

# Town of Franklin

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## OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

October 6, 2021

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator  
Alecia Alleyne, Assistant to the Town Administrator

**RE: CARES Act/FEMA & Federal COVID-19 Reimbursement Summary**

The following is an overview on revenue the Town has received from various federal sources for COVID-19 Relief. These revenues by state are required to be in special revenue accounts and are outside the Town's operating budget.

### CARES ACT

The Town was awarded \$2.929 million in CARES Act federal stimulus money. These funds are floated through the state Executive Office of Administration & Finance (A&F) and were apportioned based on population. There were 2 rounds of CARES Act funding applications in 2020, with a third in 2021. CARES Act funds have been extended through December 31, 2021 and the Town has received its full allotment.

The two largest allotments of CARES money went towards the purchase of student Chromebooks in order to support remote learning and expand the town's telework capacity (Approximately 1 million dollars). The second largest allotment went towards the UVGI retrofit in municipal and school buildings. This project is ongoing, additional information for the UV retrofit is below. Overall, the majority of CARES Act resources was allocated toward the schools to support remote learning, telework and provide a safe work environment.

Expenditure Category	Amount
Chromebooks	\$964,000.00
UV Lighting	\$875,628.19
HEPA Filters	\$429,412.00
PPE & Disinfectant	\$409,057.88
Personnel - School Department	\$188,302.63
Personnel - Fire Department (Vaccination Clinic OT)	\$35,004.26
Social Distancing Measures - PlexiGlass	\$18,869.88
AeroClave	\$3,979.50
Temperature Scanners	\$3,058.66
GATRA - Senior Center Bussing	\$2,500.00
<b>TOTAL CARES</b>	<b>\$2,929,813.00</b>

### UV Lighting Retrofit Projects Update:

The Town of Franklin was the first Town in Massachusetts to do UVGI retrofits to their facilities. These retrofits ensured maximum safety for staff, residents, and students as the town reopened at larger capacities throughout the pandemic. The Town has signed a contract with Guardian Energy Management for the installation of UV lighting at all Municipal buildings and School Buildings (with the exception of Davis-Thayer, which was also the most expensive project to retrofit). This retrofit will add UV lighting to each building's existing HVAC systems. The installation of UV lights kills 99.8% of viruses, including COVID-19, as they are cycled through the return ducts. It is safe to say our buildings are, and will be

for the long term, some of the safest municipal facilities in the Commonwealth. The UVGI retrofit project will be completed for all municipal and school buildings by the end of October 2021, there were some supply chain issues that caused delays in this project.

### **FEMA Reimbursement**

In 2020, the Town received a 75% reimbursement for PPE and sanitizing supplies from FEMA. In July the Town applied for \$209,493.62 to be reimbursed at a rate of 75% so approximately \$157,120.22 in FEMA assistance for PPE. In September the Town applied for an additional \$269,670.30 to be reimbursed at 75% so approximately \$202,252.73. The Town will continue to apply for FEMA reimbursements for the length of the State of emergency in Massachusetts as costs come in. As a result of the ever changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic, FEMA adjusted their regulations in late [February of 2021](#), and again in [August of 2021](#) altering the reimbursement rates from 75% to 100% for eligible expenses and further expanding the list of eligible expenses. You can find more information on FEMA's updated guidance [HERE](#). The Town is still waiting to receive reimbursements from FEMA.

<b>FEMA</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>COVID-19 Related Expenditures</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>ROUND #1</b>	Facilities, Fire, Police, School, DPW	PPE, sanitization materials, Equipment - Protect employees and clean facilities	\$166,841.01
3/1/20 - 6/30/20	Fire/Police/School	Personnel Salaries - COVID related training/support/overtime	\$42,652.61
<b>ROUND #2</b>	Facilities, Fire, Police, School, DPW	PPE, sanitization materials, Equipment - Protect employees and clean facilities	\$218,692.53
7/1/20 - 9/15/20	Fire/Police/School	Personnel Salaries - COVID related training/support/overtime	\$50,977.77
		<b>TOTAL APPLIED FOR FEMA FUNDS (assumes 100% reimbursement)</b>	<b>\$479,163.92</b>

<b>Round #3</b>	Facilities, Fire, Police, DPW	PPE, sanitization materials, Equipment - Protect employees and clean facilities	\$109,215.81
9/16/20- 12/31/20	Fire/Police	Personnel Salaries - COVID related training/support/overtime	\$5,156.69
		<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED FEMA FUNDS (assumes 100% reimbursement)</b>	<b>\$114,372</b>

### **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)**

Here are the funding sources for the Franklin Public School District:

- The School Department was allocated \$1,156,275 in Coronavirus Relief Funding (CvRF) grant money from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) to allocate towards the school reopening process including instructional/professional staff salaries, support staff salaries, technology and PPE. This grant was expended in full at the close of FY21

