



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

Board Summary Report

Date: June , 2020

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Michelle Halstead, director of communication and administrative services

Subject: CARES Act Fund Reimbursement for Vulnerable Populations Programs

Request and Recommendation

Staff is seeking approval of a resolution authorizing staff to use CARES Act funding to support vulnerable populations who have been impacted by COVID-19, including un/underemployed residents, in-custody youth, and clients of the judicial system.

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 approval of the following programs in order to protect the community from possible exposure to COVID-19 and to serve our most vulnerable populations.

These programs will:

- Reimburse out-of-home placement costs for youth in custody of Human Services and who have either been diagnosed with, exhibiting symptoms of or have been potentially exposed to COVID-19. The BOCC has allocated up to \$225,600 for this program.
- Pay the cost of GPS monitor rental for defendants that have GPS monitoring as a condition of their bond. GPS monitoring is necessary to protect victims and some defendants are unable to pay for the monitoring due to unemployment as a result of COVID-19. The BOCC has allocated up to \$125,000 for this program.
- Pay rent, mortgage, and utility payments to serve eligible citizens that have become unemployed or underemployed due to COVID-19. This program is a bridge until Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for COVID-19 is received by the County. The BoCC has allocated up to \$100,000 for this program.

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

Fiscal Impact

These programs would draw down up to \$450,000 in appropriated CARES funding.

Reviewed By

John Christofferson, Deputy County Attorney