

ARPA FUNDING: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVANSTON'S TRANSFORMATIONAL RECOVERY AND REBUILDING

Prepared by

*Roberta Rakove, Suzanne Strassberger,
and Marybeth Schroeder*

for the

evanston!communityfoundation

MORE THAN 500 COMMUNITY VOICES

Evanston has an extraordinary opportunity. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) allocated a \$43 million windfall to Evanston. There are few restrictions, and funding can be allocated over a three-year time period. Often, allocation decisions for one-time funding opportunities, such as state capital bills or the Tobacco Settlement, are based on political will and are subject to tight expenditure timelines.

Evanston's vibrant nonprofit organizations and more than 500 community members have come together to help Evanston choose a different approach.

Our goal was to build a vision of using ARPA funds for Evanston's recovery and rebuilding from the COVID pandemic grounded in clear, community-informed directives. The City Council, the Mayor, and City Staff can use this work to move this vision into action with ARPA funds and future projects.

The work began in June when the City of Evanston, with the Evanston Community Foundation, Evanston Cradle to Career, Northwestern University's Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, and with guidance from Evanston Early Childhood Council and Evanston Latinos, convened three Town Hall Meetings – two in English (virtual and in-person) and the third in Spanish. Three-hundred thirteen Evanston residents participated.

From August through September, the Evanston Community Foundation, Mayor Daniel Biss, and the staff of the City of Evanston partnered to facilitate seven Roundtables, each organized around a sector, a youth Townhall with 34 youth participants, and facilitators, and a survey of more than 55 ETHS students. Prior to the Roundtables, the Evanston Early Childhood Council had convened their own group to set out priorities which are incorporated into this report.

It is a testimony to Evanston's community spirit that virtually none of the 169 people from 62 organizations (exclusive of City and ECF staff) participating in the Roundtables advocated for their own individual or organizational priorities.

Participant input from the four Town Hall meetings and the seven Roundtables form the basis for this report. It is organized as follows:

- Introduction
- Criteria to use in the decision-making process
- Cross-sector themes for change
- A chart that compares the cross-sector themes with the priority topics covered in each of the seven Roundtables
- Appendices including, a) project recommendations by sector, b) youth survey results, c) priorities put forward by the Evanston Early Childhood Council, d) and a list of roundtable participants.

The commitment of the **more than 500 community members** who took time out of their very busy schedules to participate is a statement of what makes Evanston strong: active members of its community, both those who live there and those who work there. It is important to note that there are still opportunities for listening to incorporate important voices. These include the faith community, healthcare, environmental groups, and business groups like the Chamber of Commerce and the Black Business Consortium of Evanston/North Shore. We urge City officials and staff, civic leaders, nonprofit organizations, and others planning future projects to make use of the information here that came from the incredible resource that is our Evanston community.

ARPA Evanston Funding Criteria

Roundtable participants want the overall spending plan to reflect core values of the Evanston community. They had strong ideas about how the project selection process and what criteria should be used to evaluate proposed projects and spending.

1. **Community Voice:** Center the voices of individuals and communities most impacted by project creation, providing adequate time, outreach, and transparency in decision-making through meaningful engagement of community members. Both the project evaluation process and the funded projects should include community members from targeted areas.
2. **Equity:** Projects should demonstrate a commitment to equity in Evanston.
 - a. Funding should be focused and demonstrate impact on Black and Latino communities.
 - b. Projects should address language and cultural barriers.
 - c. Projects should focus on communities most negatively impacted by Covid-19.
 - d. Grassroots and community-based organizations should be provided the tools to apply.
 - e. Project evaluators should reflect diverse communities.
3. **Selection process:** Funding decisions should be made with a clear, transparent process that is collaborative rather than competitive, building on community connections and networks. The process should welcome some risk and funding of grassroots organizations and projects.
4. **Sustainability:** Projects should demonstrate sustainability or long-term impact from this one-time infusion of funds.
5. **Strategic Use of Resources:** Funding decisions should take into consideration the availability of alternative or complementary funding from the Federal government, state government, or philanthropy. The flexibility of the ARPA funds welcomes creativity and innovation.
6. **Collaboration and Partnership:** Projects should enable and build upon community, organizational, and cross-sector collaboration.
7. **Employment and Economic Impact:** Preference should be given to projects that will hire locally, provide youth employment and employment for persons with disabilities, and utilize local businesses.
8. **Outcomes:** Projects should have clear measurable outcomes.
9. **Balance:** Projects should be balanced among meeting immediate needs, capital projects, and systems change.

Cross-sector Themes

While each roundtable focused on a specific sector, overarching themes, concerns, and ideas appeared in multiple discussions and the town halls.

Four common areas stood out as foundational: housing, childcare, investment in Black and Latino communities, and mental health and trauma.

1. **Housing:** The necessity to address the continuum of affordable housing challenges from homelessness to affordable rentals to supportive housing to achievable homeownership was cited as a fundamental prerequisite for solving a broad range of issues. Evanston has significant assets in this area with existing collaboratives and community-based organizations.
2. **Childcare:** Childcare, including affordable early childhood and after school care, emerged as a critical issue for Evanston to thrive as a diverse, economically prosperous, and family-supportive city. The strength of Evanston's Early Childhood Education Council and the broad range of programs in Evanston were perceived as community assets.
3. **Investment in Black and Latino communities:** Every roundtable group strongly supported diversity and equity as core values for Evanston and central to Evanston's identity. Targeting the use of ARPA funds to overall investment in Black and Latino communities was widely voiced.
4. **Mental Health and Trauma:** Accessibility to affordable and culturally competent mental health services was raised as a long-term unmet need and key to recovering from the pandemic.
5. **The Digital Divide:** Access to broadband, digital device ownership, and training in utilizing digital resources is viewed as essential to provide access to multiple resources. This is perceived to be a critical equity issue. Broadband is specifically included as an allowable expense in ARPA.
6. **Destination City:** Evanston has unique assets that, with some additional investment and strategic planning, could enhance its local economy as a destination city, creating employment opportunities and developing strong local existing businesses. The large artistic creative community in Evanston and the many unique small businesses and restaurants were seen as solid foundations for this concept.
7. **Employment:** Employment was a concern for both employers, many of whom are having difficulty finding employees for several categories of work and individuals seeking jobs and training.
8. **Capital challenges:** Capital investment in the infrastructure of early childhood programs, nonprofits, affordable housing, homelessness, and some small businesses were cited as appropriate use for one-time funding. Many organizations had to divert capital funds to respond to COVID and are left without resources to make regular improvements, meet new demands, and implement safety measures related to the pandemic.
9. **City and community relationship:** The ARPA funding discussion highlights the opportunity for the City of Evanston to work more strategically with community partners. In particular, there was an emphasis on utilizing community-based resources well and not duplicating roles or services between the City of Evanston and nonprofit organizations. Additional issues include staffing, revamping the City's website, community outreach, linguistic and cultural competency, and institutionalizing meaningful community input into the City budgeting and planning processes.

Themes Raised by Sectors

Common themes for the use of ARPA funds were raised across the eight Roundtables that were conducted, as well as in the presentation from the early childhood community, the youth survey, and the Town halls that the City of Evanston conducted. The chart below illustrates in which discussions these overarching themes were raised.

