

## 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: Rhode Island Community Action

Additional agencies making recommendation (if applicable): all 7 Community Action Agencies within

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Brief Project Description (attachments should contain details)  
providing support to the recovery phase of the pandemic to individuals and families who are underemployed

Total request: \$ \$1,400,00.00

One-time or Recurring Expense? One time payment

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 X
- Premium pay to eligible workers \_\_\_\_\_
- Government services/state revenue replacement \_\_\_\_\_
- Water/sewer/broadband infrastructure \_\_\_\_\_

The Rhode Island Community Action Association (RICAA) appreciates the opportunity to discuss our tremendous work for over 50 years, serving all 39 cities and towns of this great state. RICAA is a trade association for a statewide network of Community Action Agencies (CAAs) who, for over fifty years, have been the safety net for economically disadvantaged and working individuals and families. Independently and collectively, the CAA Agencies are working to eliminate the causes and effects of poverty and to open doors to self-sufficiency and better the lives for more than 185,000 Individuals and 90,000 Households.

CAAs provide support to struggling individuals/families through a comprehensive, wrap-around approach, working to provide immediate relief and support, then offering case management and longer-term services to help them build a stronger and healthier future.

CAAs work to stabilize their living situation by connecting them with programs and services. We help people build economic self-sufficiency through education, health services, life-skills training, job placement and case management. The Community Action Network are the leaders in the state in providing the much-needed services to the Rhode Islanders in need. We collaborate with over 250 local, state and federal entities while also acting as the catalyst to help Rhode Islanders overcome poverty.

During this past year all CAAs kept their doors opened, while helping Rhode Islanders deal and get through the pandemic, from food assistance, childcare, utility/rent assistance to delivering vaccines to the most vulnerable, CAAs are always there when our communities are in need.

CAAs in the State of RI employ over 1,000 workers collectively, while providing over \$50 million dollars to local companies through programs such as; weatherization, heat and utilities, Women Infants and Children Program (WIC), along with many rental and mortgage programs.

CAAs are also seen as a prominent provider in Health and Dental Clinics, Head Start Programs, Childcare Centers, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) campaigning, RI Works Program provider, and food pantries across the state. The United Way of RI recognizes that 70-80 percent of all calls to UW-211 are sent to CAAs to address and provide support to all the 39 cities and towns of Rhode Island.

**RICAA is requesting \$1,400,000.00 from the ARPA funds to provide each of the 7 CAAs (Westbay Community Action, Community Action Partnership of Providence County, Comprehensive Community Action, Community Care Alliance, Blackstone Valley Community Action, Tri-County Community Action and East Bay Community Action) \$200,000.00 to enhance our infrastructure to continue to provide the much-needed safety net programs to the Rhode Islanders that are under employed.**

**CAAs have been recognized both federally and by the state as effective organizations to serve as passthrough entities to get resources directly to Rhode Islanders most in need quickly and**



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**efficiently. This happens in the form of direct payments to landlords, utility and oil payments, basic need voucher, and basic needs gift cards. We have the ability and flexibility to stand up programs and services literally over night in the case of COVID-19. However, to often these efforts are done with little or no recognition to the true cost to administer these programs and services. We do an incredible job leveraging every dollar we receive to continue serving more and more Rhode Islanders in need. We need this one-time investment critically now more than ever as we hopefully are entering the recovery phase of the pandemic. As most not for profits we have experienced 18 months of donor restricted passthrough gifts to clients and limited ability to fundraise. These funds will give our 7 statewide serving agencies the needed support to hire needed staff, continue or expand needed programs and services, and address infrastructure needs that have gone unmet during the pandemic.**

RICAA along with the 7 CAAs are grateful for the leadership of the State of Rhode Island and the opportunity that we had to apply for this funding. This funding will allow us to leverage are other funding to provide more innovative programming to assist Rhode Islanders in need.

We thank you for your considerations of this request and are available to you with any additional information needed that will assist us in securing this funding.

Respectfully,  
Rhode Island Community Action Association