

Save it! Start it! Build it! How to American Rescue Plan funds for Historic Preservation & Economic Development

Examples from Erie County, PA

Melinda Meyer

CLFRF Administrator, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development

Chair, Historic Review Commission, City of Erie

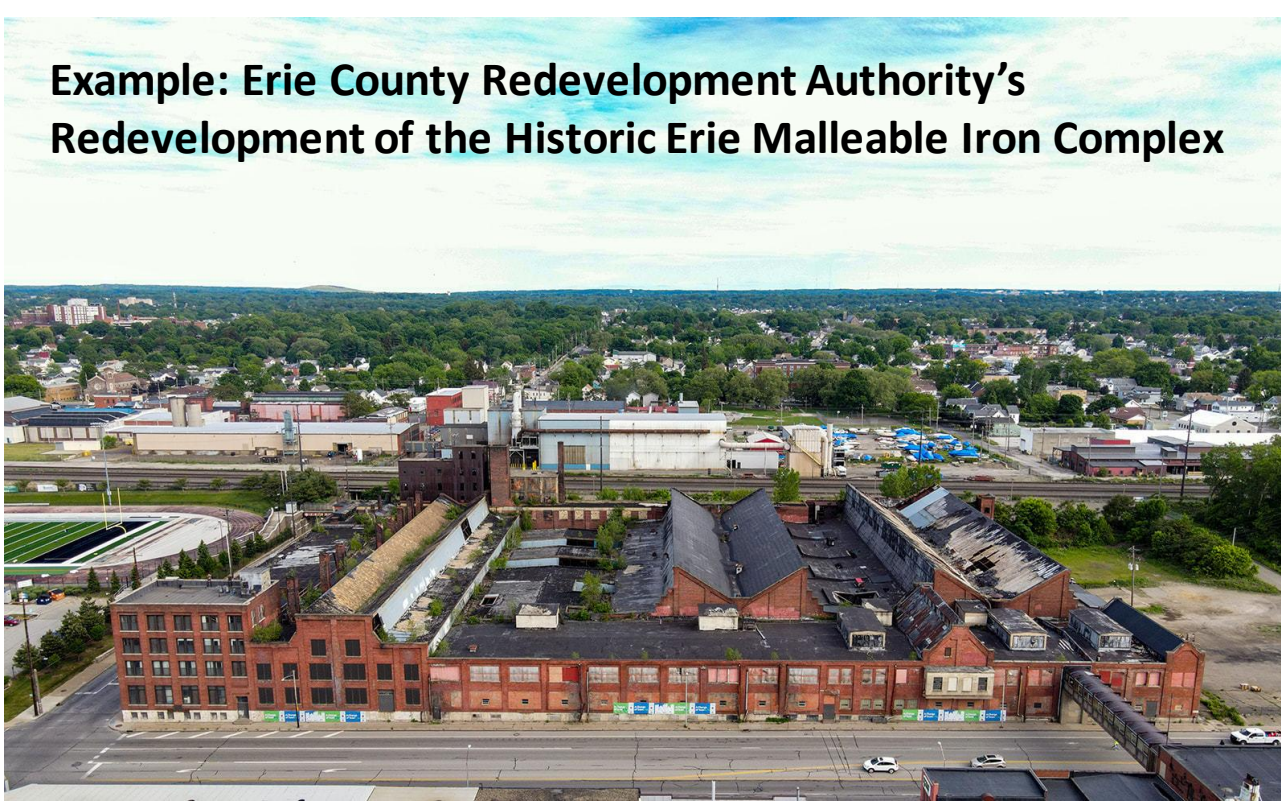
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 12 pm

Uses of Funds (A selection only)

ARPA/CLFRF funds can be used to support many different types of revitalization activities in downtowns and neighborhoods. Per the FAQs provided by the US Treasury:

