



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 23, 2022

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Martine Coblentz, Equity and Inclusion Officer and Jennifer Hardnett, ARPA CBO Liaison

Cc: Nancy Bush, County Operating Officer

Re: ARPA Non-profit and Community Based Organization (CBO) update

ARPA Background:

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (H.R. 1319) was passed by the federal government to support recovery efforts in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, through the distribution of dollars to help states, territories, counties, cities and tribal governments cover increased expenditures, replenish lost revenue, and to mitigate economic impacts from the pandemic.

In July 2021, the Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners approved \$6 Million from the American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) for support to Non-Profits/Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to address the needs of those individuals and communities most impacted by COVID-19 as well as to address the ongoing recovery related to COVID-19. Of this approval, the Board allocated \$2 million for the distribution of basic needs to individuals and households disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and \$4 million to support CBOs in their resiliency and capacity building to ultimately respond to the increased needs of our vulnerable communities. **The purpose of this memo is to provide an update to the Board of County Commissioners on the status of the approved \$6 million dollars, including a timeline of the work accomplished thus far, an explanation of the two programs developed for the distribution of those dollars, and an outline of upcoming next steps.**

CBOs Pandemic Recovery:

According to the U.S. Department of Treasury, the pandemic has increased the demand of services, particularly for our disproportionately impacted communities. The County has relied upon the service support of CBOs to respond to these increased needs to reduce the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Strategies to build partnerships with non-profit, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations (together, CBO's) have been successful in meeting needs that the County could not otherwise achieve alone. CBOs are in a unique position to deliver culturally responsive services due to their presence, relationships and history with each of our severely disproportionately impacted communities. Additionally, the Treasury has identified CBOs serving as implementers and advisors to governmental agencies.

\$4 Million Capacity Building Allocation & Distribution:

The goal for the \$4,000,000 allocation is to improve the capacity and resiliency of CBOs so that they may be better equipped to reduce the negative economic impacts on the disproportionately impacted communities such as, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, low-income, and severely affected rural areas. Addressing the impacts by focusing on CBOs demonstrates the response to what CBOs have expressed

as significant challenges because of the pandemic, including increased demand for services and changing operational needs due to insufficient staffing development, technology, strategic planning and education and training. The CBOs have increased their communications to underserved communities while also pivoting to the demands of COVID-19 protocols. The County CBO resiliency has been eye-opening. These dollars are intended to support CBOs in their resiliency and sustainability so that they can continue to serve Clackamas County residents.

Staff has been deeply engaged with CBOs and drafted a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to help meet the developing demands. This provision of funds to increase the *capacity* of CBO's to continue to meet increased pandemic-related services needs will be critical for Clackamas County residents. As the pandemic slows, CBOs are looking at how to help communities recover and build resiliency for the next disastrous pandemic. The intended outcome is to build more services and capacity internally within Clackamas County with an increase and/or strengthening of CBO presence serving county residents. These dollars will be distributed over about a two-year period.

\$2 Million Basic Needs Allocation & Distribution:

The goal for the \$2,000,000 allocation is to ensure we are meeting the basic needs of individuals and households disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 in Clackamas County. Given our current economy with the rising prices/inflation, CBOs report that the needs for our vulnerable communities continue to be very high. The basic needs items include food, water, gas cards, air conditioning units, diapers, etc.

The County released a RFP in February requesting that an organization assist the County in the distribution of the Basic Needs dollars. This organization is developing an application process (to ensure ARPA eligibility) and will distribute dollars and items to CBOs to benefit individuals in the community. A CBO that is connected with other CBOs in our county will have the widest reach to the most underserved populations. It is important that our affected rural areas and individuals/households who typically lack access receive the support they need right now. The evaluation committee has selected AntFarm and following completion of financial auditing, staff is currently working on a contract that will be brought forth to the Board for consent. These dollars will be distributed in a matter of months to meet the immediate needs.

