LFRF and Small Towns

My town has 0 full-time staff, 175 residents and $58,000 of Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF). How can we use this money?

1. Aid to small biz
You can offer loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship for small businesses (supporting payroll and benefits costs, for example) and to help these businesses implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics (physical plant changes to enable social distancing, etc.). You can also assist with business planning needs.

2. Are you in a QCT?
A wider range of eligible uses to specific groups and geographies opens up when LFRF is spent in relation to Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs), which are an indication of need. This link has more information about eligible uses and this website allows you to search locations of QCTs statewide.

3. Adapt facilities
Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs are eligible uses of LFRF. You can adapt public buildings (retrofitting areas for greater spacing, ventilation improvements, etc.) to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics.

4. Contract with others
Local governments can contract with a private nonprofit organization and other Non-Governmental Organizations using LFRF with the understanding that eligibility and reporting requirements still apply to the funds. State law prohibits direct transfers and grants in these instances.

5. Other transfers
Local governments can also transfer LFRF to a Tribal organization, a public benefit organization involved in the transportation of passengers or cargo, or a special-purpose unit of State or local government (fire, water, sewer or mosquito abatement districts). Again, eligible uses and reporting requirements still apply to the funds.

6. Partner with county FRF
Have a project that can benefit from collaboration with your county? Local governments can transfer LFRF to other constituent units of government, such as a city, town or school district within the county. There’s opportunity to work together on eligible projects or services.

7. Aid to households
Households experiencing unemployment or increased food or housing insecurity, or those that are low- or moderate-income are presumed eligible for many services: food assistance; rent; mortgage; utility assistance; home repairs; and counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction and homelessness.

8. Tourism support
LFRF can be used to enable the safe resumption of tourism, travel, and hospitality services, such as improvements to ventilation, physical barriers or partitions, signage to facilitate social distancing and the provision of masks or PPE.

9. Survivor’s Benefits
Local governments can fund benefits for surviving family members of individuals who have died from COVID-19, including cash assistance to widows, widowers, or dependents of individuals who died of COVID-19.

10. Containing COVID-19
Needs still exist around mitigating and preventing the spread of COVID-19 and variants. Local governments can pay for vaccination programs, including incentives; medical care; testing; contact tracing; support for isolation or quarantine; and public communication efforts.

Source: Treasury’s Interim Final Rule and FAQs documents