Using the American Rescue Plan Effectively

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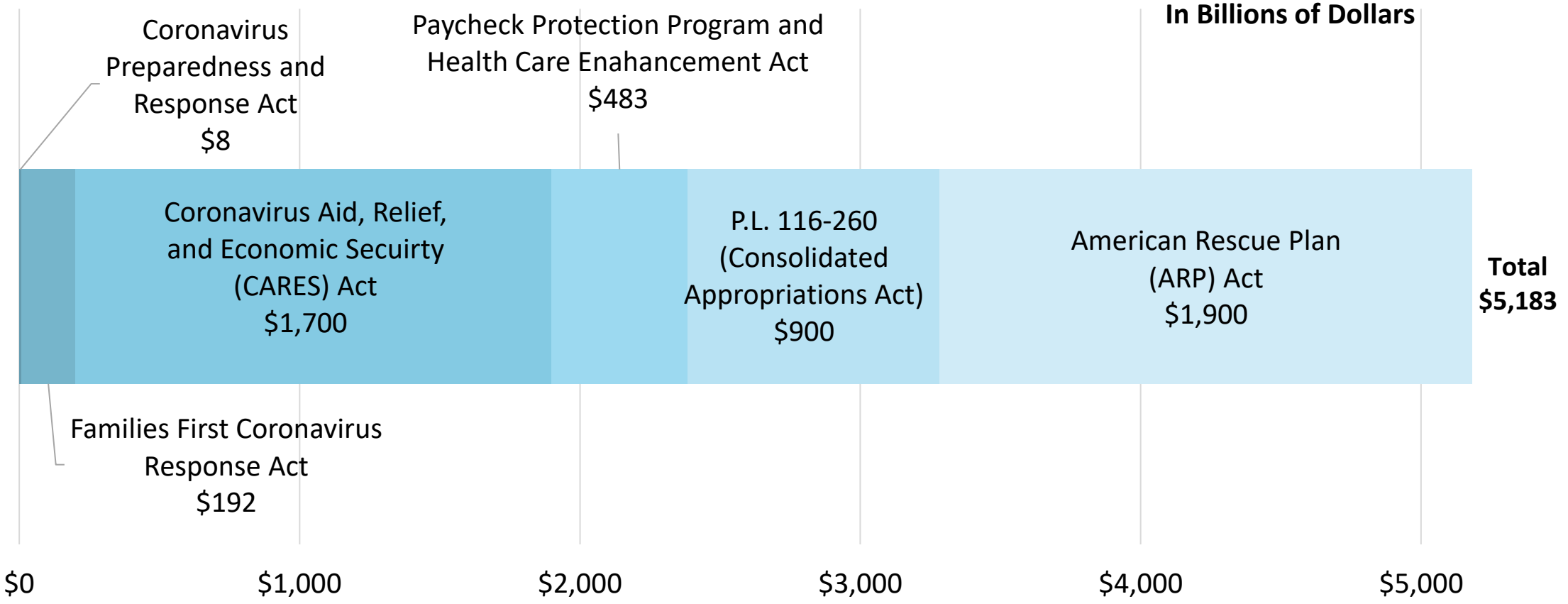
Introduction

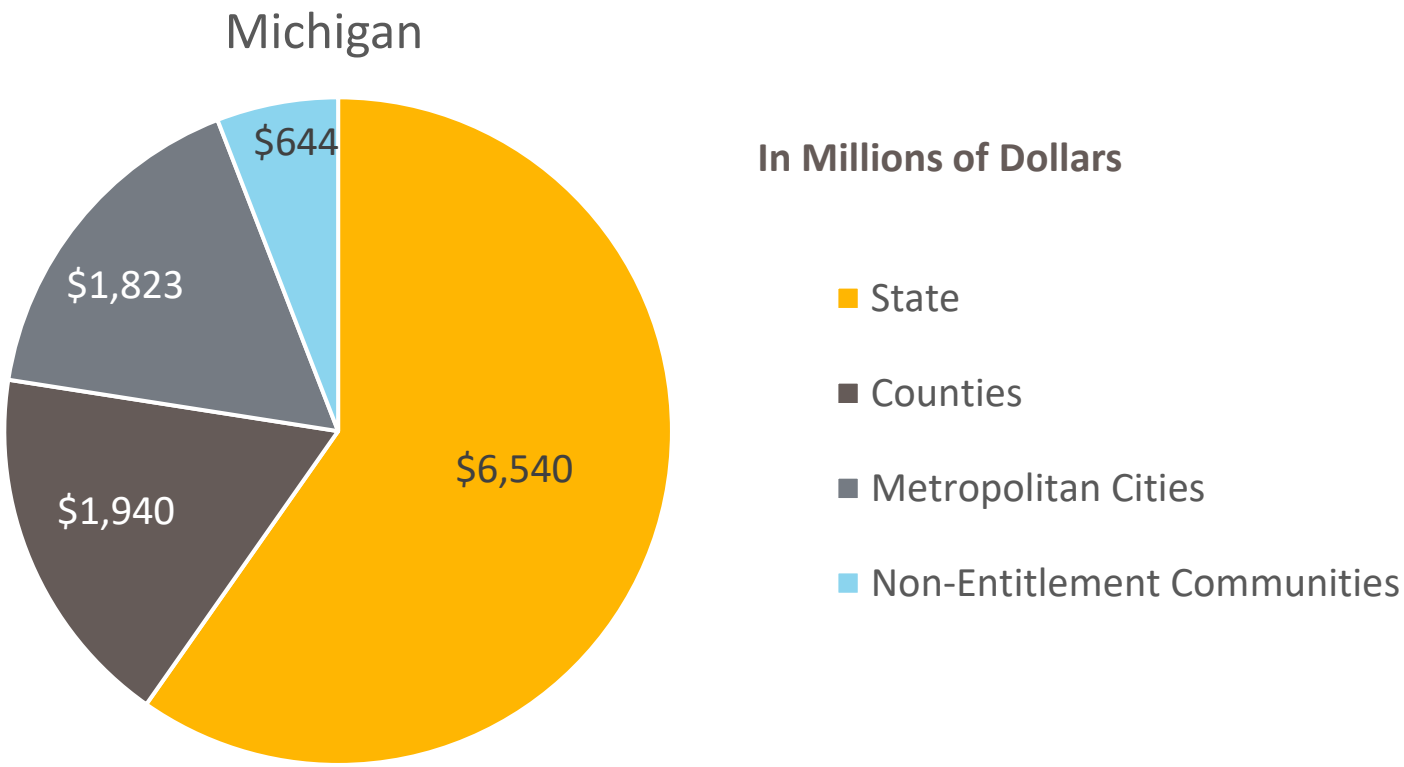
- Who is PSC?
- PSC provided support for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
- Approved vendor through CoPro+ to provide support to counties and other units of government on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Federal Stimulus and Relief Funding to Date