	ROUNDTABLES									
	Workforce Development/ Emerging Adults	School Age Children	Immigrant/ Undocumented	Arts/ Humanities	Economic/ Community Development	Seniors/ Individuals with Disabilities	Housing/ Homelessness	Early Childhood	Adult Town Halls	Youth Townhall
Housing	X	x	x		X	x	x	x	x	X
Childcare	X	x	x		X		x	x	x	X
Investment in Black, Latinx, Immigrant Communities	X	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	X
Mental Health/Trauma		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Digital Divide	X	x	x	X	x	x			x	
Destination City				X					x	
Employment	X		x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x
Capital Challenges				X	x		x	x	x	x
City/Community Relationship	x		X	X	x	x			X	

APPENDICES

- Roundtable Notes: Sector Specific Project Ideas and Initiatives (pages 7-12)
- Youth Townhall and Survey Notes (pages 13-19)
- Early Childhood Council Recommendations (pages 20-21)
- Community Feedback from ARPA Town Halls (pages 22-30)
- Roundtable Participants (pages 30-36)

Roundtable: Workforce Development and Emerging Adults, 8/13/21

- Support for small business:
 - Social enterprises, especially for grassroots/marginalized folks
 - Loans for small businesses, particularly for youth
 - Business incubators
 - Coaching support for small business, community-based
 - Cohort model in which childcare is free for ambassadors, coaches, small business creators
- Parent & family ambassador program: Paid positions for trusted individuals to connect people to resources, to what they need, and what is available
- Space:
 - The Aux, space for entrepreneurs of color to launch business
 - Family Focus building: potential hub for nonprofits and organizations. Need to grow that kind of resource in 5th, 2nd, 8th wards
 - Shared resources for nonprofits and businesses
- Career pathways:
 - Communication and education for middle and high schoolers and families about potential careers, opportunities, training, needed support
 - Direct services for young people at high school to ensure that every young person at ETHS has clear path and plan and connection to living wage and training
 - Integrating workforce development and economic development because community needs these workers
 - Connecting employers and social services – supply and demand of workers
- Cara Collective in Chicago, inclusive hiring resource
- Early childhood workforce initiative: Address recruiting and retention through education, support, training

Roundtable: School Aged Children, 8/17/21

- Mental health:
 - Trauma informed training for educators and staff of youth and family programs
 - More and more accessible mental health resources for young people
 - Specific mental health supports for kids under 10 who have been dealing with pandemic that they don't understand
 - Mental health first aid training
- Youth and family voice and leadership:
 - Create ways for young people and families to participate in decision-making and leadership
 - Spaces for youth to talk together, including LGBTQ youth
 - Paid parent, youth, and community ambassadors to improve communication and connection between city, community resources, and families
- Resources for youth and families:
 - Transportation to facilitate after school and out of school programs
 - Broadband for all

- More STEM education and opportunities
- More available and affordable childcare
- Teen center and community gathering places, where kids can hang in unstructured way and be safe and whole family might be engaged. Have services like tutoring, enrichment, sport, mental health.
- Latino community disconnected from schools and resources. Need trusted communicators and connections
- More accessible and available tutoring
- Community social workers and resource navigators
- Resources for Black and brown communities:
 - Startup cost to help Evanstonians develop own businesses, especially in Black and brown community
 - Leadership development for Black and brown community
 - Provide intentional funding for solidarity between Black and Latino populations
- Support for nonprofit organizations:
 - Sustainability long term support for organizations and businesses
 - Stabilization program in place during recovery period for youth and families
 - Coming together for ideas can be used to find additional resources and share resources to continue to collaborate

Roundtable: Immigrant and undocumented population, 8/18/21

- Support for organizations and community to increase linguistic and cultural competence to better serve immigrant communities:
 - Bicultural bilingual lawyer staff
 - Education for allies (e.g., language training for folks working with populations)
 - Support organizations working with Latino population to hire more bilingual bicultural folks
 - Support for early childhood overall and to connect with Latino families
 - \$\$\$ to research and report Latino history in Evanston
 - Community education on immigration status
- Housing:
 - Housing supports to keep families, especially Latinos, in Evanston
 - Economic development and housing programs for those who don't fit into limited state and federal criteria
 - (e.g., qualification for business licensing, homelessness)
 - City housing program to buy houses to do loans for ITIN and immigrant families, so they don't have to go to bank
- Literacy education:
 - Adult literacy, especially ESL (single greatest factor of kids' success is mother's literacy level). Evanston could potentially later access state library money once a program/programs are established here
 - Access to early childhood education combined with adult literacy program at EC centers
- City of Evanston hiring:

- \$\$\$ to hire more bilingual/bicultural staff in parks
- City actually be open to Latino staff
- Health workers for the city: this is recovery money; emphasis should be on health department, particularly bilingual/bicultural
- Train individuals to be public health workers, again the ambassador model, a community health force for covid, diabetes, etc. This is a once in a lifetime to make Evanston healthier
- Mental health and health:
 - More mental health centers and resources (took a year to find therapist for my child) and workers, particularly for Latinos, with Spanish speakers and affordability
 - Better health tracking by Latinos as well as by race
- Scholarships for undocumented students while they access college
- City commitment to language access policy and budget commitment (not necessarily with ARPA funds but as integral to work)

Roundtable: Arts and Humanities, 8/19/21

- Evanston as tourism destination:
 - Branding program for Evanston and Evanston arts
 - Development of citywide events to attract folks (e.g., Evanston Made First Saturdays)
- Arts czar or coordinator at City of Evanston:
 - Advocate for arts
 - Encourage and build collaboration in sector and with other sectors
 - Rebuild cultural arts grants to have enough funds to make meaningful grants
- 1% for arts:
 - Mark 1% of ARPA fund for arts
 - Potentially use Arts Council to distribute
- Museum/arts building:
 - Create central arts/museum building to house Shorefront, Evanston Made, women's history
 - Build with community input and create public/private partnership for funding
 - See Theater Gates building in Chicago
 - Be innovative with use of City owned empty lots and buildings. Convert to studios, performance spaces.
- Collaborative support for the arts:
 - Collective impact effort for the arts and humanities
 - Create scholarship pool for all organizations with administrator for all
 - Endowment building for arts organizations
 - Resources to help arts and humanities collect data needed for grant applications
- Mental health:

- Train artists in trauma and to collaborate with social services, police, etc. to be part of positive mental health effort
- Develop mental health effort with arts engagement particularly focused on impact of covid for young people, students, older adults

Roundtable: Economic and Community Development, 8/24/21

- Housing:
 - McGaw YMCA renovation/improvement of SRO
 - Build and preserve multi-family housing stock
 - Use underutilized city assets for affordable housing
- Community and economic development:
 - Invest ARPA throughout Evanston, not just downtown
 - Build nontraditional anchors in underdeveloped areas
 - Community broadband – one-time deep investment
 - Investments in underserved areas in Evanston with community voice
 - Target empty spaces for use by small businesses and arts groups
- Early childhood care and education (crucial support for businesses and employment):
 - Capital dollars for early childhood which were postponed to support PPE, could be for local employment
 - Bridge gap on cost of early childhood education and ensure high quality
 - Scholarships to train early childhood teachers because there is a shortage, and this is necessary to have people work
- Business and employment support:
 - Encourage local hiring
 - Digital access and training for small businesses
 - Build short term certification
 - Create mentorship pathways at work and in different workplaces/careers
 - Support for more equitable hiring in Evanston
 - Support incubators
 - New businesses have trouble getting support – encouraging new business in wards that are underserved, involve youth
 - Funds for delayed repairs for nonprofits and businesses due to covid
- City communication and leadership:
 - City website needs to be redone and more functional and accessible. Change lens to what is the community looking for
 - City as model for how we want businesses and nonprofits to operate:
 - Local hiring preferences
 - Deconstruction to support environmental goals
 - Use underused city assets for affordable housing
- Systemic approach: What are the barriers to employment and to growing local business?

