The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) included allocations to school districts. Although the final rules have not yet been issued, we do have some guidance from the act itself. School districts across the nation will be receiving approximately $125B, or $2,500 per student. This will vary to $8,000 per student in low-income districts; high-affluence districts will receive less than $1K per student. The State of Wisconsin allocation will be a little over $1.5B.

According to the American Rescue Plan Act, aid may be used to respond to a variety of school needs and issues including **improvements in Wi-Fi and broadband access.**

ARPA allocated nearly $123 billion to a new Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund.  ARPA is the third piece of federal legislation to allocate ESSER funds that school districts can use to address the impact of COVID-19.  The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) passed in March 2020 and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act) passed in December 2020 included ESSER funding for school districts.

The Department of Education (DOE) will allocate the new ESSER funds to state educational agency (i.e., the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)) based on each state’s allocation of Title I Part A funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).  Each state educational agency must then allocate at least 90% of the ESSER funds received to local school districts based on the school district’s proportionate share of Title I Part A ESEA funds received in the last fiscal year.  The other 10% of ESSER funds may be reserved by the state educational agency.

DCEDC has received proposals to do a comprehensive Broadband Infrastructure Engineering Assessment. The Scope of Services for the Assessment to be completed is attached for your understanding of the work to be addressed.

When we issued the Request for Proposals, it was estimated that the study should take about $30,000 which we raised. In the meantime, the demand for Broadband consultants increased exponentially and therefore the cost of the expertise has increased. As a reult, we are short about $60,000 for this important assessment which will support a comprehensive strategy to provide fiber to all homes and businesses in Door County over the next 10 years. This will also support securing funding from the Federal and Wisconsin governments for the installation of the much needed Broadband infrastructure.

**In light of the shortfall on funding for this crucial study and the coming availability of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to school districts, we request that you consider allocating $2/student from the ARPA funds to support this important work to support the development of Broadband infrastructure throughout Door County.**

Please direct any questions you may have on the Broadband Infrastructure Engineering Assessment or this request to Steve Jenkins at [steve@DoorCountyBusiness.com](mailto:steve@DoorCountyBusiness.com) or 920.421.3777.