



ARPA Parks Afterschool Program (PAC) Guidelines

In March 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was signed into law providing the City of Phoenix with nearly \$396 million over the next two years. The first allocation of \$198 million was received in May 2021 of which \$28,800,000 has been dedicated to youth and education programs. This includes a one-time opportunity for expansion of the Parks and Recreation Department's Youth Sports League (YSL) and Phoenix Afterschool Center (PAC) programs. Additionally, there is a one-time opportunity for City of Phoenix school districts to apply for grant funding to support afterschool programs.

A dedicated \$500,000 has been designated to expand the Phoenix Afterschool Center program at approximately ten additional Phoenix schools starting in the 3rd quarter of the 2021-2022 school year (January 2022). PAC provides youth recreation and enriching programs at school campuses with a fun, supportive and educational atmosphere during the crucial afterschool hours. Please note, drop in/out afterschool programs will be considered, and programs are **not** required to be a licensed childcare facility under ARS section 36-882. School districts are invited to apply.

Applicants must meet the required criteria and adhere to the ARPA funds regulations below to be considered for afterschool program grant funding. The standardization of criteria results in a fair and equitable selection process for all interested parties further enhancing enrichment opportunities for youth in Phoenix.

Required Criteria: Title I / Free and Reduced Lunch Rate

To be considered for this grant opportunity, the afterschool program must serve youth in Title I schools or schools that have a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) free and reduced lunch rate of 50% or higher.

Additional Criteria

In addition to the Title I / free and reduced lunch rate requirement, the following criteria will be used to evaluate which applicants will be selected for grant funding. Not all criteria listed below is required, however priority will be given to afterschool programs that provide:

- Free facility usage including maintenance and utility costs which will maximize funds allocated to increasing youth participant enrollment
- Adequate indoor program space for the minimum program size of 60 youth per day
- Programming that does not duplicate PAC program including similar day, times, age, and program components, etc. within the same school campus or afterschool program site
- Willingness to formalize grant funding by an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for school districts

ARPA Funds Regulations

Due to the nature of the funds, there are specific regulations associated with the allocation of the funds. The following is a list of ways the funds may/may not be applied which will be regulated by the Parks and Recreation department:

- Funds are to be spent solely on PAC programs only
- Funds can be spent on direct program materials, equipment, and staffing (i.e. arts and craft materials, recreation supplies, marketing materials, program site staff)

- Funds cannot be spent on organization administrative staffing and associated costs to manage/support afterschool program
- Funds must provide universal access to safe and reliable programming across the City of Phoenix (associated facilities must be ADA compliant).
- Program providers will be required to report their efforts to help close equity gaps in community's that need safe and reliable programming the most.
- All funds must be tracked to ensure legal use of funds and to support potential audits
- Financial, performance and compliance reporting will be required

Note: Full recipient compliance and reporting Guidance can be found below:

On June 17, 2021, Treasury released the [Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#) for this program. The guidance provides additional detail and clarification for each recipient's compliance and reporting responsibilities, and should be read in concert with the Award Terms and Conditions, the authorizing statute, the [Interim Final Rule](#) (IFR).

ARPA Funds Tracking

Part of the allocation of ARPA funds includes the requirement to track the funds to ensure all dollars are being spent on PAC programs. Funds allocated for this purpose will be monitored by Parks and Recreation department staff to guarantee that funds are allocated to appropriate uses. Monthly reports (standard reporting template to be provided) showing performance, compliance and any expenditure of ARPA funds will be required of all awarded school districts.

Application for ARPA Funds

A submittal of a grant application and approval from the Parks and Recreation Department will be needed to receive APRA funds for PAC programming. Offered as part of the submittal process will be two (2) scheduled pre-submittal meetings to discuss fund parameters and restrictions, program goals, and an opportunity to ask questions. Attendance to the pre-submittal is encouraged but not required. The meetings are scheduled for October 27 and October 29. For meeting details, visit phoenix.gov/parks/arpa

For 2021-2022 School Year:

Applications for ARPA Parks Afterschool (PAC) Programs are due by November 8, 2021

The first review of applications will begin on November 22, 2021.

For 2022-2023 School Year:

Applications for ARPA Parks Afterschool (PAC) Programs are due by March 1, 2022

The first review of applications will begin on March 15, 2022.