



Memorandum

9.19.22

Elaine Wang, City Manager / Paul Sarne, Communications Manager

To: City Council

Subject: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Survey Update

Collecting Input - As you know, Council and staff have been collecting input from community members to help shape Council decisions regarding how to use ARPA funds.

Collection modes have already included:

- **Online Survey** - To date, 65 individual responses have been collected from an online survey. The survey was located on the City's ARPA page (<https://www.winooskivt.gov/arpa>) and was shared to the City's outreach channels.
- **Bilingual Listening Sessions** - To improve access for residents with limited English, in-person listening sessions were held in coordination with the Winooski School District Multilingual Liaisons at the Winooski Memorial Library,. Sessions were held for Nepali, Arabic, and Swahili speaking residents. Attempts have been made to host sessions for Burmese, Somali, and Mai Mai speaking residents, but scheduling conflicts and general interest remain a barrier. With school back in session we have paused these efforts for the foreseeable future.
- **Meeting Notes/Minutes** - Councilor Aurora Hurd has provided notes from a Coffee Chat event they attended at the Winooski Senior Center. We also intend to include previous ARPA feedback from Commissions that had or plan to have those discussions: Safe, Healthy, Connected People Commission, Municipal Infrastructure Commission, Housing Commission, Planning Commission.

Planned future audiences: More recently, staff have discussed a need for input from more stakeholders. We now plan to organize other input opportunities for:

- **Youth**
 - Winooski School District, other two other schools to be approached
 - Community Services (Thrive, Recreation and Parks, Library)
- **Seniors**
 - Winooski Senior Center
 - Other venues under discussion
- **City of Winooski Staff**
 - Leadership Team
 - Staff

Analysis to date - Using qualitative methods, we have completed analysis of the online survey responses, bilingual listening session notes, and Councilor Hurd's Coffee Chat notes. After discussing with Mayor Lott, we have decided not to share these results until we have been able to collect and/or analyze data from remaining sources, to avoid biasing you prematurely.

To give you a preview, most of the data falls within our Strategic Vision Areas, for example: affordable housing (Housing), cost of food (Economic Vitality), road condition (Municipal Infrastructure), access to childcare (Safe, Healthy, Connected People).