Avenues of Hope American Rescue Plan Act Grant Program

TPMC

Housekeeping







Participants are muted

Comments & questions

This meeting is being recorded

Agenda

1. Welcome

2. Avenues of Hope Initiative Overview

3. AoH ARPA Program Overview

4. Eligible Projects and Activities

5. Program Details

6. Program Schedule

7. Questions & Comment

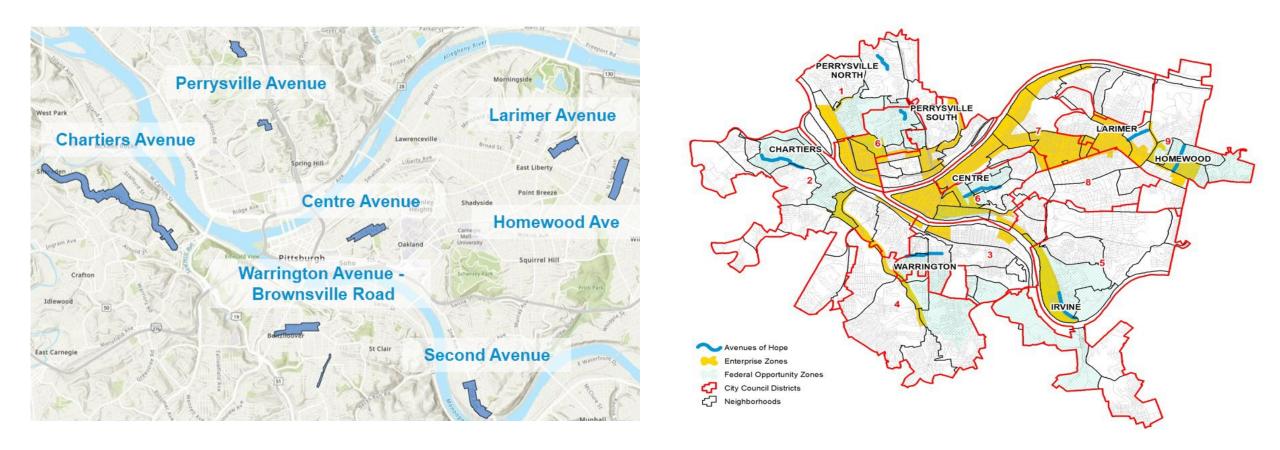


Avenues of Hope:

A Holistic Model for Rebuilding Pittsburgh's Black & Disinvested Main Streets

- Place-based, people-first approach that intervenes across all layers of successful, healthy, and sustainable Main Street development
- Pittsburgh Avenues of Hope will be:
 - Black-owned
 - Centers of Black arts and culture
 - Mixed-use, transit-oriented, and pedestrian- and bike-friendly built environments
 - Healthy communities supported by education, health care, senior care, recreation, and human supportive services

Avenues of Hope Map



Our Approach

Supporting equitable development of Pittsburgh's minority communities and businesses



Place Based

- Wealth building through real estate development and ownership
- Public space improvements
- Preservation of affordable housing



People Based

- Entrepreneurial support
- Micro-lending
- Minority business recovery and growth

Pittsburgh Avenues of Hope



Avenues of Hope

Implementation Tools & Tactics

Business Districts

Strategic site assembly

Innovative project financing

> Public space improvement

Cross-sector coordination

Businesses & Storefronts

Filling storefronts

Affordable commercial space

Business support services

Avenues of Hope American Rescue Plan Act Funding

The AoH ARPA Grant Program is funded through the URA's \$7 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allocation from the City of Pittsburgh, specifically designated to AOH communities.

This federally funded program was dispersed to Cities and Counties throughout the nation to aid in rebuilding and recovering from the losses experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The AoH ARPA Grant Program will support COVID-19 recovery on a neighborhood scale.

ARPA funds allocation for AoH communities: \$1M per AoH corridor

 Note: Applications will be awarded quarterly until funds are depleted for each corridor





Avenues of Hope American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Program

The AoH ARPA Grant Program provides funding for place-based initiatives in the 7 Avenues of Hope communities to spur the revitalization within commercial corridors.