- Childcare
- Access to and money for training
- Understanding labor needs for small business
- Digital services and access

Roundtable: Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, 8/25/21

- Employment support:
 - Employment opportunities through nonprofit collaborations. Paid employment opportunities. Employers come to the table to discuss their needs in partnering with nonprofits. Put supports in place – employers don't have the toolkit to know how to employ people with disabilities.
 - Employment opportunities for those with criminal records. Attorneys to assist with expungement.
 - Offer incentives to employers for those who hire those with criminal record and IDD
 - Transportation to Evanston or outside of Evanston for those who work elsewhere
 - Community case managers to help coordinate these things across agencies
 - Intergenerational workforce program
 - Create Mayors Older Adults Employment program
 - Financial supports for businesses owned by older adults
- Digital divide:
 - Amp up broadband support.
 - Center community member needs regarding devices. Buy from local companies
 - Amping up digital literacy and navigators. Crossover collaborations with high school students.
- Housing:
 - Housing subsidies for seniors and individuals with disabilities
 - Respite housing for caregivers
 - Purchase housing for adults. Tiny housing like ETHS Geometry in Construction program.
- Mental health and health:
 - Updated wellness center at Levy Center
 - Hire community social workers at Levy Center
 - Treatments for those with mental illness and support them in workforce. More funding to reduce senior social isolation to support Uniper and the arts/humanities organizations that offer Evanston programming.
 - More funds for Fleetwood-Jourdain Theater/Prime Time Players (theater/older adults) and publicizing more so people know about it.
 - Mental health services for older adults
 - Support businesses and other sectors in becoming more age friendly and dementia friendly.
 - Provide swimming pool at levy center. Therapeutic. Insurance can sustain.

Roundtable: Housing and Homelessness, 9/13/21

- Support for homeless:
 - Permanent emergency 24-hour 7-day shelter gender inclusive
 - Public bathrooms- permanent – models from Portland
 - Shelter units for larger families
 - Investing in getting community buy-in for permanent shelter
- Rental support:
 - Workforce development program attached to rental subsidy
 - Permanent rental subsidies for long term affordable housing
 - Partner with property owners to figure out what supports they need to be affordable
 - Building on Connections transitional program to extend past 2 years
 - Voucher program for families with children
 - Investing in and enforcing fair housing requirements, ending discrimination against housing vouchers
 - Rental vouchers, rental vouchers, rental vouchers
 - Expansion of housing allies' efforts, helping landlords get more involved and committed, Connections guarantees 3-mos rent/damage funds
- Housing options:
 - More youth centered housing, especially for young men
 - Support along the continuum of housing vulnerability
 - Larger living spaces for larger families
 - Financial literacy for youth
 - Cleveland housing program: Section 8 to home ownership
 - Ensuring availability of transitional housing for women and children located in Evanston
 - Funding for ADUs
 - Capital investment to purchase things now such as shelter, tiny houses, etc.
- Support services:
 - Coordinating services and wrap around services for mental health, legal support, addictions support, etc.
 - Immigrant services: create programs that don't require social security numbers
 - Universal credit check process
 - Expand City TBAR (?) program that city has for to support D65 and D202 families from current two years to all 13 years of school, expand slots from 20 (since 300 kids in schools identified as homeless)
 - Community refrigerators and pantries: ways to promote access

ARPA Youth Townhall, 9/21/21

- Employment/workforce:
 - Access to jobs for youth:
 - Youth need training around how to apply for a job, support around filling out the application process, and help looking for a job.
 - Create a more structured easy way to apply for a job for youth.
 - Youth Job Center offer more training programs for youth.
 - Job fair to train youth how to secure a job
 - More work-based opportunities for youth
 - Mentorship programs combined with helping neighbors (e.g., snow shoveling, planting trees around Evanston)
 - Adult job fair, with resources like youth job fairs
 - Give grants to small and black businesses to create more jobs.
 - Tuition reimbursement for all jobs in Evanston.
 - Offer more mentoring for people in the community.
- Support for immigrants and refugees:
 - Support for Latinx community but also for others, such as Haitian community
 - Curriculum and other learning opportunities about history
 - Programs such as Students Without Borders to make people welcome
 - Improve outreach to immigrants
 - Provide translation and translation services
 - Divert funds from police dealing with undocumented families to services supporting them
 - Funds for older undocumented people
 - Build a judgment free immigrant center for immigrants and undocumented people
- Resources for youth and school aged kids:
 - Students in need of more mental health resources: Awareness & workshops
 - Diverse social workers (more people that look like them)
 - Affordable programs like Y.O.U. and YMCA
 - Programs for kids with disabilities
 - Better nutritional and food programs
 - Before and after care
 - More tutoring opportunities, mentoring program between older and younger kids
 - College planning help
 - Sex education
 - STEM activities and programs
 - Skate park: place to congregate without getting yelled at

- Community athletics, casual based on age
- Health:
 - Ensure that all have affordable health and dental care
 - More attention to holistic healthcare for all (vision, dental, mental, and physical)
 - More fresh markets, especially near Oakton school
 - More mental health resources, especially for kids and youth, including raising awareness and workshops
- Housing:
 - More attention to housing crisis for renters and buyers
- Environment:
 - Use the funds for CARP projects
 - Garden/nature activities accessible to all
 - Spaces for gardening, dance classes, performing arts activities
 - Activities that bring awareness on climate crisis

Youth Voices Survey

- Feedback was gathered in the form of a Google Survey in order to collect input from our Youth community members. Participants were between the ages of 14-23 years old.
- This survey went live on September 22nd, and closed on September 29th.
- Distribution among different partners:
 - EC2C Student Advocates
 - EC2C Volunteer Fair
 - Community Service Director of ETHS
 - Shared via email and text message by City Staff in the Youth/Young Adult Division
- A total of 58 participants filled out this survey

What would make life better in Evanston for babies – five-year-olds?

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Parks and recreation:
 - Cleaner parks, less trash on streets and on playgrounds. Safe, clean, accessible parks with walking trails for strollers, and have these parks in locations close to populated areas
 - Make sure the upkeep of these areas is good and frequent
 - Updated playgrounds! Fenced in playgrounds for toddlers. Indoor winter activities
 - Clean parks and more community attitude for them to grow up around
 - An outdoor/indoor playground and swimming pool

- More baby parks and activities they can do. Recreational spaces that are baby-friendly
- Free access to tot sports equipment
- Recreational programs/activities for those ages, such as art classes or swimming lessons
- More libraries throughout the city, with more programs for young children
- Housing: A major part of growing up healthy is stable housing. To live with some certainty of your fiscal future, and for a lot of people that is not possible because of The predatory Evanston real estate market. When parents have to worry about rent raising due to gentrification, they have much less time to care for their infants, as well as much less money to provide for their children.

COMMUNITY/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Early childhood care and education:
 - Affordable, high-quality childcare for parents
 - Universal pre-K
 - Hire kids from the ETHS child development classes to work at after school programs. Just have the teacher suggest it and give out applications and there will be a better staff to student ratio.
- Parent/family support:
 - Support for food, and utilities so parents don't have to be working all the time and spend time with their kids so that the kids won't become delinquents
 - Programs to donate clothes, diapers, and baby food for families impacted by COVID-19 and food insecurities.
 - Free diapers
 - A city toy fund, for children who cannot afford them
- Programs for parents:
 - Preschool and socializing
 - single parent parenting education
 - social groups for parents,
 - Support services for crisis situations

What would make life better in Evanston for K-5 kids?

INFRASTRUCTURE

- 5th ward school/ neighborhood schools for everybody
- Safe, clean accessible offscreen areas
- More libraries throughout the city, with programming for kids grades k-5
- Affordable/free childcare options
- Housing: Affordable housing and the possibility of buying a home for people working minimum wage jobs. A home is crucial to a healthy family.

