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MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY FACILITY PROPOSAL

In accordance with guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Governor recommends deploying \$46.7 million of the State's \$112.3 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF) allocation to invest in multi-purpose community facility projects that enable work, education, and health monitoring.

- CPF monies can only be used for costs associated with construction, renovation, and/or development of multi-purpose community facilities.
- CPF funds cannot be used for programmatic costs associated with the work, education, and health monitoring activities that take place in the facility.

As part of his budget process, Governor McKee looked for opportunities where the State could partner with the 39 cities and towns on various projects, so the State and the cities and towns could get the most out of the one-time federal funding that resulted from ARPA. During the development of the Governor's budget, the federal government provided guidance on the specific permissible uses of the state's CPF allocation. One permissible option for the fund was investing in multi-purpose community facility projects that enable work, education, and health monitoring. Around the same time that the U.S. Treasury issued this guidance, several municipal leaders reached out to the Governor and indicated that they were interested in developing these types of community centers in their city or town.

In November 2021, the Governor's Office requested that the Pandemic Recovery Office (PRO) engage the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns in a discussion about possible collaboration and coordinated expenditure of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) including CPF. The Governor wanted to gauge the interest for this type of partnership and the extent to which the cities and towns were planning on rehabilitating or constructing these multi-purpose community facilities. The feedback from the cities and towns showed that there was demand for this partnership opportunity and within two weeks from the initial discussions, 12 cities and towns expressed interest in pursuing a partnership with the State on this type of facility.

In early December 2021, Governor McKee's staff met virtually with local officials to receive further feedback on this partnership opportunity. The municipalities that had expressed interest in working with the State to secure funding for such facilities indicated that they would be willing to spend a share of their own SLFRF allocations to advance projects that would result in multi-purpose community facilities to serve their residents. This is the genesis for the Governor's proposed FY 2023 municipal multi-purpose community facility matching grant program.

Determination of the CPF Allocation to Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects

The Governor's proposal for the allocation of CPF monies involved three primary initiatives: (1) setting aside the necessary 25% match needed to leverage federal broadband funding included in

the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA); (2) the funding of a Student Resource Center at Rhode Island College (a project to be submitted for eligibility under the multi-purpose community facility category); and (3) establishing a state matching grant fund for municipal multi-purpose community facilities. In addition, the 5% administration cost assessment allowed by U.S. Treasury was included.

The table below provides a breakdown of the allocation of CPF in the Governor's proposal:

Item	Amount	% of Total
Broadband Infrastructure		
IIJA Matching Funds	\$ 24,956,500	22.2%
Multi-Purpose Community Facilities		
RIC Student Support Center	35,000,000	31.2%
Municipal Matching Grant Fund	46,720,189	41.6%
Subtotal	\$ 81,720,189	72.8%
Other Uses		
CPF Administration	5,614,500	5.0%
Total	\$ 112,291,189	100.0%

Current List of Potential Municipal Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects

Below is a current list (as of February 11, 2022) of multi-purpose community facilities projects being contemplated by cities and towns across the state. The costs listed in the table are estimates. The estimates are based on (i) preliminary design work that has been completed; (ii) market research conducted in anticipation of contracting for architectural and engineering work; or (iii) local knowledge about the rough costs of construction and the anticipated character of the projects to be built. In all cases, the costs shown in the table are the total anticipated costs of construction.

Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects

Municipality	Cost to Build New	Cost to Renovate Existing	Total LFRF Funds Available	2019 Census Population	LFRF Funds Per Capita
Providence ^		\$4,400,000	\$ 166,314,129	179,883	\$ 925
Pawtucket			58,270,161	72,117	808
Cranston	\$2,500,000		42,592,330	81,456	523
Warwick			39,431,837	81,004	487
Woonsocket	\$2,500,000		36,388,236	41,751	872
East Providence	\$2,500,000		27,785,912	47,618	584
Cumberland			10,540,352	35,263	299
Coventry			10,407,637	34,819	299
North Providence			9,770,069	32,686	299
South Kingstown		\$1,200,000	9,071,224	30,348	299
Johnston			8,809,083	29,471	299
West Warwick			8,656,940	28,962	299
North Kingstown	\$2,500,000		7,868,124	26,323	299
Newport			7,273,599	24,334	299

Municipality	Cost to Build New	Cost to Renovate Existing	Total LFRF Funds Available	2019 Census Population	LFRF Funds Per Capita
Westerly		\$2,500,000	6,689,834	22,381	299
Lincoln			6,572,065	21,987	299
Bristol *	\$7,200,000		6,550,543	21,915	299
Smithfield	\$2,500,000		6,545,163	21,897	299
Central Falls			5,849,009	19,568	299
Portsmouth			5,148,969	17,226	299
Burrillville			5,037,776	16,854	299
Barrington			4,798,351	16,053	299
Middletown			4,749,032	15,888	299
Tiverton			4,681,479	15,662	299
Narragansett			4,587,921	15,349	299
East Greenwich			3,921,658	13,120	299
North Smithfield			3,760,846	12,582	299
Scituate			3,207,270	10,730	299
Warren *			3,141,810	10,511	299
Glocester			3,085,615	10,323	299
Hopkinton †	\$4,500,000		2,409,189	8,060	299
Charlestown			2,339,245	7,826	299
Richmond	\$2,500,000		2,313,838	7,741	299
Exeter			1,948,574	6,519	299
West Greenwich			1,909,118	6,387	299
Jamestown			1,643,390	5,498	299
Foster			1,418,313	4,745	299
Little Compton			1,038,402	3,474	299
New Shoreham			307,874	1,030	299
^ Providence figure is for the renovation of two multi-purpose community facilities. This total does not include a third proposal to renovate the Cranston Street Armory, which is also under discussion.					
* Bristol's proposed multi-purpose community facility is joint with Warren.					
† Hopkinton prefers renovation to new construction.					
	New Construction	Renovation	Grand Total		
All Municipalities	\$26,700,000	\$8,100,000	\$34,800,000		

As is evident from the above table, the proposed multi-purpose community facility projects are a mix of new construction and the renovation of an existing facility. The total cost of all proposed projects is \$34,800,000. Assuming a 50% state match and a \$5,000,000 maximum state matching grant per project, the total resources initially pledged from the CPF would be \$17,400,000.¹

Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program Criteria and Requirements

PRO will administer a competitive matching grant program under which the State's 39 municipalities will have the opportunity to request state assistance in constructing or rehabilitating

¹ Additional projects that are under consideration include the renovation of part of the Cranston Street Armory into a Multi-Purpose Community Facility at a cost of \$5,000,000 in state CPF match. It should be noted that the City of Providence has expressed a willingness to commit a portion of its LFRF allocation to support the Cranston Street Armory project.

multi-purpose community facilities. As noted above, an initial data call to municipalities indicated that about one-third of the state's cities and towns were contemplating multi-purpose community facilities as an intended use for some portion of their LFRF allotment. Dedicating a portion of its CPF grant to support these municipal projects will allow the State to ensure that local projects meet the objectives of both the SLFRF and CFP programs.

PRO has established the following preliminary criteria for participation in the proposed matching grant initiative:

1. Construction Schedule

Only projects that will be under contract by December 1, 2024 and substantially complete by December 1, 2026 will be considered.

2. Eligible Projects

Eligible projects must **jointly and directly** enable work, education, and health monitoring within the multi-purpose community facility. These are requirements of the CPF program as it pertains to multi-purpose community facilities. Municipalities that wish to undertake such projects may use the LFRF they have been allocated to provide the local match to state funds.

The list below provides examples of the types of services that might be provided at an eligible project:

Work

- Access to job training or counseling
- Employment services
- Regular or periodic job fairs
- Digital literacy training programs

Education

- Adult education
- After-school education or tutoring
- Preschool education programming
- Public access to the internet for work, education, and health monitoring such as offering digital skills programs and support for community members engaging in virtual learning
- Health education classes or internship programs for medical professionals

Health Monitoring

- Internet-based access to telemedicine services
- In-person health and mental health clinics or screening sessions
- In-person prepartum and postpartum health and mental health services
- Access to reproductive health and family planning resources
- Medical and dental clinics
- Access to digital or self-service health monitoring devices or assessment tools for blood pressure, diabetes, pregnancy, mental health, addiction, and other health issues.

3. Application Requirements

To be considered for a multi-purpose community facility project CPF matching grant, the chief elected officer or the chief operating official of the municipality must submit an application describing the multi-purpose community facility project to be completed.

Recipients must explain why the communities they have identified to be served by the multi-purpose community facility project have a critical need for the project.

When determining the community(ies) to be served by a multipurpose community facility project, municipalities are free to consider any available data related to internet use, device ownership, income, poverty, health, education, and employment derived from sources such as the U.S. Census' American Community Survey or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Qualified Census Tracts; interviews with community members and business owners; reports from community organizations; documentation of existing facilities providing similar or identical services to those the multi-purpose community facility is intended to provide; and any other information they deem relevant

The municipality will be required to commit that the multi-purpose community facility project will provide services or activities that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring for at least five years from the completion of the project.

If the state receives requests for more than \$46.7 million in matching grants for multi-purpose community facilities from the 39 cities and towns, PRO will prioritize projects that serve communities that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. PRO will also rank projects according to the quality and quantity of work, education, and health-monitoring services proposed to be provided at the facility. To ensure maximum participation among municipalities, PRO may establish additional criteria based on the number of submissions from municipalities and eligible project costs.