

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: February 17, 2023
TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
SUBJECT: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting approval to award \$609,355 in ARPA funding to Milwaukee County's Mental Health Board for community mental health services
File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

DHHS requests \$609,355 be awarded to the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for grant eligible mental health program and services contained in the Behavioral Health Services area within the Department of Health and Human Services.

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."

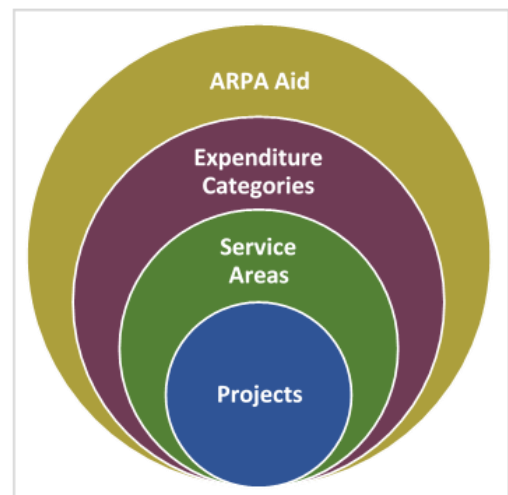
2013 Wisconsin Act 203 requires the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board (MHB) to determine and authorize mental health programs and services.

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County received \$183 million between 2021-24 in federal ARPA aid. Approximately \$40,415,339 has been allotted for Community Support projects.

The Community Support Service Area subgroups were established to generate project-level allocation recommendations to respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector in Milwaukee County.

Diagram A: Illustration of Terms



The Mental & Behavioral Health subgroup was formed with subject matter experts following the Community Support Service Area Subgroup Charter.

In November 2022, the subgroup reviewed the Access to Mental Health Care and Mental Health Clinic for Youth and Youth Adults projects received from external sources to support Milwaukee County’s recovery in this service area. The subgroup followed the criteria set by the ARPA Task Force on September 2, 2021 to recommend these projects as high priority projects.

PRIORITIZED PROJECTS

The ARPA Task Force recommended the following projects for funding on January 19, 2023 (vote 5-0). Services rendered as part of these projects would be contracted out with City on a Hill (COAH) and Walker’s Point Youth and Family Center. Please note that 2013 Wisconsin Act 203 requires the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board (MHB) determine and authorize mental health programs and services. Therefore, the contracts with City on a Hill (COAH) and Walker’s Point Youth and Family Center as shown below would need to be approved by the Mental Health Board. This file simply requests that the County Board approve the allocation of \$609,355 to the Mental Health Board.

Project Name	Description	Budget
Access to Mental Health Care	City on a Hill (COAH) proposes to improve the care for the top ranked need in Milwaukee County – mental health. To close gaps in mental health access, this project will leverage the engagement of COAH’s collaborative network of partners to better respond to the need for mental and behavioral health provider access. COAH will add additional capacity through a unique partnership leveraging a tech-enabled kiosk approach with Nurse Disrupted and Anesis Therapy that will provide culturally responsive behavioral health services through their client facing kiosks at the COAH campus This funding will be used to hire dedicated health professionals to provide a greater level of care to these patients, will improve the care provided in the clinic setting and accelerate the healing process.	\$408,831
Mental Health Clinic for Youth and Youth Adults	Walker’s Point Youth and Family Center will maintain current mental health services and to expand programming into community outreach. Walker’s Point Youth & Family Center would implement two new positions. A bilingual licensed professional counselor (LPC) would be embedded into the youth development programming offered through Milwaukee Christian Center in the 53215 zip code and other program partners. The other LPC position would create LGBTQIA+ programming to work with current residents and pilot outreach programs.	\$200,524

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The funding allocation for mental health services for youth and families in the community addresses 3C: dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities of the county's strategic plan. The proposed projects attempt to address disparities in access to care and additional mental health challenges faced by those residents living in poverty particularly in communities of color.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approve \$609,355 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Mental Health Board.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note is attached.

TERMS

Assuming the contracts are approved by the Mental Health Board, the anticipated contract terms would be April 1, 2023 until December 31, 2024.

PREPARED BY

Clare O'Brien, DHHS Budget and Policy Director

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

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

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

Mike Lappen, Behavioral Health Services Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Access to Mental Health Care Project Proposal

Attachment B- Mental Health Clinic for Young Adults Project Proposal

Attachment – ARPA Subgroup Memo Mental Behavioral Health Projects

Cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Liz Sumner, Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Sr Budget and Management Analyst, Office of Strategy, Budget & Performance