COMMUNITY/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Childcare and afterschool activities:

- Affordable or free childcare options
- Robust and affordable after-school program with diverse programming
- Extracurricular activities that are COVID-Friendly or that alleviate the stress of isolation and studying from home
- Activities to socialize while being safe from Covid
- Give them more opportunities outside of school.
- Programs for troubled kids to have good role models
- Hire kids from the child development classes to work at after school programs. There will be a better staff to student ratio.
- Offer free enrichment programming during school year
- More study centers and help with their homework after school.
- Mental help programs, including Peer Support programs
- Giving them a better understanding about our community and how we can stay safe and keep others safe and welcomed.
- Introduce kids to green living and the correct positive morals for our community, “love thy neighbor” it overall should show a positive response throughout the community for years to come influencing individuals to return to such a strong and well-founded community

SCHOOL & EDUCATION

- More hands-on learning opportunities
- More resources for parents to aid their children in remote learning will be useful
- Sex Ed in school: Teach kids about consent
- Mental Health:
 - More help in school
 - Take bullying and harassment seriously, as repeated teasing and bullying can cause serious trauma in some kids.
- Science programs and more higher paying job opportunities in Evanston
- Better school lunches, more affordable or free lunch plans but still good quality
- Tutoring for extra help with school and assignments
- Giving subsidies to various schools for programs and opportunities would help get kids more involved and aid in developing an open mindset and more active lifestyle.

What would make life better in Evanston for 6-8th grade students?

INFRASTRUCTURE

- More libraries throughout the city, with programs for students their age
- Revitalize downtown and make it more appealing or youngsters

COMMUNITY/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Role models for behavior and community respect.
- Afterschool activities:
 - Affordable after-school activities / opportunities
 - Recreational activities that are engaging

- Get them to socialize, be outside and disconnect from technology
- Having more after school programs (academic, athletic, etc.) can help students become more developed for high school.
- Extracurricular activities that are COVID-Friendly or that alleviate the stress of isolation and studying from home

SCHOOL & EDUCATION

- Assistance with high school prep with high school mentors
- Service for troubled kids and service opportunities.
- Sex Ed in school: Teach kids about consent
- Mental Health:
 - More emotional support/therapeutic options. Offering therapy to everyone
 - More help in school
 - Take bullying and harassment seriously, as repeated teasing and bullying can cause serious trauma in some kids.
- Early financial literacy. How to be smart about money.
- Better school tech
- Better school lunches, more affordable or free lunch plans but still good quality
- Education about LBTO
- Tutoring for extra help with school and assignments, including after school study center
- Donating to help with homelessness and pushing legislature for climate change, taxing high emission companies, and establishing laws. This helps everyone.

What would make life better in Evanston for high school age students?

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Police training that teaches non-violent techniques to de-escalate situations without putting force on young kids.
- More areas where young people can congregate to interact in a safe environment
 - Could be in Robert Crown
 - Having more block or art fairs and more to do in downtown Evanston
- Community Gardens that supply food for the community and where students can either work or volunteer
- Transportation:
 - Better school transportation
 - Safe, well-connected, well-maintained transportation

COMMUNITY/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Mentorship and personal development:
 - Training on how to be active members of the community.
 - Having them learn about better ways to solve problems in our community so they can spread the word. Teach them at a young age how to be involved in the community.
 - Programs for drug prevention, gang violence

- programs to help with career searches and mentors.
- Program for assessment of healthy relationships
- Extracurricular activities that are COVID-Friendly or that alleviate the stress of isolation and studying from home
- Mental Health:
 - Taking mental health seriously, offering more therapeutic support for teenagers with mental illness.
 - Treat mental illness and disorders as you would any other chronic illness. Don't assign homework outside of missing class work, teenagers already have too much going on.

SCHOOL & EDUCATION

- College and career preparation:
 - More mentorship and orientation for starting their future career
 - Better preparation for post-secondary education, like a required class that teaches about Learning life skills, financial literacy, taxes, how to get a job, etc.
 - High school internships where they have to work and also shadow workers. Collaborate with local businesses for this.
 - College preparation classes and mentorship
- Studying and Tutoring:
 - More accessible study areas and more tutoring for extra help with school and assignments
 - An after-school study center
 - There are very few places around Evanston to meet up to do projects in or to get tutoring help from a non-school staff member.
- Better funding for teacher and staff wages. Feeling disconnect from your education because of teacher and staff lack of morale is not only harming the children's education, but also the teachers
- College scholarships and rent subsidies:
 - To incentivize young people to go to college even if they don't have financial means
 - To alleviate the housing crisis and help those Evanston residents who are affected by the pandemic and can't pay rent

What would make life better in Evanston for young adults (ages 18-26)?

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Affordable Housing
- Safe, well-connected, well-maintained transportation

COMMUNITY/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Mental health:
 - More mental health services / Mental health education
 - More community programs and workshops would help young adults with interacting and regaining social confidence after being online for so long
- More programs to volunteer with organizations and get involved.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT / CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- Career and college:
 - More mentorship and orientation for starting their future career
 - Job opportunity programs, resume writing, mentors, community service projects, healthy relationships educational programs
 - Opportunity fairs along with job fairs
 - College preparation classes and mentorship
 - Have more resources for young adults to learn life skills (or raise awareness to those resources)
 - Courses/training on Financial literacy and taxes
- Raise the minimum wage. many students are trying to make ends meet paying for college as well as a place to stay and food.
- College scholarships and rent subsidies
 - To incentivize young people to go to college even if they don't have financial means
 - To alleviate the housing crisis and help those Evanston residents who are affected by the pandemic and can't pay rent

Any more ideas you think would help the community?

- More look on poverty and safety.
- Giving contracts and subsidies to companies that are founded in Evanston and largely employ Evanstonians and the trying to give as much job opportunities to small businesses in Evanston instead of multi-billion-dollar corporations that really do not do anything for our community
- Prioritize pedestrian/bike infrastructure over cars to increase safety and encourage people to walk places instead of driving. This can be added to our environment efforts
- Scholarship programs: Give out a scholarship based on an essay prompt. It doesn't have to be for much. Some scholarships are only \$200.
- Instituting more environmentally friendly ways to get power would be beneficial to the community overall. Anything to save or conserve energy would be a step in the right direction in terms of trying to control global warming.
- A food bank
- While these funds are great, please don't forget about the housing/ "reparations" bill, which has time and time again been proven to be underfunded and discriminatory. We need to have a foundation for children, if you were looking for people to say a park or general recreation I wouldn't disagree. But I believe that would be skipping a major step, trying to promote financial security in every household. This is key to growing up and becoming an adult. Without financial security people are caught in a survival mindset, struggle to put food on the table. Leaving their and our community's children vulnerable. Cracking down on gentrification and setting up a secure housing program is a good step. But it also cannot be considered reparations, and should not even be considered a housing program. It is a selective and discriminatory loan. What we need is something real. Something that will create sustainability. We must not underwhelm the importance of housing.
- Support the fire department
- Accountability regarding this feedback

Evanston Early Childhood Education Council, 7/23/21

- *Operational support for both full-time, part-time, and home-based child-care programs: \$500,000*

The losses to operational support for early childhood education during the Covid-19 pandemic in early childhood has been devastating. Decreases in enrollment, loss of fees which cover costs and reductions in CCAP assistance has had a significant impact on operational losses. It has only gotten more difficult to meet the bottom line of program operations. Some centers and home-based child-care homes, especially part day programs, have closed or are in danger of permanently shutting down. The country has the potential to permanently lose millions of early childcare slots. Evanston and the State of Illinois is a part of that larger number. Our earliest learners and their future success in education must be made a priority.

Examples:

- IWSE lost 35k per month of CCAP revenue due to Covid-19 enrollment
- Cherry Preschool anticipates 62% enrollment for 2021 due to Covid-19
- Mandated changes in DCFS regulations caused substantial financial losses

- *Recouping money spent on capital and structural improvements to help align early childhood facilities with new COVID requirements: \$300,000*

Many Early Childhood full and part-time Centers have had to put repairs on hold and divert those dollars to pay for PPE, sanitization and other Covid related items. We are also experiencing very high water and electricity bills due to the cleaning and sanitizing, zooming, and connecting with parents during the pandemic. A grant to cover repairs costs that should have been done in 2020 and higher utility bills would be helpful in stabilizing Centers. Some only need a small number of repairs; others are more substantial. All of the Centers will need help with the higher costs of providing care and education while enrolling fewer children. A grant system similar to the CDBG, without prevailing wage would also employ small Evanston contractors.

