

410 East Main Street (27909)
P.O. Box 160 (27907)
Elizabeth City, NC
Telephone (252) 331-2277
Telecopier (252) 331-2962
E-Mail Address: bill.morgan@whmjraty.com

William H. Morgan, Jr.
Attorney At Law

E-Mail Transmittal

To: Montre' Freeman, Jon Hawley, and Brian Lewis
From: William H. Morgan, Jr.

E-Mail: **Pages:** (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET)

Phone: **Date:** 4/29/2024

Re: Resolution Approving Eligible Use Policy
and Resolution Approving Nondiscrimination
Policy 2024
CC:

Time: 9:33 AM

Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply** **Please Recycle**

● **Comments**

Gentlemen:

We are sending you now what should be the final versions of Resolution Approving Eligible Use Policy and Resolution Approving Nondiscrimination Policy. These two Resolutions and the ones we sent Friday afternoon should be approved by City Council at the next available opportunity. We can forward these documents to April in Word format so she can include them in the agenda in the manner she would like. Thank you.

William Morgan

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RESOLUTION APPROVING ELIGIBLE USE POLICY

WHEREAS the City of Elizabeth City, has received an allocation of funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP/CSLRF); and

WHEREAS US Treasury is responsible for implementing ARP/CSLRF and has enacted a Final Rule outlining eligible projects; and

WHEREAS the funds may be used for projects within these categories, to the extent authorized by state law.

1. Support COVID-19 public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation and prevention efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, preventing and responding to violence, and certain public health and safety staff;
2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to households, small businesses, non-profits, impact industries, and the public sector;
3. Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;
4. Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,
5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet; and

WHEREAS the ARP/CSLFRF are subject to the provisions of the federal Uniform Grant Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200 (UG), as provided in the Assistance Listing; and

WHEREAS US Treasury has issued a Compliance and Reporting Guidance v.2.1 (November 15, 2021) dictating implementation of the ARP/CSLFRF award terms and compliance requirements; and

WHEREAS the Compliance and Reporting Guidance states on page 6 that

Per 2 CFR Part 200.303, your organization must develop and implement effective internal controls to ensure that funding decisions under the SLFRF award constitute eligible uses of funds, and document determinations.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Elizabeth City hereby adopts and enacts the following Eligibility Determination Policy for ARP/CSLFRF funds.

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION POLICY FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

This policy defines the permissible and prohibited uses of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP/CSLFRF) funds. It also outlines the procedures for determining how the City of Elizabeth City will spend its ARP/CSLFRF funds.

I. PERMISSIBLE USES OF ARP/CSLFRF FUNDING

US Treasury issued its Final Rule regarding use of ARPA funds on January 6, 2022. (The Final Rule is effective as of April 1, 2022. Until that date, a local government may proceed under the regulation promulgated by US Department of the Treasury in its Interim Final Rule or the Final Rule.) The Final Rule (and the Interim Final Rule) identify permissible uses of ARP/CSLFRF funds and certain limitations and process requirements. Local governments must allocate ARP/CSLFRF funds no later than December 31, 2024 and disburse all funding no later than December 31, 2026. Failure of an entity to expend all funds by December 31, 2026 will result in forfeiture of ARPA funds.

ARP/CSLFRF funds may be used for projects within the following categories of expenditures:

1. Support COVID-19 public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation and prevention efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, preventing and responding to violence, and certain public health and safety staff;
2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, non-profits, impacted industries, and the public sector;
3. Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;
4. Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and
5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

II. PROHIBITED USES OF ARPA FUNDING

The ARP/CSLRF and US Treasury's Final Rule prohibit certain uses of ARP/CSLFRF funds. Specifically, ARP/CSLFRF funds may not be used for projects within the following categories of expenditures:

1. To make a deposit into a pension fund that constitutes an extraordinary payment of an accrued, unfunded liability (Note that routine contributions as part of a payroll obligation for an eligible project are allowed.);
2. To borrow money or make debt service payments;
3. To replenish rainy day funds or fund other financial reserves;
4. To satisfy an obligation arising from a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restricting in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding (There is an exception to this prohibition if the settlement or judgment requires the City of Elizabeth City to provide services to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts or to provide government services, then the costs of those otherwise ARP/CSLFRF-eligible projects are allowed.);
5. For a project that includes a term or condition that undermines efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 or discourages compliance with recommendations and guidelines in CDC guidance for stopping the spread of COVID-19;
6. In violation of the conflict-of-interest requirements imposed by the award terms and 2 CFR 200.318(c).
7. For any expenditure that would violate other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

The City of Elizabeth City, and any of its contractors or subrecipients, may not expend any ARP/CSLFRF funds for these purposes.

III. PROCEDURES FOR PROJECT APPROVAL

The following are procedures for ARP/CSLFRF project approvals. All City of Elizabeth City employees and officials must comply with these requirements.

1. Requests for ARP/CSLFRF funding, must be made in writing and include all the following:
 - a. Brief description of the project
 - b. Identification of ARP/CSLFRF Expenditure Category (EC) (A list of ECs in the Appendix to the US Treasury Compliance and Reporting Guidance.)
 - c. Required justifications for applicable projects, according to the requirements in the Final Rule. Employees or any applicant seeking ARPA funding should review the Final Rule and Final Rule Overview prior to submitting a proposal.
 - d. Proposed budget, broken down by cost item, in accordance with the City of Elizabeth City Allowable Cost Policy.
 - e. A project implementation plan and estimated implementation timeline (All ARP/CSLFRF funds must be fully obligated by December 31, 2024, and fully expended by December 31, 2026.)

