

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: January 13, 2022

To: Milwaukee County ARPA Task Force and Milwaukee County Board

From: Milwaukee County ARPA Task Force Co-Chair Shawn Rolland

Subject: APRA Task Force Background, Strategic Approach and Funding Recommendations To-Date

File Type: Informational Report

REQUEST

An update on the Milwaukee County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Task Force strategic approach and funding recommendations as of December 2021.

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 \$183.6 million between 2021-22 in federal ARPA aid. The U.S. Department of the Treasury's [Interim Financial Rule](#), released on May 10, 2021, details the allowable uses of the ARPA fund:

Support Public Health Response – Services and programs to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, address behavioral healthcare needs exacerbated by the pandemic, and cover payroll and covered benefits expenses for employees working on COVID-19 response are eligible.

Address Negative Economic Impacts – Programs to assist families (i.e. job training, aid to households facing food, housing, or other financial insecurity, etc.), support small business, speed recovery of impacted sectors (i.e. tourism), and rebuilding public sector capacity are eligible.

Serving the Hardest-Hit Communities and Families – Investments to address health disparities and social determinants of health (i.e. Provide funding for community health workers, public benefits navigators, lead remediation, and community violence intervention programs), investing in housing and neighborhoods, addressing educational disparities, and healthy childhood environments (i.e. expanding high quality child care, home visiting programs, enhanced services for child welfare, etc.) are

eligible.

Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss – Counties may use funds to replace lost revenue and avoid cuts to government services. Recipients have broad latitude to use this funding to support government services, up to this amount of lost revenue.

Provide Premium Pay for Essential Workers – Counties may use funds to provide premium pay to essential workers who must be physically present at jobs.

Invest in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure – Investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet are eligible.

Ineligible uses include deposits to a pension fund, funding debt service, legal settlements or judgments, deposits to rainy day funds or financial reserves.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ARPA TASK FORCE IS FORMED

On July 13, 2021, County Executive David Crowley signed a Milwaukee County Board proposal by Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson to create the ARPA Task Force. The Task Force was charged with soliciting public input (with a focus on outreach to underrepresented groups) and to provide recommendations to allocate the \$183.6 million in funding to the Milwaukee County Board.

The Task Force is comprised of six leaders:

- Co-Chair Ricardo Diaz, former Executive Director of the United Community Center, designated by County Executive Crowley
- Co-Chair Shawn Rolland, Milwaukee County Board Supervisor – District 6, designated by Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson
- Ashley Adsit, Milwaukee County Director of Grants & Special Projects – designated by Department of Administrative Services Director Aaron Hertzberg
- Jason Haas, Milwaukee County Board Supervisor – District 14 and Finance Committee Chair
- Scott Manske, Milwaukee County Comptroller
- Jeff Roman, Milwaukee County Office on African American Affairs Director

The Task Force held its first meeting on August 12, 2021.

PROACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

On September 2, 2021, the ARPA Task Force approved a robust community outreach and engagement framework to involve Milwaukee County residents in a process to help define and recommend ARPA funding allocations. The framework is grounded in the County's vision to achieve racial equity and centers the just and fair inclusion of residents of color and other community members most impacted by the COVID in defining what they need to mitigate pandemic impacts.

The ARPA outreach and community engagement framework defines community engagement as the iterative, interactive process of informing, listening to, involving, and empowering community members in decision making, with the goals of sharing power and generating public benefit. To that end, the approved framework includes four main phases: Inform, Listen To, Involve, and Empower Milwaukee County residents, outlined in the table below.

PHASE	DESCRIPTION	OUTLETS/ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
INFORM	Milwaukee County will inform residents about the County's vision, services, fiscal challenges, and ARPA funding priorities.	Public Information Campaign; District Townhall Meetings, County ARPA Landing Page, Social Media, Media (TV, Radio, Print/Digital); Information dissemination at County Courthouse, Coggs Center, and Senior Centers, MCTS; Outreach to County Boards and Commissions, Community Resilience Imperative	September – December 2021 <i>(Complete)</i>
LISTEN TO	Milwaukee County will listen to the diverse perspectives and ideas of residents with an emphasis on those most impacted by COVID-19 to help define what, where, and how ARPA dollars are used.	Reverse Community Townhalls targeting African American, Latinx, Hmong/AAPI, First Nations, LGBTQ+, Seniors, Veterans, Persons with Disabilities, and Small Business Owners	October – December 2021 <i>(Complete)</i>
INVOLVE	Milwaukee County will involve residents and impacted community partners directly in ARPA community support and COVID-19 mitigation planning and decision making.	ARPA Task Force Meetings and Community Support Service Area Subject Matter Teams. The County will build upon existing COVID-19 mitigation, strategic communications and outreach, and public health infrastructure development activities underway.	January 2022 through ARPA funding period as needed through Service Area Subject Matter Teams <i>(In Progress)</i>
EMPOWER	Milwaukee County will	Milwaukee County will	Ongoing

	empower residents and impacted community partner organizations by investing in and building their leadership and organizational capacity to implement ARPA funding decisions and support mitigation efforts, including policy and systems change.	empower residents and impacted community partner organizations by investing in and building their leadership and organizational capacity to implement ARPA funding decisions and support mitigation efforts, including policy and systems change.	through ARPA funding period to support implementation of ARPA funded community support strategies (<i>In Progress</i>)
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ARPA monies are one-time federal funds. During its first meeting on August 12, 2021, the Task Force agreed that it should prioritize non-recurring expenditures that align to the County's strategic plan priorities that provide benefits well beyond 2021, especially those that invest upstream in equity to address the root causes of health disparities, enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability, and dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

During its meeting on September 2, 2021, the Task Force unanimously approved a strategic framework to guide its future work.