Examples:

- Learning Bridge deferred 40k of capital improvements due to expenditures on PPE and air purification
- Toddler Town spent 12k (Loan) on air purifiers retrofits for HVAC
- Cherry Pre School deferred 15k on structural repairs and painting

- *Financial support for staff educational credentialing, training, and career advancement: \$250,000*

The income for early childhood education workers without a degree is typically at minimum wage. Opportunities for career advancement is dependent upon the worker's ability to financially access an educational degree. Many workers cannot afford the tuition OR the ability to leave employment when needed for fieldwork. Financial support will enable workers the ability to pursue training and education. Workers will gain confidence and enhance professionalism of the early childhood education workforce. Examples:

- Launch partnership with National Louis University and Oakton Community College to support teacher advancement within centers
- Stipends and Scholarships for our staff will greatly enhance our workforce and continuity of care for our most vulnerable
- Having a local community scholarship fund would greatly increase staff opportunity for credentialing and advancement
- Teacher shortages have created hiring challenges for qualified staff due to salary/rate-based disparities in early childhood.

- *Financial support for mental health, behavioral health, disability, and OT/PT services: \$125,000*

Many early childhood education programs do not have the financial capacity to support the needs of children with mental health, behavioral health, and disability concerns. Occupational and physical therapy services for programs operating outside of school district 65 are unaffordable for most families and early childhood programs. Children receiving services through the school district are often bussed from one program to another twice a

day. Services need to be provided in the most “least restricted environment.” This means that access to needed services for children are not dependent upon their families. Examples:

- Due to Covid and increased stress and trauma on families, mental health services have been in great demand without adequate funding
- Many mental health professionals are leaving for private practice increasing costs for services
- Disability services are very limited through Early Intervention and more funds are needed to support this population

- *Emergency support for families and scholarship dollars to support the continuity of care: \$100,000*

Families experience circumstances such as loss of employment, loss of childcare subsidy assistance, or medical needs that impact their ability to pay the childcare tuition. Continuity of care is crucial for children to grow and develop a strong foundation and readiness for kindergarten. Financial assistance for emergencies or scholarships can decrease the stress of families (typically lower income) and the trauma these families experience when the educational support system for their child and themselves are kept in place. Examples:

- Financial aid for families who are struggling to meet payments or qualify for assistance (underemployment, unemployment, job instability)
- Emergency funds to help families in crisis circumstances: homelessness, loss of job, death in family, etc.

- *Staff equity stipends/bonus for pandemic work since July 2020: \$500,000*

The country has relied on Early Childhood staff (in full day programs, home based childcares, and part day programs) to provide an essential service throughout the pandemic so that people could get back to work. While others were able to work from the safety of their homes, early childhood staff provided direct, hands-on care to our most vulnerable individuals. Due to the very limited resources of childcare programs, staff were not compensated commensurate with the risk they have been asked to take. In many cases, staff salaries were reduced during the pandemic and any future increases minimal to protect the viability of the programs. Direct funding provided to programs for one-time contributions to retirement accounts, bonuses or one-time investments in salaries is critical to sustaining the workforce and mitigating staff turnover.

- Early Childhood staff have been working in dangerous and highly stressful work environments since June of 2020.
- Children are still unvaccinated and place our workforce in life threatening and dangerous circumstances.
- Many of our staff are in the “most vulnerable” category and have pre-existing conditions affected by Covid-19
- Our services allowed and continue to support parents to get back to work and be able to concentrate on their school age children

Community Feedback from ARPA Town Halls

Prepared by City of Evanston Staff

Below are the responses from community members to the questions that were presented at each town hall / roundtable, broken down by category. Some of the comments may not fall into an ARPA-related category, but staff felt it important to capture every comment for the City Council to review. There were approximately 313 participants total.

1. Public Health

- a. ARPA funds should go to health care, childcare, affordable housing, equity, and police. Police should do less policing and the City should expend more resources on mental health instead.
- b. Some of the ARPA funds should be used for youth programs in schools, tutoring programs (due to youth impacted negatively by COVID-19 being out of school).
- c. Social workers should be hired to work with EPD
- d. City Council has cut the budget for social services for youth over the years. EPD now intervenes in youth matters where counseling and therapy are necessary. Community members want specific youth services / counseling / therapy rather than using EPD resources for this.
- e. Largest priority for ARPA funding should be in areas of public health concerns.
- f. Mental health programs should be at the forefront of ARPA funding.
- g. COVID impacted disproportionately low income and people of color, and ARPA should be used to alleviate the negative impact.
- i. City Council should be examining how ARPA can be used to help senior citizens.
- j. Increase public health and social service programming to deter violence in the city
- l. Since the community does not know and understand fully the impact of mental health concerns for the school children and youth, City Council should set aside funding for programming that will address these concerns.
- m. Funding should be set aside for healthcare needs of community members who do not have access to services.
- o. Mental health professionals should be hired with ARPA funds to work with police officers
- p. Funding should support an increase in the number of public health professionals working at the City.
- q. Council should allocate funding to support individuals experiencing homelessness, especially women and children and those negatively impacted by COVID
- r. Free and income based mental health services should be offered for families and children
- s. Mental health services generally should be free or income based.
- t. Coverage for substance abuse issues and invest more in social workers
- u. Whatever funding is left-over from ARPA and not already allocated should be allocated to public health matters.
- v. Funding should be used to assist individuals with medical bills.
- w. Substance abuse issues with young people require support programs and funding.

2. Economic Impacts

- a. Paid internships should be funded for people with disabilities that will teach job readiness, and encourage paid internships for adults with disabilities
- b. Arts community has been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Musicians were completely out of work during the last year. The Council should

examine strategies to revive and support arts organizations in Evanston

- c. Support for arts organizations, musicians, artists who have not been able to work during COVID
- d. Substantial part of ARPA should be given to Family Focus. Family Focus is looking to expand and repair the building at Foster School. They have \$1m set aside from the State of Illinois. Evanston can help foster plans and create a hub for non-profits that are accessible to 5th ward residents.
- e. Family Focus is a hub in the 5th ward and important structure, several not-for-profits and organizations but it needs some serious repairs
- f. Thank you for bringing the city government to the people. It is important to build back better and invest in the future, especially in arts (businesses benefit from arts). I would like to see a tourism site created by Evanston that focuses on arts and culture, a calendar that lists every single event and venue on items going on in Evanston. The City should try to promote tourism and people coming from out of town
- g. Investments need to generate economic growth and the community needs to hold ourselves accountable and be transparent about how we think it will encourage growth when we start spending the funds
- h. Use funding in the areas of the city disproportionately impacted by Covid-19. were not economically impacted by COVID-19. - The City should help the residents who were the most economically impacted - people who lost jobs - people who could not afford childcare (if we could do this through Family Focus that would be great, and we should put money towards Family Focus)
- i. Stop funding grants to restaurants. Their failure rate is too great in general, and to use ARPA funding would be wasteful.t.
- j. Restaurants should pay more than minimum wage (and weren't paying workers well before the pandemic) and we should not use money for restaurants.
- k. "New normal", need to work on workforce development - new ways of working - making sure to support workforce development of this new normal
- l. Economic development should be the City's top priority.t
- m. Council should make sure 8th and 5th ward will benefit from funding and other areas heavily impacted by COVID
- n. Supporting communities of color, local businesses who have not returned, loss of business near the theater and need for a new theater
- o. How can we encourage merchants to come back, enticements; continue to engage the community on the front end with ideas and implementation as well as the final decision - who makes the decision - what role does the community get to play?
- p. Front line workers, how can we better support them?
- q. Downtown Evanston, what will replace the businesses that have left and what can serve as an anchor for the City pertinent for all residents? A plan is needed.
- r. Learned more about local businesses during the pandemic and wanting to see local businesses come back possibly through small grants - connection between community and businesses
- s. Workforce development, what can we do to train the youths for jobs and repairs in our city? ARPA funding should be used in training components when it comes to the trades. This will allow opportunity for youth outreach to get them trained in the trades.
- t. How can we promote economic development, what can the City invest in?
- u. Generate more economic revenue and activity it will help with the City finances
- v. Economic development for small businesses, sustaining not for profits, helping not for profits
- w. Need to make sure funding is spent on areas that will be turned over and multiply dollars in the city
- x. Job security is a problem in the community. Use ARPA funds to sustain businesses to create job security.
- y. Investments in projects that bring sustaining growth, job training
- z. Track individual's progression through economic development services
- aa. Tracking the return on investment in programs
- bb. Investment in businesses related to sustainability

