

The background features a vertical split. The left side is a white space containing a blurred, abstract image of flowing, organic shapes in shades of yellow, orange, and light green. The right side is a white rectangular area. At the top of the right side is a solid green horizontal bar. At the bottom of the right side is a solid teal horizontal bar.

ARPA Fund Survey Results

September 2021

Public Engagement



Eau Claire County
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We need to hear from you! Eau Claire County is looking for public input on the spending and distribution of the American Rescue Plan funds. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides federal recovery aid for state and local governments, \$20,295,447 is provided in direct aid to Eau Claire County. You are invited and encouraged to respond to the comment form by visiting: <http://ow.ly/SRGd50FbUve>

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS

Performance for Your Post

1140 People Reached		
11 Likes, Comments & Shares		
50 Post Clicks		
1 Photo Views	28 Link Clicks	21 Other Clicks

PRESS RELEASE



Eau Claire County Seeking Public input on the spending and distribution of ARPA funding

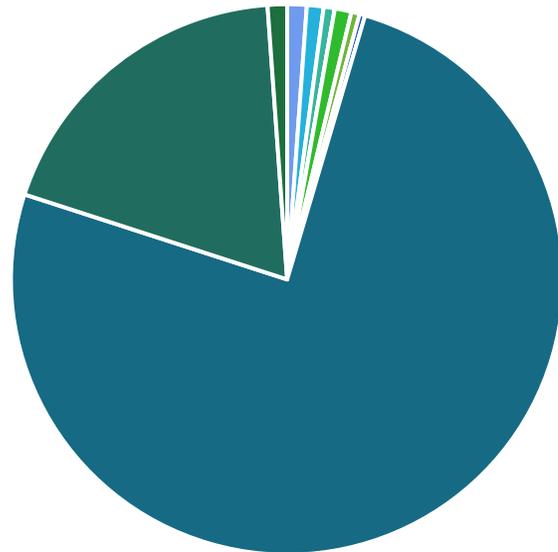
For Immediate Release June 16, 2021

(Eau Claire, Wis.) – We need to hear from you! Eau Claire County is looking for public input on the spending and distribution of the American Rescue Plan funds. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides federal recovery aid for state and local governments, \$20,295,447 is provided in direct aid to Eau Claire County. You are invited and encouraged to respond to the comment form by visiting: <https://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/Home/Components/FormBuilder/FormBuilder/4a0c8f77901c4a14b9c5260846b43eb0/1208>

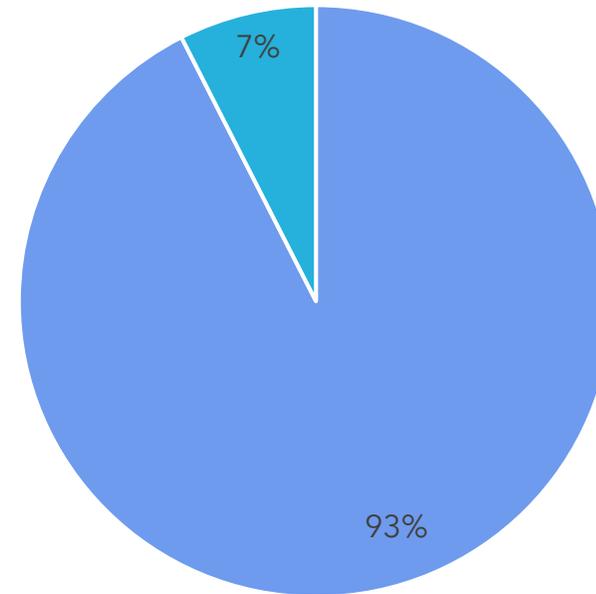
RESPONDENTS

615 residents responded

Race/Ethnicity



Are you an Eau Claire County resident?

