

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	American Rescue Plan – Funding Priorities
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to authorize the funding priorities for the first allocation of the American Rescue Plan of \$39,241,019 which includes a temporary Project Financial Analyst as well as Premium and Pandemic Pay for eligible Essential Workers.
INITIATED BY:	City Manager’s Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested to authorize the funding priorities for the first allocation of the American Rescue Plan of \$39,241,019 which includes a temporary Project Financial Analyst as well as Premium and Pandemic Pay for eligible Essential Workers.

Background: The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed into law on March 11, 2021. It was \$1.9 trillion for economic relief from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding was provided directly to states and local government. The amount allocated to the City of Columbus/Muscogee County was \$78,482,038. The initial allocation is 50% or \$39,241,019. This amount includes the city allocation of \$20,228,102.50 received on June 7, 2021 and the county allocation of \$19,012,916.50 received on June 14, 2021. The balance will be distributed in 12 months. There is a need for an additional full-time temporary employee, Project Financial Analyst, to oversee the coordination of all ARP Funding expenditures and Federal and State Reporting requirements to be funded thru the ARP allocation for Administration. Also, to recognize those employees performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency and depending on eligibility of the work performed, all full-time employees that meet the criteria of ARP Premium Pay will receive up to \$3000, and those full-time employees that do not meet the criteria for ARP Premium Pay will receive up to \$1,500.

Analysis: The U. S. Treasury has issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) on May 17, 2021 which outlines how the eligible uses of the funds under the Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds (SLFRF). Eligible costs must be incurred between March 3, 2021 and December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026. The eligible uses include responding to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts, responding to working performing essential work, revenue replacement for the government, and investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. The funding priorities include the following:

- Automation of Garbage Collection to include Garbage Trucks and Carts = \$19,530,030
- Revenue Recovery = \$3,559,470.84
- Small Business Grants = \$3,000,000
- Ambulances = \$2,100,000
- Community Safeguard Programs to include Cure Violence, Summer Youth and Youth Development Programs, and Cameras = \$1,000,000
- Broadband/Cyber Security Upgrades – Phase 1 = \$3,000,000
- Premium pay for Public Safety and Other Essential Employees = \$5,000,000
- Stormwater Infrastructure = \$0 (Delay to Phase 2)

- Economic/Tourism Grants = \$1,850,000
- Non-Profit Grants = \$1,000,000
- Administration (includes a full-time temporary position for up to 3 years) = \$201,518.16

The temporary full-time employee, Project Financial Analyst, at an estimated salary of \$65,000 plus eligible benefits (excludes Pension benefits) will oversee the coordination of all ARP Funding expenditures and Federal and State Reporting requirements to be funded thru the ARP allocation for Administration.

The ARP Premium Pay will be for essential workers who performed regular in-person interaction or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others and were did not telework at all. Premium Pay will be paid for work during the time period of 01/27/2020-06/30/2021 and will be paid thru six-month intervals up to \$3,000. The employees that qualify for Premium Pay includes all Public Safety Sworn Personnel with annual earnings less than \$78,116.15, Bus Operators, Truck Drivers, Correctional Officers, Sanitation Workers, Janitors/Custodian Workers. The \$3,000 will be paid for the following increments: \$1,000 for hire date on or before 01/27/2020 thru 06/30/2020, \$1,000 for 07/01/2020 thru 12/31/2020, and \$1,000 for 01/01/2021 thru 06/30/2021. Employees must still be an employee of the Consolidated Government at the time of payment. No employee hired on or after 07/01/2021 will be eligible. For all other essential full-time employees that were employed during these dates and still an employee of the Consolidated Government at the time of payment will receive \$1,500 in \$500 increments based on the dates provided for recognition of their service during the public health emergency. The Premium and Pandemic Pay will be paid on 10/15/2021. Employees who are not eligible for this pay include elected officials, part time employees, temporary and seasonal employees.

Financial Considerations: The funding is available in the ARP first allocation for all of the priorities except for the employees that do not qualify for the ARP Premium Pay. This recognition pay will be funded thru the reserves established from the CARES Act funding.

