

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Federal Update Website

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Mayor Sylvester Turner's Government Relations Team has been aggressive in advocating on behalf of the City of Houston at the federal government. Since taking office in 2021, the Biden Harris Administration has been active in working with cities across the United States. Congress has also created policy changes that have provided more resources directly affecting the quality of life for Houstonians.

This Federal Update provides a report on major pieces of legislation and how Houston is competing along with other cities in Texas. Specifically, the report summarizes how the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is being used, how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or IIJA) is bringing local projects, how the City of Houston is taking advantage of the return of earmarks, and finally detailing the city's advocacy at the Executive and Legislative Branches.

A first of its kind report, this Federal Update provides an overview summary of major programs and issues for the city. Not every effort that the Government Relations team is engaged with are detailed, however this information does cover the major efforts. Houstonians can see the details of how national initiatives are impacting the city along with competitive grants awarded to the city.

The Government Relations Team hopes this Federal Update serves as a resource to better inform the public of the efforts and details of Houston's federal work.



FEDERAL ISSUES



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

President Biden's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) helped address the effects of the coronavirus pandemic for Houstonians.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act - IIJA) is a once-in-a-generation investment in the nation's infrastructure and competitiveness.



Earmarked Funding

After an absence for ten years, Congressional earmarks returned in 2021 and have been rebranded as "community project funding."



Advocacy

With both the White House and Congress, Mayor Turner has worked with our Executive and Legislative leaders on behalf of the City of Houston.



ARPA EXPLAINED

ARPA Funding

- Signed on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a \$1.9 trillion measure designed to address the continued impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.
- The American Rescue Plan will deliver \$350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and replace lost revenue for governments.
- Congress has allocated Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to tens of thousands of eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments, including \$45.6 billion for cities.
- The Act states that funding can be used to:
 - Respond to public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts,
 - Provide premium pay to workers performing essential work during COVID-19 public health emergency,
 - For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to COVID-19 public health emergency,
 - To make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure.
- Additional funding for the Houston Airport System, Emergency Rental Relief, stimulus checks, and tax credits are also part of the ARPA.

Houston Uses

- The City of Houston will receive \$607,769,139 in Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF) funds across two years. Half of this funding (\$303,884,569.50) was received on May 20, 2021, and the remaining half (\$303,884,569.50) will be available in May of 2022.
- Like most state and local governments across the nation, the City of Houston faces record revenue loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic; this lost revenue would have funded critical services for many Houstonians. On June 2, 2021, Houston City Council approved \$198.624 million of LFRF from the ARPA Funds for the provision of government services due to revenue losses during COVID-19 public health emergency, to maintain and sustain critical services in the FY2022 Budget. [View a department breakdown of government services funded \(.pdf\)](#)
- Additional priority projects that address homelessness, behavioral health, and solid waste are being considered.
- **SURVEY:** Help Houston prioritize ARPA dollars by sharing your opinions and comments in our ARPA survey. What programs under policing, solid waste and housing do you believe the City of Houston should allocate ARPA funds? [Take the survey by clicking here.](#) ... [Encuesta en Español](#)

NEWSROOM >



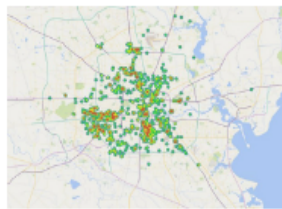
\$5 Million in ARPA Funding Invested in Arts and Cultural Organizations

Four months following approval by Houston City Council, 62 Houston Arts & Cultural



After a 2022 peak, domestic violence homicides declined in Houston this year, data shows

Detectives in Houston have investigated



City Council Approves an Additional \$1.95 Million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for the Houston Forensic Science



City of Houston approves \$5 million for Houston's arts sector to help recover from pandemic

Many arts and cultural organizations have



[Magnolia Park Community Clean UP -- Saturday, December 2](#)

Dear Houstonians,

CITY OF HOUSTON

ONE SAFE HOUSTON

EVENTS

NEWSROOM

DOCUMENTS

VIDEOS

OSH SUCCESSES



One Clean Houston. [Read Mayor Turner's Full](#)

Dear Houstonians,

The City of Houston, not unlike all major cities in our nation, has experienced an increase in violent crime as the COVID-19 pandemic tightened its grip on our city, state and nation. Other factors contributing to the nationwide spike in violent crime include widespread social anxiety, economic uncertainty, mental health concerns, the increased presence of illegally owned firearms, and a strained court system plagued by criminal case backlogs that impact the pretrial, release, and prosecution of violent offenders.