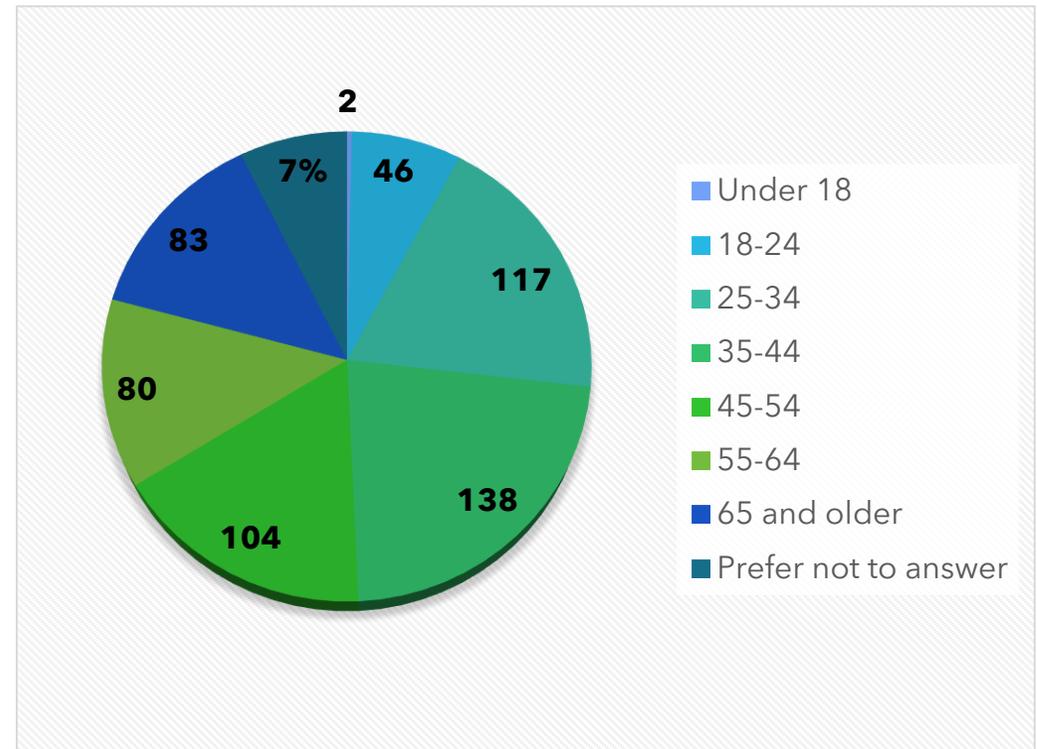
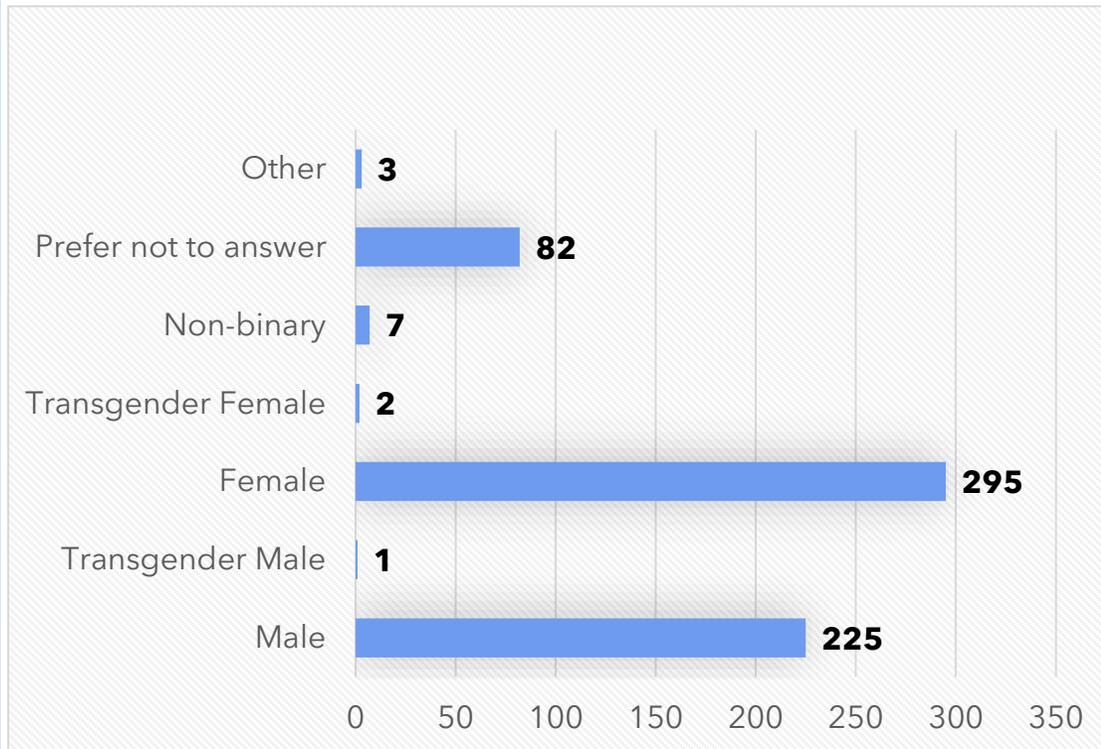


- Asian - 7
- Black or African American - 6
- Hispanic or Latino - 4
- Middle Eastern or North African - 0
- Multiracial or Multiethnic - 6
- Native American or Alaska Native - 3
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander - 2
- White - 464
- Prefer not to answer - 116
- Other - 7

■ Yes ■ No

RESPONDENTS

615 residents responded



The Options

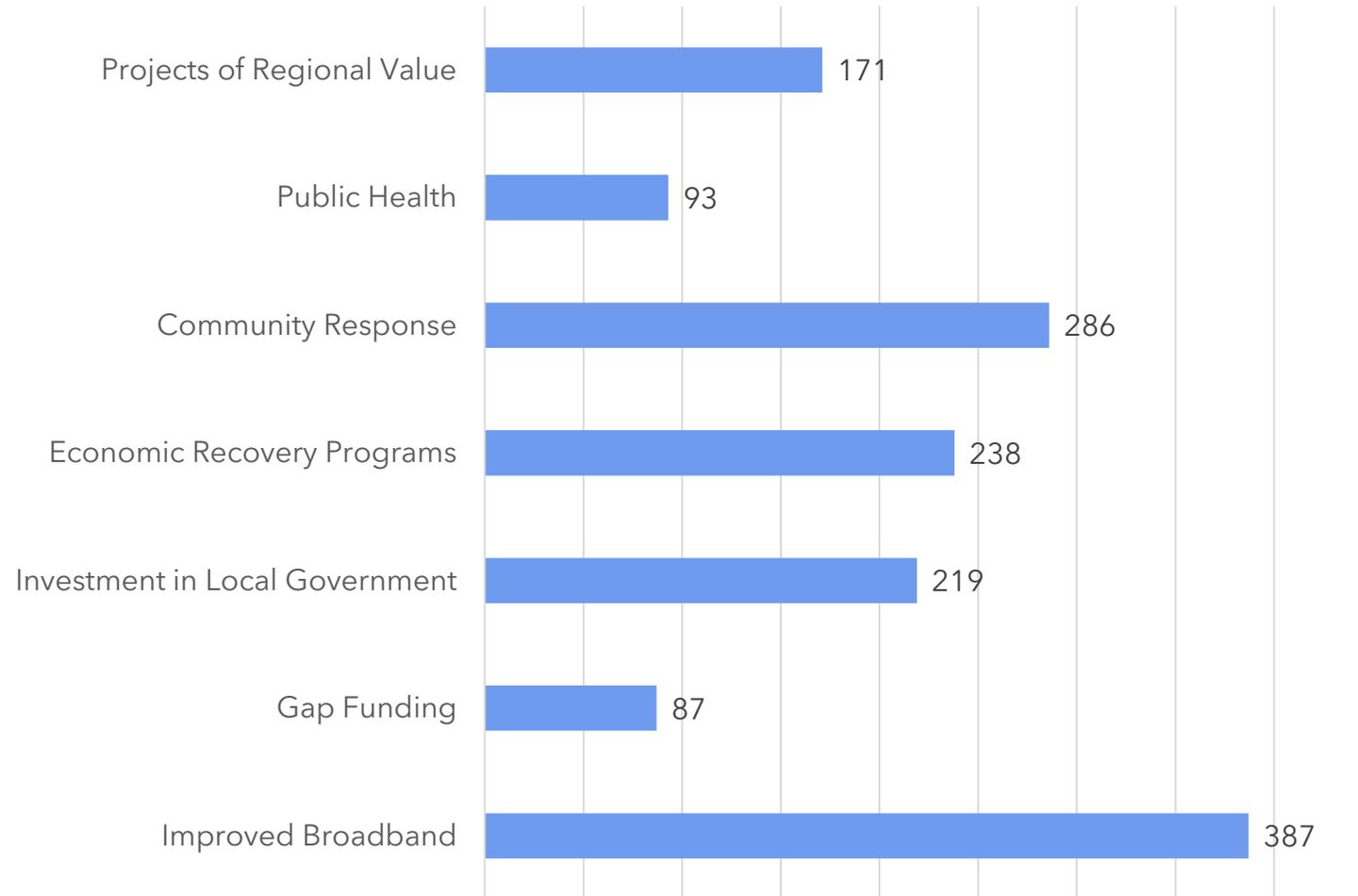
Respondents were asked to identify their top 3 priority areas. The options were:

- ✓ **Improved broadband** in rural and low-income communities. As public education, social services and work have increasingly transitioned to the virtual space, reliable and fast internet has become a primary connection to resources.
- ✓ **Gap funding** to cover lost revenues and county government services.
- ✓ **Investment in local government sustainability and infrastructure.** Investment in county government that results in future savings. This may include emergency communication upgrades, and technological advances. This will need to be correlated with the infrastructure plan being developed.

The Options

- ✓ **Economic Recovery Programs:** Promote the stabilization and recovery of the local economy by supporting grants and loans to small businesses.
- ✓ **Community Response and Resilience:** Support community response and resiliency programs to include: Foodbanks, housing stability and homeless shelters, domestic violence prevention, transportation/support services for disabled and elderly, veterans services, mental health services, child and family services.
- ✓ **Public Health Emergency Response:** Protect and promote the health of the public by supporting programs to include, but not be limited to: Countywide COVID-19 surveillance, contact tracing, proactive testing and disease prevention, access to and training on personal protective equipment, local healthcare system capacity, public education programs.
- ✓ **Projects of regional value:** The County will look to support local government partners in leveraging investments to assure that the region achieves outcomes.

3 Top Priorities Identified



Specific Priorities Indicated:

Respondents were asked to identify other specific priorities NOT listed:

- ✓ We need to utilize funding to assist our CJCC 2021 Goals of working with Mental Health and Equality matters in our community. The jail needs connective services in the jail so those incarcerated get stabilized and released with a long-term case manager and support. Our Mental Health system needs front end assistance so Law Enforcement can receive help with identified folks needed services get those services vs. incarceration. Local hospitals are a great resource however are not connected
- ✓ Invest in children (public indoor playground)
- ✓ Mental Health, therapy and AODA services
- ✓ Eliminate the Wheel Tax and fix the roads
- ✓ Improve roads in underdeveloped areas in the City of Eau Claire
- ✓ Tax gap
- ✓ Spend money to help the homeless population. Day time homeless shelter

Specific Priorities Indicated:

Respondents were asked to identify other specific priorities NOT listed:

- ✓ More resources for police to continue to make Eau Claire a safe place
- ✓ As a person of color - please do NOT limit any forgiveness to be based on BIPOC requirements. We are all humans and help should be based on need rather than race.
- ✓ Programs for at-risk-youth.
- ✓ More parks, public pools, playgrounds or activities open to the public
- ✓ Please use towards creating Employment opportunities in human services for young professionals. Benefits of this would include: resources for families that are low income, high risk, &/or a way to give back to our "essential workers"(or sacrificial workers), reduction of the unemployment rate (this will only happen if you pay them in accordance w/ the cost of living & affordable/decent insurance). Decent insurance will reduce the covid numbers, due to ppl utilizing healthcare over avoiding it.
- ✓ Lower taxes
- ✓ Refund to only property or income taxpayers
- ✓ Supporting marginalized communities (people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+)

Specific Priorities Indicated:

Respondents were asked to identify other specific priorities NOT listed:

- ✓ Affordable housing for low-income people needs to be the #1 priority
- ✓ Sonnentag Complex for population health equity, economic development
- ✓ Improving emergency services such as body cameras for officers, more community driven officers, diversity training for officers and public offenders
- ✓ Make sure our kids get back to school fulltime and have extra resources to catch them up since Eau Claire failed our children last year! Also ensure that critical rave theory is NOT taught in our schools and to just leave the politics out of school all together!
- ✓ These items are first priority road repair, sewer and water pipe replacement.
- ✓ Mandate that landlords fill their vacancies within 3 months and then offer the vacant homes to homeless people as affordable housing.

