



## United Way of Norman

### City of Norman ARPA Subrecipient Agreement/ Completion Report

## CITY OF NORMAN ARPA

### The Objective

*The United Way of Norman contracted with City of Norman to design an application process and submit funding recommendations for the \$1,900,000 ARPA Funds to be utilized for the support of nonprofits impacted by the COVID pandemic.*

## OUR RECOMMENDATION & SUMMARY

The United Way of Norman has completed the review process of 34 applications received for consideration for the City of Norman ARPA grant funding. After careful consideration, review, and due diligence to follow the ARPA guidelines as set forth to our council by City of Norman, the ARPA Impact Council is pleased to respectfully make the final recommendations to the City of Norman City Council.

### Timeline for Execution

*The following timeline was used for City of Norman ARPA grant.*

Description	Start Date	End Date
ARPA Subrecipient Application Agreement	September 9, 2022	January 31, 2023
ARPA Application Build w/ City of Norman (CoN) & Community Force	October 1, 2022	October 31, 2022
Application Open to 501c3 Norman Nonprofits	November 1, 2022	November 15, 2022
ARPA Impact Council/ CoN Attorney Zoom/ Guidelines Review	November 16, 2022	November 16, 2022
ARPA Impact Council Members Review/Score	November 16, 2022	November 28, 2022
ARPA Impact Council/ Agency Meetings (if needed) *	November 29, 2022	November 29, 2022

ARPA Impact Council Review	November 29, 2022	December 1, 2022
ARPA Impact Council Final Funding Determination Meeting	December 1, 2022	December 1, 2022
ARPA Impact Council Draft Review to CoN	December 2, 2022	December 4, 2022
Final Recommendation to CoN	December 5, 2022	December 5, 2022

- Six applicants were brought in for in-person interviews to further explain their request and how it fit into the ARPA regulations. The other applications made a clear case within the application, or the committee was clear the application did not qualify for further consideration.

## ARPA Impact Council

***The United Way of Norman activated a special ARPA Impact council for review and execution of this agreement. The council was made up of current United Way of Norman Impact Council Chairs and Vice Chairs that serve in the impact areas of Education, Financial Stability, and Health. Two additional community volunteers were added to the council to make a total of 8 impact council members.***

## CONCLUSION

***The United Way of Norman is thankful for the opportunity to serve our community and believes the recommendation provided by the special ARPA Impact Council meet the ARPA and City of Norman guidelines as they were presented to the council. We are thankful for the City of Norman to entrust United Way of Norman and the proven impact council process to disperse \$1,786,000 of the federal ARPA dollars to the selected non-profits chosen who are doing incredible work within the Norman community. The final recommendations are included in this packet as a source for your review. Organization applications are attached in a separate pdf document for your review.***

## 2022 APRA IMPACT COUNCIL FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Organization	Initial Award	Requested Amount	Committee Comments
Assistance League	\$ 4,500.00	\$4,500.00	COVID created financial burdens for families at or below the poverty level so there is an increase in families needing assistance with clothing for their school children.
BBBS	\$ 10,000.00	\$120,000.00	This agency provides positive adult mentors to children from low-income families, often families with incarceration. The agency lost money due to the inability to fundraise which affects the numbers of children they can take off the waiting list.
Pantry Partners	\$ 10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Due to on-going COVID-related health issues, concern of exposure, significant increase of food costs, evictions, job loss and virtual learning, many students who were already in crisis continue to be adversely impacted. The demand for food assistance via school counselor referrals and/or DHS has increased.
St. Mark the Evangelist St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 10,000.00	\$10,000.00	This agency ran through all their excess funds helping people during the pandemic. They are now living week to week and having to limit their assistance for some people to only \$50 because of lack of funds. They remained in operation throughout the pandemic and helped people who had never been in need before to navigate how to get funds. The need of funds to help citizens is great but given the current economy the donations level has been diminished. They continue to help keep people in their homes and with working utilities.
St. Thomas More St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 15,000.00	\$50,000.00	This funding will be used to increase rent or utility payments from the current rate of \$75 to \$150 for those households impacted by COVID. This will go a long way in helping to pay a \$400+ electric bill, or a \$1,000 rent payment. Combined with funds from other churches and organizations in Norman, as well as the St. Vincent de Paul South Central District Council and Catholic Charities with whom they often collaborate, they will be able to keep people housed and keep the heat and lights on throughout 2023.

