

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 marks the fourth anniversary of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – a \$1.9 trillion investment into solving local problems and uplifting everyday people in crisis. Four years later our communities and people face \$2 trillion in cuts that will increase poverty, homelessness and early death to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest among us.

As organizations working to build healthy communities where ALL people can thrive, we reflect on the transformative impact ARPA had on our economy and on the lives of millions. ARPA was a powerful demonstration of how government can step in to stabilize an economy during an unprecedented pandemic and provide relief to longstanding challenges facing our communities.

Tragically it took a global pandemic for many politicians to support the bold and necessary investments that ARPA provided to people and communities. **The truth is, our country has long needed elected officials that will invest to solve the intersecting crises facing all our communities, from big cities to small towns.**

Right now, Congress is proposing an extreme rollback of the progress made by ARPA investments as a part of the federal budget proposal processes. With plans to cut \$2 trillion from essential programs and services for communities to fund \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks for billionaires, Congress is aiming to cut Medicaid, food assistance programs (SNAP), social safety nets programs, housing vouchers, affordable housing development, services for homeless individuals and families, and more.

Over the past four years, flexible ARPA funds went directly to cities and states to help address long standing challenges. Millions of people benefited from housing subsidies, eviction prevention programs, nutritional assistance programs, and access to health care services. Now—as people struggle to afford eggs, half of renters are rent burdened, and many can't afford the rising cost of utilities—these funds are running out and local lawmakers are scrambling to fill the void. The exhaustion of ARPA funding is hitting both urban and rural communities hard, especially those that used federal aid to support low-income people, public health initiatives, and social services.

As ARPA funds dwindle and Congress plans for cuts to communities, millions of people are still struggling. The nation's income inequality is a glaring injustice, where the ultra-rich have amassed unimaginable wealth, while poor and working families are left behind. Billionaires like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos and the wealthiest 1% now earn more than 20 times the average worker. They stand to profit even more if the cuts go through.

The lessons of ARPA are clear: bold investment in government programs and services provides relief, stability, and long-term prosperity. Divestment for the benefit of the ultra-rich will only exacerbate poverty and inequality, worsen health outcomes, deepen housing affordability and homelessness, and undermine economic stability, all while benefiting the ultra-rich.

We will not let these harmful cuts pass without a fight. We demand Congress reject cuts and stand for investments that strengthen our communities, our economy, and our future. We demand a government that works for all people—not billionaires and corporations.

215 People's Alliance

ACCE

ACT 4 SA

Arkansas Community Organizations

Austin Community Law Center

Austin DSA

Austin Justice Coalition

Austin Mutual Aid

Austin Urban Technology Movement (AUTMHQ)

Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC)

BRIDGE Movements Fund

Center for Coalfield Justice

Churches United For Fair Housing

Citizen Action of New York

Coalition on Human Needs

Communities United For Action

Community Voices Heard

CT Citizen Action Group

Detroit Action

Equity Action

Florida Rising

Fuerte Arts Movement

Grassroots Leadership

Green New Deal Network

Ground Game LA

Indivisible Marin

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Living United for Change in Arizona

Local Progress Texas

Maine People's Alliance

Make The Road CT

Make the Road NV
Make the Road NJ
Make the Road PA
National Coalition for the Homeless
Neighbor to Neighbor
New Hampshire Youth Movement
New York Communities for Change
Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition
Ohio Organizing Collaborative
OLÉ
ONE Northside
Open Table Nashville
Peer Network Of New York
People Power United
People's Action
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Right to the City Alliance
Rights & Democracy
Rise Up WV
San Francisco Rising
SPACES In Action
Stand UP Alaska
State Revenue Alliance
Sunflower Community Action
Texas Harm Reduction Alliance
The People's Lobby
The Sidewalk Project
The Strong Economy For All Coalition
Undoing White Supremacy Austin
United for a New Economy
United for Respect
VOCAL-KY
VOCAL-NY
VOCAL-TX
VOCAL-US
West Virginia Citizen Action Group
Western Regional Advocacy Project