requested in conjunction with other monies raised to enable SPHCC to build the third floor of our existing building and construct an elevator/stair tower to provide access to that floor. This expansion allows Scranton Primary to spatially distance patients by providing separate entrances for sick and well patients.

Scranton Public Library

The Scranton Public Library provides books, talking books, Blu-rays, video games, meeting rooms, virtual meeting capabilities, technology assistance, and other services to the residents of the City of Scranton. It provides access to computers and the Internet and programs for children, young adults, and adults.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Continued access to remote tech for ongoing operations.
Employees	Full-time – 28 Part-time – 25
Mission	The Scranton Public Library enhances our community by fostering and supporting individual aspirations toward life-long learning, entertainment, and self-fulfillment for all. This is accomplished through free access, wherever is needed, to a broad collection of resources in currently used formats, courteous and knowledgeable staff, and activities designed to satisfy the informational, educational, recreational, and personal needs in our ever-changing and diverse environment.

Grant Request

At the beginning of the pandemic, the library subscribed to Kanopy, a service for libraries that allows library patrons to stream videos and audio for free. This was implemented when patrons could no longer come into the library and borrow DVDs, Blu-rays, and audiobooks. Due to the service's popularity, grant funds were used to retain the service.

Outcomes

The beneficiary did provide some insight into how the awarded funds have impacted their organization in response to an electronic survey. As the respondent explained, funding helped to expand virtual service offerings.

Scranton Tomorrow

Scranton Tomorrow, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community and economic development organization since 1992, is working diligently to improve residents' quality of life and establish Scranton as the premier urban center of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Receiving the Main Street designation in 2009 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the organization continues to successfully obtain annual National

Accreditation from The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Pennsylvania Downtown Center for outstanding organizational performance in sustaining its program.

In 2017, Scranton Tomorrow was appointed by the City of Scranton as the lead organization to coordinate economic development initiatives within the downtown business district. The organization continues to focus on the Main Street approach to downtown revitalization through safe, clean, green, and design initiatives, economic revitalization, business development, marketing and promotions, and event facilitation.

Scranton Tomorrow plays a vital role in the sustainability of the core business district. Similar to most cities, the municipality cannot solely provide the necessary services to sustain a healthy, vibrant, and attractive business district. The Scranton Tomorrow vision statement encompasses livability, arts, economic development, promotion, and educational partnerships, fostering positive quality-of-life initiatives. Their primary focus is the downtown business district, Mifflin Avenue to Jefferson Avenue, and Lackawanna Avenue to Olive Street, all of which incorporate significant institutional/recreational boundaries. These boundaries were identified at the onset of the Main Street process and continue to identify geographic priorities.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Reducing economic loss due to COVID
Employees	Full-time – Two Part-time – Two
Mission	Serve as a driving force in fostering and supporting economic development utilizing the National Trust's Main Street five-point approach to revitalization.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to reduce economic loss due to COVID-19, including maintaining physical space and paying rent.

Serving Seniors, Inc.

Serving Seniors, Inc.'s programs assist all long-term care consumers and isolated older adults residing in their own homes throughout the city of Scranton and surrounding communities in improving their quality of life and care. Programs: Ombudsman (advocacy & resident rights), Volunteer Ombudsman, court-appointed Guardianship of Person and/or Estate services, PEER (Pa. Empowered Expert Residents) train residents to advocate for themselves as well as other residents within their facility. The Patient Advocate Program assists older adults with a safe and appropriate discharge from all Scranton City hospitals and connects them with necessary supportive services.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Increased demands and PPE supplies and equipment
Employees	Full-time – Six Part-time – Three
Mission	Improve the quality of life and care for older adults and all long-term care consumers throughout our community.

Grant Request

Grant funds were used to assist in the ongoing purchase of PPE for staff and volunteers, the costs to maintain programs that are integral to the support of older adults, and the purchase of necessary, updated computer technology (including website updates, print media/brochures, the agency newsletter, and social media to continue to connect with clients).

Skills in Scranton Business Education Partnership

Skills in Scranton is the (independent 501c (3)) workforce development affiliate of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. For more than 25 years, Skills in Scranton has worked to create, advocate, and nurture business, education, and community partnerships.

Goals of Skills in Scranton workforce efforts include:

- To demonstrate the organizational capacity to effectively convene multiple employers with education, training, labor, and community-based organizations.
- To further facilitate the development of an infrastructure of communication and collaboration between education and the business community.
- To facilitate the ongoing assessment of the regional economic landscape to identify new, emerging, or growing employment opportunities and emerging industries within the region.
- To facilitate, grow, and strengthen the connection between the business community and Lackawanna County's secondary and post-secondary institutions to increase awareness of in-demand careers.

All employees dedicated to work performed by Skills in Scranton are employees of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. Currently, the Chamber has dedicated 2.5 staff to workforce development programming.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Program development
Employees	Full-time – 2.5 Part-time - None
Mission	Skills in Scranton is the (independent 501c (3)) workforce development affiliate of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. For more than 25 years, Skills in Scranton has worked to create, advocate, and nurture business, education, and community partnerships.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested for the coordination and implementation of Skills in Scranton's Educator in the Workplace program. Skills in Scranton suffered an economic loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic by eliminating grant funding for the Educator in the Workplace Program and restrictions set for program participants and business hosts. Educator in the Workplace is a flagship workforce development program of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. It is recognized by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education as a best practice for career readiness and talent pipeline development.

The Educator in the Workplace Program is not a new program; however, it will be adapted from its original format to include a hybrid learning approach, streamlined to best accommodate the

requirements and unanticipated guidelines of participating educators and private sector business hosts during the upcoming academic year.

Skills in Scranton will implement a communications plan consisting of the following components:

- Dedicated program information and enrollment page on the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce Website
- Social media campaign calling for participant enrollment and program/participant participation
- Public relations campaign consisting of a series of press releases tailored to program awareness, participant registration, community engagement and impact
- Billboards, television, and radio advertising for participant awareness
- News articles published in Momentum Magazine tailored for participant enrollment, business participation and program awareness

St. Cats and Dogs of Scranton

St. Cats and Dogs of Scranton is an all-volunteer non-profit 501C group, established in 2012, that is funded by donations. The group initially began by attempting to reduce the cat population by working with the community, trapping and transporting feral cats to be neutered and returned to their caregivers. Since securing the Nay Aug Park Zoo building, the organization can provide secure and safe temporary housing along with assistance for these animals.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Operating costs
Employees	Full-time – None; Part-time – None
Mission	St. Cats and Dogs of Scranton believes in increasing public awareness by educating the community on the necessity and benefits of neutering stray pet cats. TNR (trap/neuter/return) is a non-lethal solution in which cats are humanely trapped, vaccinated against rabies, neutered, and returned to their original location to live out their lives.

Grant Request

The purpose of the grant request was to provide program, utility, and supply costs.

Outcomes

The grant funds were used primarily to continue their mission of providing secure and safe housing along with any veterinary assistance necessary for cats and kittens in their care. Currently, St. Cats and Dogs of Scranton can house approximately 150 cats and kittens at any given time.

Expense Description	
Veterinary procedures	\$4,696.15
Vaccines	\$2,964.00
Utilities	\$9,232.00

SUCCESS STORY

“Without the receipt of the ARPA grant monies, our organization was faced with the possibility of closing our doors. This would have had serious and drastic repercussions for trappers and animals alike...Without the grant monies, our cages would empty, and our mission of providing safe and secure housing would have possibly ceased.”

St. Matthews United Evangelical Lutheran Church

As a church, St. Matthews provides religious services to our congregation members and anyone in the community who desires to participate. St. Matthews offers worship services and Christian education programs for preschool through adults, and it provides premarital counseling and pastoral support.

Their community room, "Fellowship Hall," is free to various groups. Examples include Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Gamblers Anonymous, and Courage to Change.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Income loss
Employees	Full-time – One Part-time - Three
Mission	Saint Matthews United Evangelical Lutheran Church will seek to exemplify our baptismal commitment to be God's people in this congregation, community, and in the world by Praising God through public prayer, worship, and sharing of the word and sacrament, Following Christ in compassion and service; and Accepting the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to enjoy the peace and power of God's love with all His creation.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to cover income loss and losses from the implementation of mitigation of the virus, such as masks, hand sanitizers, individual communion cups, video equipment, and online costs.

