

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 1, 2021
To: Milwaukee County ARPA Task Force
From: ARPA Task Force Co-Chairs Ricardo Diaz and Shawn Rolland
Subject: ARPA Task Force guiding principles
File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Co-Chairs are requesting approval of principles to guide our Task Force's future conversations related to community outreach, recommendation development and project reporting.

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

It is recommended that the ARPA Task Force generally adhere to these principles when conducting community outreach:

- ***Strategic and Contextual:*** All stakeholders are informed about eligible ARPA funding uses, the County's strategic plan, and about the County's challenging fiscal situation as part of efforts to solicit ARPA fund ideas.
- ***Practical:*** All parties are given an appropriate amount of time to contribute their ideas and opinions.
- ***Fair and Transparent:*** All major decisions are made in public meetings that allow for public comment. All meetings are noticed and promoted appropriately.
- ***Diverse, Inclusive and Accessible:*** Outreach equitably targets populations that are traditionally underrepresented. Tools are provided to target audiences to amplify key messages and promote key dates.

It is recommended that the ARPA Task Force will aim to adhere to these principles when forming its ARPA monies recommendation to the Milwaukee County Board:

- ***Cognizant of Milwaukee County's challenging fiscal position:*** Milwaukee

County experienced significant revenue loss during the pandemic, and many of the Counties revenues sources continue to be below pre-pandemic levels. Financial stabilization through revenue recovery will allow the County to maintain service levels and provide funding for government services.

- **Strategic:** ARPA monies are one-time federal funds. Thus, the Task Force should prioritize non-recurring expenditures that align to our County’s strategic plan priorities and 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. Efforts must have trackable metrics, outputs and/or outcomes, and whenever possible, efforts should complement but not duplicate current efforts being done by public and private partners, based on community need.

Health outcomes measured within the [“County Health Rankings & Roadmaps”](#) include:

- Premature death
- Poor or fair health days
- Poor physical health days
- Poor mental health days
- Low birthweight
- Adult smoking
- Adult obesity
- Food environment index
- Physical inactivity
- Access to exercise opportunities
- Excessive drinking
- Alcohol-impaired driving deaths
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Teen births
- Uninsured
- Primary care physicians
- Dentists
- Mental health providers
- Preventable hospital stays
- Mammography screenings
- Flu vaccinations
- High school graduation
- Some college
- Unemployment
- Children in poverty
- Income inequality
- Children in single-parent households
- Social associations
- Violent crime
- Injury deaths
- Air pollution – particulate matter
- Drinking water violations
- Severe housing problems
- Driving alone to work
- Long commute – driving alone

- **Partnerships:** The Task Force should scan for opportunities to partner with other public and private organizations to ensure dollars are spent efficiently, effectively, and with maximum impact. Ideally, Milwaukee County ARPA money investments will be the last dollars in to help a project reach its goal, not the first dollars in.
- **Coordination:** It is possible that new federal legislation in 2021 and beyond may

provide additional, yet targeted, opportunities for local spending on broadband, roads, highways, bridges, and other kinds of infrastructure. It will be important for the Task Force to be aware of new federal funding and coordinate decisions accordingly.

- **Long-term focus:** The Task Force should scan for opportunities to partner with other public and private organizations to ensure dollars are spent efficiently, effectively, and with maximum impact. We should establish a decision-making framework centered on the achievement of long-term outcomes to ensure investments have impact on health and racial equity outcomes beyond 2024.
- **Limited term to implement:** Implementation must be completed by Dec. 31, 2026 to comply with the ARPA monies criteria.
- **Fully-imagined:** The Task Force should seek to recommend projects that have been fully-scoped and meticulously analyzed. Projects that are not fully-baked or resourced can and should be reconsidered in future years if efforts are made to improve the recommendation.
- **Regular reporting:** The Task Force will aim to provide quarterly updates on progress and related metrics associated with ARPA expenditures to the Milwaukee County Board, enabling opportunities to celebrate success while holding ourselves accountable to the outcomes.

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

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the guiding principles for the ARPA Task Force related community outreach, recommendation development and project reporting.

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

NA

PREPARED BY:

ARPA Task Force Co-Chairs Ricardo Diaz and Shawn Rolland

APPROVED BY:

NA

ATTACHMENTS:

[Links to files 21-555](#), [21-515](#), [21-232](#)

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

SAMPLE