Legal Considerations: The City Attorney will review all grant agreements prior to obtaining the City Manager's signature.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to authorize the funding priorities for the first allocation of the American Rescue Plan of \$39,241,019 which includes a temporary Project Financial Analyst as well as Premium and Pandemic Pay for eligible Essential Workers.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS OF \$39,241,019.

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law on March 11, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, \$1.9 trillion for economic relief from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic was funded; and,

WHEREAS, local and state governments were allocated funding through the ARP; and,

WHEREAS, the Columbus Consolidated Government was allocation \$78,482,038 of which \$40,456,205 is the city allocation and \$38,025,833 is the county; and,

WHEREAS, the CCG has received the first phase of funding totaling \$39,241,019; and,

WHEREAS, the CCG has identified the following funding priorities:

- Automation of Garbage Collection to include Garbage Trucks and Carts = \$19,530,030
- Revenue Recovery = \$3,559,470.84
- Small Business Grants = \$3,000,000
- Ambulances = \$2,100,000
- Community Safeguard Programs to include Cure Violence, Summer Youth and Youth Development Programs, and Cameras = \$1,000,000
- Broadband/Cyber Security Upgrades – Phase 1 = \$3,000,000
- Premium pay for Public Safety and Other Essential Employees = \$5,000,000
- Stormwater Infrastructure = \$0 (Delay to Phase 2)
- Economic/Tourism Grants = \$1,850,000
- Non-Profit Grants = \$1,000,000
- Administration (includes a full-time temporary position for up to 3 years) = \$201,518.16; and,

WHEREAS, the Council would like to commend the Columbus Consolidated Government employees for their meritorious service during the public health emergency by providing Premium Pay or Pandemic Pay to the eligible employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

To authorize the funding priorities for the first allocation of the American Rescue Plan, establish a full-time temporary position, Project Financial Analyst, for up to 3 years, authorize Premium Pay in \$1,000 increments to the eligible full-time employees and Pandemic Pay in \$500 increments to the eligible full-time employees as outlined on the attached summary.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2021 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Barnes voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor House voting	_____.

Councilor Huff voting _____
 Councilor Thomas voting _____
 Councilor Tucker voting _____
 Councilor Woodson voting _____

 Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

 B.H. "Skip" Henderson, Mayor

Premium Pay for Essential Workers

These are workers who have been and continue to be relied on to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors, including those who are critical to protecting the health and wellbeing of our community.

Premium pay includes the following CCG positions:

- All Public Safety Sworn Personnel*
- Bus Operators
- Truck Drivers
- Correctional Officers
- Sanitation Workers
- Janitors/Custodian Workers

*Annual earnings less than \$78,116.15

Six months	\$1000	Full time Active employee	Hire Date on or before 01/27/2020
Six months	\$1000	Full time Active employee	Hire Date on or after 07/01/2020
Six months	\$1000	Full time Active employee	Hire date on or after 01/01/2021
N/A	N/A	Full time Active employee	Hire date on or after 07/01/2021
Total	\$3000		

Premium Pay	
Employees 1289	
Total Cost	\$4,467,551

Pandemic Pay for Essential Workers but not eligible for Premium Pay

These are workers who have been and continue to be relied on to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors, including those who are critical to protecting the health and wellbeing of our community.

Pay for essential workers include the following CCG positions:

- All full-time regular positions not included in Premium Pay
- Exclusions include:
 - Part time employees
 - Elected Officials
 - Grant paid employees
 - Employees hired after 06/30/2021

Six months	\$500	Full time Active employee	Hire Date on or before 01/27/2020
Six months	\$500	Full time Active employee	Hire Date on or after 07/01/2020
Six months	\$500	Full time Active employee	Hire date on or after 01/01/2021
N/A	N/A	Full time Active employee	Hire date on or after 07/01/2021
Total	\$1500		

Essential Worker Pay	
Employees 879	
Total Cost	\$1,370,978