
Sponsor: Finance

Meeting Date: 11/16/2021

Title: American Rescue Plan Act Funding Request for Tier 1 Priority
Administrative Items

File Number: 2021-618

Background and Rationale:

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was signed into law on March 11, 2021. The relief package provides funding in several areas such as state and local aid, education, rental assistance, transit, stimulus payments for individuals, and other provisions. In addition, ARPA provides \$350 billion in additional funding for state and local governments. Ramsey County received \$53,446,702 of the total grant amount of \$106,893,403 million from the US Treasury Local Government ARPA funds. The second installment will be sent to the county from the US Treasury in May 2022. The ARPA funding must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and can be spent through December 31, 2026. This allows time for planning and investment in various tiers from immediate needs through bold investments that impact the systems and residents of Ramsey County.

In April and August 2021, the County Manager presented an overall approach to the ARPA funding for the county. In the diagram below, it shows five tiers ranging from Tier 1 which is focused on immediate needs up through Tier 5, which is longer term, transformational investments. Since the presentations, several proposals have come to the Ramsey County Board for consideration and have been approved. They include Right Track + workforce initiative (\$2.1 million), affordable housing investment (\$20 million) and the Racial Equity and Community Engagement Response Team (RECERT) work (\$2.7 million). This Request for Board Action is seeking authority for several Tier 1 immediate needs for work throughout the county. Below is a list of each area and explanation of the proposed investment.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Allocate up to \$2,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Public Health response including vaccine incentives and other immediate responses, in accordance with federal guidance.
2. Allocate up to \$5,120,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Homelessness project, in accordance with federal guidance.
3. Allocate up to \$2,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to support the administration of the funds and related programs including evaluation, support services and audit functions, in accordance with federal guidance.
4. Allocate up to \$1,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Ramsey County Care Center and Lake Owasso Residence for their on-going COVID response, in accordance with federal guidance.
5. Allocate up to \$1,100,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Ramsey County Attorney's Office to address the backlog of cases, in accordance with federal guidance.
6. Approve an increase in the personnel complement of the County Attorney's Office by 2.0 Full Time Equivalent Assistant County Attorney, 1.0 Full Time Equivalent Paralegal, 1.0 Full Time Equivalent Legal Secretary and 1.2 Full Time Equivalent Victim Witness Advocate.
7. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McGuire, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By: _____



Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board