

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) **At this time all funds for Centre Avenue are depleted.**
- Brownsville Road/Warrington Avenue (Knoxville, Mt. Oliver, Beltzhoover, Allentown)

and:

- 1) Assist in the revitalization of commercial corridors that were impacted by the pandemic.
- 2) 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 [HERE](#).

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.

Applicant Information

1. Checklist

Be sure that all items within the checklist are complete and true before submitting the application.

- ☐ The applicant is a non-profit (501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19)), community development corporation (CDC), business district organization, small business, business owner, property owner, or partnering private entity.
 - ☐ The applicant can provide a recent financial audit and copy of not-for-profit certification.
 - ☐ The project is entirely located within one of AOH neighborhood commercial corridors in the City of Pittsburgh: Centre Avenue, Chartiers Avenue, Homewood Avenue, Second Avenue (Irvine Street), Larimer Avenue, Perrysville Avenue, and Warrington Avenue/Brownsville Road .
 - ☐ The project complies with local zoning requirements.
 - ☐ The project is able to meet all State and Federal statutory mandates and local ordinances (i.e., federal procurement guidelines, the Pennsylvania Steel Products Procurement Act, the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act, and ARPA requirements, including reporting requirements).
 - ☐ The project is located in a qualified census tract (optional).
 - ☐ The applicant has an itemized project budget.
 - ☐ All required match funding is in place.
 - ☐ Any design or construction is compliant with City of Pittsburgh building standards.
 - ☐ Projects not funding a planning study have completed design and planning documents.
 - ☐ The applicant has reviewed URA construction bidding requirements and has verified that any construction within the scope of the project can meet these requirements.
 - ☐ The applicant has researched any required permitting, environmental review, historic review, or other compliance standards associated with the scope of the project.
 - ☐ There is site control over the property unless the project is to acquire vacant/abandoned property.
 - ☐ Owner occupancy of project location OR letter of support from property owner that states agreement to adhere to the program requirements.
 - ☐ The project can demonstrate public support.
 - ☐ The applicant understands that no funds can be spent on the proposed project until the final contract is signed by the URA and the grant recipient.
- The applicant is up to date on City of Pittsburgh tax filing. Confirm here: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/finance/real-estate-tax-deq>

2. I have read and understand the eligibility requirements *

Mark only one circle.

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. Organization/Business Name

4. Is the organization a Community Based Organization (CBO)? A community-based organization is any non-profit organization incorporated for the purpose of providing services or other assistance to economically or socially disadvantaged persons within its designated community

Mark only one circle.

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. If applicable, is the organization a Registered Community Organization (RCO) with the Department of City Planning? <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/rco>

Mark only one circle.

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. AOH corridor organization/business is located.

Mark only one circle.

- ☐ Chartiers Ave.
- ☐ Perrysville Ave.
- ☐ Homewood Ave.
- ☐ Larimer Ave.
- ☐ Second Ave.
- ☐ Brownsville Rd/E. Warrington Ave.
- ☐

7. Organization/Business Address (include City, State, Zip)

8. Organization/Business Website

9. Primary Contact Name

10. Phone Number

11. Email address

12. Describe your organization/business. Include history, mission statement(s), and current business operations. If the responding organization(s) are forming a team, explain the relationship among the proposed team-members. (1,000 characters).
13. What type of grant is your organization/business applying for? Note that: Tier 2 Grants have a matching requirement of 10% (of the total project cost) cash equity investment by the applicant. 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.

Mark only one circle.

- ☐ Tier 1 – Under \$50,000.00. No matching requirement.
- ☐ Tier 2 - \$50,000.01 - \$200,000.00. Matching requirement.

14. Amount requested

Project Information

Please use the 'Project Information Guide' on the [AoH ARPA webpage](#) when completing the Project Information section of your application.

15. Project Name

16. Anticipated Project Start Date (note that contracts will not be signed until 2-4 months following application review, and work cannot start until a contract is signed)

17. Neighborhood where the project is located along the AOH corridor (i.e., Chartiers Ave. - Sheraden)

18. Project Address (include City, State, Zip)

19. Which category does the project fall under?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Rehabilitation of commercial properties
- ☐ Storefront and façade improvements
- ☐ Technical assistance to small businesses to assist with business planning needs
- ☐ Programs or services to support micro-businesses
- ☐ Vacant and/or abandoned property reclamation and stewardship
- ☐ Programming and projects that support the AOH initiative as it relates to COVID-19 recovery by either adapting programming to fit into changing COVID-19 standards (outdoor and online venues) OR upgrades to interior spaces to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, such as kitchen and bathroom renovations
- ☐ Assistance for small businesses that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (Qualified Census Tract/Disproportionately impacted area ONLY)
- ☐ Assistance to small businesses (as defined in 31 C.F.R. § 35.3) that were impacted by the pandemic (as demonstrated by decreased revenue or gross receipts, financial insecurity, increased costs, lack of capacity to weather financial hardship, or challenges covering payroll, rent or mortgage, and other operating costs) in the form of funding for operations and maintenance of existing equipment and facilities, such as rent, leases, and utilities to mitigate financial hardship and in an amount that is proportional to the hardship suffered
- ☐ Upgrades to HVAC systems to mitigate the spread of COVID-19
- ☐ Investment in neighborhood to improve health outcomes through improvements of parks and open spaces near or within the commercial corridor to improve health and safety outcomes OR streetscape improvements that enhance health outcomes of the neighborhood(s)

