

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

**Date:** 4/7/2022  
**To:** Milwaukee County ARPA Task Force  
**From:** Stephanie Garbo, Judicial Operations Manager-Pretrial  
**Subject:** File No. 22-480, Criminal Court Backlog ARPA Request  
**File Type:** Informational Report

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**REQUEST**

This report is intended to provide an update on the Criminal Court Backlog project within the Revenue Loss Recovery Expenditure Category for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

**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 will directly receive \$183 million between 2021-24 in federal ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The Milwaukee County ARPA Task Force has allotted \$115.7 million of this allocation to the Revenue Loss Recovery subgroup for Fiscal Health projects.

The Revenue Loss Recovery Subgroup was established to generate project-level allocation recommendations to improve the fiscal health of Milwaukee County and strengthen support for vital public services.

\$1,250,000 of American Rescue Plan Act dollars is being requested for three items to help the Criminal Courts address the backlog of cases due to the pandemic.

- (1) Org. 2900 – Pretrial Services, \$950,000: Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring equipment and staffing – Due to the courts’ limited ability to dispose of cases in a timely manner a significant waitlist has developed for individuals court ordered to GPS supervision. The additional devices and staffing will help to ensure that those who are court ordered to GPS supervision are released from custody timely and placed on a GPS device.
- (2) Org. 2900 – Pretrial Services, \$220,000: pretrial supervision case management – The additional case managers will have more effective caseloads. As cases are taking longer to get through the system, individuals are staying on supervision longer which has inflated the pretrial caseloads.
- (3) Org. 2000 – Combined Court Related Operations, \$80,000: ARPA grant/program manager to oversee the use of these dollars along with the State ARPA allocation – A dedicated individual to monitor the stewardship

of the ARPA dollars (both local and state) is necessary to ensure the appropriate reporting and outcome measures.

These three items were submitted to the ARPA Task Force in March, as County Board File 22-480 and approved.

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

2 Bridging the Gap: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions & 3 Invest in Equity: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

Minority populations tend to be disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system and incarcerated. With the additional GPS devices, individuals who are not able to pay the higher cash bail alternative will still be able to be released. When individuals are able to safely remain in the community during the pendency of their case they can keep their jobs and help support their family.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This is an informational item.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

N/A

**TERMS**

The term of the ARPA Task Force began on July 13, 2021. The Task Force will endure until all of the ARPA monies are fully allocated.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

N/A

**PREPARED BY:**

Stephanie Garbo

**APPROVED BY:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Milwaukee County American Rescue Plan Act Allocation File No. 22-480