- The School Foodservice Department received \$10,485 in CvRF funding to support meal preparation and service/delivery to students during the pandemic. Additional State food service grants in the amount of \$11,632 allowed for purchase of software and related supplies to pivot to online meal ordering and preparation of individually wrapped meals. An additional state grant received in the amount of \$17,953 funded kitchen equipment.
- The schools received \$123,235 in Federal ESSER I funding primarily allocated towards meeting the unique needs of special student populations. This funding continues to be spent through June, 2022. Federal ESSER II funding was allocated in the amount of \$475,496 to be used in FY2022 through FY23 to further address the unique needs of special student populations.
- The FY21 state budget allocated \$173,225 in Coronavirus Prevention Funding for additional assistance to support coronavirus prevention efforts and to maintain and increase educational quality during the pandemic. Senator Rausch supported an earmark that allotted Franklin \$20,834 for the purpose of adapting learning environments to changes necessitated by COVID. Both of these funding sources were fully expended in FY21.
- DESE also provided the schools with 650 Medify-40 Air Purifier units, each unit cost ~\$349 and they were shipped to the Schools for free by DESE. The total cost of these units was approximately \$226,850. DESE also provided about 5,000 fabric masks for children and adults
- Federal ESSER III money was allocated in the amount of \$1,046,173 most of which will address learning loss as a result of the pandemic school disruptions and will be utilized beginning in FY22 through FY24.
- DESE also allocated \$12,000 in a grant to support summer learning.

#### **MicroEnterprise Grants**

The Town was part of a consortium of six local communities who applied for a regional microenterprise grant program for small businesses with five (5) or fewer employees in Franklin. The application period is underway and we expect approximately \$90,000 in revenue to be granted to small businesses. As of February 2021 local businesses applied for approximately \$62,000 of the \$90,000 in available funds.

In early summer 2021, DHCD made adjustments to the grant and its requirements. These changes increased the maximum grant amount to \$25,000 (from \$10,000) and made the process of qualifying much easier (we can now use AGI from the most recent tax return to qualify business owners as being income-eligible and can compare the Schedule C or Corporate tax returns "Total Revenues" lines from the 2019 and 2020 to determine total losses). These changes not only made the grant much easier to document but also allowed for more businesses to qualify for the money.

There was an updated "Second Chance" application sent to every business that had already applied which allowed for them to apply for amounts up to \$25,000 instead of \$10,000 which was the original maximum grant award amount. In Franklin, Pete's Nerd Emporium was one of the first Grants awarded when the limit was \$10K. Pending the results of their 2020 tax return, Pete's Nerd Emporium may be eligible for the full \$25,000 grant award. The grant agency is also currently processing two applications for Subway Shops in Franklin (Jaliyan Inc and Pratham LLC).

The grant also assured the Franklin Food Pantry with \$9,000 dollars in direct assistance.

#### **Additional Grants**

Department	Grant	Purpose	Amount
Senior Center	Greater Milford Community Health Network (CHNA6)	To continue the Senior Center's Curbside Meal program until the Spring	\$10,000

Town Clerk's Department	Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant	Used for the purchase of election related supplies and to supplement election workers salaries	\$11,630
Health Department	Central Mass Regional Planning Commission	Used to raise awareness of COVID 19 prevention through signs, banners and billboards.	\$8,750
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$30,380</b>

### **American Rescue Plan**

On March 12, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act. Details will continue to unfold on this extensive legislation and we are awaiting word on how this will fully affect Franklin. Congressman Jake Auchincloss has provided an early assessment of the legislation. Franklin will see approximately \$3.36 million in federal assistance and will be eligible through December 2024. The Franklin Public Schools will see an estimated \$1.136 million in further ESSR funding. DESE will offer guidance on how funds for school districts will be apportioned. There are additional monies available through other programs, notably relief for hard hit sectors of the economy such as hospitality, restaurants, retail and entertainment. The staff will continue to update the community as this legislation rolls out in the months ahead. The federal government announced guidance on spending will be available in May.

In June of 2021 the Town applied for and received its first allocation of ARPA funds totalling \$1,783,919. All county funds will have 3% taken off the top for Norfolk County to Administer the Program on behalf of the cities and towns. Franklin loses \$198,630 under the County approach. ARPA Funds are available for the following categories; to support public health, economic impact, revenue replacement, employee premium pay, infrastructure - Water & Sewer (including some Stormwater work) and Infrastructure - Broadband. The Town's current priority is to save the money from the first allotment, the pandemic is far from over so the town would like to reserve these funds for potential costs to the Town, schools, and general public in the event that we are able to hold booster's clinics, vaccine clinics or other health related emergencies. Municipal allocation number 2 is expected to come in June 2022, the town will revisit the second round funds again in the summer of 2022 to determine what they are best used for.

[Click HERE for a Slideshow on Proposed ARPA Spending from Town Administrator Jamie Hellen](#)

[Click here for a slideshow from Congressman Auchincloss.](#)