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A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting approval to reallocate \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the Milwaukee Premium Assistance Program (MPAP) to the Medicaid Re-Enrollment Support project to support Milwaukee County residents at risk of losing health insurance coverage, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County’s (the County) vision is to become the healthiest county in the State of Wisconsin (the State), by addressing racial health inequities and social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic has significantly affected the health of County residents across a number of health indicators; and

WHEREAS, to counteract this anticipated issue, the Federal government in 2020 created a program that has allowed Medicaid enrollees to be continuously enrolled without the need to re-enroll annually; and

WHEREAS, the continuous re-enrollment is ending this summer with the end of the COVID-19 Federal Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, more than 400,000 County residents are enrolled in Medicaid, comprising over 44 percent of the population as of February 2023; and

WHEREAS, all of these residents are at risk of losing health insurance coverage if they do not or are unable to re-enroll in Medicaid, and up to a quarter of those residents (90,000+) may no longer be eligible for Medicaid and will require sourcing alternative insurance; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin will begin to require renewal of residents starting in June 2023, with residents required to renew during one of the specified months between June 2034 and May 2024; and

WHEREAS, this one-time “Medicaid Unwinding” event is particularly precarious because:

- (a) many of these residents have not needed to re-enroll in three years and may not be aware that it’s required nor how to do so
- (b) the number of residents that will require renewal and support in doing so is significantly higher than typical processes
- (c) there will likely be a lot of confusion about when and how to re-enroll

; and

47 WHEREAS, the result may be that vulnerable residents may discover they no
48 longer have insurance at the moment they have a medical need, or a resident may not
49 seek out health care services because of the confusion of this Medicaid unwinding, and
50 several key Behavioral Health and Aging/Disabilities programs require Medicaid
51 enrollment to be eligible to receive support; and
52

53 WHEREAS, this issue is likely to affect the County's residents who identify as
54 Black or Hispanic the most, given what data tells us about who is currently enrolled in
55 Medicaid, as the top zip codes of current enrollees include: 53218, 53209, 53216,
56 53206, as well as 53215, 53204, and 53221; and
57

58 WHEREAS, in March 2023, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
59 approved File No. 23-377, which allocated \$500,000 for the Milwaukee Premium
60 Assistance Program (MPAP), to support insurance premiums of County residents with a
61 household income between 100 and 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level; and
62

63 WHEREAS, the MPAP is not moving forward, as the Program was not able to
64 fund the total project budget, freeing up American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for
65 other aligned and strategic uses; and
66

67 WHEREAS, while the MPAP is not moving forward, the proposed Medicaid Re-
68 Enrollment Support project is designed to address needs that MPAP planned to
69 address; and
70

71 WHEREAS, the Medicaid Re-Enrollment Support project aims to increase
72 awareness of the Medicaid Unwinding, to fund entities or contractors to provide direct
73 support to residents to re-enroll or find alternative health insurance, to provide trainings
74 to staff and other community organizations on how to help residents re-enroll, and for a
75 variety of materials; and
76

77 WHEREAS, the ARPA Task Force recommended the Medicaid Re-Enrollment
78 Support project for funding on May 11, 2023 (vote 6-0); and
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80 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of May 18, 2023,
81 recommended adoption of File No. 23-593 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,
82

83 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
84 authorizes the Medicaid Re-Enrollment Support project supported by American Rescue
85 Plan Act (ARPA) revenue, in the amount of \$500,000, to the Department of Health and
86 Human Services (DHHS); and
87

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby authorizes DHHS to
89 reallocate ARPA funding that was previously approved for the Milwaukee Premium
90 Assistance Program under adopted File No. 23-377, to the Medicaid Re-Enrollment
91 Support project, and enter into sole source service contracts with Inpower, in the
92 amount of \$100,000, for communications services, and with Covering Wisconsin, in the
93 amount of \$40,000, for training, as well as to utilize a small acquisitions bid process for
94 selecting vendors that will provide direct support to residents to re-enroll; and
95

96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby authorizes the Office of
97 Strategy, Budget, and Performance (OSBP), and the Office of the Comptroller
98 (Comptroller), to process an administrative appropriation transfer in the amount of
99 \$500,000, to direct funds to DHHS for the Medicaid Re-Enrollment Support project
100 starting June 1, 2023, until December 31, 2024; and
101

102 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DHHS shall provide a report no less than once
103 per year on the status of the project, including aggregate information on the
104 expenditures from the Medicaid Re-Enrollment Support project, and its impact on
105 improving the fiscal health of Milwaukee County residents; and
106

107 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes the administrating
108 department, DHHS, the Office of Corporation Counsel, the Risk Management Division,
109 Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Office of Economic Inclusion, DAS, the
110 Comptroller, OSBP, and County Executive, to prepare, review, approve, and execute all
111 contracts and other documents, and take all actions as required for the purpose of
112 administering the above-referenced project funded by the ARPA grant allocation
113 framework.
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