

American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Fund Recommendation Cover Sheet

Please submit this document with any recommendations for funding from Rhode Island's allocation of federal fiscal recovery funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act. This information will be made available to the public along with any detailed documents submitted that describe the proposal. It is encouraged that such documents identify clear goals and objectives and quantifiable metrics.

This is not a formal request for funds, and submission of recommendations does not guarantee a response, public hearing, or appropriation from the General Assembly.

Name of Lead Agency: Collette Travel Service (dba Collette Tours)

Additional agencies making recommendation (if applicable): _____

Contact Person / Title: Robert Colucci, CFO Phone: 401-727-9000

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Brief Project Description (attachments should contain details)

Provide Technology Infrastructure; Training and Rebuild RI Jobs Grants and Tax Credits to RI based Tour Operators

Total request: \$10,000,000

One-time or Recurring Expense? One-time

ARPA Eligibility Category (check all that apply) – See link for further information

<https://www.rilegislature.gov/commissions/arpa/commdocs/Treasury%20-%20Quick-Reference-Guide.pdf>

- Respond to the public health emergency and its economic impacts Yes
- Premium pay to eligible workers _____
- Government services/state revenue replacement _____
- Water/sewer/broadband infrastructure _____

**Submitted by Collette Travel Service, a tour operator
Proposal for ARPA Funds to Support RI Based Tour Operators**

Total Fund Allocation Requested: \$10,000,000

Eligibility Criteria:

- Eligible NAISC Code Industries: 561520 (Tour Operators) headquartered in RI with 100 or more RI based employees pre-pandemic (as of December 31, 2019)
- Impact Eligibility Requirement: Revenue Decrease in Calendar 2020 Greater Than or Equal to 75% compared to calendar 2019

Grant Proposal or Ideas for those that meet the Eligibility Criteria

- Provide Grants to help re-hire and re-train employees in the eligible industry codes impacted most severely by COVID
 - New Hire Credit of \$7500 or \$2500 per year for 3 years for the net increase in RI based employees from Base Employee Period as of July 1, 2020 up to an including December 31, 2023
 - Training Grant of \$250,000 per grant recipient
 - Maximum Award per recipient = \$2,500,000
- Provide Grants to help investment in technology
 - Eligible Costs: software license fees, development, SAAS, hardware, network infrastructure, employment for the period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023
 - Maximum Award per recipient = \$5,000,000
- Provide Funding for helping eligible tour operators support and test vaccinated US Citizens returning to the United States from traveling to/from the United States for leisure travel to meet any testing requirements imposed by the US federal government in 2022 or 2023.
 - Maximum Award per recipient = \$1,500,000

Economic Impact to the State

- Increase in RI Income Tax Revenue
 - Each new hire at an average wage of \$60,000 per year yields \$2500 in direct income tax revenue to the state, annually
- Expands and Grows the RI based employers of eligible entities and increases state and local income, sales and property taxes to the State and results in Increases in charitable hours and donations to RI based non-profits -improving the lives of the underserved
- Increases tourism in the State and the related spending to all supporting small businesses in the State