



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

Board Summary Report

Date: June 25, 2020

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Michelle Halstead, director of communication and administrative services

Subject: CARES Act Fund Agreements for Business Grant & Support Programs

Request and Recommendation

Staff is seeking approval of a resolution authorizing Cheryl Ternes, the Director of Human Services, to sign agreements on behalf of Arapahoe County for a program targeted to non-profits that currently provide hotel/motel vouchers for those individuals or families at-risk of homelessness. This program aims to prevent homeless individuals or families from congregating in homeless camps where COVID-19 may be prevalent. This is subject to approval as to the form of the agreements by the County Attorney's Office, and allocating up to \$1.2 million of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to the "Hotel/Motel Voucher" program.

Background

The \$2.2 trillion CARES Act of 2020 provided \$150 billion for state and local government relief. The State of Colorado received \$2.23 billion, with the state retaining 55% of the funds, while eligible local governments received 45% of the funds. Arapahoe County received a direct allocation of \$114,569,891.70 and allocated 45% of its funds – more than \$51 million – to the county's 13 municipalities.

The Board of County Commissioners adopted the following objectives to coordinate Arapahoe County's response and recovery efforts, including how to use CARES Act funding:

- Support the economic recovery of our residents and businesses across the county.
- Protect the health and well-being of county and municipal employees.
- Increase access to effective and efficient testing methods.
- Support the most vulnerable residents across the county.
- Educate regarding personal responsibility, situational awareness, and preventive actions including continued social distancing, avoidance of large gatherings, and supports for high risk populations to remain in safe environments.
- Establish data-driven decision-making model to assess public health, hospital surge and capacity, and economic success.
- Fund direct COVID-19 costs in a manner that minimizes county liability, recognizing multiple grant streams and funding opportunities.

Arapahoe County retained approximately \$63 million to fund programs that align with the objectives above, consistent with requirements of the legislation and implementation guidance established by the U.S. Treasury. Supporting the most vulnerable residents across the county is a key objective of the county's recovery efforts. Staff is recommending allocating CARES funds to provide hotel/motel vouchers for our vulnerable homeless population to help achieve that objective.

This program will provide non-profit agencies who currently assist people with emergency hotel/motel vouchers an opportunity to expand their services to assist during the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of these funds is to provide emergency short-term housing to prevent individuals, including justice involved individuals, who are currently homeless or about to become homeless, or living in overcrowded situations which could foster the spread of COVID-19, with a temporary safe place to stay. Targeted households cannot have income above 300% of the federal poverty level.

Staff recommends support of the resolution in order to complete these programs prior to Dec. 30, 2020.

Fiscal Impact

These programs would draw down up to \$1.2 million in appropriated CARES funding.

Reviewed By

John Christofferson, Deputy County Attorney
Cheryl Ternes, Director of Human Services