

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: March 3, 2022

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: David Crowley, Milwaukee County Executive

Subject: Requesting emergency allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funding to bolster Milwaukee County's behavioral health efforts

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The County Executive respectfully requests emergency approval of \$6,704,500 from the allocation provided to Milwaukee County of American Rescue Plan Act funds in order to immediately supplement Milwaukee County's behavioral health programming.

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County is in the midst of increases in gun violence, substance abuse issues, and other mental health concerns. The common thread in these issues is that they can be addressed through targeted, evidence-based programming for residents most at-risk for these negative outcomes. The Department of Health and Human Services has identified four programs that would benefit from an immediate, emergency influx of resources in order to combat the underlying issues of the urgent problems we see in our communities today. The Parks Department has identified an additional two programs that would increase the safety in and around Milwaukee County Parks. The County Executive respectfully requests consideration of an allocation of \$6,636,000 from Milwaukee County's American Rescue Plan Act fund to be put toward the programs below.

The allocation of these funds would be used for six specific programs in Milwaukee County's Department of Health and Human Services and Parks Department:

1. **CYFS Credible Messenger Program (\$1,201,200):** This program identifies high-risk youth, ages 17-24, at the center of gun violence, provides them with seven-days-a-week mentoring and supportive relationships using credible messengers and delivers services and supports to these individuals for a minimum of 1-year.
2. **Trauma Response (\$1,971,200):** Fund additional community crisis beds to assist with non-police responses to crisis calls. Funding would be used to fund the emergency beds/housing options as well as crisis response staff.
3. **Behavioral Health Awareness Campaign (\$545,600):** Public awareness campaign about mental health (and/or DHHS-wide) services available. This is specifically in response to promotion and increasing awareness about non-

law enforcement related and preventative/upstream services in BHD. This is also related to promotion of No Wrong Door (Children's & Adult Integration projects). Increased awareness continues to be a need as mental health and public safety issues increase through the pandemic.

4. **Safer Milwaukee Proposal Support (\$550,000):** Support for non-law enforcement crisis response pilot suggested in “Safer MKE” proposal. Long term sustainability plan can include braided funding from grants and Medicaid reimbursable services as well as city/county funds. These efforts would increase support for mental health and public safety priorities
5. **Safe Routes to Parks (\$1,287,000):** The *Safe Routes to Parks* program is a targeted investment to improve pedestrian safety and decrease reckless driving in and near our parks. As an amenity that is dispersed throughout Milwaukee neighborhoods – and, in many cases, adjacent to schools and other community gathering places – providing safe access to parks is critical to ensuring that the benefits of these greenspaces are able to be realized by all citizens. This funding will help provide pedestrian safety measures like curb extensions, raised crosswalks, crosswalk painting and signage, as well as collaboration with the City of Milwaukee for City rights of way.
6. **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (\$1,149,500):** Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is an urban design strategy that focuses on addressing issues with the built environment in order to deter criminal activity and improve public safety. This proposal focuses on aspects of the built environment within Milwaukee County Parks that will improve visibility and access to parks in order to deter gun violence and criminal activity. Placement and alignment of physical improvements are selected not only to prevent criminal activity in the immediate area, but also to reduce criminal activity in the surrounding area. This includes alteration of existing landscaping and the physical elements of parks that limit visibility, the improvement of park lighting to improve visibility, installation of motion sensor lighting controls on buildings, addition of traffic control features like bollards and gates, and the removal and regrading of vacant facilities.

This report will also be submitted to Milwaukee County’s ARPA Task Force.

FISCAL EFFECT

This resolution would allocate \$6,704,500 from the American Rescue Plan Act funds to the specific programs above. See attached amended fiscal note.

TERMS

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

- david.muhammad@milwaukeecountywi.gov
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PREPARED BY:

Kyle Caudill, Director of Legislative Affairs

APPROVED BY:

Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Fiscal Note

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk