



Board Summary Report

Date: December 1, 2020
To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Todd Weaver, Finance Director
Subject: Approval for the Reimbursement of Public Health and Safety Payroll Expenses under the CARES Act

Request and Recommendation

Staff is seeking approval of a resolution authorizing the reimbursement of public health and public safety payroll expenses presumed to be substantially dedicated to responding to and mitigating the COVID-19 public health emergency from March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020 under the provisions in the guidance for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

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 our local economy is a key objective of the county's recovery efforts. Staff is recommending allocating CARES funds to the Advance Arapahoe grant programs and Retrain Arapahoe program to help achieve that objective.

The funding for reimbursement of such expenses is pursuant to and is allowed by the U.S. Department of Treasury guidance document titled "Coronavirus Relief Fund, Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments, Updated September 2, 2020," and staff is recommending such reimbursement to ensure any remaining amounts of this funding provided to Arapahoe County can be used prior to the spending deadline of December 30.

Fiscal Impact

The resolution approves the reimbursement of up to \$40 million in such expenses from the period of March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020.

Reviewed By:

Todd Weaver, Finance Director
Ron Carl, County Attorney