

BUILDING A RESILIENT OKLAHOMA: FORGING OUR FUTURE BEYOND ARPA

PURPOSE OF THE TOWN HALL

The 2025 Town Hall recognizes a powerful truth: ARPA funding sparked long-overdue progress in Oklahoma communities, strengthening infrastructure, public health, and workforce development while showcasing local resilience.

With federal funds ending, the key challenge now is sustaining and scaling what worked. This Town Hall isn't just about what happens next—it's a solutions-driven conversation about how communities can preserve momentum and invest in a stronger, more resilient future.

At its core is a critical policy question: **How can Oklahoma communities continue successful ARPA-funded efforts despite limited revenue-raising capacity and resources?**

By bringing together diverse voices from across the state, the Town Hall will explore long-term, actionable strategies to ensure continued progress for all Oklahomans.

WHY THIS MATTERS

This Town Hall isn't just about looking back at what ARPA accomplished—it's about building a path forward. It's about learning from the gains made and making sure they don't fade. It's about moving beyond short-term funding into long-term resilience.

By focusing on community-driven solutions, actionable policy recommendations, and sustainable funding strategies, this Town Hall will provide a clear roadmap for how Oklahoma can maintain—and grow—the momentum created by ARPA investments.

We're not just talking about recovery. We're talking about resilience. And resilience is the solution to navigating change.

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

1. Evaluating the Success of ARPA-Funded Projects

- Projects exceeded expectations
- What are the barriers
- Key performance indicators

2. Identifying Long-Term Funding Solutions

- State and local government revenue tools
- Can Oklahoma create blended financing models that are adaptable and scalable?

3. Legislative and Policy Considerations

- Are current state laws too restrictive for local governments trying to sustain successful programs?
- What policy reforms or legislative efforts would unlock more flexibility or funding?

4. Community-Led Solutions and Best Practices

- What works on the local level
- Regional collaboration (between cities, counties, or tribes)

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

If you are interested in being considered as a participant, please complete the Town Hall Nomination Application and email it to April Maddry at april@okacademy.org by the final deadline of August 1, 2025. If you know others who would be interested, please feel free to share this information with them. Invitations to participate are mailed by mid-August at the latest.

Let's build a future where Oklahoma communities not only recover-but thrive.

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