



Setting up an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) meeting with legislators in 5 Easy Steps

1. **Start planning early.** Contact your legislators and their staff by email asking to meet via Zoom about ARPA funding. If neither the legislator, nor their staff reply, identify someone in your organization who has a relationship with that legislator and have them email or call. You can also use Twitter or Facebook to contact legislators.
2. **Determine the agenda.** Use the talking points we have provided. By having CDCs across the state making the same requests at the same time, we amplify our voices and multiply our power. Also, make sure to thank legislators for any help they have given you over the past year.
3. **Determine who should attend.** Take time to think about who from your staff, board and community should be at the meeting. Keep it simple, but this may be a good opportunity for staff, board, and community members to build a relationship with legislators. If you would like MACDC staff to join you, we can also be available.
4. **Be Prepared.** Provide all attendees with the ARPA Talking Points and make sure everyone understands the goal of the meeting. Provide background on [ARPA](#) if needed. Decide who is going to lead the discussion on different topics.
5. **Follow up:** After the meeting send a letter or email thanking your legislators, providing them with any additional information they may have requested. Also, please tweet about the meeting and post on Facebook. Be sure to let MACDC know about the meeting and how your legislators responded to MACDC's requests. We need friends and leaders in the legislature!

Contact Pam Bender (pamelab@macdc.org or 617-379-5925)
For more information and assistance with your meeting



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Advocacy Talking Points

The roughly \$5 billion in federal dollars made available through ARPA represents an exciting opportunity to invest in a range of areas that will make the Commonwealth more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous.

Meeting with your legislators about this funding is a key opportunity to talk about the important work you are doing and how ARPA funds can advance that work.

While we recognize that the state needs to balance investments across a range of uses and we support a comprehensive approach that looks at housing, economic development, public health, climate change, education, transportation and more, we recommend that MACDC members focus on housing and economic development, given that is where most of us concentrate our efforts. Of course, **you can structure the agenda however you see fit, but we ask that you discuss the following two key priorities**

1. **\$1.683 Billion for Affordable Housing** – MACDC, CHAPA and others are calling on the Legislature to invest \$1.683 billion in a range of affordable housing programs that expand homeownership opportunities, create new affordable rental housing, and improve the quality and stability of our existing housing stock.
2. **\$1 Billion for Small Businesses** – MACDC and the Coalition for an Equitable Economy are calling on the Legislature to invest \$1 billion to support small businesses, especially those owned by people of color, women, and low/moderate income entrepreneurs so they can recover from pandemic-related losses and build or rebuild thriving businesses (the Coalition will have more details on our proposals shortly after Labor Day).

Once you highlight these high level requests, you can emphasize specific programs [cited in our testimony](#) to the legislature such as one or more of the following:

- Launch the Massachusetts Healthy Housing Initiative to significantly ramp up efforts to remove lead paint and eliminate other health hazards often found in older housing.
- Expand homeownership opportunities and close the racial homeownership gap.
- Expand the production of new rental housing opportunities for families, seniors and people with disabilities.
- Strengthen the state's Small Business Technical Assistance eco-system to ensure an equitable recovery.
- Invest in Community Development Financial Institutions and other community investment organizations to ensure access to capital for underserved small businesses in communities of color and lower income communities.

Feel free to discuss other issues that are relevant to your community and your work.