

Clark County, Washington Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2023 Report

Clark County, Washington

2023 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

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Executive Summary

On March 11, 2021, the [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARPA) was signed into law. Section 9901 of ARPA amended Title VI of the Social Security Act (the Act) to add Section 602, which established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, and Section 603, which established the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Together, these are the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).¹ The SLFRF governs the allocation of \$350 billion that ARPA provided to states, counties, cities, and tribal and territorial governments.

On May 17, 2021, the U.S. Treasury Department released its [Interim Final Rule](#) (IFR) to facilitate implementation of the use of ARPA-SLFRF funds before releasing the [Final Rule](#) (FR) on January 6, 2022. The Final Rule provided additional clarity of program requirements and an expansion of enumerated eligible uses of ARPA funds. The Final Rule further detailed eligible uses of funds and provided flexibility for recipient governments to respond to disproportionately impacted populations and communities, in making decisions about how to deploy the funds toward promoting a [“stronger, more equitable economy.”](#), while meeting local needs including support for households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and hardest hit communities, as well as making necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. Additionally, the SLFRF [Reporting Guidance](#) provided a great deal more flexibility than similar resources provided under the [CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund \(CRF\) of 2020](#).

The Final Rule provided additional clarity around ARPA SLFRF program requirements and an expansion of the enumerated uses of funds and broadened the scope of response to include impacted populations while maintaining the eligible uses of ARPA funds detailed in the four broad categories included in the IFR. The IFR remained in effect until April 1, 2022, when the Final Rule went into effect. However, jurisdictions were allowed to continue under the IFR and also implement the enhanced flexibilities of the Final Rule prior to the official date of enactment of the Final Rule in order to maximize the flexible use of resources and ease the transition for governments with projects already underway.

The IFR provided significant resources to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts through four categories of eligible uses. Section 602 and section 603 contain the same eligible uses; with the primary difference between the two sections being that section 602 establishes a fund for States, territories, and Tribal governments and section 603 establishes a fund for metropolitan cities, non-entitlement units (“NEU”s) of local government, and counties. These eligible use categories have been expanded, revised, and enumerated in the Final Rule.

[The Final Rule](#) delivers broader flexibility and greater simplicity in the program, responsive to feedback in the comment process. Among other clarifications and changes, the final rule provides the features below² regarding eligible and ineligible uses of ARPA SLFRF funds. For more information on the transition from

¹ [SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#)

² <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf>

compliance with the Interim Final Rule to compliance with the Final Rule, recipients should review the SLFRF Final Rule Compliance Statement,³ and the final Rule for additional information. The following section highlights some of the *key changes* and clarifications in the Final Rule.

- **Replacing Lost Public Sector Revenue:** The final rule offers a standard allowance for revenue loss of \$10 million, allowing recipients to select between a standard amount of revenue loss or complete a full revenue loss calculation. Recipients that select the standard allowance may use that amount – in many cases their full award – for government services, with streamlined reporting requirements.
- **Public Health and Economic Impacts:** In addition to programs and services, the final rule clarifies that recipients can use funds for capital expenditures that support an eligible COVID-19 public health or economic response. For example, recipients may build certain affordable housing, childcare facilities, schools, hospitals, and other projects consistent with final rule requirements.
- **Premium Pay:** The final rule delivers more streamlined options to provide premium pay, by broadening the share of eligible workers who can receive premium pay without a written justification while maintaining a focus on lower-income and frontline workers performing essential work.
- **Water, Sewer & Broadband Infrastructure:** The final rule significantly broadens eligible broadband infrastructure investments to address challenges with broadband access, affordability, and reliability, and adds additional eligible water and sewer infrastructure investments, including a broader range of lead remediation and stormwater management projects.
- **Ineligible uses for all recipients:** No payments for debt service and replenishments of rainy-day funds; no satisfaction of settlements and judgments; no uses that contravene or violate the American Rescue Plan Act, Uniform Guidance conflicts of interest requirements, and other federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

The use of ARPA SLFRF funds by Clark County complies with the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury). These requirements include compliance with the Single Audit Act and applicable elements of the Uniform Administrative Guidance, Subparts D, E, and F regarding internal controls, subrecipient monitoring and management, costing principles, and audit requirements^{3,4} Per the American Rescue Plan Act, U.S. Treasury, Uniform Guidance and Interim Final Rule, Clark County may use the SLFRF to respond to the public health crisis and negative economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in four areas of eligibility: ^{5,6}

Clark County ARPA SLFRF Priority Funding Areas

On June 30th, 2021 Clark County Council heard an overview of County departments and community stakeholder proposals for funding priorities and approved the Auditor’s Office spending plan proposal for the County’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) [State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ~ \(SLFRF\) Spending Plan](#) for an [effective, efficient, and equitable](#) pandemic recovery. Funding priorities discussed in the spending plan include departmental support for ongoing public health emergency pandemic response and readiness, community services homelessness crisis response, information technology cybersecurity improvement, criminal prosecution and indigent defense case backlog remediation, general government operations and infrastructure, and the development of an equitable and inclusive community engagement plan and development of an external applicant funding request process. During fiscal years 2021-2022, and 2022-2023, County Departments and stakeholders developed and implemented plans, programs, and

³ <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-Statement.pdf>

⁴ [Federal Register/Vol. 86, No. 93/Monday, May 17, 2021/Rules and Regulations](#)

⁵ [Social Security Act Section 602 and 603 as amended by the ARPA sec. 9901](#)

⁶ [Uniform Guidance, 2CFR200.303, 2CFR200.330 through 200.332, subparts D, E, F](#)

programs reviewed and approved by County Council in fiscal year 2020-2021 as well as new proposals reviewed and approved by Council in fiscal year 2021-2022, and 2022-2023. The Council's priorities continue to remain focused on those presented in June of 2021 and have continued to evolve in 2022 and 2023 in response to emergent needs.

Due to the temporary nature of ARPA Funds, the County has taken care to avoid creating new programs or expanding existing programs that will require an ongoing financial commitment. The county has instead focused on critical investments and infrastructure that is particularly well suited to the use of ARPA funds because of the non-recurring nature of such expenditures. ARPA funds are being focused on investments that will provide long-term value that will provide benefits to the communities of the County for many years to come.

The county is cognizant of state-level ARPA implementation efforts, especially regarding infrastructure, potential enhancements of state funding resources, and existing or new state and federal requirements. The County may consider supporting regional initiatives, including partnering with other municipalities, public agencies, investing in public-private partnerships and community organizations. The Council continues to evaluate proposals to augment current funding priorities. Additionally, due to the flexible nature of ARPA funds, the County uses other dedicated grants and programs first whenever possible and saves ARPA funds for priorities not eligible for other federal and state assistance programs.

Clark County ARPA SLFRF Revenue Loss & Recovery

The county will continue to develop funding priorities and develop a process for expending the SLFRF allowable revenue recovery for government services and total Revenue Loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Estimated revenue recovery for 2022 is approximately \$18.3 million as calculated according to the [Final Rule](#) guidelines. Recovered revenue is expected to be committed to support government services as determined by the County Council. Revenue recovery may be recalculated annually during covered fiscal years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 at the discretion of the County Council, and must be recalculated if additional revenue losses are claimed for revenue recovery purposes in the remaining years of the covered period. It should also be noted that all recovered revenues must be reinvested in government services. These figures are only estimated due to the remainder awaiting Council review and action. This approach is appropriate given the requirement for Council to approve any appropriations, allocations, and new programs.

Clark County ARPA SLFRF Community Engagement Plan

In addition to funding requests for departmental support in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, fiscal 2021-2022 the County Council approved a community engagement process around the use of ARPA SLFRF funds for non-profit organizations and small businesses that were implemented in 2022-2023. Non-profits, community-based organizations, and community members, and small businesses were engaged in multiple opportunities to provide input and feedback on how the county may support building capacity within community organizations that serve low-income communities, people of color, and other populations experiencing barriers to receiving services.

The County Council funded a \$2 million Community Grant Program that awarded twenty-six nonprofit organizations and small businesses financial resources to combat the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021-2022 and has committed another \$3 million to support community-based nonprofits and small businesses in 2022-2023.

The ARPA Program funds will be available through competitive award. The following sections contain the grant program overview including purpose, eligibility, available funding, schedule, compliance requirements, eligible activities, the application process, performance and reporting requirements, and criteria for selection, and other important information.

The purpose of the Program is to provide aid to assist with economic recovery for small businesses, assist nonprofit organizations and impacted industries in providing economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, support programs, and services for community members that have been negatively impacted, especially those that are disproportionately impacted and in hardest hit communities, and will promote the County’s mission “to enhance the quality of life in our diverse community by providing services with integrity, openness, and accountability” and in keeping with the County’s strategic goals, vision, and values.

The County Council will continue to review and authorize all future external funding requests through a federally compliant application process with priorities given to projects that provide [efficient, effective, efficient and equitable](#) solutions to public health and/or negative economic impacts exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic as outlined in award criteria. Committees have been developed to review and evaluate applications based on established funding criteria. Funding is awarded through a competitive public process. Eligible projects selected by the committees will be submitted to County Council for final approval and award determinations.

Clark County ARPA SLFRF Challenges and Opportunities

Without the additional federal government assistance that the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) provides, the economic and public health crises facing our communities would deepen the divide between healthy and sick, the prosperous and the poor, the stably housed and unhoused, and dramatically impact our government’s ability to provide timely, safe, secure, high-quality essential government services to the county’s residents. The SLFRF provides a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, by bolstering governments, addressing economic fallout, and laying the foundation for a stronger and more equitable recovery for all.

Uses of Funds

On June 30th, 2021 a summary of the [American Rescue Plan Act ~ \(ARPA\) State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ~ \(SLFRF\) Spending Plan](#) was presented to Clark County Council. That plan presented an overview of the County’s strategies for implementing a plan for effective, efficient, and equitable pandemic recovery.

The American Rescue Plan Act encompasses a vast array of funding opportunities and resources spanning the breadth of the American economy aimed at economic and social stability in addition to addressing the immediate public health crisis precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The County’s plan for economic recovery included an analysis of additional ARPA Resources available to SLFRF Recipients to meet the unique needs of state and local governments. In addition to SLFRF, Counties, and local governments are eligible to apply for multiple funding resources through ARPA including:

- \$362 billion for State & Local Fiscal Recovery

- \$211.57 billion for Education and Childcare
- \$56.27 billion for Individuals and Families
- \$86.24 billion for Healthcare and Behavioral Health
- \$ 61.32 billion for other programs including Disaster Relief.

In addition to ARPA resources, the enactment of the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) (IIJA) on July 28th, 2021, added an additional \$65 billion to state broadband resources after Washington State had already set aside \$400 million in the 2021-23 biennial budget for broadband infrastructure investment across the state. With the new legislation, an additional \$550 billion in new federal investment will become available to states for roads, bridges, water, transportation, electric vehicle infrastructure, climate resilience, and nationwide universal internet access. This legislation will build upon the \$65 billion already set forth in the American Rescue Plan Act for broadband investment. The IIJA will provide billions of dollars for broadband deployment in addition to the American Rescue Plan, to help ensure every American has access to reliable high-speed internet and allow communities of all sizes in all regions to begin closing the gap on the digital divide.

Clark County ARPA SLFRF Funding Allocation

The funding allocations for ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for Clark County occurred in two equal disbursements. The County received the first \$47.35 million in June of 2021 and an additional second tranche in May of 2022, totaling approximately \$94.8 million. All funds must be obligated by December 31st, 2024, and expended by December 31st, 2026. The county may use the time available during the covered period, prior to December 31st, 2024, to decide how to allocate these funds.

As of July 31, 2022, approximately \$49.9 million have been allocated by the County Council to support ongoing funding priorities that include departmental support for ongoing public health emergency pandemic response and readiness, community services homelessness crisis response, information technology cybersecurity improvement, criminal prosecution and indigent defense case backlog remediation, and addressing general government operations and critical infrastructure impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Establishing ARPA SLFRF Preliminary Funding Priorities and Spending Plan

Bearing these funding opportunities and constraints in mind, Clark County Auditor’s Office and ARPA program staff engaged multiple County departments, external agencies, and other stakeholders to gather input and develop a list of funding needs emerging from the negative economic and disparate public health impacts resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic, and developed a vetting process for these funding priorities within the [eligible uses](#) of the SLFRF. The County continues to engage both internal and external stakeholders as well as the public to identify priorities, gather feedback, and seek potential synergies among various funding requests. The County Council will continue to review proposals and provide guidance and approval for the ARPA SLFRF projects and provide direction around the concepts proposed in this spending plan throughout the ARPA award period ending December 31, 2024.

Through this process of dialogue and gathering feedback from stakeholders the County developed a set of funding priorities around key factors including; eligible uses of SLFRF funds, the existence of other ARPA-funded programs, and other federal and state funding opportunities available. Given the broad and non-exclusive nature of the American Rescue Plan funding priorities, in addition to SLFRF, the county has developed a set of priorities that respond to the immediate public health emergency and negative

economic impacts resulting from the pandemic including; addressing economic harms to households and sheltering needs of the unhoused exacerbated by the pandemic, providing long-range planning for and investment in essential government services, infrastructure, and technology, investment in the modernization of information technology infrastructure and cybersecurity, that support of public health and other essential government services required to maintain county operations and support county programs through the pandemic and future public health emergencies.

Approved Funding Allocations by Expenditure Category as of July 31, 2023

As of July 31, 2023, The Clark County Council has approved more than \$88.1 million in ARPA SLFRF funding requests within the following Eligible Use Expenditure Categories:

Public Health (EC 1)

Under Expenditure Category 1.4, “Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)”^{*^} The County allocated \$2.5 million to the Public Department of Public Health to support ongoing outbreak investigations and mitigation efforts in congregate settings are critical to managing the ongoing pandemic. In addition to tracking outbreaks and assisting congregate facilities to improve infectious disease prevention protocols, the ongoing tracking of data related to the status of cases in our community, as well as the ongoing promotion of vaccinations, will be key to the long-term mitigation of COVID in our region.

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

Under Expenditure Category 2.2, “Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid”^{*^} The County allocated \$650,000 to OSS/O&M Household and Group B Household Assistance to make \$500,000 of funding available to eligible community members for inspection or design, construction, and permitting fees for failed or failing OSS due to COVID. Due to COVID, many families have struggled to maintain their OSS that have experienced increased use due to many more people being home. In addition, some homeowners have lost full employment. An Additional \$150,000 of funding was provided to help with improvements to well head or water system components to improve safe, reliable, and sanitary conditions, updates to water system management plans and agreements, and associated review and recording fees and permitting costs.

Due to loss or reduction of income due to COVID, many families have struggled to maintain their 2-party shared community well or Group B water system to standards that ensure sanitary water supply. To ensure that a reliable and safe source of drinking water can be maintained in order to prevent sickness this fund will be applied so that 2-party or Group B water system owners can make needed improvements to meet and sustain conditions that meet water quality and sanitation standards.

Under Expenditure Category 2.2, “Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid”^{*^} The County allocated \$900,000 to the Clark County Treasurer’s Office to pay delinquent property taxes for low or moderate-income homeowners that have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and at risk of housing instability.

The Treasurer's Office requested approval in 2022 for the use of \$300,000 within the 2022 Small Projects Allocation approved by the Council as part of the 2022 Annual Budget Adoption. The Treasurer anticipates that most homeowners will have the ability to cure the minimum amount of delinquent due prior to legal action without ARPA assistance. The 2022 request amount was based on an estimated 15% of the \$2 million in property taxes subject to foreclosure or distraint. For the Fiscal year 2023, since funding would be available from the beginning of the year and additional accounts will be subject to foreclosure or distraint next year, the Treasurer's Office requested an additional \$600,000 in allocated assistance to homeowners in 2023.

Under Expenditure Category 2.16, "Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*" The County Council allocated \$15.5 million to the Department of Community Services for additional support for the Clark County Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) to aid in its response to increased unsheltered homelessness as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The pandemic has put significant pressure on the HCRS, increasing visible unsheltered homelessness while at the same time making provision of homeless outreach services more difficult, increasing housing stabilization costs, increasing the amount of time persons need services, and reducing available housing in the rental market. Though significant rent and utility assistance funding is in the process of being distributed throughout the county, it overwhelmingly targets households who have housing and owe rent. Funding for homeless services has not significantly increased since the pandemic began.

Under Expenditure Category 2.29, "Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship" The County allocated \$1.2 million to Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted small businesses in Clark County in 2022-2023. The Program will support ARPA grant program goals by providing aid to assist with economic recovery for small businesses and impacted industries in providing economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that have been negatively impacted, especially those that have been disproportionately impacted, those in hardest hit communities, and will promote the County's mission. The County will prioritize funding requests from eligible applicants that have not previously had access to or received COVID-19 recovery assistance funds from other federal recovery programs including, but not limited to, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Fund, and the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Under Expenditure Category 2.34, "Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations" The County allocated \$3.8 million to Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted nonprofit organizations in Clark County in 2023-2023. The Program will support ARPA grant program goals by providing aid to assist with economic recovery for nonprofit organizations in providing economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, support programs, and services for community members that have been negatively impacted, especially those that are disproportionately impacted and in hardest hit communities, and will promote the County's mission. The County will prioritize funding requests from eligible applicants that have not previously had access to or received COVID-19 recovery assistance funds from other federal recovery programs including, but not limited to, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Fund, and the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)

Under Expenditure Category 3.1-Public Sector Workforce: "Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers" Due to the unprecedented level of staffing vacancies since 2020 and to be competitive in the job market it was agreed that a signing bonus incentive would be appropriate for a limited duration to be reviewed for continuation periodically by the County. On June 7th, 2022, the

Council signed a consent to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Clark County and the Corrections Deputy Guild (CDG), included in the consent was approved signing bonus incentives for newly hired Corrections Officers and Deputy Sheriffs.

Signing Bonuses went into effect May 4th, 2022, and the MOU for Deputy Sheriff's Guild (DSG) went into effect June 1st, 2022. The funding plan for the bonus incentive was not clarified in the original approval. This project clarifies that the signing bonus incentives will be paid out of the ARPA funds. The Fund has a provision for police, fire, and other public safety services. Due to the unprecedented level of staffing vacancies since 2020 and to be competitive in the job market, it was agreed that a signing bonus incentive would be appropriate for a limited duration to be reviewed for continuation periodically by the County

Under Expenditure Category 3.3, "Public Sector Workforce: Other"

The County allocated \$3.3 million to employees in the form of a Retention Incentive Payment. Employees are eligible to receive a one-time \$2,000 retention incentive, less applicable withholding taxes. Your current annual base salary will remain the same. Conditions for receiving the Retention Incentive included employees voluntarily maintaining employment through December 31, 2022. If employees voluntarily left employment with the County before December 31, 2022, the incentive would be deducted from the employee's final paycheck and repaid to the County.

The County Council approved the allocation of American Rescue Plan Funds for a County-wide Retention Incentive for all represented and unrepresented regular employees. Clark County considers the continued service and dedication of our workforce to be the essential component to meeting our mission of enhancing the quality of life in our diverse community. The purpose of this request is to recognize our employees' outstanding work and to encourage retention by offering a one-time \$2,000 retention incentive to all Clark County employees. All regular unrepresented and represented employees, in all classifications, that were hired before June 1, 2022, would be eligible to receive the \$2,000 retention incentive. Terms and conditions will apply for employees to receive the incentive.

Under Expenditure Category 3.4, "Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery"

The County Council has allocated \$19.5 million to effective service delivery in accordance with funding priorities discussed in the SLFRF 2021 spending plan that included departmental support for ongoing public health emergency pandemic response and readiness, information technology cybersecurity improvement, criminal prosecution and indigent defense case backlog remediation, general government operations and infrastructure, and the development of an equitable and inclusive community engagement plan, and development of an external applicant funding request process. Projects in this category include: IT ARPA Network Infrastructure, EMR Replacement, Permitting System replacement, Disease Reporting Technology, Community Development Permit Center Upgrade and Building Safety Remote Inspection Program, County Clerk, District Court, Medical Examiner Coolers and Trailers to respond to needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and Workday Success Modules, and Public Health Strategic Planning support for effective service delivery.

Approximately \$10 million of these funds allocated by the County Council were to the Department of Information Technology to replace network infrastructure and upgrade network equipment that needs to be replaced due to nearing the end of useful life as defined by the manufacturer. These resources address cyber-security needs resulting from increased and ongoing remote work resulting from the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to an explosion of ransomware attacks nationwide. Clark County's network has never been at more risk for cyber-related attacks than today, due to remote

operation necessitated by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest network hardware and software will allow Clark County to implement the Zero Trust Architecture which further limits a hacker's access.

In addition, the County Council allocated 2.75 million to North Country Emergency Medical Services ("NCEMS") for the completion of a new facility. In May of 2022, NCEMS completed an open public bid process for the construction of the facility. The average responsive bid was \$5.2 million, which is 27% higher than the cost estimation 7 months earlier. As of today, NCEMS has roughly \$3 million in capital/reserve funds which left a balance of approximately \$2.5 million to complete the project. Clark County provided a \$2.5 million ARPA grant for the completion of this project and an additional award of \$250,000 to address increasing costs associated with inflation and supply chain limitations.

Under Expenditure Category 3.5, "Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs"

The County Council The County Council has allocated \$21.2 million to Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs delivery in accordance with funding priorities discussed in the SLFRF 2021 spending plan that included departmental support for ongoing public health emergency pandemic response and readiness, criminal prosecution, and indigent defense case backlog remediation, and remote operations and technology, general government operations and infrastructure, and the development of an equitable and inclusive community engagement plan, and development of an external applicant funding request process. Projects in this category include Prosecuting Attorney ARPA Court Back Logs and Indigent Defense, After Action Review Consultant, Food Safety Work Volume Backup, Facilities Space Planning Consultant and Implementation Plan, Superior Court remote operations and technology projects, COVID Cleaning Services, Children's Justice Center Advocates, Community Planning Office Housing Options Study.

County Council allocated \$5.4 million to address significant backlogs of workload the county is experiencing due to the impacts of the pandemic. Our justice system has been impacted in the same way that other jurisdictions have been impacted nationally, as well as all other areas of public engagement with county services. As a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, criminal justice systems across the country face significant backlogs of cases. Clark County has been impacted in much the same way as systems have been impacted nationally, as well as across the state. Due to the pandemic, local courts were not able to hold criminal trials due to the closure of court facilities to the public. Without this critical component of the justice system, cases that ordinarily would have been resolved in the past year remain open. Without the ability to resolve cases at a normal rate for an entire year, criminal division caseloads have grown to record highs that are not sustainable with current staffing levels, a justice system that has been very significantly hobbled by the COVID-19 pandemic. Departments experiencing a need for additional administrative support include the County Clerk's Office, Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Indigent Defense, Superior Court, and the Children's Justice Center. These impacts are similarly felt by the Department of Public Health and other departments that provide direct services to the public.

In addition, the County has allocated \$17 million to address Facilities space planning and capital investment in the reorganization of the county's office space and other facilities. The County Council initially approved \$2 million for the Clark County Internal Services Department to initiate and complete Space Planning efforts for the Downtown Campus. This is a multi-year project and an initial request for \$2 million was approved in 2021-22 with the understanding that as the plan was developed the committee would come back to ask for additional for the implementation of the plan. The County Council approved an additional \$15 million to implement the recommendations of the consultancy in 2022-2023.

Infrastructure (EC 5)

Under Expenditure Category 5.19, “Broadband: Last Mile Projects”

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, households are increasingly reliant upon internet

access to employment, school, medical appointments, and other needs. However, high-speed internet access remains unavailable or unreliable in many rural areas. The County Council allocate \$4.85 million in ARPA funds to Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC (“Comcast”) to expand broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas of Clark County. Specifically, Comcast is proposing a last-mile build project to provide qualifying high-speed broadband service to an area northeast of Battle Ground Lake. The expansion area, shown below, would extend from the northeast corner of Battle Ground Lake east to around 220th Avenue, and north to the Heisson bridge. The build-out could potentially serve 100% of the currently unserved and underserved addresses in the project area.

The project would result in 31 miles of new high-speed, fiber-optic broadband providing 503 new available connections for households and businesses. Service will include speeds of up to 100Mbps download and 20Mbps upload. This meets FCC guidelines and allows for video streaming and other high-bandwidth usage tasks.

Revenue Replacement (EC 6)

Clark County ARPA SLFRF Revenue Loss & Recovery

The county will continue to develop funding priorities and develop a process for expending the SLFRF allowable revenue recovery for government services and total Revenue Loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Estimated revenue recovery for 2022 is approximately \$18.3 million as calculated according to the [Final Rule](#) guidelines for revenue loss in 2021. Approximately \$18.3 million of the recovered revenue is expected to be committed to support other government services as determined by the County Council. Revenue recovery may be recalculated annually during covered fiscal years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 at the discretion of the County Council, and must be recalculated if additional revenue losses are claimed for revenue recovery purposes in remaining years of the covered period. It should also be noted that all recovered revenues must be reinvested in government services. These figures are only estimated due to the remainder awaiting Council review and action. This approach is appropriate given the requirement for Council to approve any appropriations, allocations, and new programs.

Other Federal Recovery Funds

American Rescue Plan Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law in March 2021 to bolster ongoing support for state, local and tribal governments in their efforts to provide economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses in their responses to the public health crisis and negative economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. Department of the Treasury is

providing up to \$21.55 billion for the Emergency Rental Assistance-2 (ERA2) program which is funded under the American Rescue Plan Act. The funds were being provided directly to states, U.S. territories, and local governments.

The Clark County Department of Community Services received County Council approval to submit an application for funding to the U.S. Department of Treasury to accept and distribute [Emergency Rental Assistance-2 \(ERA2\)](#) provided by the Treasury Department during 2021 and to contract with local service providers to implement an [Emergency Rental Assistance program](#) to promptly distribute received funds in the community.

ERA 2 provided \$2.5 billion for eligible grantees with a high need for assistance based on the number of very low-income renter households paying more than 50 percent of income on rent or living in substandard or overcrowded conditions, rental market costs, and change in employment since February 2020. Grantees must use the funds to aid eligible households through existing or newly created rental assistance programs.

A minimum of ninety percent (90%) of awarded funds must have been used for direct financial assistance, including rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities, and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing. Remaining funds are available for housing stability services, including case management and other services intended to keep households stably housed. ERA2 funds were originally set to expire on September 30, 2025, however, Clark County successfully distributed and expended all available ERA2 funds during the first quarter of 2023 and the program ended officially on June 30, 2023.

The Clark County allocation for ERA2 was \$11,647,258.90, with forty percent (40%) allocated for 2021 in the amount of \$4,658,903.56 and the remaining (sixty percent) 60% allocated in 2022 in the amount of \$6,988,345.34. Expenditures for ERA II began in August 2021.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Establishing Equitable Processes and Outcomes for ARPA SLFRF Funding Priorities

For the purposes of the SLFRF, equity is defined in [Executive Order 13985 On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#), as issued on January 20, 2021, and in keeping with Clark County's mission is to, "enhance the quality of life in our diverse community by providing services with integrity, openness and accountability." The count has been diligent in its efforts to clearly define programmatic goals with and strategic focus to align with the county's overall mission.

Bearing these funding opportunities and constraints and equity goals in mind, Clark County Auditor's Office and ARPA program staff engaged multiple County departments, external agencies, and other stakeholders to gather input and develop a list of funding needs and priorities emerging from the negative economic and disparate public health impacts resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic, and developed a vetting process for the County's internal funding priorities within the [eligible uses](#) of the SLFRF. The County continues to engage both internal and external stakeholders as well as the public to identify priorities, gather feedback, and seek potential synergies among various funding requests to provide the most effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes possible. The County Council will continue to review proposals

and provide guidance and approval for the ARPA SLFRF projects, direction, and concepts proposed in the preliminary spending plan and make adjustments as needed.

Through this process of dialogue and gathering feedback from multiple and diverse stakeholder groups, the County developed a set of funding priorities around key factors including; eligible uses of SLFRF funds, the existence of other ARPA-funded programs, and other federal and state funding opportunities available. Given the broad and non-exclusive nature of the American Rescue Plan funding priorities, in addition to SLFRF, the county has developed a set of priorities that respond to the immediate public health emergency and negative economic impacts resulting from the pandemic including addressing economic harms to households hardest hit by the pandemic, addressing sheltering needs of the unhoused exacerbated by the pandemic, providing long-range planning for and supporting investment in essential government services, infrastructure and technology, investing in modernization of information technology infrastructure and cybersecurity needs exacerbated by the pandemic, and support of public health and other essential government services required to maintain county operations and support county programs through the pandemic and future public health emergencies.

In response to the urgent need for shelter, the County Council allocated \$15.5 million to the Department of Community Services for additional support for the Clark County Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) to aid in its response to increased unsheltered homelessness as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The pandemic has put significant pressure on the HCRS, increasing visible unsheltered homelessness while at the same time making provision of homeless outreach services more difficult, increasing housing stabilization costs, increasing the amount of time persons need services, and reducing available housing in the rental market. Though significant rent and utility assistance funding is in the process of being distributed throughout the county, it overwhelmingly targets households who have housing and owe rent. Funding for homeless services has not significantly increased since the pandemic began.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes in Program Design

Goals:

Community Services will utilize the American Rescue Plan funding for the purpose of supporting the Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) in its response to increased unsheltered homelessness and expanding services to disproportionately impacted communities. Service providers are contracted to take active steps to help their programs become more culturally competent, increase cultural awareness, and improve the delivery of services to historically underserved communities in Clark County. Historically underserved communities include but are not limited to: Native Americans, Hispanic/Latin(x), African Americans, Pacific Islanders, LGBTQ community, and other under-represented communities of color. Examples of active steps furthering this effort include but are not limited to increasing representation of underserved communities on agency governing boards; forming advisory committees with members of underserved communities to assist in culturally appropriate delivery of services; incorporating formal collaboration with culturally specific organizations in program design.

Awareness:

Clark County has partnered with local homeless services providers to engage eligible participants and connect them to program interventions via the coordinated entry system, outreach efforts, and the Housing Solution Center hotline. The coordinated entry system provides access to the

most appropriate housing to households experiencing homelessness through a standardized assessment and referral process. In Clark County, the coordinated entry system is known as the Housing Solutions Center. The Housing Solution Center is the hub of all homeless outreach and engagement activity. Individuals and families can contact the Housing Solution Center Hotline to learn about available shelter and housing assistance in Clark County. Local service providers provide outreach to individuals in encampments, streets, parks, and other locations as needed and connect to the coordinated entry system. Clark County is also frequently engaging with agencies to obtain feedback on how to better engage and serve diverse populations.

Access and Distribution:

Prior to 2020, Clark County used a national assessment to measure vulnerability. In January 2020, service providers began to utilize the Clark County Assessment Tool, a localized vulnerability assessment tool that was collaboratively developed with housing partners, people experiencing homelessness, and culturally specific partners. The intention of the Clark County Assessment Tool is to match the most vulnerable in our local community to housing programs and decrease inequities among program participants. The adoption of the Clark County Assessment Tool resulted in a reduction of the gap between people who are Caucasian and populations of color entering into housing programs.

Outcomes:

Clark County reviews data derived from the Homeless Management Information System to identify opportunities to increase equitable policies and procedures. Program adjustments are made to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and underserved populations. The Housing Solution Center tracks program demographic data and publishes an annual racial equity report. Clark County partners with local service providers and ensures the implementation of cultural competency and appropriate accommodations for program participants across demographic differences. Program staff review providers' policies and procedures to ensure equity across all programs. System performance measures such as unsheltered entries, length of stay in the program, program utilization rate, time from program entry to housing, percent successful exits to permanent housing, and percent of program participants returning to homelessness are tracked and reported on in a system dashboard, which can be publicly accessed at <https://www.councilforthehomeless.org/system-dashboard/>.

Community Engagement

Community Engagement Plan

Clark County's mission is to enhance the quality of life in our diverse community by providing services with integrity, openness, and accountability. Clark County has been working hard to clearly define our programs' strategic focus to align with the county's overall mission.

In keeping with this mission, on June 30th, 2021 County Council approved staff to move forward with the development of an external applicant funding request process and community engagement plan that would deliver an accessible, inclusive, and equitable process for requesting SLFRF funds that focused on building the capacity of non-profits and community organizations that serve people experiencing

significant barriers to services, including people of color, people with low incomes, limited English proficiency populations, and other traditionally underserved groups.

US Department of the Treasury issued Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Guidance on Recipient Compliance and Reporting Responsibilities on June 17, 2021. Treasury [Compliance and Reporting Responsibilities](#) include community engagement as follows: “Section 3.4. Community Engagement: Please describe how your jurisdiction’s planned or current use of funds incorporates written, oral, and other forms of input that capture diverse feedback from constituents, community-based organizations, and the communities themselves. Where relevant, this description must include how funds will build the capacity of community organizations to serve people with significant barriers to services, including people of color, people with low incomes, limited English proficient populations, and other traditionally underserved groups.”

Additionally, for the purposes of the SLFRF, equity is defined in [Executive Order 13985 On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#), as issued on January 20, 2021.

Based upon the recommendations outlined in the above excerpt from the Compliance and Reporting Guidance and Executive Order 13985, staff has made preliminary recommendations for the development of a community engagement plan that will ensure efficient, effective, and equitable delivery of services that will build capacity in identified populations:

Recommendations for the Development of the SLFRF Community Engagement Plan

- Develop Community/Business Economic Resiliency Fund
- Develop criteria for stakeholder committee members selection and identify committee members
- Develop grant criteria and review processes for non-profits and businesses to submit applications
- Create external funds request web portal application (see Community Benefit Funding e-Request Template)
- Collaborate with Communications/Web teams to develop outreach and engagement strategies to improve public visibility and online access
- Provide stakeholder committee criteria to review projects and evaluate on merits & objectives, etc.

Community Resilience Nonprofit and Small Business Economic Recovery Grant Programs

On February 16, 2022, the Clark County Council approved the allocation of \$2 million through ARPA recovery funds to support community needs for financial assistance to recover from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Clark County provided the ARPA funds to support our community’s equitable recovery through the Clark County Community Grant Program. The ARPA Program funds were made available through competitive awards following federal procurement guidelines.

The purpose of the Program is to assist qualified and eligible entities and organizations in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to support the provision of services to members of the community who were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those individuals who were disproportionately impacted.

The Program supports ARPA grant program goals by providing aid to assist with economic recovery for small businesses, assist nonprofit organizations and impacted industries in providing economic recovery

from the COVID-19 pandemic, support programs, and services for community members that have been negatively impacted, especially those that are disproportionately impacted and in hardest hit communities, and will promote the County’s mission “to enhance the quality of life in our diverse community by providing services with integrity, openness, and accountability” and in keeping with the County’s strategic goals, vision, and values.

The Program funds were not intended to replace other federal, state, county, or local ARPA assistance, such as financial assistance for rent, tourism, workforce training, or childcare and applicants were not eligible to receive Program funding for project expenses that were funded through other federal, state, or local grants. Applicants were encouraged to continue to pursue and take advantage of existing funding in these areas.

The County formed a selection committee that scored and evaluated proposals based upon published criteria and made recommendations on disbursement amounts based on the number of eligible applications received, evaluation criteria, and amount of funding available. Final funding decisions were made by the Clark County Council.

Community Engagement Communications Plan

Staff worked collaboratively with Communications/Web teams to develop outreach and engagement strategies to improve public visibility and online access and engage historically underserved groups. Staff will create an external funds request web portal application and provide alternative access in multiple languages and formats.

Labor Practices

***Not applicable at this time.**

Performance Report

Use of Evidence

Clark County is utilizing \$15.5 million in American Rescue Plan funds to increase the capacity of the local Homeless Crisis Response System. All funds will be allocated to evidence-based practices throughout the community. The National Alliance to End Homeless identifies the following interventions as evidence-based: rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and the homeless service system. Rapid rehousing is an increasingly important tool in communities’ responses to homelessness. “The model has shown success on the individual level – helping households exit homelessness and not return to shelter. Additionally, it has helped communities decrease the number of people experiencing homelessness and the amount of time households spend homeless.” Permanent supportive housing assists chronically homeless households maintain stable housing and live productively in the community. “PSH has been shown to be an effective intervention for people who have multiple barriers to finding and maintaining stable housing.”

Within these each of these interventions, Clark County requires providers to utilize evidence-based practices in program implementation such as a housing-first approach, trauma-informed practices, and motivational interviewing. According to HUD, “Housing First is an evidence-based practice that offers immediate access to permanent housing without preconditions for people experiencing homelessness who also have disabilities.” Motivational interviewing is a collaborative, person-centered approach to elicit and strengthen motivation to change. It offers providers a valuable framework for interacting with people experiencing homelessness or struggling with substance use, mental illness, and traumatic experiences.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put significant pressure on the Clark County Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS), increasing visible unsheltered homelessness while at the same time making provision of homeless outreach services more difficult, increasing housing stabilization costs, increasing the amount of time persons are in need of services, and reducing available housing in the rental market. Though significant rent and utility assistance funding is in the process of being distributed throughout the county, it overwhelmingly targets households who have housing and owe rent.

During this time, however, funding for homeless services has not significantly increased. To allow the Clark County HCRS to respond to the existing homeless crisis, Community Services was provided \$15.5 million in one-time funding from the ARPA-SLFRF for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the HCRS through 12/31/24 in the following ways: \$4.4 million to increase the size, availability, coordination, and supports provided by homeless outreach teams in Clark County for a period of 2 years as well as provide flexible funds to be available for homeless outreach teams to provide housing barrier removal services, permanent housing placement support (such as move-in costs) and essential services that promote health and safety, \$8 million for motel vouchers to increase indoor shelter bed capacity in the county along with increased staffing and operations support necessary to maintain adequate services for people sheltered in motels, \$5 million for increased congregate and non-congregate shelters, support for shelters, and mitigation of increased permanent supportive housing costs for chronically homeless persons, \$300,000 for continued rental and housing supports for unhoused persons currently enrolled in a Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) pilot for which funding is currently slated to end on 06/30/21, \$2.5 million for additional rent assistance and housing support for existing rapid rehousing programs that serve persons currently experiencing homelessness, and \$2.5 million for additional housing and support costs for existing permanent supportive housing programs. The above amounts and service categories are estimates.

Goals

The County will utilize American Rescue Plan funding for the purpose of supporting the Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) in its response to increased unsheltered homelessness and to expand services to disproportionately impacted communities. Service providers take active steps to help their programs become more culturally competent, increase cultural awareness, and improve the delivery of services to historically underserved communities in Clark County. Historically underserved communities include but are not limited to: Native Americans, Hispanic/Latin(x), African Americans, Pacific Islanders, LGBTQ community, and other under-represented communities of color. Examples of active steps furthering this effort include but are not limited to increasing the representation of underserved communities on agency governing boards, forming advisory committees with members of underserved communities to assist in culturally appropriate delivery of services, and incorporating formal collaboration with culturally specific organizations in program design.

Awareness

Clark County has partnered with local homeless services providers to engage eligible participants and connect them to program interventions via the coordinated entry system, outreach efforts, and the Housing Solution Center hotline. The coordinated entry system provides access to the most appropriate housing to households experiencing homelessness through a standardized assessment and referral process. In Clark County, the coordinated entry system is known as the Housing Solutions Center. The Housing Solution Center is the hub of all homeless outreach and engagement activity. Individuals and families can contact the Housing Solution Center Hotline to learn about available shelter and housing assistance in Clark County. Local service providers provide outreach to individuals in encampments, streets, parks, and other locations as needed and connect to the coordinated entry system.

Access and Distribution

Prior to 2020, Clark County used a nationally utilized assessment to measure vulnerability. In January 2020, service providers began to utilize the Clark County Assessment Tool, a localized vulnerability assessment tool that was collaboratively developed with housing partners, people experiencing homelessness, and culturally specific partners. The intention of the Clark County Assessment Tool is to match the most vulnerable in our local community to housing programs and decrease inequities among program participants. The adoption of the Clark County Assessment Tool resulted in a reduction of the gap between people who are Caucasian and populations of color entering into housing programs.

Outcomes

Clark County reviews data derived from the Homeless Management Information System to identify opportunities to increase equitable policies and procedures. Program adjustments are made to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and underserved populations. The Housing Solution Center tracks program demographic data and publishes an annual racial equity report. Clark County partners with local service providers and ensures the implementation of cultural competency and appropriate accommodations for program participants across demographic differences. Program staff review providers' policies and procedures to ensure equity across all programs. System performance measures such as unsheltered entries, length of stay in program, program utilization rate, time from program entry to housing, percent successful exits to permanent housing, and percent of program participants returning to homelessness are tracked and reported on in a system dashboard, which can be publicly accessed at <https://www.councilforthehomeless.org/system-dashboard/>.

