



**June 22, 2021**

Board of County Commissioners  
 Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

Approval of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for Public Health/Behavioral Health/EOC COVID Response and COVID Business Recovery Centers

<b>Purpose/Outcomes</b>	Continue funding for COVID response after CARES dollars expire on June 30, 2021 for Public Health, Behavioral Health and Emergency Operations Center (PH/BH/EOC) and Business Recovery Centers (BRCs).
<b>Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact</b>	<p>Requesting \$3,000,000 total for PH/BH/EOC continued response – \$1,500,000 from the first ARPA installment and \$1,500,000 from the second installment.</p> <p>Requesting \$150,000 total for the six BRCs to continue serving the business community through September 30, 2021. This is for continued COVID response and assistance for the Clackamas County business community. The requested \$150,000 will be divided among the six BRCs according to the BRC’s need. Contracts will be extended and will include the new dollar amount.</p>
<b>Funding Source</b>	<p>Federal ARPA funding will be used.</p> <p>NOTE: Final guidance has not been distributed from the US Treasury, however, the Interim Final Draft Guidance states that the funding is for COVID related expenses and first in the guidance is the support for PH/BH COVID response and recovery. In addition the business section is clear that business support is an allowable use of these dollars.</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>Funding to PH/BH/EOC may be used through December 30, 2024</p> <p>BRC funding will end on September 30, 2021.</p>
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure Safe, Healthy and Secure Communities.</li> <li>2. Grow a Vibrant Economy.</li> </ol>

<b>Previous Board Action</b>	Board has received updates for ARPA dollars but has not approved spending any of the dollars at this time.
<b>County Counsel Review</b>	N/A
<b>Procurement Review</b>	No – BRC contracts are in place and current contract will be extended for time and dollars from ARPA.  PH/BH will be an internal process.
<b>Contact Person</b>	Nancy Bush x8581

**BACKGROUND:**

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (H.R. 1319) was signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021. The \$1.9 trillion bill is aimed at coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, including public health and economic impacts. The ARPA provides approximately \$362 billion to help states, territories, counties, cities and tribal governments cover increased expenditures, replenish lost revenue and mitigate economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Clackamas County’s portion of the federal funding is estimated at \$81.1 million. The Final Draft Guidance is available to local governments and the comment period is open until July 9, 2021 and the final guidance is expected the end of July or early August 2021.

The dollars will support staff providing the support as well as needed materials. The ARPA funding requested in this document is due to CARES dollars ending on June 30, 2021, and the need for continuing services in the EOC and for Public Health and Behavioral Health. The ARPA funding requested will be used to augment and continue efforts by the EOC and Public Health for COVID response including vaccination clinics, disease investigation, warehousing and public outreach and education.

Behavioral Health will continue to support Clackamas County residents who have struggled and continue to struggle with an increase in mental and emotional distress during the pandemic as evidenced by months of an increase of calls to the Clackamas County Crisis and Support Line. The Clackamas Safe and Strong Teams will continue to provide psychological first aid to residents through COVID recovery.

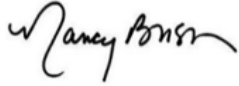
The six BRCs will continue to provide businesses with assistance and resources needed to recover from the economic downturn due to the pandemic. The BRCs provide a one-stop shop to recovery assistance for businesses of all sizes and types. Services are offered in multiple languages and may include assistance in connecting to financial resources, help with navigating technical resources, and referrals.

The ARPA funding is intended to support the public health response and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Clackamas County Staff ARPA Workgroup is working to determine the use of the funds and is committed to only presenting early projects to the BCC that are almost certain to be in the final guidance from the US Treasury. The projects in this request are expected to be in the final version since the dollars are clearly for COVID PH/BH and business support for response/recovery.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff respectfully recommends approval begin using ARPA funds July 1, 2021 for support of PH/BH/EOC and BRCs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Bush". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nancy Bush  
Clackamas County Operations Officer