



Board Workshop / Discussion Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

February 11, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

Courthouse Room 220

WORKSHOP

1. **Update on American Rescue Plan Act**

[2025-043](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office



Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

Item Number: 2025-043

Meeting Date: 2/11/2025

Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Title

Update on American Rescue Plan Act

Attachment

1. Presentation



American Rescue Plan Act



Agenda

- American Rescue Plan Act Background and Overview
County Manager Ling Becker
- State and Local Recovery Fund
Interim Health and Wellness Deputy County Manager Alex Kotze
- Bridging CARES Learning and Centering Community and One Time Needs Spending
Health and Wellness Innovation and Strategy Director Dana DeMaster
- What's Next?
County Manager Ling Becker

Goals For Today

- Provide background and overview on Ramsey County American Rescue Plan Act investments.
- Discuss investments that were made.
- Provide preview of upcoming programmatic workshops.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- Signed into law March 11, 2021.
- \$1.9 trillion rescue package to address immediate community needs associated with COVID-19 and the resulting economic impacts and set communities on an equitable path to recovery and resilience.
- Came on the tails after Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by Congress in 2020 to help Americans deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Gratitude to the organization and community for impacts of these investments both short and long-term.

American Rescue Plan Act

Highlights Include:

- Economic Impact Payments (\$1,400 individual, \$2,400 couple, \$1,400 each dependent)
- Child Tax Credit (\$2,000-\$3,600 per child; made through monthly advance payments)
- Capital Projects (\$10 billion for broadband)
- Homeowner Assistance (\$10 billion total)
- Emergency Rental Assistance (\$21.6 billion)
- Small Business Credits, Unemployment Compensation and Other Items
- State and Local Recovery Fund (\$350 billion total)

State and Local Recovery Fund (\$350 billion total)

ARPA Distribution to State and Local Governments

- Allocated \$350 billion to states, territories, tribes, and local governments.
- Ramsey County received \$108 million.
- Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026.
- In 2021 and 2022, all ARPA projects were approved by the Board with funding allocations.
- In 2024, Board action spent all remaining funds and shifted the ARPA initiatives and funding into projects to avoid many unknowns with the changing obligation requirements from U.S. Treasury.
- All ARPA projects and priorities remain the same and any change in scope or use will need board approval.
- The Deeply Affordable Housing ARPA program, with \$19 million remaining, continues to be spent and reported on to U.S. Treasury.

Prioritization of funds



Detailed Funding

Description	Tier	Adjusted Budget
Public Health Ongoing Pandemic Response	1	\$1,100,000
Workforce Development: Right Track+	1	\$1,105,589
Racial Equity & Community Engagement	1	\$2,178,000
Emergency Shelter Expansion	1	\$5,120,000
County Attorney Covid Case Backlog	1	\$2,500,000
Employee Vaccine & Testing Infrastructure & Implementation	1	\$617,290
2022-2023 budget to support expanded county service delivery	2 & 3	\$20,150,000
Workforce Ecosystem & Public Health Workforce Continuity	4	\$9,500,000
Violence Prevention	4	\$14,400,000
Deeply Affordable Housing	5	\$37,000,000
One Time Needs	-	\$15,100,000
TOTAL		\$108,788,808

Bridging CARES Learning and Centering Community

- A holistic approach to community need.
- Building on and supporting existing community organizations and services – not creating new programs that may be temporary.
- Sharing information through trusted community channels not only in multiple languages, but also through multiple means.
- We can move quickly.
- Importance of having a relationship before you need it.

Community Partnership Impacts

- Experiences and evaluation of procurement and contracting policies in CARES time led directly to Procurement and Contracting Transformation (PACT).
- Holistic view of family and communities driven by the Equity Action Circle led to investment in Family Coach.
- Need to get critical health information out and understood lead to Trusted Messenger programs.
- Workforce recommendations led to Public Health Career Pathways program.

One-time Needs

One-time Gap Needs

What	Amount	Impact
Sheriff's Office Court Security	\$600,000	Costs related to courts backlog, providing court security in courtrooms and while escorting people to and from court.
Information Services	\$3,000,000	Hardware and software replacement, including laptops, monitors, scanners, tablets, and accessories; decreased IS service rates for all departments.
Social Services MnCHOICES	\$1,100,000	Salary and benefits for limited duration MnCHOICES assessors who completed 2,097 assessments.
Financial Assistance Services	\$1,200,000	Salary and benefits for limited duration clerical staff to assist with application screening and assignment, answer phone calls, scanning, and service centers.
County Attorney Case Backlog	\$1,500,000	Salary and benefits for limited duration attorneys, paralegals, legal secretary, and victim/witness advocate to decrease case backlog.

One-time Gap Needs

What	Amount	Impact
Employee Vaccine and Testing	\$617,000	Infrastructure to ensure staff were either vaccinated or tested negative for COVID-19.
Employee Work at Home Stipend	\$2,200,000	\$500 stipend for mobile and hybrid employees to purchase home office equipment.
Employee Recognition Stipends	\$4,000,000	One-time lump sum recognition payments of \$1,000 for on-site staff and \$500 for other staff for recognition of public service during the pandemic response.