Program goals

- Improve quality of life in neighborhoods through health outcomes and economic opportunity
- Support COVID-19 pandemic hardship recovery
- Invest in Pittsburgh's Black and disinvested main streets

Grant Structure

- Maximum grant request is \$200,000
- Portion of the grant amount will be awarded upfront, based on project readiness and need

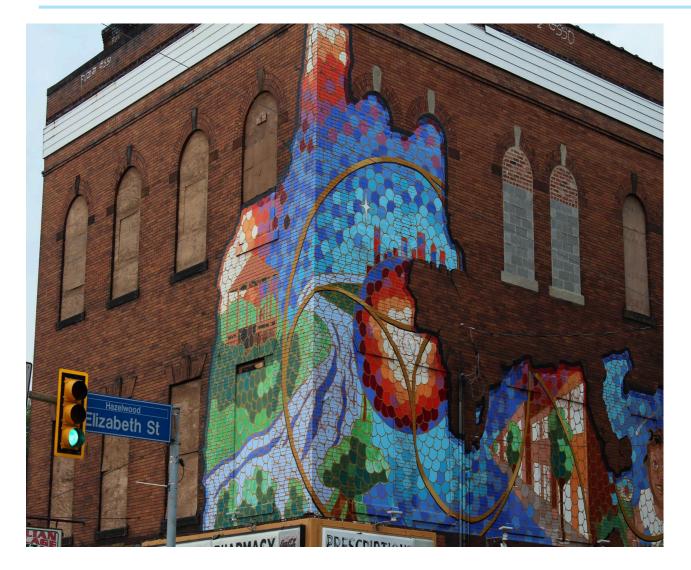
Who is eligible to apply?

- AOH-based Non-profits
- Community Development Corporations (CDCs)
- Business District Organizations
- Small Businesses
- Individuals such as business owners and property owners
- Partnering private entities



MOKA Art Gallery founders Errol "Mobutu" Reynolds and Charlotte Ka; MOKA is located along the Avenues of Hope corridor (Centre Ave) in the Hill District.

AoH ARPA Eligible Projects & Activities



The AoH ARPA Grant Program will fund proposals for AOH-related place-based initiatives that accomplish any of the following and comply with federal requirements for use of ARPA funds.

Eligible categories are:

- Assist in the revitalization of commercial corridors that were impacted by the pandemic
- Improvements to vacant and/or abandoned commercial spaces and/or public infrastructure
- Commercial corridor support for recovery of COVID-19
 pandemic hardships
- Investment in neighborhoods to improve health outcomes, specifically through the creation and/or improvement of parks and open spaces within or near the commercial corridor.

Projects may be eligible for the following activities:

Vacant, blighted and/or underutilized property reclamation and stewardship that improves community safety

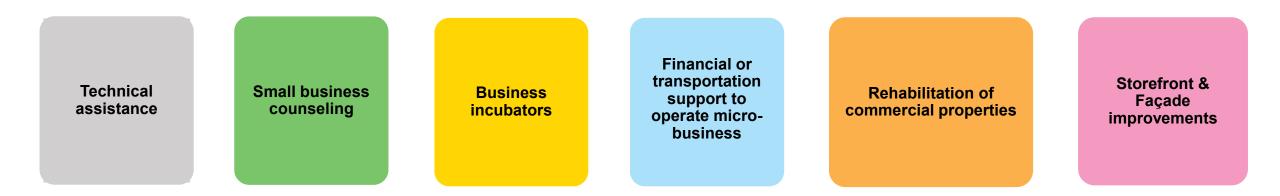
Other costs to Costs associated with **Demolition or** position property Greening or acquiring and securing deconstruction of **Rehabilitation &** for current or other clean-up of Maintenance legal title of vacant/abandoned Renovation vacant lots vacant/abandoned future productive buildings properties use

Public space and neighborhood infrastructure improvements that enhance health and safety outcomes

Streetscape improvements

Parks and open space creation or improvements

Small Business Support



COVID-19 Recovery Relief

Assistance for businesses that were in the start-up and/or expansion phase in early 2020 and faced delays due to pandemic hardships

Operation and maintenance of existing equipment and facilities (rent, leases, and utilities) to mitigate financial hardship suffered Program adaptation to fit into changing COVID-19 standards (outdoor and online venues)

Upgrades to interior spaces to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 (HVAC systems, kitchen and bathroom renovations)

Additional costs associated with COVID-19 mitigation tactics

Ineligible Activities

- Projects not located within the City of Pittsburgh
- Projects not located within the boundaries of Avenues of Hope corridors.
- Residential projects that have no commercial component and are not part of a mixed-use development.
- Improvements or projects that are proposed to occur within a City of Pittsburgh right of way that have not been coordinated with and approved by the City of Pittsburgh.
- Improvements or projects that do not have site control of the proposed property.
- Projects that do not align with the Federal ARPA Final Rule.
- Any project which the URA believes, in its sole discretion, will not result in AOH ARPA Grant Program funds being spent by December 31. 2026.



