Attention: Elected and local agency officials and the citizens of Kennebec County:

Kennebec County is a recipient of $23.7 million through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Awarded through the U.S. Treasury the Act’s intent is to help communities recover from the economic effects of the Covid 19 pandemic.

If you are thinking of applying for grant funds we encourage you to carefully read the attached documents describing the eligible uses of the funds. We have attached the U.S Treasury’s Interim Final Rule for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Any local government or agency will be considered a sub-recipient for grant reporting purposes and will be expected to meet strict reporting requirements.

It is our plan to engage the municipal officials serving on the county budget committee to review applications and make recommendations to the Kennebec County Board of Commissioners.

The Interim Final Rule does offer some flexibility however all applications will be judged based on the eligibility standards defined by the U.S. Treasury.

ARPA funds must be obligated no later than December 31, 2024. Funds must be spent no later than December 31, 2026.

Further guidance on the use of ARPA funds is in the links below; but broadly, these funds can be spent in the following categories:

- Supporting the public health response
- Addressing negative economic impacts
- Replacing public sector revenue loss
- Premium pay for essential workers
- Water, sewer, broadband infrastructure

While broadband projects are eligible the State of Maine is forming a plan and agency with $100 million to address the issue. We are looking to the State to take the lead on improving broadband access.
Funds can generally not be used for:

- Reducing taxes
- Depositing extraordinary funds into a pension account
- Certain non-federal matches
- Debt Service
- Legal Settlements
- Rainy Day Funds
- Infrastructure outside of water/sewer/broadband, or revenue loss to infrastructure project
- General economic development or workforce development unless related to the pandemic

We look forward to your proposal.

Patsy Crockett, Chair, Kennebec County Board of Commissioners