2. Requests for funding must be submitted to Finance Director for approval. All requests will be reviewed for ARP/CSLFRF compliance for allowable costs and other financial review.
3. No ARP/CSLFRF may be obligated or expended before final written approval by City Council approval of Project(s) and budget Amendment(s).
4. If a proposal does not meet the required criteria, it will be returned to the requesting party for revision and resubmittal.
5. Following approval, employees responsible for implementing the project must conform actual obligations and expenditures to the pre-approved project budget. Changes in project budgets must be approved by The Finance Director and may require a budget amendment before proceeding. Any delay in the projected project completion date shall be communicated to the Finance Director immediately.
6. Finance Director must collect and document required information for each project, for purposes of completing the required Project and Expenditure reports.
7. The Finance Director must maintain written project requests and approvals, all supporting documentation, and financial information at least until December 31, 2031.

RESOLUTION APPROVING NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY 2024

Recitals

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth City has received an allocation of funds from the “Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund” or “Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund” (together CSLFRF funds”), established pursuant to Sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act, as added by Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (the “ARP/CSLFRF award”).

WHEREAS, CSLFRF funds are subject to the U.S. Department of Treasury (“Treasury”) regulations, including the Final Rule, the Award Terms and Conditions, and the Title VII implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the ARP/CSLFRF Award Terms and Conditions, and as a condition of receiving CSLFRF funds, the City of Elizabeth City agrees to follow all federal statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination in its administration of CSLFRF under the terms and conditions of the ARP/CSLFRF award, including, without limitation, the following:

- i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and Treasury’s implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin within programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance;
- ii. The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status or disability;
- iii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance;
- iv. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), and Treasury’s implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; and
- v. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under programs, activities, and services provided or made available by state and local governments or instrumentalities or agencies thereto.

RESOLVED, That the City Council of Elizabeth City of the City of Elizabeth City hereby adopts and enacts the following nondiscrimination policy, which shall apply to the operations of

any program, activity, or facility that is supported in whole, or in part, by expenditures CSLFRF pursuant to the ARP/CSLFRF award.

Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

It is the policy of the City of Elizabeth City to ensure that no person shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin (including limited English Proficiency), familial status, sex, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination under any program or activity administered by the City of Elizabeth City, including programs or activities that are funded in whole or part, with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“CSLFRF”), which the City of Elizabeth City received from the U.S. Department of Treasury (“Treasury”) pursuant to Sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act, as added by Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (herein the “ARP/CSLFRF award”).

I. Governing Statutory & Regulatory Authorities

As required by the CSLFRF Award Terms and Conditions, the City of Elizabeth City shall ensure that each “activity,” “facility,” or “program” that is funded in whole, or in part, with CSLFRF and administered under the ARP/CSLFRF award, will be facilitated, operated, or conducted in compliance with the following federal statutes and federal regulations prohibiting discrimination. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and Treasury’s implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance;
- ii. The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability;
- iii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance;
- iv. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), and Treasury’s implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of age within programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; and
- v. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under programs, activities, and services provided or made available by state and local governments or instrumentalities or agencies thereto.

II. Discriminatory Practices Prohibited in the Administration of the ARP/CSLFRF Award

To ensure compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title 31 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 22, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and other pertinent nondiscrimination authorities, the City of Elizabeth City shall prohibit, at a minimum, the following practices in its administration of CSLFRF pursuant to the ARP/CSLFRF award:

1. Denying to a person any service, financial aid, or other program benefit without good cause;
2. Providing to a person any service, financial aid, or another benefit which is different in quantity or quality, or is provided in a different manner, from that provided to others under the program.
3. Subjecting a person to segregation or separate treatment in any matter related to the receipt of any service, financial aid, or other benefit under the program;
4. Restricting a person in the enjoyment of any advantages, privileges, or other benefits enjoyed by others receiving any service, financial aid, or other benefit under the program;
5. Treating a person differently from others in determining whether that person satisfies any admission, enrollment, quota, eligibility, membership, or other requirement or condition which persons must meet to be provided any service, financial aid, or other benefit provided under the program;
6. Implementing different standards, criteria, or other requirements for admission, enrollment, or participation in planning, advisory, contractual, or other integral activities to the program;
7. Adopting methods of administration which, directly or through contractual relationships, would defeat or substantially impair the accomplishment of effective nondiscrimination;
8. Selecting a site or location of facilities with the purpose or effect of excluding persons from, denying them the benefits of, subjecting them to discrimination, or with the purpose or effect of defeating or substantially impairing the accomplishment of the objectives of Title VI or related acts and regulations;
9. Discriminating against any person, either directly or through a contractual agreement, in any employment resulting from the program, a primary objective of which is to provide employment;
10. Committing acts of intimidation or retaliation, including threatening, coercing, or discriminating against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by any pertinent nondiscrimination law, or because an individual made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing.

III. Reporting & Enforcement

1. The City of Elizabeth City shall cooperate in any enforcement or compliance review activities by the Department of the Treasury. Enforcement may include investigation, arbitration, mediation, litigation, and monitoring of any settlement agreements that may result from these actions. The City of Elizabeth City shall comply with information requests, on-site compliance reviews, and reporting requirements.
2. The City of Elizabeth City shall maintain a complaint log and inform the Treasury of any complaints of discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin (including limited English proficiency covered by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) and implementing regulations and provide, upon request, a list of all such reviews or proceedings based on the complaint, whether pending or completed, including the outcome. The City of Elizabeth City shall inform the Treasury if it has received no complaints under Title VI.
3. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by a discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with the Treasury. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with the Treasury's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence.
4. Any person who believes that because of that person's race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, familial status, sex, age, religion, or disability that he/she/they have been discriminated against or unfairly treated by the City of Elizabeth City in violation of this policy should contact the Offices of the Finance Director and City Manager within 180 days from the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence.