



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

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 funding of 3.5 Temporary Grant Funded Positions (TGFP) in the Child and Adult Protection Services (CAPS) Division and 10 temporary program specialist positions in the Community and Child Support Services (CCSS) Division.

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 support additional temporary staffing in our Human Services Department. The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for at-risk adults and families that have significantly impacted

their physical and mental health, safety and wellbeing. School closures and remote-learning options, coupled with employment impacts, and increased isolation have resulted in significant emotional and financial stress on at-risk adults and families.

The addition of 3.5 TGFP in CAPS will provide intentional and effective outreach during this pandemic to the most vulnerable children, at-risk adults and families in order to provide the necessary support to assure their physical, emotional, mental, and other needs are met in a way that will prevent abuse and neglect.

The addition of 10 temporary program specialist positions in CCSS will assist with processing initial and redetermination applications for public assistance. Applications and redeterminations for public assistance have increased significantly due to COVID-19. Public assistance programs play a vital role in meeting the basic needs of our most vulnerable populations.

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 \$233,000 in appropriated CARES funding. (\$138,000 for 3.5 TGFP and \$95,000 for 10 temporary program specialist positions).

Reviewed By

Ron Carl, County Attorney

Michelle Halstead, Director of Communication and Administrative Services