ACT Program Update

April 13, 2026

Commerce CITY

Quality Community for a Lifetime

Agenda

- What is the American Rescue Plan Act?
- 1st Round of Funding Overview
- From Build C3 to the ACT Program
- ACT Program and Funding Updates

ACT Advancing Commerce City Together

City Council has committed to investing **$7.5M** in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for impactful projects in our community. Using these funds, Commerce City is excited to announce the launch of the new ACT (Advancing Commerce City Together) Program. This is a unique opportunity to make meaningful and lasting improvements in the core city. **Seven program areas** have been carefully selected, each designed to directly support Commerce City residents and businesses through the end of 2026.

HOUSING & LIVABILITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Code Enforcement Assistance Program
- Housing Needs Assessment
- Non-profit collaboration to help address housing concerns

ENVIRONMENT

- Community garden program

FOOD EQUITY

- Grant program to increase access to healthy and affordable food
- Enhance education and awareness around food inequity

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Potential partnerships for apprenticeship programs, GED grant programs, and higher education funding

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

- Funding for new staff positions to address the needs of residents experiencing homelessness or food insecurity

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- Sidewalk and pedestrian safety improvements
- Telecommunications Strategic Plan development to identify underserved areas in the city and plan for future buildout

EMERGENCY RENTAL & MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

- Program funding to support residents with rental and mortgage payments

Purpose

- Inform the City Council and the public regarding the status of the Program and ARPA funds.
- To make the City Council aware of the concerns that staff have currently.

What is the American Rescue Plan Act?

- COVID-19 and the global pandemic.
- President Joseph R. Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law on March 11, 2020, which established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund intended to provide support to local governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19 on their communities, residents, and businesses.
- The City of Commerce City received an ARPA allocation of $10,505,025 directly from the U.S. Treasury Department.

What is the American Rescue Plan Act?

- City staff completed and documented a revenue replacement analysis following U.S. Treasury guidance on this matter, calculating a revenue loss amount well in excess of the City's ARPA funding allocation, approximately $11.8 million for the 2020 fiscal year alone.
- Given this, the City has claimed its entire $10,505,025 ARPA allocation as revenue replacement.
- The City is required to report on how these funds are used, via quarterly reports submitted to the U.S. Treasury Department. Revenue replacement funds can be used for government services and must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and fully expended by December 31, 2026
- The first 50% tranche was received in 2021, and the second 50% tranche in 2022.

What is the American Rescue Plan Act?

- Brief History of the ARPA Funding:
  - Council passed Ordinance 2533 on 8/7/23. Per this ordinance, Council obligated $3,075,000 of the City's ARPA allocation for specific uses.
  - The remaining balance of Ordinance 2533 obligations unspent at the end of 2023 was re-appropriated in 2024 per Ordinance 2571, passed by City Council on 4/15/24.
  - Council passed Ordinance 2574 on 4/15/24. Per this ordinance, Council obligated $7,453,025 of the City's ARPA allocation for specific uses.

1st Round of ARPA Funding Ordinance 2533

- In 2023, the City Council allocated the first round of programming of the City's ARPA allocation.
- These programs included:
  - **Grant Writing** – Creating an internal grants department and contracting for grant writing services.
  - **Emergency Shelter Generators** – Emergency generators were purchased for the City's rec centers to outfit them as emergency shelters. (More details in a later slide)
  - **Round of Rental/Mortgage Assistance** – City Council identified providing rental/mortgage assistance as a way to assist community members facing financial hardships.
  - **TrackNGO Equipment** – Equipment for City vehicles to better operate in snow conditions.

From Build C3 to the ACT Program

- During a Study Session in February 2024, Council allocated the remainder of the City's American Rescue Plan Act funding towards various initiatives, primarily targeting improvements in the Core City.
- Roughly $7.5 million was earmarked for a variety of topics, including housing, the environment, food equity, infrastructure improvements, micro-transit, workforce development, community well-being, and emergency rental/mortgage assistance.
- Council unanimously approved a budget amendment on second reading in April 2024, allocating the $7.5 million for this program, labeled as Build C3. All funds for this program must be expended by the end of 2026.
- The program was rebranded from "Build C3" to the Advancing Commerce City Together or "ACT Program" in October of 2024.
    - This name reflects the program's intent toward forward movement for the community, actively pursuing action and improvement, and working together with residents.

ACT Program Area Updates

*The funding numbers used in the presentation are through Q4 of 2025.

Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance

- Approx. $1.9 million has been allocated for this program area.
- Two goals: to prevent individuals and families from experiencing homelessness and to reduce public costs that come with addressing homelessness.
- Updates:
  - **203 households have been approved for assistance through the program.**
  - CEDP has implemented a new application software to streamline the process.
  - At the end of 2025, additional funds were allocated to the program to assist with emergency cases and continue supporting the goals for the program.
  - **Throughout 2025, the program spent down: $1,276,871.40**
  - Remaining contractual obligation: approx. $679,128.60

Housing and Livability Improvements

- $2.5 million was allocated for this program area.
  - 3 Major Areas:
    - Housing Needs Assessment
    - Code Compliance Assistance
    - Home Repairs
- $100,000 was budgeted for a Housing Needs Assessment, which fulfilled statutory requirements prescribed in SB 24-174 and will provide the City with a blueprint of future housing needs.
  - This project was completed at the end of 2025
- $250,000 was allocated for a Code Enforcement Assistance Program, helping residents remedy various Code Enforcement violations.
  - Updates:
    - 11 households have been assisted since the start of the program.