There are two tiers of available grants:

• Tier 1 - \$0 to \$50,000

• No match required

• Tier 2 - \$50,001 to \$200,000

- Matching requirement of 10% (of the total project cost) cash equity investment
 - Applicants (excluding private entities) may use prior investments/services to cover up to half (5%) of the 10% investment.
 - In kind services that take place over the grant contract period will also be accepted.
 - Matching funds from URA and City sources are eligible for this program.



PROGRAM DETAILS

Evaluation & Selection Process

All applications will undergo a two-part review process.

Community Advisory Committees

- <u>What:</u> Each corridor will have a Community Advisory Committee (7 committees total).
- <u>Why</u>: Establish a fair, equitable and community centered review process.
- <u>Who</u>: Committees may be comprised of corresponding neighborhood community group(s) representatives, community leaders, business owners, URA representatives, and other City agencies as needed.
- <u>How:</u> Community Advisory Committees will meet <u>quarterly</u> to review relevant project information from eligible applications received for the specific corridor. The Advisory Committee will assess feasibility and impact of each project and will then make preliminary project recommendations to the URA Review Committee.

URA Review Committee

- <u>What:</u> There will be one overall URA Review Committee for all project applications received.
- **<u>Why</u>**: To ensure projects are ARPA compliant.
- <u>Who</u>: The URA Review Committee will be comprised of representatives from the URA, Department of City Planning, Mayor's Office, Office of Management and Budget, and other City agencies as deemed appropriate.
- <u>**How:</u>** The URA Review Committee will meet <u>quarterly</u> to review all applications received, preliminary recommendations from the Community Advisory Committee and confirm ARPA eligibility. The Review Committee will then make funding recommendations to the URA Board of Directors.</u>

Project Tracking & Reporting

All awardees must comply with quarterly tracking and reporting requirements.



Tracking & Reporting Process

- Complete monthly project reports
- Attend quarterly check-in meetings with respective URA Grant Manager
- Benchmarks will be set with each awardee to determine a fund disbursement schedule that aligns with project timeline
- Purchases made with funding will be screened for eligibility and approved by URA Grant Manager <u>before</u> funds are disbursed and spent



How to apply

Application

- Applications can be submitted through Google Forms, here.
 - Note: Applicants must have a Google account to upload supporting materials
- For applicants without a Google account, applications can be completed in fillable PDF format and submitted via email to <u>AOHgrant@ura.org</u>
 - Note: Supporting application materials can be uploaded on the AoH ARPA webpage on the URA website
- Both application formats are available on the <u>AoH ARPA webpage</u>
 - <u>www.ura.org/pages/avenues-of-hope-arpa</u>

Supporting Materials

 Templates for supporting application materials (project scope, budget, etc.) can be found on the AoH ARPA webpage

Technical Assistance

- Technical assistance for submitting applications is available upon request
 - Providers can help with thinking through project scopes, creating project budgets, and more

How to apply

Step 1: Go to the URA website www.ura.org

ABOUT US IMPACT SERVICES PROPOSALS & BIDS NEWS EVENTS CONTACT US Q



strengthening communities

The Urban Redevelopment Authority is here for Pittsburgh.

ura

Successful economic development is not just about building projects, it's about building people and forming mutually beneficial partnerships to transf the places in which we live for the better

ABOUT US IMPACT SERVICES PROPOSALS & BIDS NEWS EVENTS CONTACT US Q

URA Impact

ura

Stories and Project Portfolio

Avenues of Hope Initiative

Economic Recovery and Growth

Step 2: *Hover* over 'Impact' and *select* 'Avenues of Hope Initiative'

This opens the Avenues of Hope Initiative landing page

• All AoH initiative information can be found here, including resources, corridor maps, news and more.

ABOUT US IMPACT SERVICES PROPOSALS & BIDS NEWS EVENTS

Avenues of Hope Programs

Avenues of Hope ARPA Grant Program

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The Avenues of Hope American Rescue Plan Act Grant Program provides grants up to \$200,000 to advance community projects and programs that both align with the Avenues of Hope initiative of supporting equitable development within Pittsburgh's minority communities and businesses, and with Federal American Rescue Plan Act final ruling.

