



# AGENDA ITEM

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Meeting Date:** September 07, 2021

**CPO:**

**Agenda Category:** ACTION

**Department(s):** Board of Commissioners

**Presented by:** Dorian Russell, ARPA Senior Program Coordinator

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**Agenda Title:** American Rescue Plan Act Tranche One Investment Areas Review and Approval

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## **REQUESTED ACTION:**

Approve tranche one investment areas within Washington County's ARPA framework.

## **SUMMARY:**

On June 22 and August 10, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners provided guidance and direction on Washington County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund framework, including proposed values, principles, and investment areas. The purpose of this Board action is to formally approve ARPA investment areas in protecting public health and community wellness, continued operations, economic recovery, and community engagement.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

### **Community Feedback (Known Support/Opposition):**

N/A

### **Legal History/Prior Board Action:**

The framework of the American Rescue plan was reviewed with the Board at the August 10 Work Session.

### **Budget Impacts:**

Use of Washington County's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund tranche one allocation from the U.S. Treasury.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

[ARPA Investment Area Overview FINAL](#)

[ARPA Investment Area Table Final 08272021](#)

# PROPOSED AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) INVESTMENT AREAS IN PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## WITHIN WASHINGTON COUNTY'S STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND (SLFRF) TRANCHE ONE ALLOCATION

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Summarized by Dorian Russell, ARPA Senior Program Coordinator

### 1. PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Washington County is saving lives. We continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic health needs despite ongoing uncertainty to protect our communities.

Surviving COVID-19: ARPA funds will provide **isolation and quarantine support, vaccination, testing,** and related **community education.** To promote effective and equitable outcomes, programs in this category will include contracting with culturally specific partner organizations and ensuring service delivery is accessible and meets the needs of marginalized populations. Total: \$31,554,100



Meeting Basic Needs: The pandemic has exacerbated high-priority health challenges through new barriers to basic needs access. In turn, these challenges can compound COVID-19-related risks in our communities. Programs within this category will provide **basic supplies** (food, diapers, etc.), and their distribution through multiple modes and through culturally specific networks. This includes providing culturally specific foods and accessible information and assistance to people of color, people with limited English fluency, seasonal farmworkers, and other groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In addition, many contracts in this category will be with community-based organizations who are also providing isolation and quarantine support, allowing service providers to serve households impacted by COVID-19 cases and stabilize households with **wraparound services.** Total: \$3,645,700

### 2. COMMUNITY STABILIZATION AND HOLISTIC WELLNESS

The safety, availability, and capacity of health services for behavioral health, childcare, and family support services are facing severe challenges. A full recovery entails integrating the social, economic, and environmental factors that impact holistic wellness in our communities. This investment area includes:

Childcare Support: Families who rely on childcare services as well as childcare providers have been deeply impacted by the pandemic. Pandemic recovery must include intertwined considerations for household access to childcare as well as childcare provider capacity. This investment area includes childcare services development through an assessment of current childcare service capacity throughout Washington County for future strategic recovery planning. In addition, this investment area includes grant programs for new and existing providers. To address disparities in pandemic impacts and advance equitable access to service, this investment area will also develop ten focused childcare networks spanning Spanish, Somali, Arabic, Vietnamese, and other language networks. Total: \$2,840,000.

**Behavioral Health:** Parallel to physical safety risks in the pandemic, behavioral health challenges have risen sharply. Social, economic, and environmental factors tied to the pandemic have increased community need for mental health services. To address these increased needs, this investment area responds through additional support for suicide prevention and postvention programs, improved behavioral health staffing, homelessness prevention programs, and identifying culturally specific ways to support the behavioral health needs and wellness of disproportionately impacted populations. Total: \$1,842,100

**Family Health:** The pandemic has underscored the need for at-home healthcare support. In addition, pre-pandemic racial inequities have become more disparate as historically marginalized populations continue to experience the deepest pandemic impacts. To address disparities in community health access related to infant, child, and family support, this investment area includes community health nurse programs. This includes funding community health nurses across languages and including in professionals with special expertise in BIPOC prenatal and early childhood support. Total: \$1,070,000

**Ensuring Shelter and Safety:** Individuals and families facing housing insecurity and homelessness are experiencing heightened health risks due to the pandemic. Additionally, negative economic impacts throughout the pandemic have increased the number of individuals facing these risks. This investment includes services at encampments, including outreach and sanitation and hygiene services made more essential due to the ongoing pandemic health crisis. Total: \$1,956,600.

