

Final Year of ARPA: \$103.1M Remaining to Spend

The federal deadline for Boston to spend \$558.7M of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which aimed to address a broad range of ongoing challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, is December 31, 2026. With less than a year remaining to spend ARPA funds, this report provides an update on Boston's progress in spending ARPA funds as of December 31, 2025. This report is the latest in a series that the Research Bureau has produced examining the one-time boost in COVID-19 era funds.

Analysis of Spending as of December 2025 – Boston has spent 81.6% of its ARPA funds as of December 2025, with \$103.1M remaining to expend. The spending status of funds varies across ARPA projects. A majority (66) of projects have spent all of their allocated funding, and another 26 projects have a quarter or less of funds to spend by December 31, 2026. In contrast, six projects have more than 75% of their funds left to spend. The funds remaining equal \$6.5M across these six projects: Department of Innovation & Technology – Boston Housing Authority Digital Equity Collaboration (100% left to spend); Increasing Low-Income Family Access to Tax Preparation & Tax Credits (100% left to spend); Mental Health Crisis Response Pilot (99.9% left to spend); Transforming Publicly-Owned Land into Green, Mixed income Communities (90.2% left to spend); Green Residential Building Retrofits (79.1% left to spend); and Commercial Space Supports (78.7% left to spend).

Projects with the Greatest Dollar Amounts to Expend – Nearly three-quarters (72.2%) of the ARPA funds remaining to be spent are concentrated among ten projects. These ten projects account for \$74.4M of the remaining \$103.1M to expend while the other 117 projects account for \$28.6M. The project with the most funds remaining to be spent, Affordable Homeownership Development & Ownership, accounts for nearly a third (30.5%) of total funds remaining. When examining project-by-project, the amount that each project has remaining to spend varies widely. Transforming Publicly-Owned Land into Green, Mixed Income Communities has 90.2% of its funds unspent, but the Acquisition Opportunity Program, a project acquiring private market units to be converted into income-restricted housing, is nearly completely spent-down (5.4% unspent). Income Restricted Housing Development, Creating an Ecosystem to Grow BIPOC-

Prior Reports on ARPA Spending

- [A Closer Look at Boston's Federal Funds](#) (October 2025)
- [Decisions Ahead: Preparing for the End of ARPA](#) (February 2024)
- [Maximizing ARPA: One Year to Commit \\$207.5M to Vital Projects](#) (December 2023)
- [\\$559M Infusion for Boston's Recovery](#) (April 2023)

Owned Employer Firms, and Center for Behavioral Health & Wellness/Workforce & Pipeline all have about half (50.6%, 49.9%, and 50.3%, respectively) of their funding remaining to be spent.

| Top 10 Projects With The Greatest Dollar Amounts to Expend | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>\$ in millions</i> | | | |
| Project | Total Remaining to Spend | % Remaining to Spend | Total Allocation |
| Affordable Homeownership Development and Ownership | \$31.4 | 48.0% | \$65.4 |
| Deep Energy Retrofits for Affordable Housing | \$11.2 | 57.9% | \$19.4 |
| Income Restricted Housing Development | \$7.2 | 50.6% | \$14.3 |
| Transforming Publicly-Owned Land into Green, Mixed-Income Communities | \$5.2 | 90.2% | \$5.8 |
| Creating an Ecosystem to Grow BIPOC-Owned Employer Firms | \$3.7 | 49.9% | \$7.3 |
| Growing the Early Education and Care Workforce | \$3.5 | 39.0% | \$8.9 |
| Center for Behavioral Health & Wellness/Workforce & Pipeline | \$3.3 | 50.3% | \$6.6 |
| COVID-19 Vaccination | \$3.2 | 28.0% | \$11.3 |
| Center for Behavioral Health & Wellness/Capacity & Resilience | \$2.9 | 67.9% | \$4.3 |
| Acquisition Opportunity Program | \$2.8 | 5.4% | \$51.7 |
| Subtotal | \$74.4 | 38.2% | \$195.0 |
| <i>All others</i> | <i>\$28.6</i> | <i>7.9%</i> | <i>\$363.7</i> |
| Grand Total | \$103.1 | 18.4% | \$558.7 |

Summary of Spending by Category – Boston allocated funds across nine categories: Housing (\$241.9M), Revenue Replacement (\$95.0M), Economic Opportunity & Inclusion (\$63.2M), Climate & Mobility (\$46.5M), Equitable Pandemic Response (\$37.9M), Behavioral Health (\$26.9M), Arts & Culture (\$26.3M), Early Childhood (\$17.8M), and Evaluation & Compliance (\$3.3M). Revenue replacement, the City’s second largest appropriation, was used to offset declines in other revenues to maintain existing city services, and [was fully spent](#) in FY22 and FY23. Proportionally, the categories with the most remaining proportion of their allocation left to spend are not necessarily those with the largest sum remaining. For example, \$1.4M left unspent under Evaluation & Compliance represents 42.5% of that category’s total appropriation. In contrast, only one-quarter (25.0%) of funds allocated to housing remain to be spent, but this represents \$60.4M, a majority of all remaining unspent funding.