Small Contractor Line of Credit Program

The Small Contractor Line of Credit Program supports operating construction companies taking on Avenues of Hope projects that require access to working capital. Contractors may be eligible to receive financing of up to 90% of submitted and approved invoices of \$25,000 - \$100,000 on an annual basis.

Commercial Real Estate Program

The Avenues of Hope Commercial Real Estate Program provides capital to local and minority small businesses and developers in support of Avenues of Hope

Avenues of Hope Initiative

A holistic model for rebuilding Pittsburgh's Black main streets

The Avenues of Hope Initiative is a placebased, people-first approach that intervenes across all layers of successful, healthy, and sustainable main street development.

This initiative focuses on seven major business corridors, in which the goal is to invest in existing small businesses and residents, supporting the inclusive growth of the neighborhoods.

The Avenues of Hope will be:

- Black-owned
- · Centers of Black arts and culture
- Mixed-use transit-oriented and nedestrian-friendly built environments

Step 3: Scroll down the landing page until you reach 'Avenues of Hope Programs'

Step 4: Select the 'Avenues of Hope ARPA Grant Program'

This opens the Avenues of Hope ARPA Grant Program webpage

- All AoH ARPA Grant Program information can be found here, including:
 - Program guidelines
 - Grant application
 - Corresponding materials (Project Budget template and Project Scope guide)
 - Grant application upload portal
 - Program timeline

This webpage can also be accessed via the search bar on the URA website, or by directly typing <u>www.ura.org/pages/avenues-of-hope-arpa</u> into your browser bar.

ABOUT US IMPACT SERVICES PROPOSALS & BIDS

How to Apply

Please read the full Program Guidelines before applying for this program. You may apply one of two ways:

- 1. Click on the Google Form Program Application link below and include any attachments where indicated; **OR**
- 2. Click on the Fillable PDF Program Application link below, fill out, and then upload it along with required documents in the yellow form below.

If you have questions about how to apply or need assistance, please email AOHgrant@ura.org.

Language translation is available free of charge. Please send an email to translation@ura.org.

PROGRAM MATERIALS



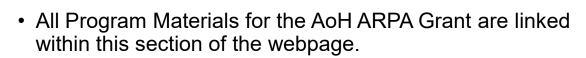
ABOUT US IMPACT SERVICES PROPOSALS & BIDS NEWS EVENTS CONTACT US Q

Avenues of Hope ARPA Grant Program

The Avenues of Hope American Rescue Plan Act Grant Program assists with place-based initiatives that stimulate revitalization along historically disinvested commercial corridors within the seven Avenues of Hope communities.

The Avenues of Hope American Rescue Plan Act Grant Program provides grants to advance community projects and programs that both align with the Avenues of Hope initiative of

Step 5: Scroll down the AoH ARPA webpage until you reach 'How to Apply'



<u>Step 6</u>: *Select* either application format (Google Forms or PDF) to access the Grant application



Uran Redevelop Authority

Fillable PDF Application Format



Avenues of Hope ARPA Grant Program Application

Through the Avenues of Hope Initiative, the Avenues of Hope (AOH) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Program, administered by the URA's Business Solutions Unit, is designed to award grants to advance eligible projects/programs that both support the mission of the AOH Initiative and align with the Federal ARPA Final Rule. Projects/Programs that receive funding from the AOH ARPA Grant Program must be located within the seven (7) AOH neighborhood commercial corridors:

- · Chartiers Avenue (Elliott, Sheraden, Windgap, Chartiers City)
- Perrysville Avenue (Perry Hilltop, Observatory Hill)
- Homewood Avenue (Homewood)
- Larimer Avenue (Larimer)
- Second Avenue (Hazelwood)
- Centre Avenue (Hill District)
- Brownsville Road/Warrington Avenue (Knoxville, Mt. Oliver, Beltzhoover, Allentown)
- and:
- Assist in the revitalization of commercial corridors that were impacted by the pandemic.
 Make improvements to vacant and/or abandoned commercial spaces and/or public infrastructure in disproportionately impacted communities.
- 3) Provide commercial corridor support for recovery of COVID-19 pandemic hardships; and 4) Invest in AOH neighborhoods to improve health outcomes in disproportionately impacted communities, specifically through the creation and/or improvement of parks and open spaces near or within the commercial corridor.

The Program is intended to assist AOH-based non-profits, community development corporations (CDCs), business district organizations, small businesses, and individuals such as business owners, property owners, and partnering private entities. Please refer to the AOH ARPA guidelines for specific project and applicant eligibility requirements <u>HERE</u>.

