



Board Summary Report

Date: August 13, 2020
To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Cheryl Ternes, Director of Human Services
Subject: CARES Act Funding for Vulnerable Populations 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 food services to vulnerable populations such as local meals on wheels programs and community food banks.

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 financial support to our food banks and meals on wheels programs. As a result of the

COVID-19 pandemic the demand for food continues to increase due to job loss, furloughs, exhausted unemployment benefits, or pay reductions. Food programs fill a critical gap when families or individuals are unemployed, under-employed, on public assistance, etc.

This program will provide non-profit agencies such as local food banks and meals on wheels programs the additional funding needed to expand their services to assist during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Fiscal Impact

This program would draw down up to \$500,000 in appropriated CARES funding.

Reviewed By

Ron Carl, County Attorney

Michelle Halstead, Director of Communication and Administrative Services