

# **Local Towns, Villages Among The 240 Communities State-Wide Who Have Yet To Claim Their COVID-19 Relief Funds; Deadline Sept. 30**

September 22 2021 2:13 PM



SPRINGFIELD— The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) authorized \$742 million to assist non-entitlement units (NEUs) of government who have yet to receive a direct allocation from the latest stimulus. In Illinois, eligible NEUs include more than 1,250

cities, towns, and villages that each serve a population under 50,000. **A full list of governments, those who have yet to apply, and their eligible amount of funds can be found [here](#).**

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) today announced that eligible cities and towns across the state who have yet to do so have just over a week to apply for Non-Entitlement Unit (NEU) dollars authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). To date, 1,009 local governments have taken steps to receive or claim over \$361 million. As of today, more than 241 eligible governments have yet to complete their application, leaving over \$19.6 million in funds on the table for the current fiscal year. To ensure all eligible local governments receive vital funding, the administration is urging the remaining NEUs to claim their allocations by September 30, 2021, or funds will be reallocated.

"Since the onset of the pandemic, Illinois has been at the forefront of providing economic relief programs to address the urgent needs facing our local communities and to support our recovery from the pandemic," said Governor JB Pritzker. "While our administration has distributed over \$360 million in funds to over 1,000 cities and towns - there are dozens of eligible governments who have yet to take simple steps to access these crucial recovery dollars that can be used to rebuild their communities. I encourage every eligible community to take action to apply now and to avoid leaving their share of federal COVID-19 recovery funds on the table."

DCEO is urging NEUs who have not yet taken steps to claim their funds to do so today. Information about how to complete the request or to receive technical assistance with a request is available on the DCEO NEU portal <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/CURENEU/Pages/default.aspx>.

"The State of Illinois is providing every available resource to support our communities, businesses, and residents in making a robust recovery from the pandemic," said DCEO Acting Director Sylvia Garcia. "While the State has distributed hundreds of millions of dollars in relief to communities – we know that many are at risk of missing out on their share of these funds. The good news is there is still time before the September 30 deadline next week – allowing cities and towns more than enough time to visit the NEU portal or to get in touch with our DCEO team today to get assistance with claiming their funds so that none of the federal dollars designated for these Illinois communities are left on the table."

The NEU funds may be used to cover revenue losses and the costs of responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency or to its negative economic impacts on households,

small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest hit by the crisis. These funds can also be used to invest in building, maintaining, or upgrading water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Authorized community representatives can access the DCEO NEU portal now to certify and request their allotment within minutes.

Those who complete the process and provide documentation as required by U.S. Treasury can expect to receive the first portion of funding in approximately 30 days, with the remaining half roughly a year later. Importantly, as the NEU process does not require upfront itemization of reimbursable expenses, cities and towns can apply now and decide how to allocate NEU funding later.

All NEUs must follow federal compliance and reporting responsibilities as determined by the U.S. Treasury. After the deadline on September 30, 2021, there will be no other opportunity for local governments to apply for this allocation of NEU funding as DCEO will take steps to reallocate unclaimed funds.

For more information on NEU or how to apply, please visit <http://illinois.gov/dceo/neu>