



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- ▶ Funding Approach

November 16, 2021

Purpose

- ▶ Recap direction to date and approach
- ▶ Seek direction on homelessness investments
- ▶ Next steps



September 2021 Study Sessions

- ▶ Adopt the maximum amount of federally-defined revenue loss calculation available to the County to provide the Board flexibility to address general government concerns.
- ▶ Ensure County-related programs/priorities are first to be funded by ARPA dollars.
- ▶ Evaluate internal and third-party funding requests against established criteria.
- ▶ Align with recovery plan objectives and considerations.
- ▶ Prioritize investments in key areas, in alignment with stakeholder feedback.
- ▶ All investments are within eligibility criteria defined by U.S. Treasury.

Running Balance

- + \$127,400,000 total ARPA funds (two tranches)
- \$23,600,000 revenue loss calculation
- \$5,725,000 (Vulnerable Populations)
- \$12,806,500 (Business Support)
- \$260,000 (Homelessness)
- \$8,116,000 (County Operations)
- \$7,572,060 (Mental Health)
- \$5,200,000 (COVID Response)**
- \$15,000,000 future revenue loss calculation*
- = \$50,020,400 Available for Allocation

NOTE: * Estimated future loss based on calculation

** \$2.9M hasn't been used because of other funding - could reduce amount

County Investments to Date

- ▶ **Vulnerable Populations: \$5,725,000**
 - ▶ GOALS: \$1,200,000
 - ▶ Family Resource Pavilion: \$1,000,000
 - ▶ Food Assistance: \$1,400,000
 - ▶ Eastern Food Box Program: \$100,000
 - ▶ Temporary Caseworkers: \$403,000
 - ▶ Village Exchange Vaccine Incentive Program: \$1,000,000
 - ▶ Village Exchange Center Low Wage Worker Fund: \$250,000
 - ▶ Pretrial Fee Support: \$375,000
- ▶ **Business Support: \$12,806,500**
 - ▶ Commercial Rent Rescue: \$4,500,000
 - ▶ SBDC Small Business Support: \$2,500,000
 - ▶ Retrain Arapahoe: \$5,000,000
 - ▶ Business Services Staff Time: \$800,000
 - ▶ AwardForce Software Renewal: \$6,500

County Investments to Date

- ▶ Homelessness/Housing: \$260,000
 - ▶ Temporary Homeless Coordinator
 - ▶ Emergency Rental Assistance program
- ▶ COVID Response: \$5,200,000
 - ▶ STRIDE: \$1,000,000
 - ▶ PPE Inventory/Storage: \$700,000
 - ▶ Water testing: \$100,000
 - ▶ Other Community Testing Support: \$500,000
 - ▶ TCHD Contact Tracing/Other Needs: \$1,400,000**
 - ▶ Vaccination Assistance/Support: \$1,500,000**
- ▶ County Operations: \$8,116,000
 - ▶ Detention Center Food/Laundry Service : \$2,000,000
 - ▶ Temporary HR Staffing: \$568,000
 - ▶ Temporary FD Staffing: \$340,000
 - ▶ DA Temporary Staffing: \$1,358,000
 - ▶ COVID Communications: \$1,600,000
 - ▶ Facility Improvements: \$850,000
 - ▶ Facility Space Study: \$200,000
 - ▶ Facility Cleaning: \$500,000
 - ▶ Leaves/Other Needs: \$700,000

County Investments to Date

- ▶ Mental Health: \$7,000,000
 - ▶ All Health Colorado Spirit Program
 - ▶ Aurora Mental Health Potomac Safety Net Campus
 - ▶ Aurora Mental Health Suicide Prevention
 - ▶ Expansion of Pretrial Mental Health Programs
 - ▶ Detention Center Diversion Pilot Program^Δ

Δ Interest in exploring further; additional information needed prior to funding decision

Funding Requests: Homelessness

- ▶ Eight proposals submitted within the homelessness bucket; one of which is better suited for general government funding.
- ▶ At a concept level, appear to be eligible - further detail is needed prior to making the determination.
- ▶ Need to understand Board's interest as well as additional information needs desired
- ▶ Recommend funding eviction pilot program with ARPA funds as it aligns with the County recovery plan and expands the safety net.

Homelessness in Arapahoe County

- ▶ 2020 PIT Survey:
 - ▶ 245 homeless individuals in 2020
 - ▶ 7% increase from 2019
- ▶ 2021 PIT Survey (only completed in shelters):
 - ▶ 523 sheltered homeless
 - ▶ 231% increase from 2020
 - ▶ 298 newly homeless
 - ▶ 1142% increase from 2020
- ▶ Tri-Cities Pestel Analysis:
 - ▶ 992 total homeless
 - ▶ Excludes Aurora
 - ▶ Includes Doubled-up

Affordable Housing Grant

- ▶ Creation of a grant with ARPA funding that would allow for development companies/housing authorities/local entities to apply for funding in order to provide gap financing to assist in providing affordable housing in Arapahoe County.
- ▶ The affordable housing projects can include anything that falls on the continuum of housing needs for low income households.
- ▶ Homelessness in Arapahoe County has increased during the pandemic and the cost of housing in the metro area continues to rise, risking more homelessness and causing more instability.
- ▶ This funding would be used to promote developers to apply for grant funds to develop more affordable housing units and projects in the county.
- ▶ This would be provide a long term solution to help to fill the gap for our essential, lower-wage, workforce to obtain housing
- ▶ Total cost: \$10,000,000

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for Justice Involved

- ▶ Arapahoe County has been heavily involved in leading the way on a local Permanent Supportive Housing initiative to assist with housing the justice involved population who are also experiencing behavioral health concerns.
 - ▶ 100 bed facility
 - ▶ Partners include: 18th judicial problem solving courts, Arapahoe County Pre-trial mental health, 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office, Probation Mental Health Program, project SAFER, Veteran's Treatment Court
 - ▶ This facility will improve the health, safety, and rehabilitation of justice involved clients by addressing rehabilitation needs
- ▶ The pandemic has impacted the number of homeless as well as the instances of mental health and substance use. This has especially impacted disproportionately impacted populations, including the justice involved
- ▶ This project would continue to leverage existing partnerships and would demonstrate a commitment from Arapahoe County to address the various needs of the homeless and justice involved population
- ▶ This project would provide long term housing supports and encourage housing stability:
 - ▶ PSH has a long term housing retention rate of up to 98% according to the National Alliance to end homelessness
 - ▶ One added PSH unit per every 10,000 adults is associated with 1% decrease in chronic homeless rate- Urban Institute
 - ▶ PSH resulted in a net savings of \$6875-\$33,502 per person per year- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
 - ▶ "A chronically homeless person costs the taxpayer an average of \$35,578 per year. This study shows how costs on average are reduced by 49.5% when they are placed in supportive housing. Supportive housing costs on average \$12,800, making the net savings roughly \$4,800 per year." - *National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2017*
- ▶ Total Cost: Approximately \$3 million, one time. Ongoing costs and services will be provided by the developer/provider

Ready to Work

- ▶ The Tri-Cities policy group has identified a priority of opening a “Ready to Work” bridge house in the Tri-Cities area, most likely Englewood.
- ▶ The Ready to Work program is an established local program with successful locations in Aurora and Boulder, seeing an 80% success rate with graduation and long term employment and housing for participants
- ▶ Funding provided by Arapahoe County would be leveraged with local partners (Tri-Cities) to support the development of this program in the western part of the County
- ▶ Total Cost: \$1 million, one time contribution

Tri-Cities Navigation Center

- ▶ A primary need and priority identified by the Tri-Cities policy group, is a homeless Navigation Center. This would provide coordination, strategy, and capacity for providing services to those experiencing homelessness in the western part of the county
- ▶ Funding provided by Arapahoe County would be leveraged with local partners (Tri-Cities) to support the development of this program in the western part of the County
- ▶ Arapahoe County can provide additional staffing support for the center with already existing resources and staff members
- ▶ Total Cost: \$300,000 one-time assistance

Aurora Shelter/Safe Outdoor Space

- ▶ A request has been received by the City of Aurora, and also in coordination with Representative Ricks and Adams County, to participate in funding a Homeless Services Campus/Shelter.
- ▶ Homelessness in Aurora has increased due to COVID-19
- ▶ Aurora has an estimated 462 people without homes and only 150 shelter beds
- ▶ The only current shelter in the area, Comitis, is currently facing the possibility of relocation. This effort could assist in the relocation and expansion of shelter services in the city of Aurora
- ▶ Total Request: \$20 million

Ridge View Campus- Governor's Priority

- ▶ Governor Polis has identified \$45 million in state ARPA funding to establish the current Ridge View Campus as a campus style treatment center/shelter
- ▶ Homelessness in Aurora has increased due to COVID-19
- ▶ This project would model the current Ft Lyon Model
- ▶ We are in the early information gathering phase of this project and we are still exploring the request for partnership
- ▶ Total Request: Unknown

Eviction Pilot Program

- ▶ Pre-pandemic, County had one of highest eviction rates; pandemic has exacerbated this problem
- ▶ Pilot program would provide legal assistance to these households to help prevent or mitigate the adverse familial and societal impacts of involuntary displacement and/or homelessness
- ▶ Colorado Legal Services (CLS) provides staff; 18th Judicial District support
- ▶ Similar pilot program represented 363 households, representing 695 people in those households of which 408 were children.
 - ▶ 85% of those households retained their housing, more time to move or a voucher
 - ▶ 85% did not have an eviction judgement.
- ▶ Cost: \$1.5M total; step down as need declines

Next Steps

- ▶ Staff continues to work through eligibility and evaluation criteria assessment
- ▶ Next Study Session: December 7, 2021