

Summary of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Montana Commissions

ARPA Commissions

1. American Rescue Plan Infrastructure Advisory Commission
2. American Rescue Plan Communications Advisory Commission
3. American Rescue Plan Economic Transformation and Workforce Development Advisory Commission
4. American Rescue Plan Health Advisory Commission

First three commissions are composed of 9 members per commission appointed as follows:

- 3 senators – two from the majority party, one from the minority appointed by senate president
- 3 representatives – two from the majority party, one from the minority appointed by speaker of the house
- 3 appointed by the Governor

Health Advisory Commission has a different make up (4 representatives) same concept.

Infrastructure Commission

Commission shall review applications for funding for state capital projects and state and local government water and sewer infrastructure projects and provide recommendation to the executive as to which projects should be funded. Projects in HB, 5, 6, 7, 11 and 14 are not submitted to the commission.

Commission shall hold its first meeting June 7, 2021 and will set its future meeting dates.

Water and Wastewater/Sewer

Available funding for water and sewer projects is \$462.6M

State water and sewer infrastructure projects include projects for state-owned building and facilities and associated infrastructure, which include the Montana University System and community colleges in the state.

The “first round” of submissions should be submitted to DNRC via State Architecture and Engineering Division (A&E) by July 15, 2021.

Applicants shall certify that each submitted project is a necessary water or sewer infrastructure project as defined in ARPA.

Subsequent submissions, if any, will be by due dates determined by the commission.

Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) will review the applications and rank the project and provide recommendations to the commission by August 15, 2021.

The commission will review and provide a recommend list to the executive by the dates established by the commission.

No project will receive more than \$25M in grants.

Capital Projects

\$70.7M available funding

Project requests submitted to A&E

Agencies must certify that each project qualifies as a capital project as defined in ARPA.

The commission will review and provide a recommended list to the executive by the dates established by the commission.

Preference must be given to projects that are geographically dispersed across the state.

Projects must carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, or health monitoring including remote options in response to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19.

Communications Commission

\$275M available funding allocated to the Department of Commerce.

Communication projects are those related to broadband infrastructure, including cell towers or public safety.

Department of Commerce certifies the list of Communication projects and submits to the commission.

Economic Transformation and Workforce Development Commission

Commission will review proposals from the Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture and Department of Labor and Industry.

Department of Commerce will staff the commission.

Health Advisory Commission

Commission recommends how funds allocated to the Department of Public Health and Human Services are to be used.

Appropriations or allocations to the Office of Budget and Program Planning, Office of Public Instruction, State Library, Montana Arts Council