Category	% of ARPA	Total Allocation	Purpose
Revenue Loss Recovery	63%	\$115,728,599	Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.
Community Support Programs	20%	\$36,739,238	Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.
COVID-19 Mitigation	13%	\$23,880,505	Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff.
Fund Administration	4%	\$7,347,848	Manage and coordinate use of ARPA funds to ensure strong programmatic and fiscal accountability, timely reporting, and alignment with supplementary funding.

Also on September 2, 2021, the Task Force approved a proposal to create Service Area

Groups and Subgroups to generate project-level allocations recommendations for the Task Force to subsequently consider.

Category	Facilitating Agencies	Lead Facilitators
Revenue Loss Recovery	Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget (PSB) and Office of the Comptroller	Joseph Lamers, Scott Manske
Community Support Programs	Department of Health & Human Services	<i>Household Assistance:</i> Cleopatra Echols, James Mathy, Michelle Gore <i>Mental & Behavioral Health:</i> Gina Whiyee, Lauren Hubbard <i>Other Social Determinants of Health:</i> Alena DeGrado, Sumaiyah Clark
COVID-19 Mitigation	PSB with the Office of Emergency Management and reopening task force	Steve Gorodetskiy
Fund Administration	PSB and Grants & Special Projects Division	Ashley Adsit

The subgroups were directed to use local and organizational data, community input, partner consultation, and/or research on evidence-based practices for their service area focus. Criteria for reviewing internal and external project ideas will vary by service area. The Community Support Service Area subgroups will include contributions by community partners.

Subgroups were formed in the late fall. The Task Force shared hopes that subgroup recommendations be shared with the Task Force in Spring 2022. In response, the ARPA Task Force will make service area-level allocation recommendations for Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors consideration. This process will be repeated minimally every six months or more frequently as needed until all funds have been allocated.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO-DATE

Recognizing that some urgent requests for funding needed to be considered prior to when the Subgroups would complete their initial work in Spring 2022, the Task Force also created a framework enabling the body to approve emergency recommendations for funding. To date, the following recommendations have been adopted by the County

Board:

Strategic Focus Area	Description of Recommendation	Cost
Community Support	Right to Counsel pilot program for 2021-2022	\$2,749,729
Community Support	Flexible Housing Subsidy for 2021	\$1,500,000
COVID-19 Mitigation	COVID-19 emergency needs	\$2,500,000
Revenue Loss	Vaccine Incentive Pay for Correctional Officers	Up to \$4,039,955
Revenue Loss	Capital Program Management Office for ARPA Funding	\$500,000
Fund Administration	Senior Grant Analyst	\$86,844

Additionally, the following are recommendations approved by the American Rescue Plan Act Task Force which have not been adopted by the Milwaukee County Board, as of January 13, 2022:

Strategic Focus Area	Description of Recommendation	Cost
Revenue Loss Recovery	Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center Renovation	\$32,300,000
Revenue Loss	IMSD Digital Transformation ARPA Funding	\$500,000

The following represents ARPA funds remaining for consideration:

Strategic Focus Area	Funds Remaining
Revenue Loss Recovery	\$111,188,644 if Coggs Center renovations are not adopted by the board. \$78,388,644 if Coggs Center renovations and IMSD Digital Transformation funds are adopted by the board.
Community Support	\$32,489,509
COVID-19 Mitigation	At least \$21,380,505. Likely more for two reasons. 1) Not all correctional officers took advantage of the vaccine premium pay incentive and 2) as part of its 2022 budget discussions, the County Board voted to use any available surplus to off-set the cost of the vaccine premium pay before tapping any ARPA dollars.

Fund Administration	\$7,261,004
Total	At least \$140,059,617. \$172,859,617 if the Coggs Center renovations and IMSD transformation funds are not adopted.

Related File No's:	21-555 , 21-515 , 21-232 , HRA21-292 , HRA21-295 , HRA21-342 , HRA21-343 , HRA21-374 , HRA21-375 , HRA21-376 , HRA21-480
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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

- 1A: Reflect the full diversity of the County at every level of County government
- 1B: Create and nurture an inclusive culture across County government
- 1C: Increase the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses
- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity
- 2B: Break down silos across County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions
- 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities
- 3B: Enhance the County’s fiscal health and sustainability
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

FISCAL EFFECT

N/A

PREPARED BY:

Shawn Rolland, Milwaukee County Board Supervisor, District 6 and American Rescue Plan Act Co-Chair

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A

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