- cc. Many businesses are closed and need support. Other facilities (e.g., Canal Shores Golf Course) stayed open whole time and took more wear and tear
- dd. Something for people in need of job training or assistance returning to work
- ee. Collaboration with Oakton for job training in Evanston for youth, homeless, other folks in need; collaborate with other social services
- ff. Oakton community college location in Evanston should receive funding
- gg. Northlight would be a great asset for City, but using it for capital construction on the building would not be appropriate in the infrastructure categories
- hh. The City did not appear to truly be economically impacted from COVID-19.
- ii. Financial assistance for families who are struggling financially
- jj. Help Local businesses through grants or programming.

3. Premium Pay

- a. Request for jobs training, premium pay
- b. Downtown and essential workers should receive ARPA funding and support (i.e., premium pay).
- c. Fund for essential workers brought up - broader than just City essential workers
- d. Childcare, essential workers, especially low-income **essential** workers

4. Revenue

- a. Use the money first to cover the City's deficit, and support existing programs before undertaking new projects
- b. Use some of the money to offset the budget for funds lost due to free beach tokens for 3 days
- c. Cure deficit before spending more money
- d. Revenue--align ourselves with forward, progressive thinking organizations and look at our revenue streams
- e. Putting money into City revenue holes should not be a priority
- f. Don't use money to pay for any debt

5. Water

- a. Water--important that we have our water system insured that in can increase capacity and make every effort to extend our services around northern Illinois
- b. Lead water pipes has been an issue in the past - one-time opportunity to upgrade these
- c. Lead pipelines, importance of providing employment opportunities and enhancing safety

6. Sewer

- a. Sewers--should be repaired

7. Broadband

- a. Digital divide, make sure to solve the problem of broadband - how can we fix the digital divide in Evanston?
- b. Robert Crown should provide free digital access and services for businesses and community
- c. Broadband--5G relegated to big 3 communication companies--City of Evanston should look into if 5G should be a utility for the entire city (a digital divide would no longer be an issue in Evanston). We have a digital superhighway running through the City. Other businesses are implementing 5G throughout the country and improving business.
- d. Cell phone towers along the lake should be constructed. Accessibility for those along the lake cannot get service
- e. Broadband and hot spots needed throughout the City.
- f. Desire to provide more broadband--may not be the best way to reach seniors
- g. Broadband to make it into a public utility, closing the digital divide
- h. Assessment of areas of the City that are unreliable with broadband, make sure youth and seniors have access to broadband; Youth need access for education, seniors need to stay connected and keep from getting isolated
- i. Highest priority is wireless broadband citywide - digital divide really showed during COVID
- j. Permanent broadband not temporary broadband
- k. Lots of people did not know how to navigate technology when kids were at school, and ARPA funds should be used to provide programming that assists parents in children's education at home.
- l. Internet and equipment used for the internet should be funded through ARPA funds.

8. Housing

- a. Use funds for small landlords who have not received rent in two years
- b. Help for affordable housing landowners, not luxury units
- c. Interfaith Action--forced to scale back on emergency shelter--people living in parking garages. Need for a permanent 24/7 year-round shelter is made abundantly clear. Need for public restrooms in downtown Evanston. Likes the COVID-19 plan speaking to this.
- d. ADU--out of reach for many Evanston residents, but use funds for ADUs to help create generational wealth
- e. Assistance for renters and landlords; big risk at ending of the eviction moratorium
- f. affordable housing
- g. Housing: fix site acquisition and rehab, tenant based rental management and development of permanent housing for people who need assistance
- h. Affordable housing should be funded through ARPA
- i. Affordable housing, projects are only sustained for 15 years, community land trust might be a better option
- j. Housing affordability makes it difficult to stay in Evanston, displacement of people of color
- k. Housing: big need in affordable housing and making it sustainable, what can we do in purchasing properties or that the land and buildings remain affordable?
- l. Affordable housing for lower class and for middle class
- m. Affordable housing is needed and should be provided with ARPA funding.
- n. Do not like CDBG by area, want it to be by need
- o. Rent control ordinance should be created
- p. Providing resource information for low-income housing, in Spanish

9. General Infrastructure

- a. Water parks, pools for the youth in parks should be created
- b. Sidewalks, infrastructure in bad shape. Will this be addressed? Money allocated to infrastructure of sidewalks
- c. Use funding to repair and create sidewalks (where there aren't any). Areas where sidewalks are kept up and areas where they are not, intergenerational wealth and well-kept buildings have kept up sidewalks, those that are not intergenerational wealth and not well-kept buildings are not maintained or kept up. How do these funds impact long term the places where the sidewalks are in disrepair? not in shape
- d. Use for sidewalks / roads / bike lanes
- e. Reduce rideshare fees and see where this can be curtailed.
- f. Infrastructure--scooter / vespa racks in neighborhood paid lots. It would reduce congestion.
- g. Upgrade train platforms, viaducts
- h. Parks and field upgrades to encourage healthy living and healthy engagement
- i. Infrastructure, not for profit wants to build school building in 2nd ward because they are all bussed to schools in different areas, they would have the opportunity for more after school time - would be a long-term investment
- j. Infrastructure: what needs to be addressed in terms of what could be done now? It will be more expensive in the future to put off infrastructure needs.
- k. Consider the complete impacts of COVID - places not used and places overused in infrastructure project decisions
- l. Fifth ward school brought up
- m. Public water park
- n. Robert crown, make it free? Do a better job of advertising
- o. More street lighting, very dangerous not enough lighting,
- p. Adult education, English as a second language practical (concentrate on colloquial dialogue)
- q. Community center for Latinos where they can get information and assistance
- r. Technology classes, computer classes, basic and simple
- s. Hub for Latino businesses (incubator?)
- t. Programs for senior citizens, they were the most affected and they do not have programs available for them, boredom/ isolation?