Housing – The City appropriated \$241.9M (43.3%) of its ARPA funding for 22 projects to support housing initiatives. These investments aim to accelerate Boston’s housing production, combat racial and socioeconomic

| Spending by Category | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>\$ in millions</i> | | | |
| Category | Total Remaining to Spend | % Remaining to Spend | Total Allocation |
| Housing | \$60.4 | 25.0% | \$241.9 |
| Climate & Mobility | \$10.0 | 21.4% | \$46.5 |
| Economic Opportunity & Inclusion | \$9.0 | 14.3% | \$63.2 |
| Behavioral Health | \$7.9 | 29.5% | \$26.9 |
| Equitable Pandemic Response | \$7.1 | 18.7% | \$37.9 |
| Early Childhood | \$3.8 | 21.6% | \$17.8 |
| Arts & Culture | \$3.4 | 13.0% | \$26.3 |
| Evaluation & Compliance | \$1.4 | 42.5% | \$3.3 |
| Revenue Replacement | \$0.0 | 0.0% | \$95.0 |
| Grand Total | \$103.1 | 18.4% | \$558.7 |

disparities in homeownership and affordable housing access, and develop environmentally sustainable buildings. Overall, the City has spent 75.0% of its dedicated ARPA housing funds. Fourteen of the 22 projects have fully spent their funding as of December 2025. Similarly, nearly all ARPA funds available for two projects aimed at creating permanent and transitional housing and support services for unhoused people struggling with mental health and substance use disorders have been spent.

Five of the ten projects with the largest amount of funding remaining to be spent are dedicated to housing, totaling \$57.9M in unspent funds. \$31.4M of this comes from the Affordable Homeownership Development & Ownership project, which develops affordable homeownership opportunities and expands financial assistance. A little more than half (50.6%) of funds dedicated to the Income Restricted Housing Development project remain unspent, reflecting the complex timelines required in developing housing. Less than half (42.1%) of dedicated funds have been expended to retrofit existing affordable housing and recently acquired housing preservation buildings to improve energy efficiency within the Deep Energy Retrofits for Affordable Housing project.

Climate & Mobility – Boston has spent 78.6% of the \$46.5M in ARPA funds dedicated to climate & mobility. The 15 climate & mobility projects are managed by several different departments and cabinets within the City of Boston: Boston Public Schools (2 projects); Environment, Energy & Open Space Cabinet (2 projects); Mayor's Office of Housing (1 project); Office of Food Justice (1 project); Parks & Recreation Cabinet (2 projects); Office of Workforce Development (1 project); and the Transportation & Public Works Cabinet (6 projects). The largest project within climate & mobility, the Free Fare Bus Pilot, which made three bus lines in transit-critical communities free through June 2026, has only 14.1% (\$17.0M) of its funding remaining to spend by the end of the year. Four projects have spent all their allocated funds: Traffic Calming & Street Safety Improvements, District 4 Parks & Green Spaces, East Boston O'Donnell Playground, and the Farmers Market Coupon Program. In contrast, four projects have more than half of their funds left to be spent: Green Residential Building Retrofits (79.1% left to spend); Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (60.5% left to spend); America's Best Biking City (57.7% left to spend); and Walkable City (51.3% left to spend).

What's Next for ARPA-Funded Projects? The deadline for Boston to spend ARPA funds is fast-approaching, and it is critical that the City spend down its remaining ARPA funds by the end of this year to avoid losing federal funds that may not readily come again. The City of Boston has been successful thus far at meeting the federal deadlines for ARPA funding, committing all \$558.7M in funds by the December 31, 2024 obligation deadline. As the City works to spend down the rest of its remaining \$103.1M in ARPA funds, it will need to decide which projects will continue past ARPA and communicate its plans to residents. With [increasing uncertainty](#) of federal funding and a tight FY27 budgetary outlook, the City will have to make tough decisions on which projects will be funded by Boston's taxpayers instead of ARPA.