Project Inventory

Project [GR0000456]: [DCS ARPA Housing Assistance]

Funding amount: [\$15,500,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons* ^]

Project Overview

Community Services is requesting that the county council approve the allocation of \$15,500,000 in American Rescue Plan funding for the purpose of supporting the Clark County Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) in its response to increased unsheltered homelessness and authorize the County Manager to sign all related grant agreements, subcontracts, amendments, and required reports.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put significant pressure on the Clark County Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS), increasing visible unsheltered homelessness while at the same time making provision of homeless outreach services more difficult, increasing housing stabilization costs, increasing the amount of time persons are in need of services, and reducing available housing in the rental market. The upcoming end to the Governor’s eviction moratorium is expected to add to these pressures. Though significant rent and utility assistance funding is in the process of being distributed throughout the county, it overwhelmingly targets households who have housing and owe rent.

During this time, however, funding for homeless services has not significantly increased. To allow the Clark County HCRS to respond to the existing homeless crisis, Community Services requests \$15.5 million in one-time funding from the received American Rescue Plan funding for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the HCRS through 12/31/24 in the following ways: \$4.4 million to increase the size, availability, coordination, and supports provided by homeless outreach teams in Clark County for a period of 2 years as well as provide flexible funds to be available for homeless outreach teams to provide housing barrier removal services, permanent housing placement support (such as move-in costs) and essential services that promote health and safety. \$800,000 for motel vouchers to increase indoor shelter bed capacity in the county along with increased staffing and operations support necessary to maintain adequate services for people sheltered in motels. \$5 million for increased congregate and non-congregate shelters, support for shelters, and mitigation of increased permanent supportive housing costs for chronically homeless persons. \$300,000 for continued rental and housing support for unhoused persons currently enrolled in a Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) pilot for which funding is currently slated to end on 06/30/21. \$2.5 million for additional rent assistance and housing support for existing rapid rehousing programs that serve persons currently experiencing homelessness. \$2.5 million for additional housing and support costs for existing permanent supportive housing programs. The above amounts and service categories are estimates. Community Services requests council approval to adjust the amount of funds in each service category if higher priorities arise.

Use of Evidence

Clark County will utilize \$15.5 million in American Rescue Plan funds to increase the capacity of the local Homeless Crisis Response System. All funds will be allocated to evidence-based practices throughout the community. The National Alliance to End Homeless identifies the following interventions as evidence-based: rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and the homeless service system. Rapid rehousing is an increasingly important tool in communities’ responses to homelessness. “The model has shown success on the individual level – helping households exit homelessness and not return to shelter. Additionally, it has helped communities decrease the number of people experiencing homelessness and the amount of time households spend homeless.” Permanent supportive housing assists chronically homeless households maintain stable housing and live productively in the community. “PSH has been shown to be an effective intervention for people who have multiple barriers to finding and maintaining stable housing.” Within these each of these interventions, Clark County requires providers to utilize evidence-based practices in program implementation such as a housing-first approach, trauma-informed practices, and motivational interviewing. According to HUD, “housing first is an evidence-based practice that offers immediate access to permanent housing without preconditions for people experiencing homelessness who also have disabilities.” Motivational interviewing is a collaborative, person-centered approach to elicit and strengthen motivation to change. It offers providers a valuable framework for interacting with people experiencing homelessness or struggling with substance use, mental illness, and traumatic experiences.

ARPA SLFRF Households Served Report

ARPA SLFRF Households Served Report

Report Type: All Households served with ARPA funds, HMIS, Unduplicated by Head of Households

For reporting periods: 7.1.21-6.30.22, 7.1.22-6.30.23, and 7.1.21-6.30.23

Describe how the beneficiary data was collected: HMIS, Unduplicated by Head of Households

	7.1.21-6.30.22		7.1.22-6.30.23		7.1.21-6.30.23	
A. Unduplicated Number of Households	621		686		1147	
B. Race & Ethnicity of Households	#Total	#Hispanic (subset of #Total)	#Total	#Hispanic (subset of #Total)	#Total	#Hispanic (subset of #Total)
White	427	24	422	19	731	35
Black/African American	51	1	72	1	111	3
Asian	1	0	5	0	6	0
American Indian/Alaskan Native	21	2	20	1	33	2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	24	0	54	0	63	0
American Indian/Alaskan Native & White	20	2	24	0	36	3
Asian & White	3	1	1	0	4	1
Black/African American & White	6	0	4	0	9	0
American Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African American	3	0	2	0	3	0
Other Multi-Racial	17	7	38	15	61	24
Client refused/Data Not Collected	48	5	44	0	90	5
TOTAL	621		686		1147	
<i>must match total from section A</i>						
C. Income Level of Households	Current Quarterly Reporting Period					
Extremely Low (0-30% AMI)	521		585		952	
Low (31-50% AMI)	19		25		40	
Moderate (51-80% AMI)	1		4		5	
Non-Low/Moderate	1		0		1	
Client Refused/Data Not Collected	79		72		149	
Total	621		686		1147	
<i>must match total from section A</i>						

Additional Projects

Project [GR000457] [Prosecuting Attorney Court Back Logs]

Funding amount: [\$2,159,205]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs]

Project Overview

Clark County Council Approved \$2,159,205 for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to add 6.0 Deputy Prosecuting Attorney I positions; 2.0 Victim Advocate positions; 2.0 Legal Secretary I positions; 1.0 Office Assistant II position with ARPA funding to address backlogs created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office requested \$457,325 in 2021 and \$841,102 in 2022 and \$860,758 in 2023 for salaries, benefits, and supply costs to add additional attorneys and support staff to handle the case backlog.

As a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, criminal justice systems across the country now face significant backlogs of cases. Our justice system in Clark County has been impacted in the same way that systems have been impacted nationally as well as within our state. Due to the pandemic, our local courts could not hold criminal trials for most of a year. Without this critical component of the justice system, Deputy Prosecutors have been unable to resolve cases that ordinarily would have been resolved in the past year. Without the ability to resolve cases at a normal rate for an entire year, our criminal division attorneys currently have caseloads that are not sustainable. While criminal attorneys in the Prosecutor's

Office and in the criminal defense bar have worked diligently over the past year, they have worked within a justice system that has been very significantly hobbled by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now critical that both the criminal division of the Prosecutor's Office and our Indigent Defense program receive proper ARPA funding to work through the criminal case backlog in as speedy a manner as is reasonably possible. Failure to take this responsible step would result in severe ongoing and unacceptable delays in our Clark County criminal justice system.

The criminal division of the Prosecutor's Office is made up of teams that handle types of crimes. On average, our criminal division attorneys' caseloads on each team have gone up by over one-third. For example, a typical caseload at the Children's Justice Center prior to the COVID-19 pandemic was 30-35 cases per attorney; their caseloads are now 45-50 per attorney. At the Domestic Violence unit, caseloads prior to the pandemic averaged 40 felony cases per attorney; they now average nearly 60 felony cases per attorney. Our Major Crimes attorneys used to handle caseloads of 30 to 35 cases per attorney prior to the pandemic. Currently, our Major Crimes attorneys handle caseloads of 45-50 open cases. In our General Felonies team, our attorneys handled an average of 60-70 cases prior to the pandemic. Those attorneys now have caseloads averaging from 90 to 100 open felony cases.

The caseloads in our criminal division are not sustainable. If we do not use ARPA funding appropriately to address this critical issue, we risk backsliding and adding more and more cases to our already overburdened attorneys' caseloads. Our attorneys are working significantly longer hours in the evening and on weekends to try to keep up with their increased workload. However, without a significant increase in the number of attorneys and accompanying support staff, we will likely not be able to bring the caseloads back down to manageable pre-pandemic levels. If this scenario is allowed to occur, significant failures will become a feature of our criminal justice system.

The Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office would ask for ARPA funded budget to hire 6 criminal division attorneys as well as non-attorney staff to support these positions (2 victim advocates, 1 office assistant, and 2 legal secretaries). These criminal attorneys and the non-attorney staff positions will be assigned throughout the office to give the criminal division teams the assistance needed to address the backlogs.

The Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office has carefully analyzed this proposed increase in criminal division staffing. After thoughtful consideration, we have determined this proposed increase represents the number of staff we can hire and train quickly. The proposal represents the staffing increase needed to address the backlog in a timely manner. This proposal includes a plan to reduce this staffing increase through normal attrition from the office as employees retire or move to other employment opportunities. The plan for a reduction in staffing would include a model to step staffing levels back down annually over the period of 3 years with the intent that when the ARPA funding expires, the extra positions will no longer exist. Last, the positions as contemplated here can be housed in existing office space within the Prosecutor's Office. Only minimal additional cost for furniture computers, software, etc. would be needed.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000458]: [IT Network Infrastructure]

Funding amount: [\$10,025,632.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

The County Council approved \$10,025,632 for IT infrastructure replacement and to increase cybersecurity through a county-wide implementation. With increased remote work continuing, and the explosion of ransomware attacks nationwide, Clark County's network has never been at more risk for cyber-related attacks. Information Technology requested \$8,745,000 in ARPA funds in 2021, and equal budget spend authority, to complete a full refresh of the Clark County network infrastructure in order to increase cybersecurity, support remote operations due to ongoing pandemic response, and increase capacity for equitable access to government services being performed remotely, ensuring secure access for all community members. The use of an additional \$1,280,632 in ARPA funds was allocated to Information Technology in FY 2022 to implement needed technology improvements in multiple County Departments including Liberty to OnBase documents storage system conversions in the District Court, Superior Court, and Clerk's Office. Additional IT infrastructure projects included the replacement of outdated hardware and technology in multiple departments to facilitate remote service operations.

Performing this infrastructure refresh will provide several significant benefits to the County. The new generation of network equipment will provide Clark County will more resiliency against hackers. It has added features our current network equipment does not have to help protect against and identify cyberattacks. It limits a hacker's ability to spread ransomware to all departments by providing more segmentation of our network. The new generation equipment also uses machine learning to identify potential cyber issues and automatically take steps to limit a hacker's access.

With current, and past, budget limitations it has been difficult to build a funding source for network equipment replacement. o This purchase would allow Clark County to push the due date of the next hardware replacement out approximately another ten (10) years. This would allow us to work with the County Manager to plan and develop a funding source for future replacements. o We will also bring in supplemental contract or project term human resources to ensure we can complete the project in a timely manner. Clark County is not staffed to do this project along with all the other tasks/project already scheduled. We want to ensure the County can take advantage of all the benefits as quickly as possible.

White House Executive Order (EO) from May 12th, 2021, "Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity" mandated the implementation of a "Zero Trust Architecture". In Section 3 "Modernizing Federal Government Cybersecurity" of the EO it states, "The Federal Government must adopt security best practices; advance toward Zero Trust Architecture...". Our goal is for Clark County to implement the same best practices. The latest network hardware and software will allow Clark County to implement the Zero Trust Architecture which further limits a hacker's access. Without the use of ARPA funding the County will lose an opportunity for a significant improvement to the security of our infrastructure and the County will continue to lag behind other similar-sized local government agencies in the area of network security.

Additional Projects

Project [GR000459]: [ARPA SLFRF Program Administration]

Funding amount: [\$250,000]

Project Expenditure Category [EC 7.1 Administrative Expenses]

Project Overview

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law providing among other funding, \$350 billion to state and local governments. This funding is intended to pay for expenses, help offset the economic impact to the community, and replace County revenues lost because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The current estimate is that Clark County will be eligible for approximately \$94.8 million. The funding will come in two tranches, 50% in May 2021 and 50% in May 2022.

The ARPA SLFRF designates city and county governments with populations exceeding 50,000 inhabitants as direct recipients. This determination will require a high level of program management to ensure Clark County complies with all the laws, guidelines, and reporting requirements.

During 2020, work plans were set aside, and County staff were reassigned to successfully manage the federal and state funding provided by the Coronavirus Relief Act. In 2021, staff is working on the backlog of their regularly assigned duties, therefore, it is necessary to add a Program Manager II for 18 months to manage this funding.

This position is a direct program cost and will be paid from the funding received. The position will also continue to coordinate spending plans with Clark County Public Health, the Department of Community Services, and Infrastructure Technology among others to ensure Clark County is receiving the appropriate, and highest-level use of funding received. Responsibilities will include federal grant reporting and compliance.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000478]: [EMR Replacement]

Funding amount: [\$2,500,000.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

The County Council approved the allocation of \$8,225,000 in Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Clark County Public Health in support of qualifying projects outlined herein.

County Council approved \$2,500,000 for the replacement of the Electronic Medical Records (EMR) software platform (information Systems Infrastructure) Public Health's current electronic medical records (EMR) platform (Insight) was deployed in 2003 and has reached its end-of-life. CCPH has an agreement with the vendor for support of the existing system through the end of 2022. Cost estimate includes contracted project management resources and contracted systems implementation support resources. These resources are critical to the success of the project.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has both highlighted and exacerbated the disparities in health outcomes related to access to care and other factors that have disproportionately impacted communities of color, the houseless, individuals with limited English language proficiency, non-citizens, and individuals experiencing low income. A new electronic medical records (EMR) system with more advanced technology – such as real-time access to broad datasets via a health information exchange – will allow Public Health to better identify where resources can be targeted to improve population health in these marginalized communities.

It will be important for the new platform to be more easily navigable, allow for the entry of data in a format that can be aggregated and analyzed efficiently to improve clinical services and enable program evaluation, and which has interoperable capability with EMR platforms used by healthcare partners to allow for appropriate and confidential health information exchange for patient care and community health assessment purposes.

Program performance will be evaluated by: Deployment of a platform utilizing more current technology and more easily navigable, allowing for the entry of data in a format that can be aggregated and analyzed efficiently to improve clinical services and enable program evaluation, and which has interoperable capability with EMR platforms used by healthcare partners to allow for appropriate and confidential health information exchange for patient care, communicable disease control and community health assessment purposes.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000479]: [Permitting System replacement]

Funding amount: [\$1,750,000.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

The County Council approved the allocation of \$8,225,000 in Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Clark County Public Health in support of qualifying projects outlined herein.