Engage Learning	\$ 37,193.00	\$80,560.00	This is a unique program addressing learning loss in students, particularly, low-income students. As the many studies and reports have made clear over the last two years, learning loss due to COVID has been unprecedented. It is particularly acute in at-risk and underserved populations - the very group for this program proposes to target. Fortunately, there is now compelling research that attests to the effective impact of high-quality, intensive, and high-engagement programs in turning around learning loss.
Crossroads Youth & Family	\$ 40,000.00	\$40,000.00	The capital expenses will help meet the increasing need for mental health services for children and teens in Norman, OK. The funding will facilitate a healthier space for teens to meet for group sessions, which will increase the number of youth receiving mental health services by 25%. Specifically, this funding will allow a more open, healthy environment for group counseling sessions specifically designed for trauma-informed sessions for children and teens. Some of the specific upgrades include reducing dust and debris by removing carpeting, increasing ventilation and air quality, and increasing the space by removing a wall that makes the limited space larger to serve more youth and families. This funding will also provide technology upgrades to provide education, resources, and tools for underserved communities.
Women's Resource Center	\$ 49,307.00	\$49,307.59	WRC experienced an increased reliance on the shelter during the pandemic for both housing as well as an increase in individuals requesting rape exams and domestic violence exams. Individuals are primarily low-to-moderate income (99% reported to be no-income or low-income). An increase in usage of the shelter and the SANE exams has created a need for more storage, equipment replacement, and new computers for the clients to use.
CASA	\$ 50,000.00	\$329,600.00	The courts were shut down for a significant period for COVID and the children's cases could not be heard. This caused a backlog and waiting list of cases and children waiting for CASA advocates. This money will help provide training for more advocates for the children.

Fostering Futures	\$ 50,000.00	\$50,000.00	<p>This agency was affected by the pandemic in multiple ways. They have one major fundraiser each year that was severely impact by the shut-down which caused the agency to be \$50,000 short of their goal. This created a shortfall for that year and, in turn, a shortfall going forward. The population served by this agency is primarily children from families at or below the poverty level or children from abusive homes. The need for basic food and housing services increased as COVID impacted employment, housing, and job loss. An increase in children going into the system has created a need for more basic needs.</p>
Bridges	\$ 70,000.00	\$265,000.00	<p>Due to the age of the facility and the increase in post-pandemic caseloads, the agency needs to hire a maintenance person to ensure that the building is safe. The Norman Housing Authority no longer provides maintenance services for them. The increase in students needing assistance is resulting in a need for more case managers to assist those students to continue to be successful and graduate high school with a plan for the future.</p>
Thunderbird Clubhouse	\$ 70,000.00	\$70,000.00	<p>During the pandemic, when Clubhouse did not have in-person attendance, the vehicles were used to provide lunch delivery for 50 to 70 people daily. In addition to lunch delivery, staff used the vehicles for socially distanced in-home visits and to drop off essential supplies, including hygiene necessities and prescription medications for those unable to access them. Due to the increased food insecurity and anxiety of the members during COVID, the vehicles withstood a large amount of "wear and tear" that is abnormal from the typical daily operations. After reopening physically in 2021, Clubhouse has seen a huge increase in the number of members attending and needing transportation to and from the program. The funds will be used to purchase a new 15 passenger van. If a new van is unavailable, they will purchase a gently used 15 passenger van in excellent condition. Any monies remaining over purchase price will be used for auto insurance premiums, vehicle repair &amp; maintenance, and fuel for all vehicles in the transportation program.</p>

Transition House	\$ 70,000.00	\$70,000.00	Throughout COVID-19, TH has witnessed an increase in isolation and substance use which has exacerbated serious mental illness. This often leads to extreme poverty, homelessness, criminal activity along with a lack of available services to help address these outcomes and needs because of limits and restrictions during COVID-19. For TH, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in difficulties in filling bed spaces due to health and safety risks as well as challenges related to the higher acuity and readiness of clients to work on recovery and personal accountability. For those in the program during the pandemic, TH witnessed a need for extended stays in the TLP often due to a lack of essential community resources that were needed to transition to community living. The result of these patterns was reduced census in the TLP, which resulted in a loss of funding from ODMHSAS through TH's fee for service contract.
Full Circle	\$ 100,000.00	\$248,000.00	This agency was required to be closed from March 2020 to June 2020 which resulted in loss of revenue for that time period of \$231,000. Emergency loans of \$250,000 were obtained and fee reimbursement decreased due to census. Funding will go toward scholarships for the 70 % of attendees who are low income.
Meals on Wheels	\$ 100,000.00	\$100,000.00	During the pandemic, people were homebound, especially at-risk populations such as seniors. The increased cost of food makes it difficult for seniors to make ends meet, leading to an increased number of individuals requiring free meals. Meals on Wheels experienced a rapid 300% increase in new recipients of meal deliveries combined with a 35% increase in food cost. Over 50% of clients receive free meals or are on the lowest fee on a sliding scale.
Rose Rock Habitat for Humanity	\$ 160,000.00	\$757,720.00	Agency has seen an increase in need for home repairs post-COVID with people shut in during this time. The funding will be used for emergency home repairs for individuals with disabilities or seniors or families in unsafe housing.
Mary Abbott Children's House	\$ 200,000.00	\$200,000.00	During the COVID pandemic, people were isolated, and more children were victims of violence and neglect. This agency experienced a 143% increase in monthly volume for children receiving forensic interviews resulting in need for three additional full time staff members. Simultaneously, they had a funding decrease of \$200,000 with another \$130,000 expected for 2023.