Source: Federal Funds Information for States

ARPA: State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds



Source: Senate Fiscal Agency

Eligible Expenditures

1. Responding to public health emergency and negative economic impacts
   - Assistance to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and impacted industries including tourism, travel, and hospitality
2. Premium pay to eligible workers performing essential working during the COVID-19 emergency
3. Provision of government services to the extent impacted by a reduction in revenue
4. Investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure

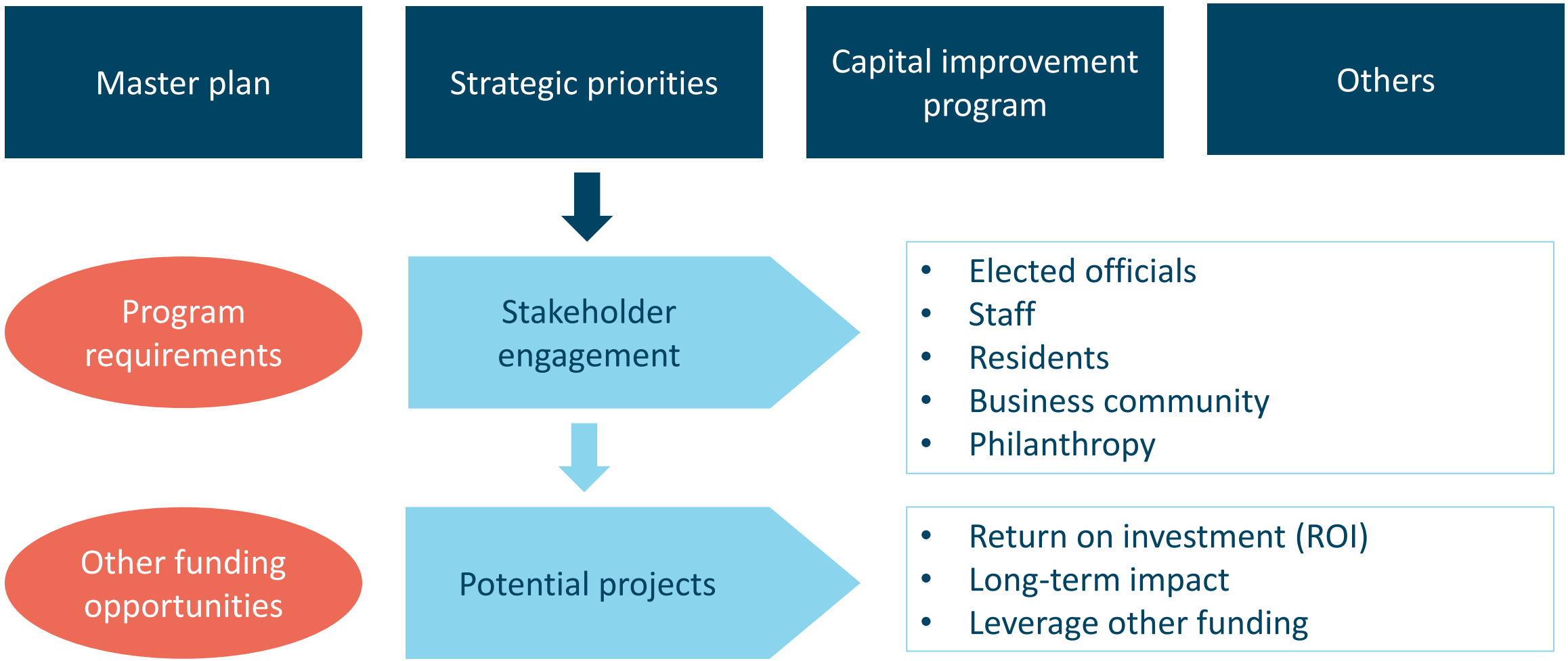
Thinking Strategically: Successful Outcomes