Information Systems Infrastructure: Replacement of Environmental Public Health (EPH client permitting software platform, \$1,750,000

Public Health's current environmental public health client permitting platform (Envision-Connect) (EPH Permitting System Replacement) was deployed in 2005 and is nearing end-of-life. The vendor will soon no longer support the existing system. Cost estimate includes contracted project management resources and contracted systems implementation support resources. These resources are critical to the success of the project.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has emphasized the need for an efficient and effective data system. The pandemic impacted the processes and procedures for many Environmental Public Health (EPH) programs. The data entered and extracted from the system is critical to assess the impact of the pandemic on work trends, revenue, projections, and staffing. A reliable, supported information structure is central to all EPH programs and customer service.

Program performance will be evaluated by:

Deployment of a platform utilizing more current technology for Environmental Public Health client permitting; a more user-friendly platform with greater capability for remote access. This will improve efficiency and customer service by providing greater capacity for remote access by permitted industry and the public.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000480]: [After Action Review Consultant]

Funding amount: [\$200,000.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs]

Project Overview

The County Council approved the allocation of \$8,225,000 in Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Clark County Public Health in support of qualifying projects outlined herein.

Comprehensive COVID-19 After Action Review (AAR), \$200,000

Contract with a consultant to coordinate an independent review, development, and report of an After-Action Review (AAR) related to Public Health’s COVID-19 pandemic response.

One of the tenets of Incident Command is continuous quality improvement. AAR’s are the vehicle for creating a QI plan. A third-party facilitator will conduct a review that focuses on recommendations for systems improvements and avoids barriers related to information collection and analysis issues that typically limit staff participation when reviews are conducted internally (e.g., positions of power and response fatigue.)

Program performance will be evaluated by:

The results of the AAR review and report will identify key areas for improvement, including, barriers and opportunities to improve timely response and investigation of notifiable conditions, in this case, COVID-19, barriers and opportunities related to preventive measures, including, but not limited to, nonpharmaceutical and pharmaceutical (e.g., vaccination), identification of inequities related to the response, as well as opportunities for improvement. Other key performance measures would include greater community readiness, including partnerships with community-based organizations, non-profits, local healthcare providers, and systems.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000481]: [Prevention in Congregate Settings]

Funding amount: [\$2,500,000.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 1.4 - Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)*^]

Project Overview

The County Council approved the allocation of \$8,225,000 in Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Clark County Public Health in support of qualifying projects outlined herein.

Ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response efforts, \$2,500,000

Continuation of outbreak investigations, data tracking, and promotion of COVID vaccinations in our region.

Ongoing outbreak investigations and mitigation efforts in congregate settings are critical to managing the ongoing pandemic. In addition to tracking outbreaks and assisting congregate facilities to improve

infectious disease prevention protocols, the ongoing tracking of data related to the status of cases, vaccination rates, and the emergency of virus variants in our community, as well as ongoing promotion of vaccinations, will be key to long-term mitigation of COVID in our region.

Continue COVID-19 global pandemic response. Funding provides for contracted and project staff to support mass vaccination efforts, especially to those individuals in congregate settings or in marginalized and underserved communities and individuals experiencing homelessness. Clark County Public Health is also serving as a COVID-19 “vaccine depot”. In addition, prevention activities include consultation and guidance for adherence to infection prevention measures, including, but not limited to, masking, physical distancing, case isolation, contact quarantine/cohorting, and handwashing.

Program performance will be evaluated by:

Given that prevention activities in congregate settings, such as long-term care facilities, correctional settings, and shelters encompass a broad range of interventions, key performance measures would include, but are not limited to:

- Facilities’ adherence to testing protocols and recommendations
- Facilities’ cooperation with disease reporting requirements
- Facilities’ cooperation with case investigation and contact tracing, including isolation and quarantine as required

Additional Projects

Project [GR000482]: [Disease Reporting Technology]

Funding amount: [\$250,000.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

The County Council approved the allocation of \$8,225,000 in Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Clark County Public Health in support of qualifying projects outlined herein.

Disease Reporting Technology, \$250,000

Replacement for disease reporting technology, which is outdated (for example, frequently relies on faxed/paper or phone reports) and is on the verge of obsolescence. The current notification system relies on antiquated facsimile and phone reporting, which results in delays in the reporting of critical communicable disease cases and outbreaks.

Public Health needs to establish an electronic disease reporting system that allows hospitals, laboratories, and healthcare providers to report notifiable conditions electronically, including from their EMR platforms, eliminating the need for fax/paper and phone reporting. This will allow for immediate notification and response, increasing our ability to implement disease control interventions quickly and more effectively.

Program performance will be evaluated by:

Deployment of a platform utilizing more current technology which allows hospitals, laboratories, and healthcare providers to report notifiable conditions electronically, including from their EMR platforms, eliminating the need for fax/paper and phone reporting. This will allow for immediate notification and response, increasing our ability to implement disease control interventions quickly and more effectively.

Additional Projects

Project [GR000483]: [Food Safety Work Volume Back Log]

Funding amount: [\$375,000.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs]

Project Overview

The County Council approved the allocation of \$8,225,000 in Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Clark County Public Health in support of qualifying projects outlined herein.

Food Safety work volume backlog support, \$375,000

Council approved the addition of (2) two-year project 1.0 FTE Environmental Health Specialist II positions. These positions will perform critical backlog work for the Food Safety program.

During the pandemic, Food Safety Inspectors were unable to conduct in-person inspections. This was to mitigate the risk of COVID transmission between food workers and staff. Many food establishments have small working areas where maintaining social distancing is not possible. In addition, many families are reliant on food workers to support families and missing work is not an option. As a result, there is increased risk of sick workers. In addition, many Food Safety Program resources were redirected toward COVID Response efforts; either through educating food establishment owners about COVID restrictions, responding to COVID-related food establishment complaints, and/or taking on roles in the Incident Command Team.

Due to the inability to perform in-person inspections, many food establishments have not been inspected as frequently as their risk rating indicates is best practice. As restaurant and event COVID restrictions have been lifted, there has also been an increase in food establishments opening and an increase in the number of temporary food permits being requested. As such, food inspectors are addressing immediate need, but need capacity to address the backlog.

Program performance will be evaluated by:

Filling and retaining staff in the (2) ARPA-funded project positions has been a challenge due to small applicant pools and staff transitions from the project position to internal permanent position. Employees first filled the positions in April 2022, for a total of 733 combined hours (roughly 18 total weeks) to date. Extensive training, typically extending up to 4 months, is required prior to the completion of independent inspections. To date, ARPA-funded project staff have led or independently conducted 28 inspections. One ARPA-funded position is again vacant, and the second ARPA position is anticipated to become vacant again soon; position recruitment is active. To date, the food program as a whole has completed 20% of the assigned routine inspections, up from 8% at the end of March. The number of food establishments without an inspection in over one year has decreased from 975 (Sept 2021) to 624 (mid-July 2022).

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000484]: [OSS/O&M Household assistance]

Funding amount: [\$500,000.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 2.2 - Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid*^]

Project Overview

The County Council approved the allocation of \$8,225,000 in Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Clark County Public Health in support of qualifying projects outlined herein.

Financial assistance for Onsite Septic Systems (OSS) Permitting and Operation & Maintenance, \$500,000

Council approved \$500,000 in financial assistance for OSS/OM Permitting and system replacement. Due to COVID, many families have struggled to maintain their OSS that have experienced increased use due to many more people being home. In addition, some homeowners have lost full employment. Funding is made available to eligible community members for inspection or design, construction, and permitting fees for failed or failing OSS due to negative economic impacts of COVID. Due to COVID, many families have struggled to maintain their OSS that have experienced increased use due to many more people being home. In addition, some homeowners have lost full employment.

This assistance program will ensure that OSS are operating properly or will be repaired or replaced to ensure public health protection and owner financial stability for eligible applicants.

Program performance will be evaluated by:

1. Number of inspections, maintenance actions, repairs, or OSS replacements completed for low-income and moderate-income households.
2. Percentage increase in OSS inspection compliance for households within Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs).
3. Inspections, maintenance, repairs, or replacements of OSS within QCTs.

Outputs:

- a. OSS Inspections.
- b. OSS Maintenance.
- c. OSS Repairs.
- d. OSS Replacement or connection to public sewer.

Outcomes:

- a. Reduction in out of compliance OSS.
- b. Reduction in poorly performing or failing OSS.

Decrease in threat to surface and groundwaters from poorly performing or failing OSS

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000485]: [Group B Household Assistance]

Funding amount: [\$150,000.00]

Project Expenditure Category: : [EC 2.2 - Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid*^]

Project Overview

The County Council approved the allocation of \$8,225,000 in Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Clark County Public Health in support of qualifying projects outlined herein.

Financial assistance for upgrade or repair of 2-party or Group B community water systems, \$150,000

Funding available to help with improvements to well head or water system components to improve safe, reliable, and sanitary conditions, updates to water system management plans and agreements, and associated review and recording fees and permitting costs.

Due to loss or reduction of income due to COVID, many families have struggled to maintain their 2-party shared community well or Group B water system to standards that ensure sanitary water supply. In order to ensure that a reliable and safe source of drinking water can be maintained in order to prevent sickness this fund will be applied so that 2-party or Group B water system owners can make needed improvements to meet and sustain conditions that meet water quality and sanitation standards.

Program performance will be evaluated by:

1. Number of water system maintenance actions, repairs/improvements, or updated Operation and Maintenance (O&M) documents completed for low- and moderate-income households.
2. Increase in number of small public water systems meeting all current Public Health maintenance and operational standards for sustained health protection.

This assistance program will ensure that shared and community water systems are operating properly and in a condition that ensures ongoing health protection and owner financial stability for eligible applicants.

Outputs:

- a. Water system sanitary conditions restored.
- b. Water system repairs and improvements to maintain sanitary conditions and groundwater protection.
- c. Water system covenants, agreements, and operation documents in place to ensure ongoing maintenance and sanitary conditions.

Outcomes:

- a. Reduction in threats to water system users from water system pollutants.
- b. Reduction in threats to groundwater from unsanitary water systems.
- c. Improved financial stability to water system owners through sustained maintenance

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000499]: [Com Dev Permit Center Upgrade]

Funding amount: [\$61,320.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

The County Council approved a Community Development request approval \$20,000 of ARPA funds for Permit Center lobby upgrades necessary for COVID-19 mitigation and prevention and \$41,320 ARPA funding for laptop and docking stations within Community Development.

Upgrades to the permit center lobby are needed to update for in-person customer traffic flow. Chair storage for excess chairs is needed to meet social distancing standards in the lobby. Ergonomic assessments and equipment for staff that will be working with customers 75% of the time such as sit-stand desks, comfort standing mats, ergonomic keyboards, and cameras for virtual meetings.

Community Development requested additional approval of ARPA funding to purchase 36 laptops and 27 docking stations to support the ongoing needs of working remotely. For the Permit Center and CD Administration teams, the laptop and docking station combination will replace the current desktop setup allowing for efficiencies and future reconfiguration of office space in PSC. The total cost is \$54,004 and TER&R on the equipment traded-in is \$12,684. The remaining amount of \$41,320 will be reimbursed by ARPA funding.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000500]: [Com Dev Building Safety Remote Inspection Program]

Funding amount: [\$84,000.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

Count Council approved a Community Development Building Safety request of \$84,000 of ARPA funds for Building Safety to enhance community engagement with a public outreach program has been in place for 15 years; growing from small events at the PSC to now including an interactive education trailer, a series of illustrated booklets, and several services geared at direct customer service and more.

Building Safety initiated the Sherlock Remote Video Inspection and the TIKTOK homeowner appointment programs nearly a decade ago. These programs proved vital as part of timely COVID response. The Sherlock Remote Video Inspection service provides homeowners and small businesses the opportunity to continue construction by allowing life safety compliance and approval inspections to be conducted without direct contact or extraordinary safety precautions. The virtual service offers a safe interaction via virtual appointments which is also timelier and more efficient, saves homeowners and small businesses money by not requiring extraordinary precautions, time loss, and added expenses for materials and personnel; and offers a safer methodology for the public safety professionals providing services.

The TIKTOK appointment program offers homeowners a path to receiving services (either virtually or in person) in a time-certain window. Having this flexibility to receive life safety inspection services with a schedule offers the homeowners the ability to choose how to best prepare and arrange based on the

myriad of circumstances that they may be facing related to the people and conditions at their home. In addition, the public safety staff is better informed and prepared because of the scheduled interaction and details provided ahead of the appointment.

In addition to these two programs, Community Development Building Safety can conduct UAV (drone) inspections as appropriate for certain inspections. Each of these services, while available, are not always known by our customers. Many of our interactions with customers, especially homeowners or small businesses doing their first project, are unaware regarding the processes and intricacies required to complete a project. While we have a dynamic outreach history, it is not the primary function of Building Safety. Our funding request would allow Building Safety to better match the changing pandemic requirements and provide current and future customers information and access to available services that best address ongoing challenges in receiving needed services. Building Safety provided uninterrupted services throughout COVID-19 restrictions. The goal is to be even more engaged going forward, regardless of the challenges faced.

Community Outreach: The requested ARPA funding will be dedicated to public outreach, education, and training in the community. These undertakings will leverage the programs and progress by more fully informing and engaging our customers and future customers to provide services that are even more accessible and efficient. As the ongoing challenge brought on by COVID uncertainty continues and be best prepared for future challenges, it is important to reach-double our outreach efforts to inform and engage our community and partners.

Additional Projects

Project [GR000501]: [District Court Projects]

Funding amount: [377,049.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

Council approved \$377,049 in technology infrastructure upgrades for District Court technology services. The new systems will provide the public with improved online access to retrieval of digital records and reduce the need for in-person traffic in the creating better workload efficiencies and public access. The new and upgraded systems are as follows:

Information Systems Infrastructure: Zoom and Polycom licensing, \$40,893 (\$13,631/year for 3 years): The COVID-19 global pandemic has emphasized the need for virtual courts. To limit exposure and stop the spread of COVID-19, District Court strongly discourages participants from appearing in person at the Clark County Courthouse. The preferred method of appearance is by Zoom with both audio and video capabilities. The yearly District Court's cost for Zoom video and Polycom licensing is \$13,631, which is an ongoing expense that improves access to justice for the community and their wellbeing. To sustain the need for virtual courts access, the anticipated Zoom licensing cost for the next three years is \$40,893.

