

# Federal Grant Initiatives & Community Media

- American Rescue Plan Act

- \$350 Billion in local relief for state, local and tribal government
- \$19.5 Billion to communities smaller than 50,000 population
- Money to be distributed and expended by 2025

Permitted uses include public health communications, remediation of work environments for Covid conditions, costs for remote or hybrid operations. Other uses of ARPA funds include captioning equipment and costs to extend use for programming.

- Community Media Entities should coordinate with local unit of government about ARPA fund use in future years.

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- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
  - NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) will grant \$42.45 Billion for broadband deployment to unserved and underserved locations and community anchor institutions without gig connections. Community Media Centers can serve as such institutions. Grants will comply with state broadband plans generated in the coming year.
  - NTIA will distribute \$2.75 Billion for digital equity programs, promoting closure of the digital divide and digital equity and inclusion. Half will be distributed through states.

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- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

States will get \$60 Million for broadband planning – with the requirement that plans are presented to NTIA by mid-2023.

Groups should familiarize themselves with state broadband offices, and identify program partners and programs that would expand digital equity and inclusion in their communities.

Connectivity and computer programs plus digital storytelling?