- Dynamic places that inspire community well-being
- Safe and accessible housing
- Universal broadband access and equity
- Transportation networks of the future
- Stable budgets with capacity to grow and invest
- Regenerative and sustainable natural resource management tools
- People-focused economic development
- Holistic health and public safety systems

Thinking Strategically: Timing

- Take a deep breath and slow down
- Funding must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and projects completed by December 31, 2026
- Possible exception would be opportunities to leverage funding with a more constrained timeline

Thinking Strategically: The Process



Leveraging Other Resources

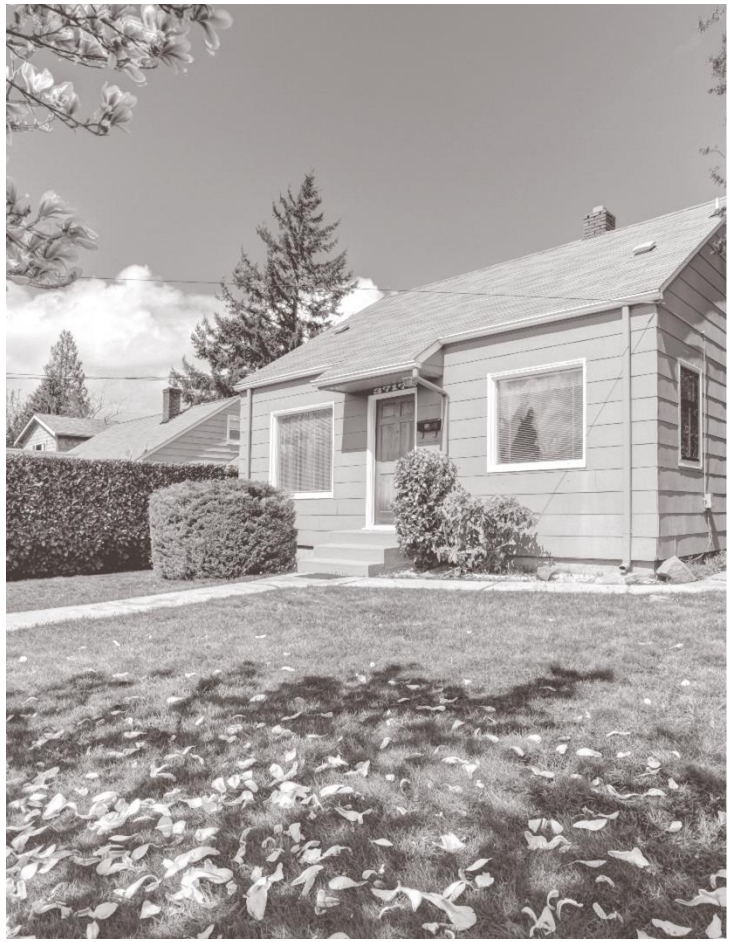
- ARPA fiscal relief is not the only funding available
- $3 billion: Economic Development Administration
- $1 billion: U.S. Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program (formerly BUILD and TIGER)
- $300 million: Michigan Economic Jumpstart Program

The Power of Partnerships

- Ability to leverage funding across entities
- Potential for coordination among multiple jurisdictions, not just on investments but strategies
- Potential partners include community organizations, philanthropic entities, state agencies, and any other stakeholder group who may be able to offer addition resources

Project Possibilities: Housing

- The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates that a full-time minimum wage worker cannot afford a one-bedroom apartment at fair market rent in 95 percent of all U.S. counties
- Short-term solution: Provide rental assistance to prevent evictions
- Long-term solution: Support affordable housing development
- Partners: landlords, developers, MSHDA, HUD



Project Possibilities: Broadband Connectivity

- Connected Michigan estimates over 332,000 households lack internet service with speeds above 100 Mbps
- Short-term solution: Subsidize affordable internet access for eligible households
- Long-term solution: Develop robust broadband infrastructure to support high-speed connectivity
- Partners: internet service providers, local units of government, educational institutions, Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget

Call To Action/Next Steps

- Convene organizational leadership for a discussion about ARPA funding
- Connect with other local, regional, and state leaders to discuss potential for collaboration
  - Leverage cities, villages, and townships
- Be mindful of compliance and reporting requirements
  - Federal single audit threshold of $750,000
  - First ARPA report for counties is due August 31, 2021
- Identify and seek additional capacity and support
  - Michigan Department of Treasury's webpage and webinars
  - MAC, MML, NLC, GFAO
  - Consulting support

Q&A

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