Outcomes

The beneficiary submitted an exit report, revealing that funds were used to provide repairs. More specifically, funds allowed the Church to sealcoat and line paint/number its parking lot at 425 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania. This endeavor enabled the Church to provide improved conditions for the monthly renters of the lot. The beneficiary noted that there were no changes to the approved use of the awarded funds. The following success story was shared by the beneficiary in their exit report.

SUCCESS STORY

“The fact that we are able to obtain some revenue from renting our parking lot both to downtown workers, residents of the low-income high rise building next door, has aided us greatly in our mission, and we are extremely grateful.”

TCS I Midtown Apartments

Since 1971, Midtown Apartments has provided housing to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The complex consists of 234 units. Midtown follows the HUD Section 236 and Section 221(d)3 programs of the Department of HUD. All residents can only be accepted if they are under the HUD income limits. Our population varies between 500 to 600 people. Although Midtown Apartments follows the HUD programs, there is no subsidy or support from HUD.

Grant Award	\$4,047.28
Grant Purpose	PPE supplies from COVID relief
Employees	Full-time – 7 Part-time – One
Mission	TCS-I is organized for the purpose of operating solely and exclusively as a charitable and educational organization, not for profit.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested to cover the cost of PPE such as gloves and masks, disinfectants and sanitizers, foggers, and person-hours directly related to disinfecting.

Outcomes

The beneficiary submitted an exit report, revealing that funds were used to purchase personal protective equipment. Furthermore, the beneficiary noted that they hoped the awarded grant will help them to “prevent the spread of the virus.”

Telespond Senior Services, Inc.

Telespond Senior Services, Inc. was founded in 1974 to provide high-quality, community-based care to older adults and caregivers and enhance their well-being by promoting independent living. A 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, TSDS provides a coordinated program of professional and compassionate services for adults in a community-based group setting. Licensed by the PA Department of Aging to operate Telespond Senior Services, Inc. Services and by the PA Department of Health to operate a Home Care Agency facility, providing non-acute care in the home.

Telespond’s services are designed to provide social and selected health services to adults who need fully supervised care in a safe place outside the home during the day, giving caregivers a respite from the demanding responsibilities of caregiving. Telespond serves the needs of the underserved, under-represented, and economically disadvantaged residents of the City of Scranton, working closely with the Area Agency on Aging, the United Way, NeighborWorks, the Wright Center, and many other providers to deliver coordinated, unduplicated services to those in need.

Grant Award	\$10,000.00
Grant Purpose	Operating funds
Employees	Full-time – 11 Part-time - 17
Mission	Telespond Senior Services, Inc. provides life-enriching services to older adults and caregivers, is committed to the promotion of independent living for our clients, improves their quality of life, and is dedicated to serving the economically and culturally disadvantaged community.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested to support Telespond’s operations financially so they could continue serving those who were in need of their services, including personnel, operations, and staffing.

Outcomes

During the period March 30, 2020, to June 30, 2022, Telespond lost approximately \$546,000 from daycare and in-home services revenue sources. It is estimated that the organization lost a total of \$72,000 in fundraising potential since the pandemic began. Upon re-opening, Telespond needed help to mitigate these losses and keep employees during the shortage and in the new more competitive environment. Specifically, the funds helped Telespond pay the increased cost of health insurance for employees.

Expense Description	
Health insurance premiums- Blue Cross	\$5,910.84
Health insurance premiums – Blue Cross	\$6,645.58

Treatment Court Advocacy Center of Lackawanna County

Treatment Court Advocacy Center of Lackawanna County, commonly referred to as TCAC, operates a number of projects, all designed to assist local community members engaging in recovery from substance abuse disorder. TCAC works collaboratively with the Lackawanna County Court System and various public and private entities to secure grants, donations, and necessary funds to meet the unique unfunded needs of community individuals seeking to engage in recovery from substance abuse disorder. All of TCAC's programs are free. The TCAC Board, volunteers, affiliate Treatment Providers, and community partners work hard every day to help change lives, save lives, and restore families.