Accomplishments to Date:

Clackamas County staff has been working diligently on creating programs for the ARPA funding to meet the above-mentioned goals. A workgroup comprised of representation from various departments (Equity and Inclusion, Public and Government Affairs, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Transportation and Development and County Administration) have been meeting on a regular basis to put clarity, intention and evidence-based outcomes on the distribution of the dollars.

Staff have:

- reviewed and evaluated the iterations of Treasury guidance,
- engaged with CBOs through virtual and in person meetings,
- hired a liaison, completed a RFP process for the Basic Needs dollars,



Equity and Inclusion Office

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- contracted with a grant consultant to provide subrecipient compliance training through a webinar session for over 40 CBO representatives (there will be two more webinars).
- collaborated with finance on compliance for reporting and risk assessments.

Noteworthy is the engagement with the various CBOs to assess the needs of the community and tailor a program aligned with the Board priorities and in compliance with ARPA guidance. Staff have engaged with over 60 CBOs through one-on-one engagement, participation in countywide and regional CBO meetings and the webinar.

Next steps:

Upon completion and approval of the contract with AntFarm, this CBO will begin distributing basic needs dollars and items in collaboration with the County by late summer. Additionally, staff plans to release a Capacity Building NOFO by August 1, 2022 with the plan to award the Capacity Building grants in the fall. Staff is looking forward to conversation with the Board regarding the \$6 million allocated for CBOs. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Martine Coblentz, Equity and Inclusion Officer

Attachment:

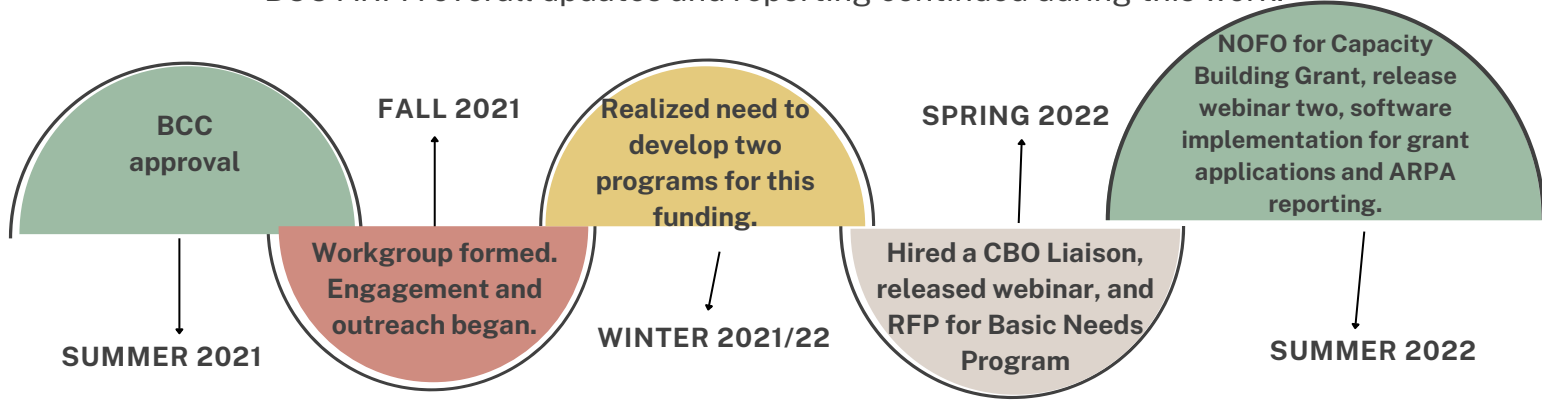
Timeline and Infographic

ARPA/SLFRF Community-Based Organization Allocated Funds

On July 13, 2021 the BCC voted to allocate \$6Million of ARPA funds towards capacity building for nonprofits/CBOs. This infographic reflects the journey taken to accomplish responsible distribution of the funds.

TIMELINE

BCC ARPA overall updates and reporting continued during this work.