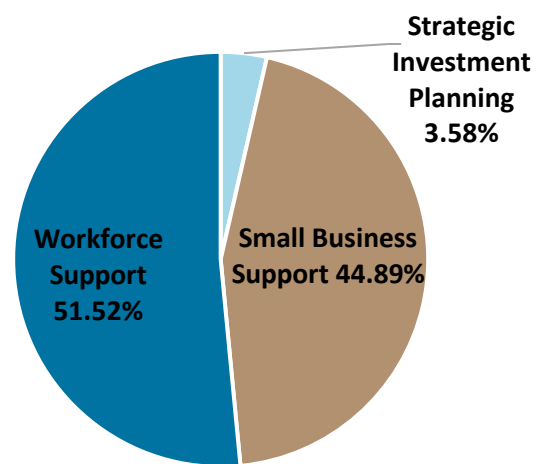
**Utility Bill Assistance:** The number of accounts more than 60 days behind on water, sewer, and stormwater utility bills in Washington County have more than tripled, with past-due accounts disproportionately concentrated in communities of color. In collaboration with water/ sewer/ stormwater utility managers across the County, Clean Water Services (CWS) proposes a ratepayer assistance program wherein utility districts forgive past due accounts. This ensures people are fully protected negative credit scores despite pandemic impacts. It will also remove barriers to utility relief information and access for marginalized populations. Total: \$2,000,000

### 3. STABILIZE AND SUPPORT THE LOCAL ECONOMY

While investments above are essential to an economic recovery, proposed investments also include targeted programs supporting small businesses and workforce recovery in addition to household stabilization efforts. In parallel to the investments areas above, these economic recovery programs will further advance our local economy – spanning people, business, and place – toward a holistic pandemic recovery.

**Small business recovery support:** Small businesses have been—and continue to be—hit hard by the economic tumult caused by the pandemic. Near-term strategic investments can help mitigate these impacts

Budget: Stabilize and Support the Local Economy



and rebuild businesses in recovery. This investment area will include investments in small business and entrepreneurship including **technical assistance** and access to **capital**. These are essential needs to manage, reopen, and grow during this difficult period. In addition, this investment area includes ongoing commitments to business resource centers and the resource and technical information they provide.

*Note: specific details regarding funded programs and capital tools to be identified through multijurisdictional community engagement process.* Total: \$2,505,000.

Workforce recovery support: The pandemic has increased unemployed and shaken up the demand for workers. With the reopening phase underway and supplemental insurance disappearing in September, there is a need to ensure that there is adequate **capacity** in the workforce development system to assist workers with finding jobs and for private industry to find workers. This investment area includes investments in Washington County’s workforce system (through community-based organizations, partner organizations, etc.); **job training** and **reskilling** programs; and **wraparound support** for low-income workers. Total: \$2,875,000

Place-Based Broadband Investment Exploration: Strategic planning is needed to prepare for anticipated—and more substantial—ARPA investments in the future. This proposed investment area includes allocating funds to support a county-wide **Broadband Investment Plan**. In addition, this investment area may include future studies needed to thoroughly support ARPA economic recovery efforts in tranche two. Total: \$200,000

#### 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Building on relationships cultivated during CARES Act pandemic response activities and through new equity-focused actions, Washington County is preparing to engage our communities on ARPA pandemic recovery priorities. Activities in this investment area include: 1) Adopting a community engagement model and community engagement best practice policies wherein deep-rooted, trusted community organizations are paid by Washington County and other public agency ARPA recipients to engage community; 2) Committing to a collaborative agreement with other public agency jurisdictions to share the same community engagement model, as well as share staff and funding responsibility for this effort; and 3) Committing to data equity, including best practices in data collection, analysis, and assessment to connect the richness of community knowledge to our priorities, outcomes, and evaluations. Proposed investments in support of these action areas:

Diversify Accessible Communications: This investment area includes using tools, platforms, and strategies that are more accessible to historically and presently marginalized populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This includes advanced **social media** and **video streaming** content with **culturally specific strategies** for pandemic recovery communications. Total: \$235,000.