20. Provide a brief summary of the project. (500 characters)

21. Describe the proposed project and how it will address community needs and issues of equity within the specific AOH corridor, and in the City of Pittsburgh. (2,000 characters)
22. Is the project in compliance with a neighborhood plan, district plan, or overarching goals of the City of Pittsburgh? Explain. (1,000 characters)
23. How will the proposed project support COVID-19 recovery on a neighborhood scale? (2,000 characters)
24. What outcomes and impacts does the Applicant anticipate realizing from this project? (1,000 characters)

25. What indicators will be used to measure these outcomes? Please include the type of data that will be collected to demonstrate success of outcomes. (1,000 characters)
26. Provide a bulleted list of all activities that make up the project's scope. This will help determine the project's eligibility for funding.
27. Does your project have public support? Provide documentation of public support such as meeting minutes, letters of support, or other evidence of support as an attachment to this application. Please ensure all documents are labeled clearly in the format of "Organization/ Business Name" followed by "Type of Document" e.g. "Organization A" "Letter of Support from [Council Member Name]" You can upload your documents at the end of the application.

28. Describe your organization/business's relevant experience implementing similar projects and in collaborating with community partners and local stakeholders. If your organization/business is still emerging and has no prior experience with community partnerships, please describe how you intend to build partnerships and establish community presence/support through this project. (2,000 characters)
29. Describe how this project will be sustained beyond the grant period. If the project is temporary, explain how this project will inform future projects or programs. (2,000 characters)
30. The URA encourages the full participation of Minority- and Woman-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE). Describe your efforts to provide opportunities for MWBE firms. (1,000 characters). More information can be found on the URA's website: <https://www.ura.org/pages/ura-mwbe-policy-scope>

34. Provide the current status of each funding source for the project, including the required funding match for Tier 2 Grants. Provide evidence of matching funds as an attachment to this application, if applicable, such as an award letter or canceled check. (1,000 characters)
35. AOH ARPA funding must be expended within one year of contract execution. Provide a project schedule including tasks such as outreach, bidding, construction and/or other scope items. **In some cases, the environmental review required by federal funding can take 1 - 6 months to complete prior to executing a contract. Describe how your project schedule can adapt to potential compliance requirements. (1,000 characters)
36. Describe the Applicant's systems in place for financial management, invoicing, and reporting, and monitoring. (1,000 characters)

37. Describe your approach to staffing and project management, should you be awarded AOH ARPA funds. (1,000 characters)

Additional Information and Attachments

Please upload the required documentation listed in the check list below on the AoH ARPA Grant Program webpage located on the URA website at www.ura.org/pages/avenues-of-hope-arpa. Templates for Itemized Project Budgets and a Project Information guide can also be found on this webpage. If you have any difficulty uploading the forms, please send all documents directly via email to AOHgrant@ura.org.

Please clearly name the documents with the following convention:

"Organization name" followed by "Type of Document" e.g. "Organization A" "Letter of Support from [Council Member Name]"; "Organization A W9" etc.

38. If there is any additional significant information about the proposal, please use this section to provide such information and/or supply additional attachments if necessary. (1,000 characters)

Please use the following check list when gathering relevant documents. Include the file name(s) that you will be uploading, making sure to follow the naming guidance above.

Required Attachments:

Public Support Documents (i.e., Letters of support, relevant neighborhood plans, etc.)

Name of file(s) submitted [*ex. URA Letter of Support from Councilman X*]:

Recent Financial Audit

Name of file(s) submitted:

Organization/Business Current Annual Budget

Name of file(s) submitted:

Not for profit/Registered Business/LLC Certification

Name of file(s) submitted:

Map of project location

Name of file(s) submitted:

Site Control documentation or Property owner agreement (Not needed if the project is to acquire vacant/abandoned property)

Name of file(s) submitted:

Itemized project budget (Please refer to the Itemized Project Budget template on the AoH ARPA webpage)

Name of file(s) submitted:

Evidence of secured matching funds

Name of file(s) submitted:

Project renderings (if available) or photos of project site. Photos and renderings may be used by the URA for promotional purposes

Name of file(s) submitted:

Most recent W-9

Name of file(s) submitted: