



# City of Winooski

Vermont's Opportunity City

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## Memorandum

To: Winooski City Council  
From: Yasamin Gordon, Equity Director / Paul Sarne, Communications Manager  
Monday, May 16, 2022  
Re: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Survey Sessions for Multilingual Residents

The City of Winooski is currently promoting an online survey to collect responses from residents, business owners, and anyone with a connection to Winooski describing the negative impacts they have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. These responses are being collected to shape how approximately 2.1 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) relief funds will be used as the process moves forward. The survey can be taken online at [winooski.vt.gov/arpasurvey](http://winooski.vt.gov/arpasurvey) and found on our dedicated ARPA page: [winooski.vt.gov/arpa](http://winooski.vt.gov/arpa). To date, 64 responses have been submitted.

### Multilingual Survey Sessions

Knowing that online forms are ineffective in reaching residents who don't speak English, the City of Winooski has connected with the Winooski School District Multilingual Liaisons to support in the distribution and collect responses from residents who don't speak English. Hardcopy surveys are currently available in Arabic, Burmese, English, French, Nepali, Pashto, Somali, and Vietnamese.

While this effort is underway, the City of Winooski is also recommending a series of special in-person events at the Winooski Memorial Library to collect survey responses. These sessions will host two languages at a time and will take place on Saturdays after 2 PM, when the library is closed to the general public. Sessions will be coordinated in partnership with the Winooski School District Multilingual Liaisons and/or AALV and City Councilors. The role of the councilor will be to educate participants about the APRA program, the importance of the survey, and how their responses will be used to inform the spending of COVID-19 relief funds. The hardcopy/translated forms mirror the online form, using simplified language that prioritizes the resident experience with three simple prompts:

- What is your name? (optional – responses may be anonymous)
- Do you live in Winooski?
- Tell us about the negative impacts you've experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We believe that this approach will provide an opportunity for English language learners to meet and connect directly with their council representatives, as well as create a safe and supportive environment where comfortable sharing their experiences. We are requesting that the Mayor and City Councilors divide their time to help facilitate these sessions to help residents learn more about local government, and build trust in the public process while supporting efforts to foster inclusion and belonging in Winooski.

### Proposed Schedule

Nepali & Burmese – Saturday June 11  
Arabic & Pashto: Saturday June 18  
Somali & Swahili: Saturday June 25  
French & Vietnamese: Saturday July 2