

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: March 1, 2023

TO: Shawn Rolland, Co-Chair, Ricardo Diaz, Co-Chair,
Milwaukee County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Task Force

FROM: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: ARPA Project Recommendation

REQUEST

Requesting recommendation of the following expense for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding consideration totaling \$500,000.

POLICY

Milwaukee County Board file 21-555: “A resolution to create a Task Force to review and recommend funding allocations to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for monies received by the County in the Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021”

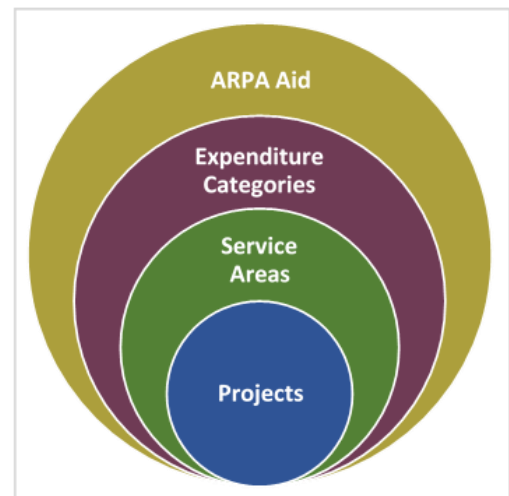
BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County received \$183 million between 2021-24 in federal ARPA aid. These funds are intended to allow flexibility for jurisdictions to meet local needs and fund local solutions to support families, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers and the communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) recommends the following project receive ARPA funding.

Diagram A: Illustration of Terms



Project Name: Milwaukee Premium Assistance Program Pilot

Overview of the project:

The Milwaukee Premium Assistance Program (MPAP) is a collective two-year pilot that aims to provide assistance in paying health insurance premiums for low-income Milwaukee County residents eligible for Marketplace insurance plans, in order to improve health care access and health outcomes. This program would be the result of partnership between government, health care, health insurance, and non-profit agencies to invest in prevention for the county’s most vulnerable residents. The program’s current design targets Milwaukee County residents with income between 101 and 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL).

The total cost of the model is estimated to be about \$3.5M total over two years, and the County ARPA funding requested would subsidize part of the program, with other also entities contributing to cover the cost. The MPAP Program Administrator will be Community Advocates, and the non-profit’s role will be to verify eligibility and make payments directly to the health insurance company on behalf of the resident.

The Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP) is a public/private consortium dedicated to improving health care for low-income, underserved populations in Milwaukee County. The organization has been leading the design, feasibility analysis, and fundraising for the project. The County would be one of the funding partners. If fundraising for the Milwaukee Premium Assistance Program is successful, the program would begin operating in summer of 2023. The MPAP plans to reach target residents will through marketing, as well as through outreach by an established group of enrollment assisters, health insurance agents and brokers that work with vulnerable populations.

Budget Request:

Expense Item	Description	Total Cost
Health insurance premium assistance	Funding to assist with the payment of health insurance premiums for residents with income between 101 and 138 percent of Federal Poverty Line; funding will be transferred to Program Administrator that will verify eligibility and make payments directly to the health insurance company on behalf of the resident.	\$500,000

Budget by Fiscal Year:

FY 2023	FY2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
\$250,000	\$250,000	\$	\$	\$

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the recommendation of prioritized project totaling \$500,000.

PREPARED BY:

Steve Gorodetskiy, Strategic Initiatives Director, Department of Health and Human Services

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the strategic plan:

3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities

3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Milwaukee Premium Assistance Program Pilot Proposal

Attachment B: Milwaukee Premium Assistance Program Description, provided by the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP) organization