Housing and Livability Improvements

The remaining $2.3 million was allocated for a home repair program focusing on safety and livability improvements.

- Partners: Brothers Redevelopment Inc. and Habitat for Humanity.
- Updates:
  - 59 households have been approved in the program.
  - The application is currently closed to honor our commitment to every resident who has already applied.
  - Invoices are trending low right now:
    - Habitat - $197,607.90
    - BRI - $418,426.26
    - Remaining Funds: approx. $1.7 million
- Both contractors are working diligently to schedule, perform work, and invoice for the program.

Investment in "Community Well-Being"

- Approx. $1.3 million was allocated to the City's Community Well-Being Division.
- The funding is being used for various initiatives, including hiring of additional navigators to help community members find and access resources, and initiatives like:
  - Move-in Cost Assistance
  - Motel Bridge Housing
  - Mobile Showers
  - Outreach Supplies
  - Vehicle Purchases for Outreach
  - And many more
- Updates:
  - Approximate remaining funds total $212,687

Workforce Development

- $500,000 was allocated for this program area.
- Economic Development has launched the Commerce City "Promise Program", which is a groundbreaking partnership between the City of Commerce City and the Community College of Aurora (CCA) that provides no-cost access to short-term credential programs for all Commerce City residents.
- The City has also partnered with Metro State University for a GED prep class.
- Update:
  - **Commerce City Promise:**
  - The Commerce City Promise program has supported **36** learners in Summer and Fall semesters and anticipates supporting **82** in Spring 2026.
  - The program has expended $58,343.67, and is projecting up to another $78,750 in the Spring semester for a projected program total of $137,093.67.
  - **GED Services:**
  - Three classes are serving **34** Commerce City residents. 22 GED subtests have been passed by the students and one GED has been awarded. **6** additional learners are one subtest away from obtaining their GED.
  - Program expenditures currently total $10,701.79.

Environment

- Approx. $200,000 was allocated for this program area.
- Staff worked collaboratively with EPIC (formerly EPAC) to determine the best uses of the funding.
- $100,000 was budgeted to determine sites and develop designs for two community gardens; a vendor has been selected.
  - Updates:
    - Southern Site: Freedom Park
    - Northern Site: Bison Ridge Rec Center
    - ETA on final designs and tentative cost matrix is the end of April
- $100,000 has been budgeted for the planting of trees throughout the City in partnership with Wildland Restoration Volunteers
  - Project is complete
  - **145 trees were planted**
  - Locations included: Veterans Memorial Park, Fairfax Park, Alsup Elementary, Dupont Elementary, Lester Arnold High School, The SWAP Campus, and many more.

Food Equity

- $400,000 was allocated for this program area.
- The funding has been dedicated to a food equity grant program that will provide funding for various projects that increase access to healthy and affordable food or enhance education and awareness around food inequity.
- Current Partner Updates:
  - Volunteers of America – Hosts a free weekly lunch at the Eagle Point Rec Center and a dinner for seniors at the Commerce City VOA location.
    - As of March 2026:
      - **Eagle Point Rec Center Lunch: 191 individuals served and 1,483 meals distributed**
      - **Aging and Nutrition Services: 76 individuals served and 647 meals distributed**
  - Food Bank of the Rockies – As of March 2026
    - Total unduplicated people: **5,646**
    - Total pounds of food distributed by the 8 partners and three Food Bank Programs: **970,214**
    - **The Food Bank of the Rockies has submitted its second and final invoice for the ACT Program**

Infrastructure Improvements

- $320,000 was allocated for this category
- Sidewalk Design Project:
  - Project is complete
  - Survey and design work for sidewalks in the southern part of the City.
- Telecommunications Strategic Infrastructure:
  - Project is complete
  - Presentation on the final deliverable and recommendations was given to Council on March 23rd

Emergency Shelter Operations

- Approx. $1,391,000 was allocated for this category.
- $1,291,000 was designated for emergency backup generators at the Eagle Pointe and Bison Ridge Recreation Centers.
  - Generators for both rec centers were purchased and installed.
- Remaining funding was used to purchase supplies for the emergency shelter operations.

Challenges

- Home Repair Program:
  - The Home Repair Program saw a slow start and faced delays getting the word out to the community.
  - Remaining Funds: $1.7 Million
  - Staff have worked closely with both contractors:
    - Habitat for Humanity has a 2026 construction calendar that spends down their contracted amount and outlines operations for the remainder of 2026 – Approx. $1.1 Million
    - Brothers Redevelopment has processed all their assessments, most projects are in the bidding process, and they have committed to completing 6-8 projects a month, which will keep them on track to spend down their remaining funds.

Challenges

- Code Compliance:
  - Remaining Funds: $231,000
  - The Neighborhood Services Division has been leading an educational campaign and helping community members resolve their code violations.
    - The funding allocated for this program area is too much to support the work the Division currently has.
    - A reallocation of funds is being contemplated by staff to spend down the remaining funds.
- Workforce Development:
  - Remaining Funds: $428,470
  - Student support numbers are trending up, and there are 70+ students utilizing the Commerce City Promise program for the Spring semester.
  - Current program forecasts have the program spending down the remaining funding.

Questions?