



AGENDA

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR & CITY COMMISSIONERS

VIA: RODNEY LUCAS, CITY MANAGER

FROM: Peggy Boule-Washington

SUBJECT: American Rescue Plan Act Fund Allocation

DATE: March 14, 2023

GENERAL SUMMARY/BACKGROUND:

The City of Pahokee has instituted a Job Workforce Program, Education Program, Training Program and Business Development Program. The intent of the Program is to residents in need of assistance with paying past due water and past due rent within the City.

The City of Pahokee has received an allocation of \$3,162,890. The funds were received in two transactions of \$1,581,445. We will start with the first year, FY2022-23, allocating: \$125,455.00 to fund the following program initiatives:

- ✓ Job Workforce Program (\$15,152.00)
- ✓ Education Program (\$15,152.00)
- ✓ Training Program (\$15,141.00)
- ✓ Business Development Program (\$80,000.00)

The City of Pahokee (the “City”) embraced the importance of public input, transparency, and accountability for the implementation of the Fiscal Recovery Funds. In alignment with the City’s strategic plan, the City is inviting community partners to request ARPA funding for programs, projects, and interventions that will address community challenges in one or more of the following Community.

Assessment Priorities:

Economic Stability and Resilience

In response to the economic challenges for City residents and businesses magnified by the COVID-19 public health emergency, the City is seeking proposals that will identify and address current vulnerabilities, support short and long-term recovery efforts, and mitigate the effects of future economic disruptions. Proposed projects should demonstrate how they will reduce economic disparities and provide pathways to prosperity to economically disadvantaged populations, small and minority businesses. Some examples of initiatives include small business grants and loans, supporting businesses that did not qualify for federal programs, technical assistance support, job training assistance, direct payments to households, food assistance to low-to-moderate income households, etc.

Housing Affordability and Homeownership

Homeownership is the primary means to wealth building and financial stability for low- and moderate-income families. Pahokee aims to be a city where working families across the wage-spectrum can live and thrive. Significant disparities in homeownership and cost-burden exist for many Pahokee residents. In the current housing market and with pressures from families relocating from elsewhere, homeownership may become unattainable for many working families. Proposed projects should demonstrate impact on ameliorating the affordability challenges for current residents by providing pathways to homeownership, or homeowner and renter stability. Some examples of initiatives include rental and mortgage assistance, affordable housing development, utility assistance, housing counseling, home rehabilitation, homelessness services etc.

Educational Opportunities and Job Skills Development

Education contributes to community stability by promoting equity, providing for a sense of self dependence and confidence and creating opportunities for economic mobility. Economic opportunity and mobility are directly connected with educational attainment, as differences in educational attainment contribute to and perpetuate economic disparities. Projects should address barriers to educational equity and ensure pathways to prosperity for diverse populations. Some examples of initiatives include expanding broadband access, internship and mentorship programs, literacy programs, Art/Enrichment programs, entrepreneurship training, workforce development programs, short-term credentialing, and job placement etc.

Healthcare Access and Health Outcomes

The COVID-19 public health emergency exacerbated health disparities in Pahokee as it further illuminated the effect that nonmedical social needs, or social determinants of health (SDOH), have on individual health outcomes. Some factors that strongly influence health outcomes include access to medical care, nutritious foods, clean water, education and health literacy, housing and transportation, exposure to violence, neighborhood safety and recreational facilities, occupation and job security, and socioeconomic status. The city is seeking projects that improve health outcomes either short-term or lead to behavioral change that will reduce health disparities in the long-term. Some examples of initiatives include mental health services, health risk awareness initiatives, vaccine outreach, supporting physical education programs at schools, expanding healthcare access, childcare, home visiting programs, substance and domestic abuse prevention and assistance, support for community health worker programs etc.

Criminal Justice and Safety

Safe neighborhoods signify stronger and happier communities. Pahokee aims to create neighborhoods in which parents are free to raise their children without having to worry about crime, businesses can thrive and expand, and residents are comfortable to connect with each other - all extremely important to building a strong sense of community. Proposed programs should focus on community-based approaches for violence reduction. Some examples

of initiatives include Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programs, enhanced services for foster youths, at-risk youth engagement and intervention programs, crime diversion and reintegration programs etc.

Also noted, in a combined effort to spend the City's allocated funds responsibly, the City's elected officials established an advisory committee, meetings, workshops and townhalls to share thoughts and suggestions as to what City ARPA funds should be allocated to.

BUDGET IMPACT: ARPA funds were received in the amount of \$3,162,890. \$125,455.00 will be allocated towards Job Workforce Program, Education Program, Training Program and Business Development Program with the following impact:

- Job Workforce Program (\$15,152.00)
- Education Program (\$15,152.00)
- Training Program (\$15,141.00)
- Business Development Program (\$80,000.00)

LEGAL NOTE: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Approve resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution 2023 –14