In 2021, the city launched a Violent Crime Initiative that resulted in the reduction of crime in many identified hot spots. By the end of the initiative, all violent crime categories were reduced except homicide. Sadly, the increase in homicides during the first months of 2022 and felonious assaults on police officers and fellow Houstonians is a sobering reminder that we must collaborate, as one community to combat our current crime challenges.

Houstonians, it is time to take our city back! To realize this vision, we are launching the One Safe Houston crime reduction initiative, which focuses on four (4) key areas:

1. Violence Reduction and Crime Prevention
2. Crisis Intervention, Response and Recovery



MAYOR'S PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE TO COMBAT VIOLENT CRIME

 [Click graphic above to read the report](#)



Rebuilding our Infrastructure



through THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW



- ✔ Creates good-paying jobs in every part of the country
- ✔ Builds first ever national network of EV charging stations
- ✔ Largest investment in rebuilding our roads and bridges since the Interstate Highway System
- ✔ Largest investment in public transit in American history
- ✔ Ensures access to clean drinking water in every community
- ✔ Most significant investment in passenger rail since Amtrak's inception
- ✔ Largest investment in tackling legacy pollution
- ✔ Provides affordable, high-speed internet for every American
- ✔ Builds a more resilient power grid and scales new clean energy technologies

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

Competitive Grants

- [RAISE Grants](#)
- [Safe Streets and Roads for All - Bissonnet](#)
- [Safe Streets for All Near Northside & International Districts](#)
- [Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods](#)
- [No-Low Emissions Grant](#)
- [Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program](#)
- [Highway Safety Improvement Program \(HSIP\)](#)



Supporting Links:

- [🔗 Infrastructure Intro Page](#)
- [🔗 Competitive Grants](#)
- [🔗 Pending Applications](#)
- [🔗 Houston Airport System](#)
- [🔗 Broadband](#)



EARMARKED FUNDING

Earmarks have been a part of the federal budget since the early days of American democracy, but the practice rose in prominence as the size of the federal government grew, particularly amid a rise in taxes in the 1920s and 1930s.

After an absence for ten years, Congressional earmarks returned in 2021 and have been rebranded as “community project funding.”

- Requests had to be posted publicly online, with a letter explaining the need for the project. Each lawmaker had to sign a form attesting that they had no personal or family connection to it.

The Government Relations Office works with City departments to identify viable projects that will appeal to specific members of the delegation and coordinates the submittals. The City of Houston has done very well working with the delegation to bring money to Houston. It is important to note that the amount of funds awarded are often lower than the amount requested so project scopes may have to be adjusted.



Supporting Links:

- [Congressional Fiscal Year 2024](#)
- [Congressional Fiscal Year 2023](#)
- [Congressional Fiscal Year 2022](#)



EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Executive Advocacy

Through in person meeting with members of the Executive Branch, Mayor Turner pushes Houston's agenda at the federal level. For each office listed, the Government Relations team has specified the programs that the Mayor and members of the Biden Administration are working to implement.

Houstonians can appreciate the personal involvement and discussions that members of the Executive Branch have taken in making sure the programs are being implemented.



- [President Joe Biden](#)
- [EPA Administrator Michael Regan](#)
- [Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg](#)
- [Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm](#)
- [Labor Secretary Marty Walsh](#)
- [Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu](#)
- [Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clark](#)
- [Federal Railroad Administrator Amit Bose](#)
- [CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure](#)





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