



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

Board Summary Report

Date: June 29, 2020

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Michelle Halstead, director of communication and administrative services

Subject: CARES Act Funding for Physical and Behavioral Health Service Providers

Request and Recommendation

Staff is seeking approval of a resolution authorizing reimbursement of telehealth, personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and sanitizing costs for the following agencies: All Health, Aurora Mental Health, Doctor's Care, Savio, and Shiloh House. This is a program targeted to non-profits that currently provide physical and/or behavioral health services to our vulnerable populations. Payments are subject to approval by the County Finance Department, based on receipt of verified expenses and a letter of certification from each agency. The BOCC has allocated up to \$5 million of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to this 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 agencies that provide physical and behavioral health services for our vulnerable populations to help achieve that objective.

This program will reimburse those agencies providing vital physical and mental health services to our most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of these funds is to provide funding for implementation or expansion of telehealth services in order to deliver acute, chronic, primary and specialty care during the pandemic. This is necessary in order to reduce staff exposure to ill persons, preserve personal protective equipment (PPE), and minimize the impact on patient surges on facilities. In addition, those agencies that purchased PPE and additional cleaning/sanitizing supplies in order to protect employees and patients/clients from exposure to COVID-19 may be reimbursed for verified expenditures.

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

Fiscal Impact

This program would draw down up to \$5 million in appropriated CARES funding.

Reviewed By

John Christofferson, Deputy County Attorney