Information Systems Infrastructure: Justice AV Solutions (JAVS) upgrade, \$324,825: The need for upgrades for all District Court courtrooms of the current Justice AV Solutions (JAVS) court recording and connections system. Upgrades include needed High Definition (HD) video and voice recording during court courtroom dockets & hearings, ports for evidence sharing during court into the court recording system, and improved

quality for Zoom video connections. The upgrade helps solve some of the issue the court faces as the District Court works with Virtual courts and receiving evidence.

Information Systems Infrastructure: 2 Video Interpreter/Arrestment Booths, \$2,331:The District Court to purchase equipment for setting up two virtual stations-booths next to the District Courtroom for the use by individuals who do not have ability to access the District Court virtual courts. The purchase of the needed Polycom X30 Unity will allow for better functionality and security of the Video units.

Additional Projects

Project [GR000502]: [Facilities Space Planning and Consultant]

Funding amount: [\$17,000,000.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs]

Project Overview

The County Council approved \$2,000,000 for the Clark County Internal Services Department to initiate and complete Space Planning efforts for the Downtown Campus. This is a multi-year project and an initial request for \$2,000,000 was approved in 2021-22 with the understanding that as the plan was developed the committee would come back to ask for additional for the implementation of the plan. The County Council approved an additional \$15 million to implement the recommendations of the consultancy in 2022-2023.

Introduction: Clark County contracted with a consultant to provide a space development plan and cost estimates to meet various space and land use needs for Clark County in its Vancouver downtown campus. The development plan took into consideration previous studies, as well as previous proposals that were not implemented, to create a unified plan that will meet the needs for the entire downtown campus complex.

Background: The Clark County downtown campus is made up of a variety of owned and leased facilities with a wide range of building ages and conditions. These buildings house programs and staff that directly and/or indirectly serve the people of Clark County. There have been several studies completed in the last decade that have tried to address these same issues, but none of them have been able to meet the needs of the County in a way that the County could fiscally support. The development plan took that already completed work as a starting point, analyze current and future space needs, and develop a plan that will allow the County to continue to serve the people of Clark County well into the future.

Scope of Project: We are ready for the project to continue to the next phase which will include Engineering, Architectural, Permitting, Bidding and Purchasing Furniture, Relocation, and then Construction.

Scope of Services to include but not be limited to:

- Relocate and build out space for the Family Law Annex on the 1st floor of the PSC.
- Relocate and build out space for the Children’s Justice Center to a location still to be determined.
- Relocate and build out space for the Sheriff Administration who were previously located in the Jail and Hamilton Building into the Dolle building

- Consolidate and better utilization of space for IT, Human Resources, and Comm Dev. Permitting, Law Library, Public Health, Clerk, Joint Lobby, and Communications
- Build out space for District and Superior Courts for arraignments courtrooms and District Court Parole and Probation on the 1st floor of the Jail.
- Public Works Parks, Lands, Vegetation Management; and Public Works Road and Operations Space Planning.
- Architectural and engineering costs for the Jail, Juvenile, and Work Center (if funding is remaining).

Additional Projects

Project [GR000503]: [MEO Coolers & MEO Trailers]

Funding amount: [\$190,000.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

County Council approved \$190,000 for MEO Cooler Rentals and MEO Morgue expansion/trailers. Continued rapid population growth has exacerbated the historical need to update Clark County's retrofitted autopsy suite and morgue facilities, last used as a tavern before its conversion to a medical facility. Medical Examiner cases continue to increase year-over-year, in addition to an increase of cases from deaths directly attributed to or related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, this request included the acquisition and ongoing usage expenses for two refrigerated units to serve as additional comprehensive community morgue capacity.

Existing CCMEO morgue capacity has not been sufficient, requiring the rental of a cooler for expanded storage capacity. The Medical Examiner's Office continues to rely on the expanded cooler capacity of the external morgue cooler. The external cooler decompresses decedent overflow from the basement morgue cooler and also serves as a primary cooler space during periods where the elevator is undergoing regular or emergency maintenance.

Existing collective community morgue capacity has not been sufficient, requiring the purchase of two body cooling trailers for expanded storage capacity. Providing adequate capacity for decedent storage, especially during pandemics and/or mass fatality events, is critical for our community. The refrigerated mobile body coolers are available for the local healthcare system as well as the Medical Examiner's Office, decompressing the strain on morgue capacity across the community.

Additional Projects

Project [GR000508]: [Superior Court Consultant Projects]

Funding amount: [98,500.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs]

Project Overview

County Council approved \$98,500 of ARPA funds to hire a consultant to advise on docket and trial scheduling strategies to address backlogs created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the pandemic, Superior Court's ability to hold criminal and civil jury trials was significantly limited. The Washington Supreme Court and Clark County Superior Court issued emergency orders that facilitated as many matters to be heard as possible, including the utilization of remote hearings and non-jury proceedings. Despite those efforts, because of the very limited ability to hold jury trials over the last 15 months, there is a significant backlog of Superior Court cases. The recent request for staffing by the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office confirms that Superior Court will see an increase in criminal case filings over the next 12-24 months.

As the criminal case filings increase the number of necessary hearings and trials will also increase. In addition, a federal and state eviction moratorium has prevented nearly all unlawful detainer actions from being filed for more than a year. Those moratoriums are ending, and Superior Court anticipates a very significant number of unlawful detainer actions will soon be filed. Each unlawful detainer matter will require hearings and an unknown number of those cases will also require trials. If not handled strategically the delays in case processing and resolution will have long-term impacts on Superior Court, will limit Superior Court's ability to timely handle criminal and civil cases, and will negatively impact the access to justice for system participants. Strategic planning is vital for Superior Court to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. Superior Court would like to request technical assistance to determine the most effective approaches to its scheduling, trial distribution, division of judicial responsibilities, and case resolution.

The Superior Court hired a consultant to analyze case filing and resolution data, review hearing outcomes and policy, and practices. The consultant team would make recommendations regarding scheduling practices and policies and collaborate with the court for implementation. The assessment will be data-driven and grounded in best practices.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000535]: [Indigent Defense Case Back Logs]

Funding amount: [1,412,271.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs]

Project Overview

County Council approved \$1,412,271 for the Clark County Indigent Defense program to (1) to increase funding to address backlogs created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) to fund a 24-month project position FTE to handle additional workload created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, criminal justice systems across the county have faced backlogs of cases, and new processes/procedures for the entire criminal justice system. Due to the pandemic, our local courts could not hold criminal trials for most of a year, resulting in a large backlog of cases. Additionally, the pandemic changed how the courts handled hearings and how defense attorneys communicated with their clients – particularly those defendants that were incarcerated due to the heightened concerns for the spread of COVID-19 in communal settings like the jail.

It is now critical that both the Prosecutor's Office and the Indigent Defense program receive proper ARPA funding to work through the criminal case backlog in as speed a manner as is reasonably possible. It is

necessary for the prosecutors, courts, defense attorneys, defendants, victims, and the public that these cases be resolved promptly.

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office requested \$457,345 in 2021 and \$898,014 in 2022, and \$56,912 in 2023 for salaries/benefit and supply/equipment costs to add additional attorneys and support staff to handle the case backlog. This will allow additional cases to be handled in a prompt manner. The County is constitutionally obligated to pay for defense counsel for indigent defendants; as such, if there is an increase in prosecutorial activity, there will be a corresponding increase in defense expenses.

Indigent Defense is requesting an equivalent ARPA fund appropriation. The indigent defense funds will be used to fund increased and/or additional contracts for indigent defense attorney services. The intent is that the funding need will decrease once the case backlog is addressed, and there will not be a need for ongoing funding beyond the period allowed for the use of ARPA funds.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created additional internal workload, as well. For example, adequate communication between defense attorneys and defendants is not only critical for adequate constitutional representation but also an ethical duty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person communication between defense counsel and a defendant within the Clark County jail became a more challenging task due to the risks associated with in-person contact, particularly in a congregate setting. To respond to this need, the indigent defense program has created new systems to ensure written communication can quickly and effectively be made between attorneys and inmates. The alternative was use of the US postal service, which is not sufficiently timely for many criminal justice communication needs. However, this requires an individual to physically walk paperwork between the county buildings and the jail twice per day.

Additionally, many court hearings are now being held virtually, and soon communication between inmates and defense attorneys will also be held using Zoom. All of these tasks require indigent defense program staff support. The indigent defense program has utilized a temporary employee for a few months to assist with the additional workload brought about by the pandemic. The workload increase is likely to last for at least two more years. Indigent Defense is requesting an ARPA appropriation of \$56,912 in 2022 and \$56,912 plus any cost of living increases in 2023 to create an Office Assistant II project position.

Additional Projects

Project [GR000536]: [Clerk's Office]

Funding amount: [\$96,836]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

The County Council approved \$96,836 of ARPA funding to allow the Clerk's Office to complete an upgrade to a new document imaging system (OnBase) and purchase any additional required licenses. This will allow the Superior Court and the public to continue having access to court documents. This budget will be used to pay our support vendor Konica Minolta to complete the upgrade project.

The Clerk's Office began scanning documents using the LibertyNet document management software in 1998. As Clerk of the Superior Court, my primary task is to preserve, maintain and retain permanently all Superior Court documents (RCW 2.32.050 and 36.23.030). All Superior Court case files are scanned to the LibertyNet server storage for retrieval and preservation of the record.

Superior Court Judges and Court Commissioners use LibertyNet to review court cases for motions and trials that come before them. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office uses Liberty to access cases they are prosecuting. The Sheriff's Office uses Liberty to process court orders related to sentencing, processing bench warrants, and for transporting inmates to other facilities. All Juvenile Court files are also maintained in Liberty. This document imaging system is crucial to the operation of Superior Court.

All court files exist only as digital images. LibertyNet is also used by attorneys and the public to retrieve documents and court orders such as divorce decrees, civil judgments, unlawful detainers for evictions, subpoenas, and many other documents for their various case types.

In the summer of 2008, LibertyNet was acquired by Hyland Software. After the acquisition by Hyland the Clerk's Office was encouraged by Hyland & Techline, our support vendor for Liberty, to work towards converting to the OnBase Imaging system, which is also owned by Hyland because at some point LibertyNet would no longer be supported. Since then, our support vendor, Techline was acquired by Konica Minolta, and they too have been encouraging the conversion to OnBase. Hyland owns both LibertyNet & OnBase but uses various companies as distributors and support vendors such as Data Bank.

Clerk's Office tried converting to OnBase in 2017-2018 but the conversion to Odyssey (state system) was happening at the same time and we were not able to complete the conversion. Around December 2018 the Clark County I.T. had implemented OnBase in other county departments and decided to switch support vendors from Techline to DataBank.

The Clerk's Office was given notice by Hyland early this year that LibertyNet would sunset 12-31-2021 ending our support causing an unexpected rush to convert with no budget planned. They have assured us there will be no exception to renew our license in 2022.

The pre-conversion work done in 2017-18, will make the process more streamlined this time. I.T. has been working with Konica and a Statement of Work (SOW) is now signed. You will note on page 13 of the SOW an arrangement to make payments for the project in thirds was necessary allowing time to acquire funding. This project wasn't expected during the clerk's office 2021 budget. We only recently received notice that support for LibertyNet will end December 31, 2021. When it ends, the software will no longer function. Hyland has provided us with an extension of the end-of-life deadline due to our efforts to get converted. This deadline is now December 31st, 2022.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000538]: [Superior Court Consultant Projects]

Funding amount: [\$1,500,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

County Council approved the allocation of \$1.5 million in ARPA funds to Clark County Superior Court for Information Systems Infrastructure: Digital and Video Recording System upgrade. Clark County Superior Court is pursuing additional funding to support qualifying projects from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Any qualifying AOC funds will be used to offset the ARPA-funded costs outlined herein. The amount of AOC funds to be awarded is yet to be determined by the State.

Superior Court needs to upgrade all Superior Court courtrooms' digital and video court recording and connections system. Upgrades include needed High Definition (HD) video and voice recording during court courtroom dockets & hearings, digital evidence presentation, integration with the case management system, access for authorized users from anywhere, and improved integration for Zoom video hearings. This new system also provides the public with online retrieval of digital records of court sessions, reducing the amount of in-person traffic in the courthouse and creating workload efficiencies for judicial staff. This broadens access to the digital record for stakeholders and users.

The upgrade helps solve some of the issues the court faces as the Superior Court continues to work with Virtual courts and receiving evidence. This is a cloud-based solution that increases accessibility and provides security and disaster redundancy to ensure the court record is maintained appropriately for both in-person and remote hearings. Some of the current technology in use is over 10 years old and has been failing at an increasing frequency which has real consequences to daily court proceedings. This upgrade will significantly modernize and stabilize our digital and video recording technology for the next five to ten years.

The current vendor's annual maintenance and service costs are \$4,178 per courtroom (total \$58,492). This does not include the cost of replacing aged hardware and does not cover equipment more than 5 years old. The new vendor's annual maintenance and service costs for software is \$948 per courtroom (total \$13,272). There are added costs for maintenance and service costs of hardware that include warranty advocacy, annual site visits for preventative maintenance, 24/7 helpdesk, and specialist support. This cost is negotiable dependent on what the County wants to maintain and what the vendor maintains. Cost varies depending on courtroom type (jury/non-jury). The quote included hardware in the judge's chambers which is not needed. The quoted hardware annual maintenance costs after implementation are \$15,508. Superior Court is estimating that there will be approximately \$29K in annual savings moving forward based on the below chart.

The Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) was given one-time funding for upgrading technology in courtrooms around the State (\$50,000 per courtroom for 100 courtrooms). These funds will be available to help cover expenses incurred after July 1, 2022. Superior Court will apply to receive some portion of this funding to offset costs to the County ARPA funds and the request submitted in the 2022 Fall Supplemental will be adjusted to reflect funding received from AOC. Implementation of new systems will occur after July 1, 2022, to make full use of the State funds awarded. These State funds could potentially cover more than half of the estimated costs.

Additional Projects

Project [GR000570]: [Workday Success]

Funding amount: [86,100.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

County Council approved the use of \$86,100 for ARPA funds for enhancement of enterprise resource planning and human capital management systems (Workday Success) to improve the efficacy of public sector technology infrastructure and interface

In July 2018, Clark County implemented Workday Human Capital Management/Payroll (HCMP), and the following March 2019 implemented Workday Financials.

Now that the County has had a couple of years to adjust to Workday, it is evident that the staffing model in Financial Services, Human Resources, and Information Technology is sufficient to maintain current operations. With that said, it is critical to conduct a review of the processes established as well as review and evaluate enhanced features to ensure optimization. While current operations are being met, departments and offices have provided input stating some work processes need to be reviewed and updated. When Workday was implemented, the County used a consultant, and certain staff were dedicated to the project. Since implementation, staff continue to support Workday but only have the capacity for day-to-day operation; therefore, there is insufficient resources to develop and activate in-active modules, evaluate and implement new features, increase staff skill level, and cross-train critical tasks. As a result, the County is not maximizing its investment in Workday, staff is not as efficient as it could be, and the County is at risk of significant knowledge loss if key individuals leave or retire.

County staff has reached out to Workday and other organizations that use Workday for solutions that would rectify these shortcomings. The predominant response is that most organizations with comparable size have a full-time system administrator. The system administrator is highly skilled in Workday, reviews, and tests new features, evaluates the efficiency of configurations, handles system security, and provides a road map for future system utilization. The system administrator model is what Clark County uses for the Department of Community Development's CCLMS, the County's other significant cloud-based subscription software. Clark County does not have a dedicated system administrator for Workday.

As an alternative to the system administrator model, Workday suggested a much cheaper Workday Success Plan model. Using existing staff, in conjunction with the Workday Success Plan's (WSP) offering of enhanced services, the County will keep costs down and still meet the County's needs. Here are a few examples of how the program would be beneficial:

1. County staff is very skilled in Workday; however, abilities and time are limited. When staff is stuck with a particular problem it could take hours or days to resolve. WSP gives the County direct access to Workday experts. As a result, County staff will become more efficient and more knowledgeable.
2. The County has access to modules that are not utilized and needs the knowledge to do so. For example, the Leases module and the Allocation module. The ability to activate these modules would provide significant value to the County. The County is implementing GASB 87, Accounting for Leases, and needs to use this module. The module also may provide a solution for better contract monitoring. Inter-departmental overhead allocations are a time consuming manual intensive process. The allocations module would automate this process. This would be a huge benefit to allocation-dependent departments such as Public Works, Community Services, Community Development, and Clark County Public Health. WSP would provide support to County staff to make the activation of these modules possible.
3. A service WSP provides is a full review of the County's Workday configuration. The configuration was initially set up for implementation based on the best available information. Not all the configurations are efficient, and this review would allow the County to identify and correct them.
4. Twice each year, Workday releases new features. Some of these new features would be beneficial to the County, but existing staff does not have the time to evaluate and test most of the features. WSP

provides a feature adoption workshop and an entity-specific Roadmap evaluation that would allow the County to better maximize its investment in Workday.

There are many other Workday system projects that would benefit from WSP, including year-end claims on cash settlement, more efficient report writing, utilization of the People Analytics module, and the ability to work more effectively in a remote environment. The list is long and existing staff, despite their best efforts, is unable to make significant progress without help. This proposal would allow the County to enter into a one-year agreement and evaluate the utility of WSP. The return on investment of the WSP program would be documented, reviewed by Financial Services, Human Resources, and Information Technology, and presented to the County Council's prior to extending the program.

On January 6th, 2022 the U.S. Treasury issued the ARPA SLFRF Final Rule, greatly expanding and further enumerating the eligible uses defined within the Interim Final Rule, published in May of 2021. These expanded eligible uses include technology infrastructure resources to improve access to and the user experience of government information technology systems, including upgrades to hardware and software as well as improvements to public-facing websites or data management.

Within these broadly applicable eligible use categories, there are multiple justifications for the use of ARPA funds for enhancement of enterprise resource planning and human capital management systems to improve the efficacy of public sector technology infrastructure and interface. The budget for 2022 already contains an approved placeholder that may be used for this request.

Additional Projects

Project [GR000572] [COVID Cleaning Services]

Funding amount: [\$490,147.00]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs]

Project Overview

The Clark County Council approved \$490,147 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for Internal Services-Facilities Department to cover the continuation of additional custodial covid cleaning costs for 2022. On February 2, 2021, the council approved a request (SR021-21) to approve COVID money to cover the cost of COVID-related cleaning mandates with both the outgoing and incoming custodial vendors through 2021, this staff report is to request the continuation of those cleaning services with the current vendor through 2022 and to use ARPA funding to cover the additional cleaning measures. A budget package was submitted in the 2022 Baseline to request this funding in package FAC-11-22AD.

Monthly Price of CBM Systems (January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022):

- Courthouse PT Day Porter (M-F 10 am-2 pm) \$3,299.77/month
- Extra Nightly Sanitation in all campus buildings \$3,413.39/month
- Courtroom Additional Janitor (M-F 9:30 am-1:30 pm) \$3,299.77/month
- Courtroom Additional Janitor (M-F 11:30 am-3:30 pm) \$3,299.77/month
- Juvenile and Family Court Janitor (M-F 8 am-4:30 pm) \$6,611.95/month

The monthly price of CBM Systems (January 1, 2022- December 31, 2022) as stated above will increase in 2023 when the state sets the 2023 prevailing wage cost for custodial services, which is estimated to result in a 5% increase in the costs stated above.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000611]: [ARPA - Retention Payment]

Funding amount: [\$3,100,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity]

Project Overview

The County Council approved the allocation of American Rescue Plan Fund for a County-wide Retention Incentive for all represented and unrepresented regular employees.

Clark County considers the continued service and dedication of our workforce to be the essential component to meeting our mission of enhancing the quality of life in our diverse community. The purpose of this request is to recognize our employees' outstanding work and to encourage retention by offering a one-time \$2,000 retention incentive to all Clark County employees. All regular unrepresented and represented employees, in all classifications, that were hired before June 1, 2022, would be eligible to receive the \$2,000 retention incentive. Terms and conditions will apply for employees to receive the incentive.

The employee retention incentive will use Fund 1041: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to cover the cost of the retention payments with the goal of:

- Reflecting the County's commitment to being a desirable employer in the region and to retaining existing county employees so that we continue to deliver prompt, professional services to the residents of Clark County.
- Acknowledging those regular County employees who were hired prior to June 1, 2022, and that the current competitive labor market presents challenges in retaining workers
- The approximately \$3.1 million for the retention incentives will come from ARPA funds.
- Details for receiving the retention incentive are as follows:
 - Terms
 - The \$2,000 retention incentive will be paid in two installments (\$1,500 and \$500).
 - Conditions
 - If the employee voluntarily leaves employment with the County between the date on which the fifteen-hundred-dollar (\$1,500) incentive was paid and December 31, 2022, the fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) will be deducted from the employee's final paycheck upon separation of employment.
 - If the employee voluntarily leaves employment with the County between January 1, 2023, and June 30, 2023, after the remaining five-hundred-dollar (\$500) incentive was paid, the five hundred dollars (\$500) will be deducted from the employee's final paycheck upon separation of employment.
 - Employees will have the option to opt out of receiving the retention incentive.
 - Employees who are involuntarily or medically separated from employment with the County will not be required to reimburse the County for any retention incentive received.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000617]: [Treasurer’s Office Delinquent Taxes]

Funding amount: [\$900,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 2.2 - Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid*^]

Project Overview

Due to the ongoing economic impacts of the pandemic, many homeowners are facing housing insecurity with delinquent taxes on their real property and/or mobile homes. Each year, the Treasurer initiates the foreclosure process through the filing of a Certificate of Delinquency for real property or has a statutory requirement to initiate a distraint sale on mobile homes.

The objective of this project is to potentially provide financial assistance to households (property owners) on their primary residence who have been impacted by COVID-19 and owe delinquent real property or mobile taxes and are subject to the property tax foreclosure process as set out in RCW 84.64 or distraint process set out in RCW 84.56.070. This will help eligible property owners avoid foreclosure and possible eviction and homelessness.

The County Council approved \$900,000 in Fiscal Recovery Funds to be used to provide Household Assistance to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts – including assistance to households or small businesses for costs incurred by the household prior to March 31, 2021.

The Treasurer’s Office previously requested approval in 2022 for use of \$300,000 within the 2022 Small Projects Allocation approved by the Council as part of the 2022 Annual Budget Adoption through Change Request AUD-03-22AD. The Treasurer anticipates that most homeowners will have the ability to cure the minimum amount of delinquent due prior to legal action without ARPA assistance. The 2022 request amount was based on an estimated 15% of the \$2 million in property taxes subject to foreclosure or distraint. For FY 2023, since funding would be available from the beginning of the year and additional accounts will be subject to foreclosure or distraint next year, the Treasurer’s Office requested an additional \$600,000 in allocated assistance to homeowners in 2023.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000622]: [ARPA Community Grant Program – Nonprofit]

Funding amount: [\$1,734,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 2.34 Assistance to Non-Profits - Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)^ 2.34]

Project Overview

County Council approved the allocation of \$2 million in funding for the ARPA Community Grant Awards Program which will provide financial assistance to nonprofit organizations and small businesses to facilitate recovery from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On February 16, 2022, the Clark County Council approved the allocation of \$2 million through ARPA recovery funds to support community needs for financial assistance through the development of a

community grant program that would facilitate recovery from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Clark County Community Grant Program (the “Program”) will provide financial resources to small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other community-serving groups that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, in support of our community’s equitable recovery.

The purpose of the Program is to assist qualified and eligible entities and organizations in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to support the provision of services to members of the community who were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible applicants included small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other community-serving organizations located in Clark County. Grant Program recipients have been selected through competitive award following federal procurement processes and standards.

The Program will support ARPA grant program goals by providing aid to assist with economic recovery for small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and impacted industries in providing economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, support programs, and services for community members that have been negatively impacted, especially those that are disproportionately impacted and in hardest hit communities, and will promote the County’s mission “to enhance the quality of life in our diverse community by providing services with integrity, openness, and accountability” and in keeping with the County’s strategic goals, vision, and values.

Program funds are not intended to replace other federal, state, county, or local ARPA assistance, such as financial assistance for rent, tourism, workforce training, or childcare; applicants may not receive Program funding for project expenses that were funded through other federal, state, or local grants. Applicants were encouraged to continue to pursue and take advantage of existing funding through other available resources.

Community Outreach: Outreach was performed with regional business associations and county networks of nonprofit organizations as well as being posted on the Clark County website home page and advertised in the Columbian News Paper.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000640]: [Children’s Justice Center: Victim Advocate and Forensic Interviewer]

Funding amount: [\$69,500]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs]

Project Overview

The County Council approved \$69,500 of ARPA funds to fund 1.0 FTE for a CJC Victim Advocate position for 2022, funded by ARPA Funds for public safety services.

Arthur D. Curtis Children’s Justice Center (CJC) requested immediate approval for a new position and the hire of a 1.0 FTE victim advocate for 2022-23 and to extend the current CJC Project Forensic Interviewer from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, using ARPA funds. CJC was established in 1990 through a countywide Interlocal Agreement to provide a safe, supportive place for child victims of abuse and their nonoffending family members to receive services.

CJC was recognized as a nationally accredited Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) by the National Children’s Alliance (NCA) in 2000 and is supported through a public-private collaboration to coordinate child abuse investigations and prosecution and to support services for child victims and witnesses of violent crimes. One of the NCA accreditation standards is to ensure children and families have a victim advocate to provide information, support, and advocacy services to child victims and witnesses of felony-level crimes. Another standard requires that suspected victims of child abuse and witnesses of violent crimes receive a forensic interview conducted by a specially trained professional in a coordinated manner within a multidisciplinary team (MDT). Since 2015, CJC has employed one civilian forensic interviewer to conduct forensic interviews with vulnerable children in a manner that is neutral, developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and suitable for use in criminal court.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted more than the health of Clark County community members. Families experienced economic stress due to layoffs and furloughs from employment as well as food and housing instabilities. Lockdowns and community service agency closures left fewer options to support children and families. School closures left children without support systems and safety nets previously available to them. Unsupervised time online, increased social media use and gaming, as well as virtual schooling, left children vulnerable to exploitative internet offenders who manipulated lonely and troubled children and youth. Intense and unrelieved contact with intra-familial offenders and negative coping mechanisms by overwhelmed caregivers resulted in temporary decreases in child maltreatment reports by mandated reporters, but increases in family violence, including child abuse and exploitation.

Every suspected child victim who comes into CJC for a forensic interview has a CJC victim advocate assigned to them, and every case that moves forward in prosecution retains the assigned CJC advocate throughout the life of the criminal case until final adjudication. CJC advocates are also assigned to attend all suspected child abuse medical examinations conducted by the Legacy Salmon Creek Child Abuse Assessment Team (CAAT), as well as cases prosecuted by the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney’s Child Abuse Unit from outlying law enforcement jurisdictions and for cases that come in as hot and cold arrests where investigations did not originate at CJC.