What's Next?

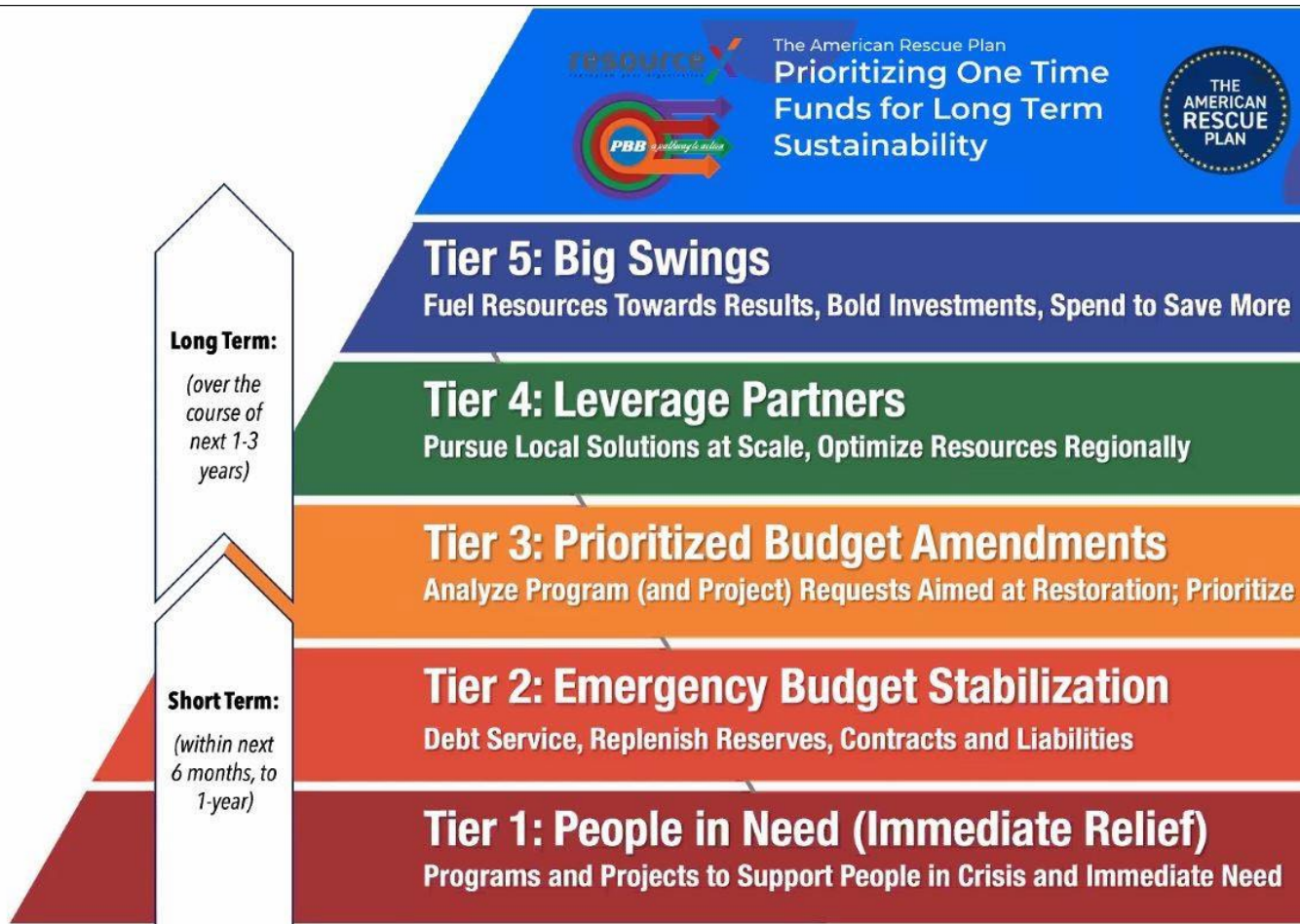
Upcoming ARPA Board Workshops

- Board workshop this afternoon to focus on immediate Housing Stability and Public Health Responses.
- February 18 workshops on:
 - Workforce Investments
 - Affordable Housing
- Goal is to share high level overview, impact, and things learned that has transformed our work.
- Appropriate Response Initiative will be topic for future Strategic Priority workshop on putting well-being and community at the center of Justice System Transformation.

Questions

Appendix

Detailed Prioritization of Funds



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Deeply Affordable Housing	5	\$37,000,000
ARPA Administration & Evaluation	-	\$3,000,000
Employee Stipends	-	\$4,017,929
Space & Technology Workplace Adaptations	-	\$2,200,000
Information Services	-	\$3,000,000
Financial Assistance Services	-	\$1,200,000
MNCHOICES	-	\$1,100,000
County Sherriff's Office Court and Security Services		\$600,000
TOTAL		\$108,788,808