10. Childcare

- a. Most programs are not self-sustaining on their own, for example childcare. Funds should be used to help sustain.
- b. Funds should be used for childcare and training.
- c. Invest and consider daycare options for parents.
- d. Childcare, as well as child health care needs funding: Early childhood education providers are underpaid and 0-5 is the most impactful time during a person's lives but we are not paying enough attention to that time period of it
- e. Increase availability of childcare and preschool; probably not sustained through this, but again something to get it started
- f. Respond to needs of people who lost loved ones, jobs, childcare, responding to those who have been hurt the hardest
- g. Offering summer camps for children, bilingual summer camps for children
- h. Supporting young people especially those that suffered academically, tutoring/ after school programs

11. Other

- a. Use funds to help elderly people repair their homes (basements, windows)
- b. Do not spend \$43 million just around Robert Crown
- c. ARPA funds should be used to reduce property taxes
- d. Northwestern should make commitment to help sustain new programs that we might need
- e. Homeowners are paying the taxes of Northwestern; businesses paying for the repairs of areas but not doing it (for example hospital alleys)
- f. Stall and offset the tax rate
- g. Reconsider the non-profit building of Northwestern. The sorority / frat housing “council of” or “society of” buildings are shells during the school year and often empty during the summer. Those are property lots that could otherwise generate property tax revenue
- h. Collaboration between the city and the educational system to reverse the bleed of families that cannot afford to live here, help, and focus on families with intersectional vulnerabilities
- i. Who has hurt the most, where has the most negative impact fallen - do we have data on this, data the city doesn't have that chamber or others might have? Need to respond in equitable way
- j. Climate issues, CARP implementation
- k. Reframing police and fire under public safety - going to them to see what they need to do their work effectively and fairly
- l. Concern about use of first responders, trained as police but smaller issues could be handled by someone other than first responders
- m. Better use of city finances and city infrastructure, would like more money on public health, help people thrive in general
- n. Sustainability, and its impact in housing and for seniors
- o. Ideas that we need to make sure these items are sustainable
- p. residents and nonprofit support,
- q. Outside consults for how to spend the funds
- r. food security
- s. Overall capacity building
- t. Seniors and families living paycheck to paycheck
- u. Violence prevention around schools/ ways to eliminate violence especially gun violence
- v. Funds for the public library
- w. Latino librarians have been doing incredible outreach
- x. Consider not fining people who cannot afford the fines, different revenue streams
- y. No new programs, but to support current NFP who already support the community
- z. They want to know how to take advantage of programs
- aa. Cleaning the bikeways
- bb. More funds for schools, especially those with special need families
- cc. More programs or invest in current programs
- dd. Stickers for permit parking should be offset
- dd. Strengthen the relationship with the police offers, lots of Latinos do not trust police
- ee. Support the Latino nonprofits
- gg. Public overview of the budget in Spanish with more specific categories and indicate where the funds are going
- hh. Universal basic income \$400, not giving money to large corporations

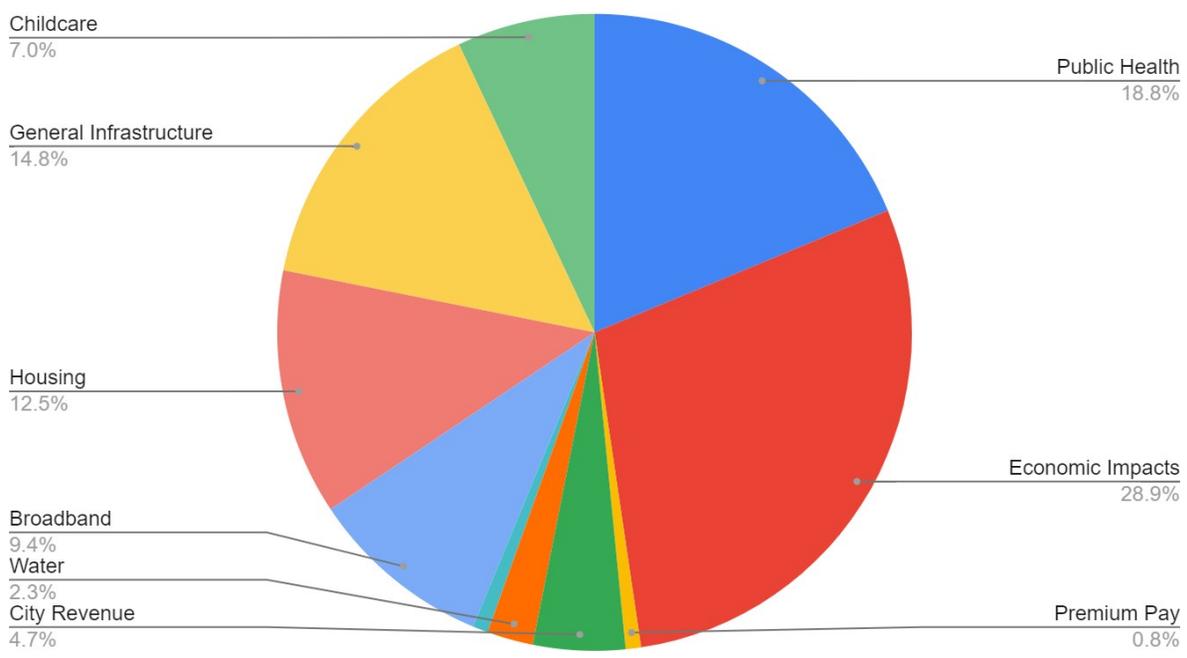
- ii. Do not bring large corporations but support local businesses give them more contracts
- jj. Crime near schools

12. Involvement --How Would You Like to Be Engaged in this Process?

- a. Talented and skilled community--wants a committee of community members to be involved in this ARPA process and allocation.
- b. Transparency to show residents its thoughtful and intentional about long term benefit of investments--holding City of Evanston accountable
- c. Thanks for the town hall. Have a website where we can share ARPA ideas to broaden the rest of our thoughts.
- d. Wants friendlier meeting times / dates and continue virtual meeting
- e. Prioritizing money in ways that care for people
- f. Upset about the post COVID-19 plan, did not include input from the community, was not built with them in mind
- g. More people should have a seat at the table for engagement. By the time City Council meets it is too late. Re-design the way comments work, block clubs. Equity--reach out and make sure all voices are heard.
- h. COVID provided new opportunities for engagement, enjoy this layout (town hall / roundtable format) and being able to converse in this forum
- i. Lift up boards and commissions that are already in existence, create surveys to engage.?
- j. This forum (zoom) doesn't reach people who the money will be spent on - not everyone can join the zoom, canvassing can we reach people through canvassing, not just asking for public input but thinking about how to meaningfully engage them in the process, co-designing process of policy; how to hold the city accountable, how do we give back to people for their time
- k. Surveys might be good option for feedback and then coming to a forum to think about thoughts before meeting
- l. Virtual v in person meeting, pleased that the city is reaching out to the Hispanic population, would like to see us reach out to all parts of the community more
- m. What can we do to get the youths' opinions and create programs for them and by them? Create a plan to engage youth.
- n. Neighborhood plans over the years:, "west side planning" that incorporated workforce training, we should re-examine that and identify the best places that we can that were in that plan
- o. Lots of committees, boards, commissions in the City - how can we leverage these and ask them to come up with their own priorities and submit them to City staff letting them submit the proposals based on those conversations?
- p. Engage the citizens, even those who are not old enough to vote, connection, resilience and then engagement
- q. Community town halls, more access and information to keep residents connected to the City
- r. If not engaged in communities we are passionate about, then we may not be represented in the decisions - youth, essential workers, business owners, seniors are all important groups to engage
- s. How can we be informed in the process, what measures will be taken?
- t. Would like the process to be more transparent, compliments to Mayor and new City Council for more community impact
- u. Alders: more, community meetings would be helpful ways to engage all Evanstonians who can't get to meetings?
- v. Community members They don't want to put ARPA funds \$ into City departments and not know how it is spent, they--want to understand the budget and want communication
- w. City to cooperate more with nonprofits who are helping in community, do not feel the city is working in collaboration with them
- x. Nonprofits that are supporting Latino community should receive resources or funding
- y. Ensure the city is assessing and communicating the needs of the Latin x community, what research are you pulling about needs? based

- z. Equity framework should be the plan on review of funds
 - aa. Communicate back to the community so they know they were heard about how the ARPA funds will be distributed based upon town hall comments.
 - bb. Want city council members to come to the community and be more accessible, not only translation but also cultural appropriateness
 - cc. Recommending replicating Chicago, city officials to do surveys and talk individually with people
- dd. Make the City website more accessible
 - ee. Lot of people have been Evanston residents here for a while and have finally heard for the first time they have a voice, excited that the City hosted town halls and in Spanish. are here
 - ff. For the city to go into the community and knock on doors is very important this is a small percentage in the room
- gg. Very happy that we are here and promote it so more people attend