- Investments in parks, public plazas, and other public outdoor recreation spaces may be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments and outdoor recreation and socialization to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- Local governments may also aid small businesses in all communities (not just the "disproportionately impacted" or HUD Qualified Census Tracts). Assistance to small businesses could include support to enhance outdoor spaces for COVID-19 mitigation (e.g., restaurant patios) or to improve the built environment of the neighborhood (e.g., façade improvements).
- To encourage development of Strong Healthy Communities, demolition and the rehabilitation of properties is an eligible use that was specifically added to the list of Expenditure Categories in the most recent iteration of the reporting guidelines.
- The Expenditure Category Aid to Tourism, Travel, and Hospitality allows for the development of heritage tourism efforts.

Example: Erie County Redevelopment Authority's Redevelopment of the Historic Erie Malleable Iron Complex



Erie County, PA Subrecipient/Subgrantee: Erie County Redevelopment Authority

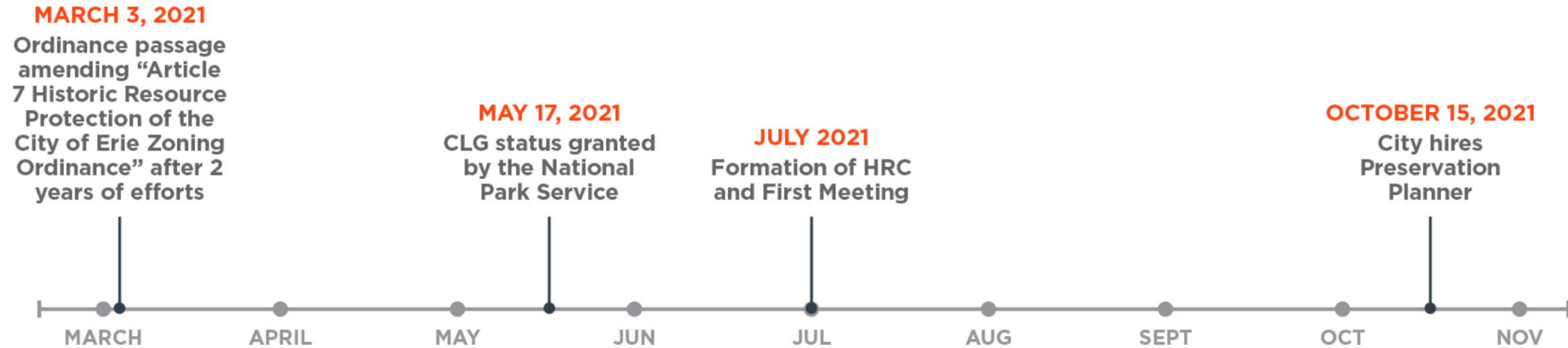
Award Amount: \$750,000

Expenditure Category: 3.13 Social Determinants of Health: Other (Neighborhood/Built Environment) (OLD) / 2.23 Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties (NEW)

Project Overview: This blighted, abandoned manufacturing facility sits on a full city block (approximately five acres) along the West 12th Street historic industrial corridor, which is a primary transportation artery for the City of Erie and an area targeted for investment/redevelopment. The property abuts a school athletic facility, as well as the business and residential neighborhood of Erie's Historic Little Italy. The site has a number of contaminants including coal, lead paint, oils, PCBs, and others of an unknown origin. It is a health and safety hazard in terms of these contaminants, as well as the condition of the physical facility. ***The goal of the project is to improve the neighborhood and industrial corridor impacted by the site by removing a blighted, hazardous industrial property.*** The scope of work for the project includes environmental clean-up, demolition, remediation, and site preparation. (Located in a HUD QCT.)

Example: City of Erie's Incentive for Historic District Designation

Context for Erie's Historic Preservation Program



Project Amount: \$840,000

Expenditure Category:

Project Description: To incentivize creation of historic overlay districts, the City of Erie has allocated \$840,00 from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to build a grant program where property owners within a historic overlay district are eligible to apply for funds for property improvements.