CCFI	\$ 215,000.00	\$215,000.00	The funds requested are for programs, services, or capital expenditures that respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic. This was an unprecedented situation that disproportionately affected the most vulnerable communities, including children and low-income families. There has been a massive influx of both number of clients needing services and the severity of cases. This influx has pushed the facility to the limit due to the rise in the amount of DHS referrals. Cases that the therapists and parent educators are working with are severe and complex, often needing extra hours of staff support. CCFI experienced a significant increase in individuals seeking assistance causing insufficient funding available. Funding sources were reduced as well due to the limited resources of donors and increased needs.
Legal Aid	\$ 225,000.00	\$260,000.00	This program will serve Oklahomans who are low-income, elderly, domestic violence survivors, veterans, human trafficking survivors, living with disabilities, and other vulnerable demographics. These Oklahomans were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic through loss of employment or income, illness, loss of childcare, food insecurity, and more.
Food and Shelter	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	One hundred percent of those who come to Food and Shelter for support are among the lowest economic segment of our community and are often families with children. The COVID public health emergency increased the need for food security and housing security for an increasing at-risk population as more people were unable to work due to COVID exposure, lost their jobs, or incomes, or were unable to remain in housing. This ARPA funding request fills in the gap that will be experienced by reduction in CARES Act funding. The increased need of this population is directly tied to the economic impact of COVID.
<b>Funded Totals</b>	<b>\$ 1,786,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,229,687.59</b>	

Non-Funded			
Annie's Rescue Foundation	\$ -	\$3,635.15	Request does not fit the parameters of Department of Treasury regulations for this funding. This request was to build fences for the dog play area. Seems private dollars would be way to fund this ask.
Bethesda	\$ -	\$500,000.00	This capital request does not fit the parameters of Department of Treasury funding. The agency does not have the land purchased and doubtful they would be able to meet the timeline for money to be spent.
Careavans	\$ -	\$71,227.00	This organization has only had their 501c3 for six months and the request was for administrative staff and for paying drivers. The sustainability of the organization was questionable at this time. Funds requested would only cover salary for one year.
CASP tutoring	\$ -	\$75,000.00	The original CASP was in Norman for over 40 years; however, this iteration of the organization is new. They have not made connections in the schools yet for this tutoring program, so it is essentially a new start-up organization. We see the need for tutoring with the children, but the connections have not been made yet for this to be widely successful. Money requested is for managers.
Classen Montessori	\$ -	\$50,000.00	Does not address an underserved population per ARPA grant regulations. No detail on how funds would be used.
Future Society of Central Oklahoma	\$ -	\$25,000.00	This request is for SoonerCon and did not fit the parameters of the ARPA funding. This program does not serve an impacted group. Not a clear use of funds.
Grace River Christian Counseling	\$ -	\$20,000.00	While there is a need for more counseling opportunities for families, this program was primarily asking for administrative salaries and not counseling services. Need for rent was a huge part of ask. The demographic information was not provided. They pay counselors but also charge them rent for the space. No other income sources.
Infant Toddler Early Childhood Education	\$ -	\$53,443.00	This organization is currently not in Norman. It is a Denver-based group that would like to open in Norman. Committee did not feel this request fit the parameters of the ARPA grant.



Norman Coalition for Refugee Support	\$ -	\$106,000.00	While there is a need to help refugees, the refugees coming into Norman are not here because of COVID. Did not fit the parameters of the ARPA grant. Ask was to fund entire program.
Norman Regional Health Foundation	\$ -	\$300,000.00	This request did not meet the parameters of the ARPA grant. The request is for finishing the new facility and no mention was made of why this connected to COVID. The improvements proposed would be necessary regardless of the effects of the pandemic.
The Sooner Theatre	\$ -	\$25,000.00	The Sooner Theatre is a treasure in Norman, but this grant would be serving very few low-income children, less than 7%. Committee did not feel this meets the intent of the ARPA grant. Program participants do not appear to be in a disproportionately affected group/class as per ARPA guidelines.
The Virtue Center	\$ -	\$683,000.00	The application is for additional funding for completion of a new facility for the delivery of mental health and substance abuse assistance. There is not a specified "economic impact" within the application. The application clearly states the funds would be used to complete funding for a new facility. The facility was not intended to help the organization recover from the COVID pandemic. The COVID pandemic was not the catalyst or driving factor behind the request for funds. This capital campaign was already in process and/or being planned when COVID occurred.
Variety Care	\$ -	\$250,000.00	This is capital project that has not broken ground. The request was for equipment for the new facility. This does not meet the ARPA guidelines as set forth by the Department of the Treasury.
Vision Impact	\$ -	\$144,960.00	This organization provides "life guides" and "personal mentoring" through a series of meetings, workshops that define and reflect on the student's purpose and value. They were looking for first year funding for this program. Does not fit into the ARPA regulations. Does not focus on serving children most affected by COVID and/or low income.
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$1,786,000</b>	<b>\$5,536,952.74</b>	