



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 23, 2023

SUBJECT: ARPA Updates and Funding Considerations

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval of allocations of general ARPA funds (or ARPA contingency) to specific projects as determined by the Board.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

In FY21, Deschutes County was awarded approximately \$38.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Federal Government. The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners has since allocated almost all ARPA funds toward categories including affordable housing, childcare, food assistance, homelessness, public health and Covid-19, mental health, small businesses, non-profits, and water and broadband infrastructure.

During the August 23 meeting, the Board of Commissioners will consider use of the remaining ARPA funds, including current funding obligations, new ARPA considerations and new community requests.

Finance recommends the Board consider allocating \$1,625,000 of ARPA funds for current obligations and projects the Board has previously discussed. This action would formalize the use of ARPA funds for the eligible expenditures.

Administration recommends the Board consider allocating \$2 million to provide support services to two to three future managed/supported homeless camps to successfully implement the County's new Camping Code over the next two years. Staff does not currently have a detailed cost estimate for supported/managed camps. Costs will ultimately depend on the approved scope of services.

Finance recommends the Board consider allocating up to \$1 million as a formal obligation to provide for reimbursement of ARPA eligible County expenditures already incurred. ARPA regulations require all funds to be obligated by December 31, 2024, and funds to be spent by December 31, 2026. By obligating funds now to this project, the County will have the option to use the reimbursed funds on other discretionary projects and ensures the County will utilize all unspent funds by the December 31, 2026 deadline without needing to

return funds to the U.S. Treasury. The reimbursement would occur if there were any unspent funds between the 2024 obligation deadline and the 2026 spending deadline.

The Board will hear requests from County staff and community members attending, as well as a summary from Finance staff, including current obligations and fund analysis. The attached document provides a summary of current considerations.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

Deschutes County remaining ARPA funds total \$5,159,829, with current obligations, considerations and new community requests totaling \$9,483,517.

ATTENDANCE:

Karen Prow, NeighborImpact Childcare Resources Director

Rick Russell, Mountain View Community Development

Janice Garceau, Health Services Director

Emily Horton, Public Health Program Manager

Holly Harris, Behavioral Health Director

Cheryl Smallman, Health Services Business Officer

Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer

Laura Skundrick, Management Analyst

Nick Lelack, County Administrator (Virtual)