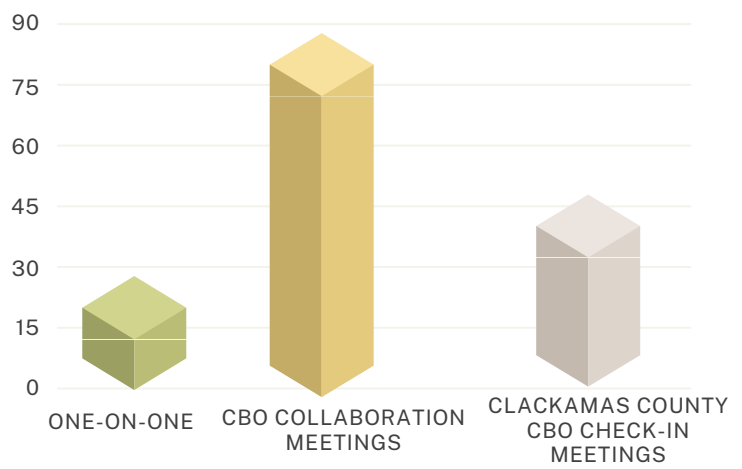
ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH ARP

Robust outreach and engagement with community based organizations throughout the journey. Acknowledging those that are disproportionately impacted and culturally specific.



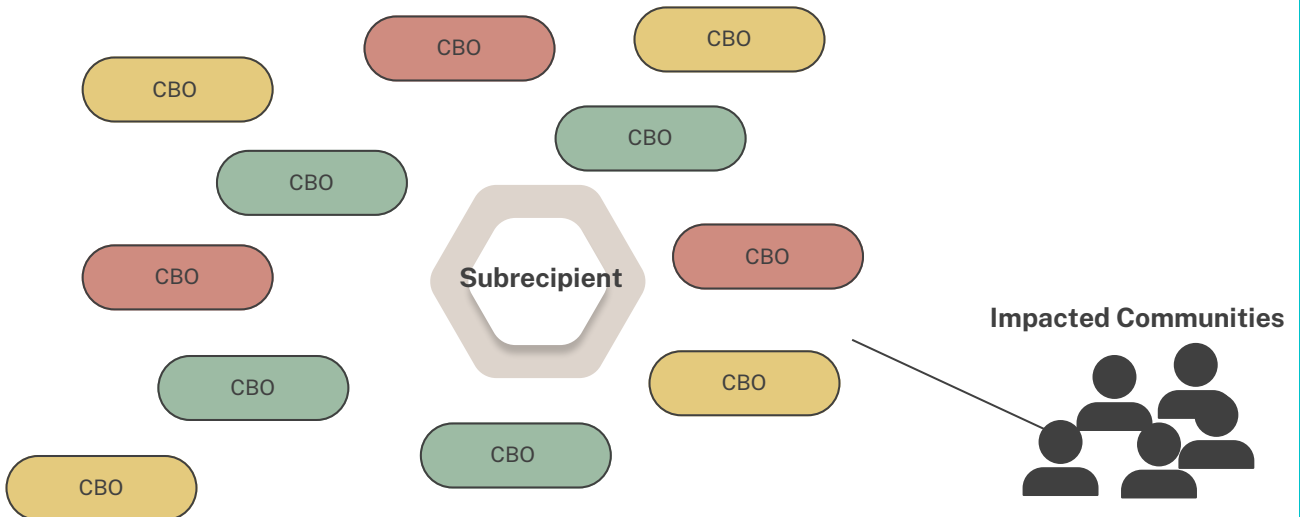
CBO ENGAGEMENT

Staff has engaged with 60+ CBOs



BASIC NEEDS

\$1.8 Million for distribution to various CBOs for funding basic needs items such as food, air conditioning units, diapers, and etc.



CAPACITY BUILDING

\$4 Million for distribution to CBOs to address the recovery and resiliency necessary to meet the increased pandemic-related service needs, such as operational expenses. Funding and program monitoring, technical assistance, and operational consulting provided by a Mature organization.

