

2026 FGFOA E-Bulletin

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ARPA SLFRF Obligation Deadline

ARPA SPENDING DEADLINE APPROACHES

As 2026 draws to a close, states are approaching an important deadline under the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA. The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, or SLFRF, program provided significant federal resources to support pandemic recovery and investments in communities. While the deadline to obligate funds passed on December 31, 2024, **most remaining eligible expenditures must be completed by December 31, 2026.**

For many NASACT members, managing ARPA funds has been a major responsibility over the past several years. As the program winds down, state finance offices are shifting their attention to reconciling expenditures, resolving outstanding balances, and ensuring that financial records and federal reports are accurate. Working closely with state agencies and subrecipients to address remaining issues will be especially important as the spending deadline approaches.

Although the spending deadline is nearing, federal reporting and compliance responsibilities will continue into 2027. States that have not completed early closeout must continue submitting quarterly project and expenditure reports, with the third-quarter 2026 report due October 31, 2026, and the final regularly scheduled report due April 30, 2027. States must also maintain supporting documentation for future audits and federal reviews.

Spending all the funds does not automatically close out an SLFRF award. Treasury has been inviting eligible recipients to participate in early closeout on a rolling basis, and states should continue meeting applicable requirements until formal closeout is confirmed.

As ARPA funding winds down, taking time now to reconcile records, coordinate with agencies, and resolve outstanding issues can help state finance officers ensure a smooth closeout and demonstrate accountability for these significant federal investments.

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