



CONFIRE

STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 22, 2022

FROM: Art Andres, Director

TO: CONFIRE Administrative Committee

SUBJECT: American Rescue Plan Act and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Budget Adjustment

RECOMMENDATION

Accept and approve the American Rescue Plan Act and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery funding. This grant has been designated to fund the Emergency Communication Nurse System (ECNS) or Nurse Triage Program in the amount not to exceed \$2,100,000.

BACKGROUND

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law by the President. The law is intended to assist, but limited to, public health and economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The County of San Bernardino received a disbursement from the United States Department of Treasury of money associated with the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recover Fund (CLFRF) for Local Governments under Section 603(a) which states some funding may be transferred to other public entities for certain ARPA purposes.

On February 8, 2022, the County Board of Supervisors and the San Bernardino County Fire District have entered into an agreement regarding the transfer of ARPA CLFRF, which may be utilized by CONFIRE for ECNS expenditures as follows:

Description	Amount
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	1,311,159
Purchased Services	580,421
Information Technology	145,920
Rents/Utilities	27,000
Supplies	7,000
Travel and Training	8,500
Marketing/Public Relations	20,000
Total Expenditures	\$2,100,000

The implementation of the ECNS program occurred December 21, 2020 through a contractual agreement with Regional Emergency Medical Services Agency (REMSA) to provide California licensed nurses who were EMD trained in LowCode. As an accredited center for Emergency Medical Dispatch, Consolidated Fire Agencies (CONFIRE) has the ability to operate its Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) program to incorporate a nurse element. This allows for the further screening of certain low acuity calls that can assist in identifying potential COVID-19 or other communicable-disease cases and direct them to appropriate treatment or transportation options. Utilizing nurses with CONFIRE’s expanded dispatch capabilities will ensure that patients get to the correct treatment site. This proactive approach of installing nurses in the dispatch center provides for the appropriate care and safety measures for all involved. The ARPA CLFRF funds will allow CONFIRE to hire nurses and expand the program to provide 24-hour coverage, 7 days a week including additional staffing for peak periods of high call volume.

The term period for the ARPA CLFRF grant is February 8, 2022 through December 31, 2024 and not to exceed the amount of \$2,100,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS

This project will be initially paid from General Reserves (5010) and reimbursed by the ARPA CLFRF funding through the San Bernardino County Fire District.