TCAC, through its Recovery Bank project, has a primary mission of providing a safe and secure place for the recovering community, their family, friends, and those interested in recovery to engage in activities beneficial to the individual and the community. The goal of the TCAC/Recovery Bank Project is to help people engage in their recovery so that they can make a direct contribution to their community. We strive to have volunteers engaged and peers trained to develop skills.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Revenue loss/program supplies

Employees	Full-time – Eight Part-time - Two
Mission	Provide a safe and secure place for the Scranton Recovering Community, family members, and friends of those interested in recovery to engage in activities beneficial to the individual and the community.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to cover the gap realized by TCAC as a consequence of its inability to engage in fundraising in 2020 and 2021. Because of COVID, TCAC was not able to engage in any fundraising efforts in 2020 or 2021, which has left a substantial gap in the programming budget at TCAC.

Initially, TCAC requested \$50,000 in grant funds to alleviate some of the financial strain occasioned by COVID on the TCAC budget. It was anticipated that the funds would be used to obtain equipment and supplies directly related to TCAC in-person recovery and life skill programming and in-person recovery coaching. That improved and expanded programming will significantly contribute to the quality of life of individuals receiving programming.

The Wright Center for Community Health

In 2019, The Wright Center for Community Health was designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike (FQLA) by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). According to HRSA, FQLA's helps "to ensure health care for the nation's underserved communities and vulnerable populations through service provision to all, regardless of the ability to pay." The Wright Center has five clinics in the City of Scranton (Scranton Practice, Scranton Counseling Center Primary Care, School-based Health Centers (3) that provide services to City residents. Other Lackawanna County locations (Mid Valley Practice, Clarks Summit Practice, and the North Pocono Practice) also provide significant services to residents of the City of Scranton.

The Scranton Practice is the clinical, educational, and administrative hub located on the edge of downtown Scranton on the city's South Side. It is a full-service, family-friendly primary and pediatric care office that also offers expansive dental services, rheumatology, sports medicine, and infectious disease specialists, including our full-service Ryan White HIV Clinic. Their family doctors and advanced practitioners provide checkups, physicals, screenings, treatment of common illnesses and injuries, behavioral health, and addiction and recovery services.

In addition, preventive and childhood vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines, and monoclonal infusion therapies are provided by TWCCCH. There were 15,337 unique patients residing in zip codes within the City of Scranton who were treated over the period October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021. Their clinicians provided 60,378 visits to these 15,337 unique patients across several clinics in NEPA.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Personnel and program data costs to provide innovative IT infrastructure of data integration for county-level granular data
Employees	Full-time – 309 Part-time – 19
Mission	The mission of The Wright Center for Community Health (TWCCCH) and its affiliated entity, The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education (WCGME), is to improve the health and welfare of our community through inclusive and responsive health services and the sustainable renewal of an inspired, competent workforce that is

privileged to serve. The Wright Center for Community Health (TWCCH) strives to improve the physical health and mental well-being of Northeastern Pennsylvania's residents.

Grant Request

The grant was to provide personnel and program data costs with innovative IT infrastructure for data integration for county-level granular data. All nonprofits, community organizations, the city of Scranton, Lackawanna County, healthcare, mental health services, social services, and educational establishments can work together for more successful partnerships and community initiatives. This creates a shift from problem focused to solution focused analysis and has the capacity to provide the knowledge needed to optimize health and well-being while addressing structural racism, equity, and privacy and security.

This would enable innovative and meaningful partnerships and early and ongoing stakeholder engagement and build and sustain trust for effective data sharing. This can improve data to capture many drivers of health and the gradations of lived experience and provide metrics that give a glimpse into the pulse of the community.

Appendix D – Breakdown of Small Business Recovery and Wage Boost Programs

119 Productions (dba Center City Print)

119 Productions is a full-service social media and web design company based in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Recovery Grant Award	\$0.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$50,000.00

Outcomes

As none of the Wage Boost grant recipients have spent their grant balance yet, no reports are available to date. Consequently, the impact of these funds cannot yet be determined.

