



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

Board Summary Report

Date: October 13, 2020

To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: Donald A. Klemme, Director Community Resources Department

From: Kelly Folks, Division Manager, Arapahoe/Douglas Works!

Subject: CARES Act Funding for Arapahoe/Douglas Works!
Utilization of Existing Business Impact-Retrain Arapahoe Funding

Request and Recommendation

Staff is seeking approval of a resolution authorizing funding of 6.0 Temporary Grant Funded Positions (TGFP) for Arapahoe/Douglas Works!

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 businesses and employment and training for residents

across the county is a key objective of the county's recovery efforts. Staff is recommending allocating CARES funds to support additional temporary grant funded positions for Arapahoe/Douglas Works! 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 and employment. 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 6.0 TGFP in Arapahoe/Douglas Works! will provide the needed assistance with the influx of unemployed customers seeking assistance with training needs, upskilling and finding employment, as well as assistance with unemployment insurance questions/barriers that have been experienced as a direct impact of the pandemic. Three of the six positions will be assisting customers in the career centers and over the phone. The other three positions will be assisting the WIOA Intensive programs with being able to take customers off of the waiting lists that have been formulated due to the influx of customers needing more intensive service assistance from the Workforce Center.

Staff recommends support of the resolution in order to ensure all customers are receiving the employment and training needed. Additional staff will also assist with ensuring the success of the Retrain Arapahoe programming under the CARES Act by December 30, 2020.

Fiscal Impact

This program would draw down up to \$125,000 in appropriated CARES funding.

Reviewed By

Ron Carl, County Attorney

Michelle Halstead, Director of Communication and Administrative Services