As a result of COVID-19 and its resultant lockdowns and physical distancing requirements, Clark County Superior Courts that have jurisdiction over felony-level child abuse and exploitation cases did not hold any trials for approximately 10 months (from June 2020 to April 2021), and once trials were reinitiated, only one trial was held at a time for all felony crimes. Between June 2020 and July 2021, a mere five (5) CJC cases went to trial, and criminal cases once again were suspended due to high COVID-19 variant infection levels in February 2022. Over one hundred seventy (170) cases are currently pending trial and remaining on the caseloads of CJC advocates, who also currently have an additional 455 open investigation cases among them. With additional allegations of child abuse continuing to be investigated by CJC investigative team members and the delays and backlog of trials, the normal attrition of cases is not occurring, placing increasing burdens on CJC advocates. ARPA funds are requested to provide funding from April 2022 through December 2023 for an additional 1.0 FTE CJC victim advocate beyond existing funding capacity, to provide temporary support as cases are adjudicated from COVID-19 delays.

Pursuant to RCW 43.101.224 (Training for persons investigating child sexual abuse.), CJC provides a specially trained forensic interviewer for all referred child victims of sex or violent crimes or child abuse. Pursuant to RCW 7.69A.030 (Rights of child victims and witnesses), CJC employs victim advocates to be present at any investigative, prosecutorial, or defense interviews for all child victims of sex or violent crimes or child abuse. Further, CJC is an accredited Children’s Advocacy Center, as defined in RCW 26.44.020, and a responding member of the county-wide child abuse response protocols as required by

RCWs 26.44.180 and 26.44.185. Roles, tasks, and procedures of CJC forensic interviewers and victim advocates are delineated in said child abuse protocols.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000641]: [Community Planning Office Housing Options Study]

Funding amount: [\$200,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs]

Project Overview

The County Council approved \$200,00 for Community Planning to implement the Housing Options Study and Action Plan approved by Council on May 17, 2022, to address housing affordability in the unincorporated Vancouver Urban Growth Area.

Clark County and other communities across Washington are struggling to provide the variety and quantity of housing options that residents need and can afford. According to the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University lost or reduced employment income due to COVID-19 has exacerbated rental affordability and homeownership security issues and intensified the housing cost burden, especially for low-income households. Nationally, households that were not financially impacted by the crisis were able to purchase homes from the limited supply for sale, which continued to push up prices and further exclude less affluent buyers from homeownership. Many households that lost income during the shutdowns are behind on their housing payments and on the brink of eviction or foreclosure. A disproportionately large share of these at-risk households are renters with low incomes and people of color.

On May 17, 2022, the County Council approved the Housing Options Study and Action Plan and directed staff to begin implementation. The Plan provides guidance for County staff, elected officials, and other decision-makers to implement changes to the comprehensive plan, county code, zoning map; and/or implement other non-regulatory strategies that will encourage the construction of additional affordable and market-rate housing that meets the unincorporated Vancouver Urban Growth Area's current and future housing needs.

The plan's strategies are each categorized by a proposed timeline, meaning how long it could take to implement. The timelines range from one year to two or more years assuming full and timely resource allocation of staff and necessary funds. With the currently known housing need, especially for low-income households, the quicker the county can initiate actions to support the development of affordable housing within the unincorporated Vancouver Urban Growth Area, the better.

Community Planning received \$200,000 in ARPA funds to assist with quicker implementation of the plan's strategies by utilizing technical support from consultants. Additional professional services will assist Community Planning in working with interested stakeholders; updating development regulations; providing needed analysis to assist decision-makers; and engaging the public on changes. It is important to note that recent state legislation in 2019-2021 (ES2HB 1923) provided \$5 million in state funds for grants to local governments to increase residential capacity in Washington communities. Grants of up to \$200,000 were prioritized for cities over 20,000 in population.

Although the unincorporated Vancouver Urban Growth Area had a population of 161,300 (2021),

the county was ineligible to apply for a grant because the funding was allocated for cities only.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000645]: [ARPA Community Grant Program – Business]

Funding amount: [\$266,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 2.29 - Assistance to Small Businesses Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship^]

Project Overview

County Council approved the allocation of \$2 million in funding for the ARPA Community Grant Awards Program which will provide financial assistance to nonprofit organizations and small businesses to facilitate recovery from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On February 16, 2022, the Clark County Council approved the allocation of \$2 million through ARPA recovery funds to support community needs for financial assistance through development of a community grant program that would facilitate recovery from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Clark County Community Grant Program (the “Program”) will provide financial resources to small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other community-serving groups that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, in support of our community’s equitable recovery

The purpose of the Program is to assist qualified and eligible entities and organizations in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to support the provision of services to members of the community who were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible applicants included small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other community-serving organizations located in Clark County. Grant Program recipients have been selected through competitive award following federal procurement processes and standards.

The Program will support ARPA grant program goals by providing aid to assist with economic recovery for small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and impacted industries in providing economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, support programs, and services for community members that have been negatively impacted, especially those that are disproportionately impacted and in hardest hit communities, and will promote the County’s mission “to enhance the quality of life in our diverse community by providing services with integrity, openness, and accountability” and in keeping with the County’s strategic goals, vision and values.

Program funds are not intended to replace other federal, state, county, or local ARPA assistance, such as financial assistance for rent, tourism, workforce training, or childcare; applicants may not receive Program funding for project expenses that were funded through other federal, state, or local grants. Applicants were encouraged to continue to pursue and take advantage of existing funding through other available resources.

Community Outreach: Outreach was performed with regional business associations and county networks of nonprofit organizations as well as being posted on the Clark County website home page and advertised in the Columbian News Paper.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000682]: [Public Health Comprehensive Strategic Plan]

Funding amount: [\$200,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4 - Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

The Clark County Council allocated \$8,415,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Public Health for nine distinct projects. One of the projects, the acquisition, and deployment of a new electronic medical records (EMR) platform, which received an initial ARPA allocation of \$2,500,000, is coming in under the projected cost by approximately \$500,000.

This request repurposes \$200,000 of the \$2,500,000 EMR acquisition and deployment allocation to fund the acquisition of a contracted resource via a solicitation process to complete a comprehensive strategic planning assessment, incorporating feedback from staff, community partners, and data collected through a community needs assessment process to determine future public health priorities and ensure a clear department vision, and stewardship and maximization of internal and allied partner resources to improve population health outcomes.

An updated organizational strategic plan will provide our department and its stakeholders with a clear picture of where our community is headed, what we plan to achieve, the methods by which we will succeed, and the measures we use to monitor progress. Widely used by profit-based, nonprofit, and governmental organizations, a strategic plan is a leadership tool grounded in decisions the organization has made about priorities for the next five-year operational cycle.

The plan not only communicates these priorities but also provides a basis for future decision-making. The strategic plan is not intended to be a stand-alone document; rather, we intend to align findings with other important assessments, planning, and evaluation work - including our local community health improvement process and future agency quality improvement (QI) plans, department and division-level work plans and to support the development of our annual report. A strategic plan is so fundamental to effective management that it is one of three prerequisites for LHDs seeking national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), the national accrediting body for Tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments.

Additional Strategic Plan Benefits include:

- Updated vision, mission, and vision statement
- Improved stewardship of long-term county resources in alignment with Foundational Public Health Services funding
- Improved population-level health outcomes
- Improved organizational and community coordination and collaboration
- Increased knowledge about public health and the interconnectedness of activities for allied community partners
- Creation of baseline performance indicators to use in preparing for public health accreditation

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000683]: [North Country Emergency Medical Services]

Funding amount: [\$2,750,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4 - Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

North Country EMS (NCEMS) is the publicly funded advanced life support (ALS) ambulance provider for Clark County EMS District 1, the Town of Yacolt, and Cowlitz County EMS District 1. NCEMS currently operates 24/7, 365 from two facilities, one located in Yacolt and the other located in Fargher Lake.

NCEMS is requesting Clark County contribute \$2.5 million from the County's ARPA funds to assist with replacing the Fargher Lake facility at the existing location.

The current facility is a 30-year-old 1188 square-foot double-wide manufactured home that houses the crew, plus an open carport for the ambulance. The living quarters are well beyond the useful lifespan and are insufficient in size. NCEMS received the living quarters from another fire agency in 2000 after they had already used them for many years. The carport is not an enclosed garage suitable for storing a \$500,000 vehicle with sensitive equipment and medications.

NCEMS has completed the design and permitting process for the new facility. In May of 2022, NCEMS completed an open public bid process for the construction of the facility. The average responsive bid was amount to \$5.2 million, which is 27% higher than the cost estimation 7 months earlier. As of today, NCEMS has roughly \$3 million in capital/reserve funds which leaves us a balance of approximately \$2.5 million to complete the project. NCEMS originally requested a \$2.5 million ARPA grant for the completion of this project in 2022 and requested an additional \$250,000 in 2023 to address rising costs related to inflation, supply chain issues, and change orders due to unforeseen issues during to build-out.

As NCEMS is the sole emergency medical provider in rural north Clark County, they are often utilized as Primary Care type facility. As such NCEMS needs to have a facility which allows for safe interactions with patients during a pandemic. ARPA funds are permitted to be used for pandemic response. NCEMS would be able to provide vaccination and testing for future pandemics for which the current facility could not be used. The new station would also have sufficient facilities to allow for adequate decontamination on site after crew or equipment exposure to virulent pathogens.

NCEMS as an EMS taxing district has a maximum levy rate of \$0.50/\$1000 which was just reapproved two years ago. Additionally, the taxpayers of our district also approve an excess levy approximately every three years to fund the rest of the operational costs. Neither levy is used for capital/reserve funds. Capital funds come from a federal Medicaid program called "Ground Emergency Medical Transportation" and timber revenue taxation. On average NCEMS collects \$300,000 per year into the capital/reserve fund. At the current rate of inflation, NCEMS will never have sufficient funds to build the facility.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000699]: [Clark County Law Library]

Funding amount: [\$14,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.4 - Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery]

Project Overview

The County Council approved the purchase of books from vendors to bring the library's collection more up to date to benefit the public. The Law Library made significant cuts to its collection budget as a result of a drop in revenues due to COVID. Closure of the library followed by reduced hours led to a reduction of revenue based on foot traffic. Filing fees were significantly reduced after COVID started. The library's collection budget during COVID was only 45% of what it was pre-COVID. These funds will allow the library to bring current some targeted materials that were cut.

Funds were also used to purchase copiers and card/coin machines that allow people to pay to use them. Due to the decrease in foot traffic with COVID, revenues from the copiers were reduced. The library had a contract to have copiers, vending machines, and service/supplies provided by a company and they are paid from the revenues. The company that supplies the equipment and manages them does not want to invest in new equipment because the cost recovery period will be so much longer now than it was pre-COVID. The current equipment was so old that it is only possible to get parts on the secondary market, so they need to be replaced for the benefit of the public.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000731]: [Sheriff's Office and Corrections Payments]

Funding amount: [\$400,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 3.1 Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers]

Project Overview

The County Council approved Signing Incentive Bonuses for Newly Hired Corrections Officers (CDG) and Deputy Sheriff (DSG) being funded through ARPA Fund 1041 on June 7th, 2022. The Council signed a consent to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Clark County and the Corrections Deputy Guild (CDG), included in the consent was approval for signing bonus incentives for newly hired Corrections Officers and Deputy Sheriffs. The Memo of Understanding (MOU) for CDG.

Signing Bonuses went into effect May 4th, 2022, and the MOU for Deputy Sheriff's Guild (DSG) went into effect June 1st, 2022. The funding plan for the bonus incentive was not clarified in the original approval. This project clarifies that the signing bonus incentives will be paid out of the ARPA funds. The Fund has a provision for police, fire, and other public safety services. Due to the unprecedented level of staffing vacancies since 2020 and to be competitive in the job market, it was agreed that a signing bonus incentive would be appropriate for a limited duration to be reviewed for continuation periodically by the County.

Additional Projects

Project [GR0000838]: [Last Mile Broadband Infrastructure]

Funding amount: [\$4,646,060]

Project Expenditure Category: [EC 5.19 - Broadband: "Last Mile" Projects]

Project Overview

County Council approved \$4,646,060 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide a grant to Comcast Cable Communications for the purposes of rural broadband expansion in the Battle Ground area. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, households are increasingly reliant upon internet access to employment, school, medical appointments, and other needs. However, high-speed internet access remains unavailable or unreliable in many rural areas.

The Comcast proposal for a last-mile build project will provide qualifying high-speed broadband service to an area northeast of Battle Ground Lake. The expansion area would extend from the northeast corner of Battle Ground Lake east to around 220th Avenue, and north to the Heisson bridge. The project could potentially serve 100% of the currently unserved and underserved addresses in the project area.

The build-out would result in 31 miles of new high-speed, fiber-optic broadband serving 503 “passings,” which are the new available connections for households and businesses that would then be able to connect to Comcast Internet. Broadband service will include speeds of up to 100Mbps download and 20Mbps upload. This meets FCC guidelines and allows for video streaming and other high-bandwidth usage tasks.

Comcast will own the broadband infrastructure and will be responsible for all design, construction, operation, and maintenance. Comcast anticipates being able to complete the design, permitting, and construction of the project before December 2023.

The proposed project will have a total cost of \$6,637,229, of which Comcast is willing to contribute a 27% match in the amount of \$1,792,051.83. The cost per passing is \$13,195, necessitating governmental grant funds to make a business case for Comcast to complete the project. Comcast states that, due to the low population density in the area, “absent governmental funding, project costs, and estimated financial returns would not meet the standards Comcast has put in place for the purpose of identifying viable broadband construction projects...Building broadband infrastructure to this project area is financially challenging and the cost to build to every address is well in excess of Comcast’s standard business model. With the aid of County funding, deploying broadband service to this area will be economically feasible. The investment would also allow both parties to work together to a common goal – bringing best-in-class information services to these county residents and business owners.”

Comcast has performed a detailed project analysis including a field survey, an analysis of permitting costs, a network impact study, and a financial evaluation to ensure accuracy in the estimated project cost.