Amendola Deli-cious

Amendola Deli-cious is an Italian deli located at 999, Providence Road, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Recovery Grant Award	\$18,071.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$0.00

Amendola Foods

Amendola Foods is listed at the same address as Amendola Deli-cious.

Recovery Grant Award	\$18,071.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$0.00

The ArtRoom

The ArtRoom in downtown Scranton hosts art classes for children, helping them to develop skills like communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. Its mission is to “offer a variety of process art classes for children who are toddler through 14 years old, in order to inspire creativity regardless of skill level.”

Recovery Grant Award	\$22,060.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$0.00

Autobahn Title & Tag

Autobahn Title & Tag is a company that provides vehicle registration and title services to individuals and businesses in Pennsylvania.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Amount	\$25,000.00 – Canceled

Outcomes

The beneficiary submitted a 30-day summary. According to the summary, the beneficiary used funds to assist in their recovery from business interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, funds were used for advertising, equipment, software, and website redesigns. In total, \$20,635.03 were used as of September 11, 2023.

Regarding the rescinding of Wage Boost funds, the beneficiary was found to be ineligible as their only listed employee maintains 50.0 percent ownership in *Social Victory Media LLC, dba Autobahn Title and Tag*. Per the guidelines of the Wage Boost program, ARPA Small Business awards are available to assist eligible small business owners in recovering from the financial hardship and the ongoing challenging economic conditions created by the pandemic. Moreover, the purpose of this program is to retain employees or increase the business’s workforce by offering wages and benefits that are competitive with state averages. Since the owners have their own stake in the success of the business, they could not be considered employees. Therefore, they do not require a retention program and do not meet the requirements of the program.

Bar Pazzo

Bar Pazzo is a locally owned, New York City themed Italian restaurant located in downtown Scranton.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$50,000.00

Bee’s Backyard

Bee’s Backyard is an indoor play area for children.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Purpose	\$0.00

Outcomes

Funds were used to purchase a “Wacky 12” dual slide. In addition, funds allowed the beneficiary to update their computer set up.

Budget Hair Fashions

Budget Hair Fashions, which also operates under the name Joseph Trovato Salon, is based in Scranton, Pennsylvania. This organization has been operating for approximately 60 years.

Recovery Grant Award	\$10,503.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$0.00

Grant Request

The beneficiary proposed to use funding to deal with temporary revenue losses of \$10,503.00, which was a result of the business closing between March 2020 and summer 2020. Moreover, the beneficiary felt that the amount of business had reduced because of the pandemic. As the beneficiary explained, “These funds would sustain my business in the City of Scranton, as I had supplemented the loss from my savings, which have now been substantially depleted.” Specifically, funds will be used for the following:

- Rent – \$7,200.00 or more
- Supplies – \$3,303

Buona Pizza

Buona Pizza is an Italian restaurant and pizzeria located at 504 Lackawanna Ave, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$30,477.00

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary’s electronic survey response, grant funds helped to hire “extra help.”

The Creative and Performing Arts Academy of NEPA (CaPAA)

CaPAA is a performing arts school that provides education in acting, music, and dance for young children, teens, and adults. It offers a variety of programs, including classes, workshops, live shows, and family events.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$50,000.00 – Canceled

Crotti's on Ash

Crotti’s on Ash is a corner bar located at 1431 Ash Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$0.00

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary’s electronic survey response, grant funds helped to keep their business operational. As the beneficiary explained, “This grant help me to continue to run the business and keep it afloat, i would if went out of business wo the help of the arpa grant.”

The Dance Studio

The Dance Studio, the official school of Ballet Theatre of Scranton, provides dance education for all ages.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$27,648.00

Grant Request

The beneficiary intended to use funds to cover revenue losses of \$25,000.00 and raise wages/salaries to retain employees using the Wage Boost award of \$27,648.00. More specifically, the Recovery Grant award will be used for payroll, payroll taxes, independent contractor teachers’ payment, utilities, supplies, and insurance. The Wage Boost award will be used to increase employees’ wages.