Please fill out the entire application and answer the questions as completely as possible. ALL QUESTIONS ARE REQUIRED TO BE ANSWERED.

The fillable PDF application does not automatically save your work. It is advised that you save your answers in another document to prevent progress from being lost. You may skip ahead of sections in order to copy/paste the questions to another document. Applications can also be completed as a Google Form.

Completed applications and supporting documents should be submitted on the AoH ARPA Grant Program webpage located on the URA website at https://www.ura.org/pages/avenues-of-hope-arpa

Applications are collected and reviewed on a rolling basis with quarterly deadlines until funding for each community is depleted. Questions should be sent to AOHgrant@ura.org.

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Google Forms Application Format

Avenues of Hope ARPA Grant Application

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<u>Step 7a</u>: *Fill in* the grant application

<u>Ste</u>							uide' when completing the grant application.	GUIDE	
							PROGRAM MATERIALS	Please include the following information in the 'Project Information' section of your grant application. If additional space is needed for your responses, please submit an additional PDF document with your application.	
 The 'Project Information Guide' and 'Itemized Project Budget' template can be found on the AoH ARPA webpage under 'Program Materials' 							 Program Guidelines Program Application (Google Form) Program Application (Fillable PDF) 	 Briefly summarize your project proposal. What are you planning to do? Why is this project needed in your community? 	
							 Project Information Guide Itemized Project Budget Template 	2. Outline your goals/plans for the completed project.	
							Downioad Program Fiyer	 Provide an estimated timeline for the whole project, as well as a breakdown of what each phase of the project will include within your project scope in question #26. 	
Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh Avenues of Hope ARPA Grant Program Itemized Project Budget Template								 If your project includes multiple parcels, please outline the renovations needed or planned for each parcel. Be sure to include relevant addresses, as well as Allegheny County parcel ID numbers (if possible). 	
Please download and fill in this budget template to include as an attachment to your AoH ARPA grant application. List all sources and uses of funding for the entire project, including: financing, grants, donations, equity. If needed, additional columns of funding sources can be inserted before the 'Totals' column. Clearly indicate which 'uses' the AoH ARPA grant award would fund, if awarded. Be as specific as possible.								 Please include any other relevant information you would like the URA to know about this project. 	
Project Name			•	tion/Business Name	•	60.00			
AoH ARPA Grant Request Amount \$0.00 Itemized Project Budget						\$0.00			
	Use of Funds	Sources of Funds					Step 8: Download and fill in the 'Itemized Project Budget' template for your grant application.		
Use of Funds		AOH ARPA	1 2 3 Totals:			Totals:			
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						s - s -	A blank template		
						s - s -		completed project budget	
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Urban Redevelopm Authority of Pittsburgh

PROJECT

INFORMATION

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<u>Step 9</u>: Upload the grant application and all supporting materials

Google Forms Application Format

Fillable PDF Application Format

	ABOUT US
rogram Application Document Upload	
Upload your completed AoH ARPA Grant Program application and supporting documents via the form below. You can upload all documents separately, or combine materials into one PDF (maximum file size is 1000 KB).	
Applications and materials can also be submitted via	
Google Forms. If you submit an application via Google Forms, you do not need to upload documents here. Please clearly name the documents with the following convention: "Organization name" followed by "type of document" e.g. "Organization A Project Budget" etc. For additional support, please email AOHgrant@ura.org.	
Date	
NAME First	
Last	
Company Name	
E-mail Address	
Phone Number	
APPLICATION	
Choose File No file chosen	
ITEMIZED PROJECT BUDGET	

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

AoH ARPA Timeline

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with quarterly deadlines.

2023 Timeline	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Funding Round Opens	February 1 st	May 1 st	July 1 st	October 1 st
Information Webinars	March 14 th - 6pm March 16 th - 1pm	May 9 th – 6pm May 18 th – 1pm	July 11 th - 1pm July 20 th - 5pm	October 10 th - 1pm October 19 th - 5pm
Application Deadlines	April 30 th	June 30 th	September 30 th	December 31 st
Review Period	May 2023	July 2023	October 2023	January 2024
Award Announcements	June 2023	August 2023	November 2023	February 2024

Final Note

- **1. Read the guidelines**
- 2. Read the guidelines
- 3. Read the guidelines
- 4. Follow the guidelines



Contacts

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Questions and Discussion