Building Community Capacity Through Collaboration:

This investment area includes **structuring cross-jurisdictional community engagement** coordination that centers equity, builds community capacity, advances equitable community engagement policies, and helps create a pathway for long-standing



equity-centered community engagement structures and processes across Washington County. Proposed investments include **building community partner capacity**, leading community engagement strategies, including coaching, outreach materials, participant stipends, and related support. Total: \$465,000.

*Advancing Data Equity in Washington County Systems:* This investment area includes performing a **systems analysis of tools and strategies** used across departments and preparing for a potential comprehensive approach to **data equity** for ARPA program implementation and evaluation. Total: \$300,000.

## 5. CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

*Facilities, technology, and coordination:* Washington County remains dedicated to ensuring complex and diverse operations continue throughout the pandemic without gaps in service. This investment area includes **Facilities** needs including equipment, cleaning services, and PPE; **Technology** support for COVID-19 public health services as well as continued teleworking needs; **Communications** including timely public information needs in pandemic response; and **Coordination** activities to plan, develop, implement, and report on COVID-19 service programs. Total: \$4,420,000.

## 6. CONTINGENCY AND FUTURE TRANCHE ONE INVESTMENTS: \$2,697,600

If all investment areas above proceed, Washington County will have \$2,697,600 remaining of the tranche one allocation for contingency needs or other tranche one investment areas to be determined.

## ABOUT WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington County is the second largest of Oregon's 36 counties with a population of over 600,00 and is among the most racially diverse. Forming the western portion of the Portland metropolitan area, the County's developed regions are home to traditional suburban and new mixed-use neighborhoods, with business leaders such as Intel, IBM, Genentech and Nike's world headquarters. Outside the nationally acclaimed urban growth boundary, the county's area is over 80 percent rural, transitioning to nurseries, wineries, farmland, and miles of evergreen forest that blanket the eastern flank of the Coast Range Mountains.

Total Washington County ARPA SLFRF Tier 1 Allocation Amount			\$ 58,426,097
Principle	Program	Activity	ARPA Amount
<b>Public Health Response</b> <u>\$35,199,800</u>	Surviving Covid-19 \$31,554,100	Isolation and Quarantine Support	\$ 8,170,700
		Vaccination and Testing	\$ 4,178,900
		Contact Tracing	\$ 16,033,500
		Community Engagement and Education	\$ 3,171,000
	Meeting Basic Needs \$3,645,700	General Nutrition and Hygiene Support	\$ 496,000
		Program Administration and Staffing (External & Internal)	\$ 470,700
		Culturally Specific Nutrition and Information Support	\$ 1,929,000
		Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Community Support	\$ 750,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 35,199,800</b>
<b>Community Stabilization and Wellness</b> <u>\$9,708,646</u>	Developing Holistic Wellness \$5,752,100	Childcare Support	\$ 2,840,000
		Behavioral Health	\$ 1,842,100
		Family Support	\$ 1,070,000
	Ensuring Shelter and Safety \$1,956,600	Encampment	\$ 1,956,600
	Household Relief \$2,000,000	Utility Assistance	\$ 2,000,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 9,708,700</b>
<b>Stabilize and Support Local Economy</b> <u>\$5,580,000</u>	Economic Recovery \$5,380,000	Business Recovery Centers	\$ 380,000
		Small Business Support	\$ 2,125,000
		Workforce Development	\$ 2,875,000
	Investment Planning \$200,000	Broadband Infrastructure Study	\$ 125,000
		Other Investment Planning	\$ 75,000
		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	
<b>Tier 1 Community Engagement</b> <u>\$1,000,000</u>	Communications \$235,000	Accessible Communications	\$ 235,000
	Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity \$765,000	Building Community Capacity	\$ 465,000
		Advancing Data Equity	\$ 300,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>
<b>Continuity of Operations</b> <u>\$4,240,000</u>	Programmatic Coordination & Support \$4,240,000	Additional Facilities Cost	\$ 560,000
		Additional Information and Technology cost	\$ 500,000
		Additional Required Communication for ARPA and Covid-19	\$ 280,000
		Programmatic Administrative and Programmatic Support	\$ 2,900,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 4,240,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL REQUEST</b>			<b>\$ 55,728,500</b>
<b>Contingency</b>			<b>\$ 2,697,597.00</b>