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary’s electronic survey response, grant funds helped retain employees. As the beneficiary explained, “THE GRANT PREVENTED LOSS OF QUALITY TEACHERS AND EMPLOYEES, WHICH INCLUDED A SUMMER 2023 SEMINAR, THAT WAS CONTINUED FROM PRE-PANDEMIC TIMES, AND CONTINUED INTO SUMMER 2024.”

DK USA, Inc.

Dongkee Balune Co., Ltd. is the largest manufacturer of correction products and glue tape runners in Korea. Its U.S. sales office and warehouse is located in Scranton.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$50,000.00

Outcomes

The beneficiary submitted a 30-day summary as well as a recovery final report. According to their 30-day summary, funds were used for the following:

- Website Redesign – \$4,250.00
- Natural Product Expo – 10x10 booth – \$5,526.70
- Marketing for TBT event – Syracuse, NY – 7/24 – \$5,000.00
- Amazon Service – \$6,000.00
- Marketing for Romero Cotton – \$2,000.00
- Content Creation – \$1,000.00 (monthly plan)
- Social Media Service – \$1,000.00 (monthly plan)

In total, \$24,776.70 was spent as of August 22, 2023.

Endeavor Audio & Lighting Services Inc.

Endeavor Audio & Lighting is an audio, video, and lighting company located in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The company provides audio, video, lighting, and staging services, as well as equipment rentals.

Recovery Grant Award	\$13,848.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$50,000.00

Outcomes

Based on the beneficiary's electronic survey response, grant funds provided a "payroll boost."

Fork N' Bowl

Fork N' Bowl in downtown Scranton specializes in made-to-order bowls loaded with fresh, local ingredients.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$50,000.00

Outcomes

A 30-day summary report has been submitted by the beneficiary. According to the 30-day summary report, funds were used to cover rent and utilities costs, as well as packaging and sanitization materials. A breakdown of expenses is listed below:

- Rent – \$2,500.00
- Utilities – \$4,160.00
- Packaging/Sanitization Materials – \$1,524.00

Jeff D'Angelo's Design Group

Jeff D'Angelo's Design Group is a prop rental business based in Scranton's South Side. His studio now houses over 15,000 pieces to create over 100 party themes.

Recovery Grant Award	\$16,288.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$0.00

Outcomes

A summary of expenses was provided by the beneficiary. The award was used "for the following expenses or to replenish inventory utilized in the production of designs, such as bulk base materials, artist supplies, etc. due to the negative impact of revenue loss sustained by the Covid-19 Pandemic."

- 631 Prospect Avenue Building Mortgage – \$5,047.23

- Utilities / Pennsylvania Power and Light – \$1,125.47
- UGI / Pennsylvania Natural Gas – \$919.02
- Pennsylvania American Water & Sewer – \$1,680.67
- Erie Property Insurance – \$3,775.50
- Marquis Art and Frame – \$3,740.11

La'Olla de Doña Carmen

La'Olla de Doña Carmen is a food truck that offers Puerto Rican dishes in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Recovery Grant Award	\$4,047.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$0.00

Outcomes

A 30-day summary report has been submitted by the beneficiary. A breakdown of expenses is listed below:

- “Insurance payment on general liability for the year \$800.00”
- “Generator purchase old one broke needed it since business runs solely on generator \$1,200.00”
- “Generator plug needed since its new connection from old one purchased on amazon \$200.00”
- “Made partial phone bill payment of \$500.00 since it was past due”
- “Supplies \$400.00 food for last week already used”
- “Applied payment of past due Rent \$500.00 paid for August”
- “\$447.00 left to spend week of 9/11/23 for food supplies for this week operation”

LaSalle the Image Makers

Lasalle The Image Makers is a men’s clothing store, offering conservative to fashionable suits paired with a variety of accessories.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Program	\$0.00

McCarthy Management Services

McCarthy Management Services is based in South Abington Township, Pennsylvania, and has been providing management services since 2010.

Recovery Grant Award	\$0.00
Wage Boost Grant Program	\$50,000.00

Outcomes

No closing report is available to date.

