

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Policy Session Worksheet

**Presentation Date:** 3-30-21 **Approx. Start Time:** 1:30 pm **Approx. Length:** 1 Hour

**Presentation Title:** American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – COVID Relief

**Department:** Disaster Management

**Presenters:** Nancy Bush/Trent Wilson

**Other Invitees:** Mary Rumbaugh

### WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Discussion and engagement with the Board of County Commissioners regarding timing, and process of decisions making for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. No final decisions regarding how to spend the dollars are requested at this time.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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 the public health and economic impacts. The ARPA provides approximately \$362 billion to help states, territories, counties, cities and tribal governments to cover increased expenditures, replenish lost revenue and mitigate economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. Clackamas County is expected to receive approximately \$81.1 million.

Administrator Gary Schmidt assembled a staff workgroup to consider the funding recommendations on how the dollars may be spent, process, focus, and transparency.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget?       YES       NO

What is the cost?      N/A – receiving federal dollars      What is the funding source?  
Federal funding

### STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The funding aligns with all of the County's Performance Clackamas Goals:

- To Build Public Trust through Good Government

- To Grow a Vibrant Economy
- To Build a Strong Infrastructure
- To Endure Safe, Healthy and Secure Communities
- To Honor, Utilize, Promote and Invest in our Natural Resources

**LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:** Must follow federal guidance regarding the funding.

**PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:**

This is the first public meeting on this topic.

**OPTIONS:**

1. Continue to have public meetings regarding the American Rescue Plan Act to determine process and project funding.
2. Direct staff to take other action as determined by the BCC.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Option #1 – Staff recommends to continue to have public meetings regarding the American Rescue Plan Act to determine process and project funding.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Division Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department Director/Head Approval *Nancy Benson*  
 County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact \_Nancy Bush\_\_\_ @ 503-655-8665\_\_\_\_\_

# Preliminary Allowable Uses for Recovery Funds:

- Respond to or mitigate the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19 emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality. These examples are intended to clarify congressional intent that these activities are eligible. However, state and local activities are NOT limited only to these activities.
- Provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue (i.e. online, property or income tax) due to the public health emergency.
- Make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
- State and local governments can transfer the funds to a private nonprofit organization, a public benefit corporation involved in the transportation of passengers or cargo or a special-purpose unit of State or local government.
- Respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work.
  - “Premium pay” means an additional amount up to \$13 per hour that is paid to an eligible worker for work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The law imposes a cap of \$25,000 for any single eligible worker.

# Preliminary Guardrails for Recovery Funds:

- States are not allowed to use the funds to either directly or indirectly offset a reduction in the net tax revenue that results from a change in law, regulation or administrative interpretation during the covered period that reduces any tax. If a state violates this provision, it will be required to repay the amount of the applicable reduction to net tax revenue.
- No funds shall be deposited into any pension fund.
- Any local government, including counties, that fail to comply with the federal law and related guidelines shall be required to repay the federal Treasury.