Strengthening State and Local Economies in Partnership with Nonprofits: Principles, Recommendations, and Models for Investing Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

A User’s Guide

➢ A Guide for Governments
This updated Special Report identifies the two distinct ways Congress authorized state and local governments to partner with charitable organizations using ARPA funds: (1) to provide direct assistance to charitable nonprofits as beneficiaries trying to recover from the pandemic’s impact on their organizations, and (2) to hire nonprofits as providers of services to others on behalf of those governments (i.e., as subrecipients of the funds). The report also offers guiding principles and proven recommendations for designing programs with integrity, and it shares more than 60 examples of successful programs through which governments have invested ARPA Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in and through charitable nonprofits to address pandemic-related challenges as well as longstanding problems exacerbated by the pandemic.

➢ A Guide for Charitable Nonprofits
This third edition includes a more in-depth analysis of the American Rescue Plan Act explaining that governments at all levels can use the federal funds both to directly benefit nonprofits recovering from the pandemic and to pay nonprofits to deliver services to others on behalf of governments. The sections on guiding principles and proven recommendations, while crafted primarily for policymakers, provide useful insights for nonprofits as they define their “asks” of government officials. The successful models section – now including more than 60 examples of effective nonprofit-government partnerships – demonstrates the potential for ARPA investments to go far beyond a small, one-time grant; the programs can be transformative. Finally, this updated version contains a new section on the important Role of Nonprofit Advocacy to access equitable ARPA investments.

➢ A Guide for Foundations
This updated Special Report includes a new section, Roles for Philanthropy, that highlights three ways foundations have been helping their grantees and communities approach and implement ARPA – as funders, as grantmaking experts, and as conveners.