



ARPA Advocacy Academy 9/20 Open House Questions & FAQs

❖ When is the Deadline to apply?

- Applications are due **October 11th**. Our team will review the applications and announce the cohort of nine participating food councils or community groups on **November 1st**.

❖ Who do I ask if I have questions about the application or program?

- If you have any questions regarding the application, please contact Miles Kirksey (mkirksey@ncruralcenter.org) or Jared Cates (jared@carolinafarmstewards.org)

❖ How will our organizations gain access to local recovery fund distribution?

- Through the ARPA Advocacy Academy, we will work collectively to provide coaching and campaign support so that your organization, community group, or collaborative can successfully advocate or apply for ARPA allocations from your local municipalities and counties.

❖ How do we see what our county/municipalities have received?

- You can explore county allocations ([here](#)). Municipal allocations can be found ([here](#)). After your applying to the Academy, our team will work to identify the remaining funding dollars in your locality.

❖ Our Food Council/Organization hasn't had much success working with Commissioners or local council members. How do we effectively do this work?

- Community Food Strategies team members will provide strategic campaign assistance, coaching, talking points, and case studies to spur funding conversations with local electeds more efficiently. In

addition, each group will receive \$5,000 in year one to support this advocacy work and drum up community support.

❖ **Do we need to list all potential partners or just the two participating in the cohort?**

- On questions 5a and 5b of the application ([here](#)), please list the two primary participants of the ARPA Academy. On questions 2 & 6, please expound on other organizations and community groups you plan to work with on the proposed project.

❖ **Do we submit one application per project or per group? If applying as a partnership, do all groups need separate applications?**

- You will only need one application per project. Please list all participating partners in the single application.

❖ **In some counties, the first half of ARPA funding has not been an inclusive or straightforward process. How will this be different?**

- The process varies in other parts of the state. We're working to advocate for a more inclusive and equitable process. We are putting the ask in to emphasize the need at the local level.

❖ **Many counties have already allocated funding or developed priority areas and timelines. You need to go and look now, or this may be missed.**

- Local governments received ½ of their ARPA allocations last year and ½ this year (July 2022). It depends on the locale, but much of the money has not been spent, and even the allocated money has the potential to be re-appropriated. Don't be discouraged if you've read locally that all the dollars are spoken for. Our team will work to identify what funding potential remains at your local level.

❖ **What are the next steps? When do we get started??**

- **Apply [HERE ASAP!](#)** Applications close on **October 11th**. We will announce the nine participating cohorts on **November 1st**. Training and cohort coaching will begin in Dec. with individual consultations and coaching going from January July 2023, with further support continuing to July 2024