

1 Supervisor Jason Haas, Chairperson,  
2 By the Committee on Finance reporting on:

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4 File No. 21-332

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6 A resolution by the Committee on Finance providing an informational report regarding  
7 the approved Federal Legislation "American Rescue Act of 2021" and its impacts on  
8 Milwaukee County.

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10 **A RESOLUTION**

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12 WHEREAS, at the March 18, 2021 meeting of the Committee on Finance, an  
13 informational report was presented regarding the American Rescue Act of 2021 and its  
14 impacts on Milwaukee County; and

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16 WHEREAS, the American Rescue Act of 2021 provides aid to individuals,  
17 businesses, and state and local governments in response to the ongoing COVID-19  
18 pandemic; and

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20 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is expected to receive an allocation of  
21 \$183,417,734 to be spent prior to December 31, 2024; and

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23 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County's municipalities will be receiving their own  
24 allocation of funding from the American Rescue Act of 2021, including the City of  
25 Milwaukee, which is receiving more than \$400 million; and

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27 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County will receive half of its allocation 60 days after  
28 passage of the law and the remaining 50 percent twelve months after that; and

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30 WHEREAS, the legislation dictates that the funding must be spent:

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- 33 • To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts
  - 34 • To respond to workers performing essential work during COVID-19 through the provision of premium pandemic pay or grants to workers
  - 35 • For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction of revenue due to COVID-19, including lost revenues from the previous
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  - 37 • For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction of revenue due to COVID-19, including lost revenues from the previous
  - 38 • For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction of revenue due to COVID-19, including lost revenues from the previous calendar year (2020)
  - 39 • To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure
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41 ; and

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43 WHEREAS, the Department of Administrative Services has proposed allocating  
44 funding from the legislation to the following categories: COVID-19 purchases, COVID-  
45 19 related revenue losses, community and economic support programs, vaccine

46 distribution and COVID-19 testing, IT/remote work investments, and, potentially, capital  
47 improvements; and

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49 WHEREAS, the legislation will provide further funding beyond the \$183,417,734  
50 already anticipated, in a currently unknown amount, to target spending on transit  
51 assistance grants, housing programs, airport relief, aging services, mental health  
52 services, and potential other provisions; and

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54 WHEREAS, previous legislation related to COVID-19 relief required that  
55 Milwaukee County spend all of its allocation in a short timeframe, expediting the  
56 process by which allocation decisions were made; and

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58 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County has the opportunity to be deliberative and  
59 purposeful in disbursing its allocation to ensure that funding is efficient and effective;  
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62 WHEREAS, the extended timeframe for spending the funds allows Milwaukee  
63 County to consider projects and investments that advances its mission towards  
64 becoming the healthiest county in Wisconsin by achieving racial equity; and

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66 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a disparate impact on people of  
67 color, including relief efforts and vaccine distribution, which Milwaukee County can help  
68 rectify through an equitable distribution of its federal funding; and

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70 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County can also use the planning process to collaborate  
71 with municipalities and local partners to target programs and individuals who are in the  
72 greatest need; and

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74 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors has the legal authority  
75 to approve and distribute funds and represents a diverse and broad population of  
76 citizens; and

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78 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of March 18, 2021,  
79 recommended adoption of said By the Committee resolution (vote 6-0); now, therefore,

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81 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors shall be  
82 involved in planning for the disbursement of the funding provided by the American  
83 Rescue Act of 2021; and

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85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County shall collaborate with its  
86 local municipalities and local partners to spend its funding efficiently and effectively; and

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88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of the Comptroller shall be involved in  
89 the development of the proposed spending plan to ensure proper financial oversight,  
90 accounting, and audit of the funds to ensure it comports with federal and state laws,  
91 local ordinances, and best financial practices; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funding provided by the American Rescue Act of 2021 shall prioritize inclusion of our mission of racial and health equity and improving Milwaukee County’s financial position through investment in infrastructure to support its employees and operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Administrative Services shall provide regular reports to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors as to the proposed plan to allocate the funding.

03/18/2021  
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