Important Guidance Documents

Final Rule & Final Rule Overview

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

Compliance and Reporting Guidance

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Version 3.0)

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>

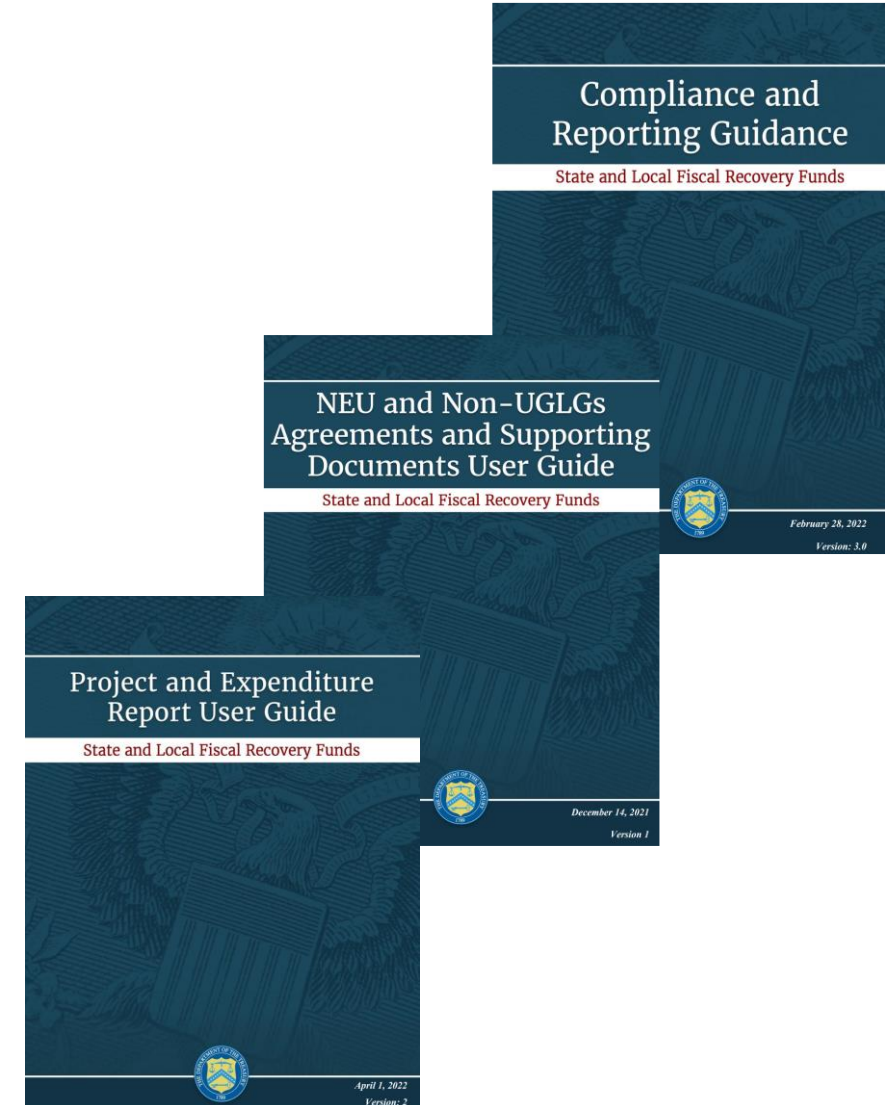
NEU and Non-UGLGs Agreements and Supporting Documents User Guide State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Version 1)

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/NEU-Non-UGLG-Agreements-and-Supporting-Documents.pdf>

Project and Expenditure Report User Guide

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Version 2)

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/April-2022-PE-Report-User-Guide.pdf>



Questions?

If you have any questions about the CLFRF program and reporting requirements, please contact the US Treasury by email at SLFRP@treasury.gov.

If Erie County's CLFRF team can be of help, please contact:

Melinda Meyer
Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development
mmeyer@eriecountypa.gov