

ARPA Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy

On August 23, 2023, the ARPA Committee approved audio-visual equipment modernization in *existing* courtrooms as an eligible expenditure, subject to the following revised rules and procedures:

(a) Definitions:

(1) “Audio-visual equipment modernization” means the purchase and installation of fixed and movable equipment necessary to address audio-visual controls, video presentation, audio, video streaming, and video conferencing, including any of the following:

- (i) Control panels to control an audio-visual system, commonly installed at a judge’s bench and/or clerk’s desk;
- (ii) Displays for evidence presentation, control monitoring, and public access in a designated viewing area;
- (iii) Speakers mounted on desks, ceilings, walls, or other locations;
- (iv) Fixed and wireless microphones;
- (v) Fixed video cameras;
- (vi) An evidence presentation cart or station with document cameras and technology inputs;
- (vii) A court reporter interface to connect to courtroom audio and/or video;
- (viii) Assistive listening and assistive display devices;
- (ix) Related peripheral items, such as hardware mounts, power supplies, and networking hardware;
- (x) Design, engineering, and installation;
- (xi) Troubleshooting services for a fixed period after installation; and
- (xii) Other audio-visual equipment modernization costs approved by OPB and the Committee.

(2) “Existing courtroom” means a room that is:

- (i) Fully constructed and in use prior to the date of the award;
- (ii) Permanently dedicated to the primary purpose of conducting court proceedings; and
- (iii) Not a room or facility only temporarily used to conduct court proceedings.

(b) Audio-visual equipment modernization in **an existing courtroom** is an ARPA-eligible expenditure, on the condition that all the following documentation is submitted to the Committee for approval:

- (1) An ARPA Grant Application, as provided at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/>;
- (2) A detailed justification letter stating that audio-visual equipment modernization expenditures are a necessary component of a response to court case backlogs caused by the pandemic, with a primary focus on cases involving serious violent felonies;
- (3) A detailed summary of the project, including a complete project timeline;
- (4) A detailed proposal from a vendor, including an estimate of the cost of the project and all equipment to be installed; and
- (5) A revised Budget Form adding “Audio-visual equipment modernization” and the amount requested for such expenditures under the “ARPA-Eligible Administrative Expenses” category.

(c) Requests for proposals from vendors for audio-visual equipment modernization shall be subject to all applicable federal procurement requirements found in 2 CFR §§ 200.318-200.327. *See FAQ 28.2 for detailed federal procurement guidance from OPB.*

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- (d) Per federal regulations and OPB requirements, audio-visual equipment modernization costs must be necessary, reasonable, and proportional to the objectively demonstrated need to respond to case backlogs caused by the pandemic, with a primary focus on cases involving serious violent felonies. To determine the reasonableness of audio-visual modernization costs, consideration must be given to market prices for comparable goods or services for the geographic area where the courtroom is located, as provided in 2 CFR § 200.404 (c).
- (e) The following expenditures remain prohibited:
- (1) Permanent adaptations to existing facilities unrelated to audio-visual equipment modernization; and
 - (2) Construction of a new courtroom or new court facility, including the cost of audio-visual equipment for a new courtroom or new facility.
- (f) ARPA grant recipients will be reimbursed for audio-visual equipment modernization costs as eligible expenditures are incurred and reported with adequate documentation to AOC. **No advances or retroactive payments are authorized.**
- (g) Applicants may be reimbursed for costs incurred on an audio-visual equipment modernization project that is currently in progress if the entire audio-visual equipment modernization project is approved by the Committee, as provided in (b), subject to the following:
- (1) Reimbursement for an in-progress audio-visual equipment modernization project shall be limited to costs incurred on or after the date of award; and
 - (2) Audio-visual equipment modernization costs incurred prior to the date of award shall not be reimbursed.
- (h) ARPA funds **are subject to recoupment** if used for impermissible purposes, as provided in 31 CFR § 35.10.