New Laundry

New Laundry is a women’s boutique and accessories store located in downtown Scranton.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$0.00

Outcomes

A 30-day summary report has been submitted by the beneficiary. A breakdown of expenses is listed below:

- Lilly Pulitzer (Sugartown Worldwide, Inc.) – \$1,740.00
- Mark Kneeream & Assoc. – \$2,050.00
- Scranton Times – \$334.60
- AMEX – \$2,000.00
- Scranton Connell, LP – \$1756.88 (August 2023 Rent)
- Scranton Connell, LP – \$118.92 (July 2023 Electric)
- FNCB Line of Credit – \$800.00
- FNCB Checking Overdraft – \$2,129.41

Northern Light Espresso Bar and Café

Northern Light Espresso Bar and Café is located at Courthouse Square in Scranton. Northern Light has been in business since 2002 and serves fresh-brewed coffee and espresso drinks made with beans from Damiani Coffee Roasters in Factoryville.⁶

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$0.00

Outcomes

A 30-day summary report has been submitted by the beneficiary. A breakdown of expenses is listed below:

- Rent: \$3,339.00 (July) \$3,339.00 has been issued for Aug.
- Utilities: \$763.92
- Supplies:
 - Paper/Plastics: \$2,036.82
 - Food/Beverage: \$9,247.05

In total, \$18,725.79 was used in the first 30 days of receiving the award. The beneficiary stated that the remaining \$6,274.21 was to be used for supplies in August and September.

Note Fragrances, Inc.

Noteology is a boutique perfumery, gift shop, and custom perfume and candle studio located in downtown Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$50,000.00

Outcomes

A 30-day summary report has been submitted by the beneficiary. The funds were used to help mitigate “the huge increases we have experienced in the costs of raw materials, ingredients, packaging, and supplies and help us weather the financial hardships we have experienced with decreases in profit margins by buying in bulk.” Funds also allowed the beneficiary to “procure and secure supplies needed at better price point since we are buying in bulk and will be the majority of our spending.”

The beneficiary also intended to use funds to expand their marketing. In addition, the beneficiary explained that funds will also be used to purchase machinery and “inventory technology that will help us expediate our shipping processes, thus reducing labor time and costs and therefore increasing overall profitability.”

Furthermore, the \$25,000.00 in Small Business Recovery funds was used for the following:

- Procurement of raw materials, supplies, and packaging for products – \$18,000.00
- Allocated funds for marketing – \$5,000.00
- Allocated funds for the purchase of equipment and technology for e-commerce – \$2,000.00

Penn Shadecrafters

Penn Shadecrafters, Inc. is a wholesale manufacturer of custom lamp shades.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$50,000.00

Outcomes

A 30-day summary report on the use of Small Business Recovery Grant funds was provided by the beneficiary. As the beneficiary explained, “With the help of the ARPA Small Business Recovery Grant we have been able to continue our operations close to our projections through the second quarter 2023.” Moreover, funds helped the beneficiary to absorb the increased cost of factory expenses, “while slowly adjusting our price structure and reducing other costs to increase revenues.”

Soko Investments (Sky Auto Sales)

Sky Auto Sales is a car dealership in Scranton, Pennsylvania, offering pre-owned vehicles.

Recovery Grant Award	\$15,000.00
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Wage Boost Grant Award	\$35,000.00
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Outcomes

No closing report is available to date.

Unison Workforce

Unison Workforce provides “side-hustlers” with the tools and infrastructure they need to build and grow their businesses.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$0.00 – Canceled

Outcomes

No closing report is available to date.

Zummo’s Café

Zummo’s Café is a restaurant that offers coffee, tea, and vegan options. It is located at 918 Marion Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Recovery Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Wage Boost Grant Award	\$24,154.00

Outcomes

No closing report is available to date.

¹ “American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA),” ScrantonPa.gov.

² “Our Story,” Neighborly Software.

³ “Scranton Announces Second Round of Wage Boost, Business Recovery Grants,” Office of the Mayor, July 19, 2023.

⁴ Ensuring equitable distribution of American Rescue Plan funds: A case study of the Latino Community Foundation | Brookings.

⁵ Fact_Sheet_ARPA_SmallBusinesses.pdf (nlc.org).

⁶ “Quality Coffee & Homemade Food,” Discover NEPA.