Percentage of Comments Regarding How to Spend ARPA Funds



*Note: Not everyone made comments and many comments came from groups with only one representative from that group. This chart is a rough estimate of the number of times a category was discussed compared to the total number of people. This is by no means an accurate account of how all community members feel regarding the categories. More information is required for a statistically significant sample size. *

Roundtable Attendees

Roundtable: Workforce Development and Emerging Adults, 8/13/21

Organization	Representative
City of Evanston	Mayor Biss Alison Leipsiger Emma Carter Kristin Meyer Audrey Thompson Kelley Gandurski Sharon Johnson Nathan Norman
ECF	Karli Butler Rebecca Cacayuran Jenny Valdés del Valle
The Aux	Tosha Wilson Tiffini Holmes
CNE	Carol Teske
COFI	Jess Rojo
Curt's Café	Susan Trieschmann
EC2C	Maricar Ramos

	Bettye Cohns
Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse	Aina Gutierrez
Evanston Scholars	Kay Israelite
Girl Scouts	Irasema Gonzalez
Girls Play Sports	Mary Collins
Impact Behavioral Partners	Christopher Knoper
MEAC	Neal Gambow Tana Francellno
National Able	Dominic
NorthShore Health Systems	Brandon Buchanan

Roundtable: School Aged Children, 8/17/21

Organization	Representative
City of Evanston	Mayor Daniel Biss
	Emma Carter
	Yazari Gutierrez
	Stacey Moragne
	Alison Leipsiger
	Kristin Meyer

	Deanna Howlett Audrey Thompson Andy Rapoport
ECF	Sol Anderson Jennifer Moran Jenny Valdés Del Valle
The Aux	Jacqui White

	Tosha Wilson
CNE	Sheila Merry
COFI	Jesse Rojo Chanelle Brown Rocio Mancera Lachisa Gil Pena Cynthia Lara Eloisa
Children's Advocacy Center	Lara Priester
District 65	Jennifer Bergner Tania Margonza Katee (Family Center)

EC2C	Bettye Cohns Maricar Ramos
EPL	Jan Bojda Elascha Madison
Girl Scouts	Irasema Gonzalez
Girls Play Sports	Mary Collins
McGaw YMCA	Katie Tucker Trippi
Open Studio Project	Sarah Laing
Rainbows for All Children	Stephanie Garrity Laura Lindroth
YJC	Amanda Marks
Y.O.U.	Craig Lynch
?	J Bowen

Roundtable: Immigrant and undocumented population, 8/18/21

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Representative</u>
City of Evanston	Mayor Daniel Biss Emma Carter Kelley Gandurski Alison Leipsiger Genaro Hernandez Yazari Gutierrez Clerk Stephanie Mendoza (translating)
ECF	Karli Butler Jennifer Moran Jenny Valdés Del Valle
COFI	Jesse Roo Rocio Mancera Chanelle Brown Nazaria Marla Blas Cynthia Lara Maria Nava Dominga Vicencio Eloisa

	Demi
D65	Natalia Moreno Polomkasis
EPL	Mariana Bojorquez
Evanston Latinos	Alejandra Ibanez Rebeca Mendoza
Evanston Scholars	Serena Robertson
FLAP	Jackie Villanueva Michelle Velaquez
Literacy Works	Christine Kenney
United Catholic Youth Ministries/St. Nicholas	James Holzhauer-Chuckas

Roundtable: Arts and Humanities, 8/19/21

Organization	Representative
City of Evanston	Mayor Daniel Biss Emma Carter Alison Leipsiger Kristin Meyer Kelley Gandurski Deanna Howlett
ECF	Karli Butler Jenny Valdés Del Valle

Actors Gymnasium	Murphy Monroe
Art Encounter	Lea Pinsky
EC2C	Bettye Cohns
Evanston Art Center	Ellie Hazlett
Evanston Arts Council	Toby Sachs
Evanston History Center	Eden Juron Pearlman
Evanston Live	Meleika Gardner
Evanston Made	Lisa Degliantoni
Evanston Symphony Orchestra	Margaret Gergen
Frances Willard House Association	Lori Osborne

ITA	Maris Harrington
Metropolitan Family Services	Samer Hussein
Mudlark Theater	Daisy Copeland
Mitchell Museum	Josee Starr
Northlight Theater	Leann Kim Tonke
Open Studio Project	Sarah Laing
Shorefront	Dino Robinson
Sounds Good Choir	Helen Gagel
Independent artist and curator	Fran Joy
Skillz Physical Therapy	Aime Maranan

Roundtable: Economic and Community Development, 8/24/21

Organization	Representative
City of Evanston	Mayor Daniel Biss
	Kristin Meyer
	Paul Zalmezak
	Alison Leipsiger
	Audrey Thompson
	Sarah Flax
	Emma Carter

ECF	Sol Anderson Karli Butler Rebecca Cacayuran Jenny Valdés Del Valle
The Aux	Tiffini Holmes
Curt's Café	Susan Trieschmann
EC2C	Bettye Cohns
Evanston Chamber/ECF	Bryant Wallace
Evanston Live TV	Meleika Gardner
Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse	Aina Gutierrez

Evanston Scholars	Demisha Lee
Evanston Woman/Latinx Business Council	Linda del Bosque
FLAP	Jackie Villaneuva Michelle Velazquez
Learning Bridge Early Education Center	Lindsay Percival
Literacy Works	Christine Kenny Melanie Sampson
McGaw YMCA	Katie Trippi
Reba Early Learning Center	Darcy Carter
Soul and Smoke	Heather Bublick Rebecca Bladen

ECF	Sol Anderson Karli Butler Rebecca Cacayuran Karli Butler Jenny Valdés Del Valle
Bethel New Life	Brenda Phillips
Center for Enriched Living	Nick Baird Melissa Juarez Ehlers
Center for Independent Futures	Ann Sickon
COFI	Jesse Rojo
Evanston Public Library	Jill Skwerski Bridget Petrites
Foster Seniors & Deltas	Eva Coly
Impact Behavioral Partners	Patti Capouch
ITA	Jenni Rook
Levy Center Foundation	Judy Newton
Literacy Works	Melanie Sampson
Reva Early Learning/EC2C	Bettye Cohns
Skillz Physical Therapy	Nsisong Ekanem Aime Maranan
Sounds Good Choir	Helen Gagel

Roundtable: Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, 8/25/21

Organization	Representative
City of Evanston	Mayor Daniel Biss Kristin Meyer Audrey Thompson Emma Carter Alison Leipsiger Andy Rapoport Katie Klemola

Roundtable: Housing and Homelessness, 9/13/21

Organization	Representative
City of Evanston	Mayor Daniel Biss
	Sarah Flax
	Kelley Gandurski
	Deanna Howlett
	Yazari Gutierrez
	Audrey Thompson
	Nathan Norman
	Genaro Hernandez
	Lachisa Barton
	James Bowen
Kristin Meyer	
ECF	Sol Anderson
	Becca Cacayuran
	Karli Butler
	Jenny Valdés Del Valle
Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County	Katie Spoden
Center for Independent Futures	Dick Malone
Connections for the Homeless	Betty Bogg
	Nia Tavoularis

CPAH	Rob Anthony
District 65	Allie Harned
	Jennifer Bergner
Evanston Cradle to Career	Bettye Cohn
	Kim Holmes-Ross
Evanston Development Corporation	Robbie Markus
Evanston Lighthouse Rotary	Ann Weatherhead
ETHS	Taya Kinzie
Family Promise	Tracy McKeithen
Impact Behavioral Partners	Patti Capouch
Interfaith Action of Evanston	Anne Heinz
	Sue Murphy
McGaw YMCA	Eileen Wiviott (also Unitarian Church)
	Roland Fouche
Open Communities	Katie Trippi
	Jasemen Hatcher
Open Studio Project	Sarah Laing
Reba Place Development Corporation	Keith Banks
	Richard Cahan