Specific Priorities Indicated:

Respondents were asked to identify other specific priorities NOT listed:

- ✓ Higher pay for employees due to cost of living and decreased healthcare contributions
- ✓ Absolutely NO funding to gap funding, local govt, or public health! You all destroyed lives and businesses last year and every penny of this money should go to help clean up the mess you made.
- ✓ I think we need to fully fund the fire department, EMS and police
- ✓ Give it back to people who worked all last year - people who were unemployed made more money than those who worked - plus most those people got extra food and all sorts of help - just give every person equal checks
- ✓ Support programs that help communities especially related to the childcare crisis. Child Care Partnership works tirelessly to recruit childcare to the region and help support families with cost of childcare!
- ✓ Rebuild our city and promote new businesses
- ✓ Investing in childcare infrastructure so all parents who wish to participate in the workforce may do so and so childcare professionals can earn a living wage.
- ✓ Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement enhancements. Use monies to improve roadways, county parks, and entertainment areas for all residents.

Specific Priorities Indicated:

Respondents were asked to identify other specific priorities NOT listed:

- ✓ Most topics are covered, however some of the money should also go towards tourism and bringing money in from surrounding areas. That would boost not only Eau Claire's economy but also surrounding cities as well.
- ✓ UBI: Universal Basic Income payments to all residents
- ✓ Fund the skate park for the growing Eau Claire skaters
- ✓ High speed rail between Eau Claire and Minneapolis
- ✓ I vote Fiber optic internet ran by the city instead of the monopoly we have today. Other communities across the us have better access in general and I think we need the same to stay competitive and help draw in tech-oriented workers and companies. Fast and reliable internet access is becoming required for work and school. Having that requirement be tied to companies that are in it for profit does not make sense. They limit speeds beyond necessity and monthly rates go up for no apparent reason
- ✓ Refund furlough days and step increase freeze
- ✓ Mental health services and increased social workers for our at-risk populations

Specific Priorities Indicated:

Respondents were asked to identify other specific priorities NOT listed:

- ✓ Opportunities to increase the stability of the local agricultural economy.
- ✓ Add officer to West Central Drug Task Force that was replaced by new community position at ECPD.
- ✓ This funding is a direct pass through to give local control over targeted need to industries and businesses hardest hit. That was its intention and goal. The categories for its uses were very clear from the FED.... Please find ways to support those most injured business, cultural centers and ensure the fastest return on these dollars. Who are the economic drivers in the county that need the most support. Live event venues, museums and hospitality! \$12USD impact for every \$1usd invested annually
- ✓ Help those on SSDI, help with rent, low-income housing more available. Lower property taxes, or for seniors like in Illinois, freeze property taxes as long as they stay in their home. Help food banks, and seniors with low income. Help with electric and heat bills. lower cable cost. (spectrum is way to expensive, so you get broadband then you have internet expense.
- ✓ Parks infrastructure, equipment and facilities. Handicap docks and sidewalks at parks
- ✓ Schools - continue free breakfast & lunch programs for all school-age students and help with school supply costs. Many parents with school-aged children spend a lot of money on these on top of paying taxes so it could help a lot of people.

Specific Priorities Indicated:

Respondents were asked to identify other specific priorities NOT listed:

- ✓ I would like to see funding provided to address sedimentation issues on Lake Eau Claire. In particular, the Skid Row boat landing at the east end of the lake has been unusable for many years and the lake district has a plan to address it. The only thing holding up the process is the necessary funding. Please consider providing financial assistance to the district to correct this problem
- ✓ Funding to protect a regional asset - Lake Altoona. Sedimentation and water quality issues are threatening the future of the lake, which scientists says is set to expire in 2050. Over the years, thousands of families have enjoyed leisure and recreation on the lake. Young children with their toothless smiles are proud to hold up their first catch so Grandpop can snap a picture. Those memories will be gone if governmental agencies don't address the serious issues facing Lake Altoona.
- ✓ Detox Center
- ✓ Tiny houses like Chippewa County
- ✓ Any sort of work toward climate change issues. This can include renewable energy funding, tree planting, any sort of home improvements to make existing homes more energy efficient, as well as mitigation elements like assistance for energy bills during extreme cold or extreme heat, assistance for flood/drought issues on farms, etc.
- ✓ Refund the \$1000.00 to the residents on Norrish Rd who paid for fiber optic cable.