

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.5
(ID # 15108)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, April 27, 2021

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Funding Allocations

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Review and provide direction on the proposed first year funding allocation for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds.

ACTION: Policy

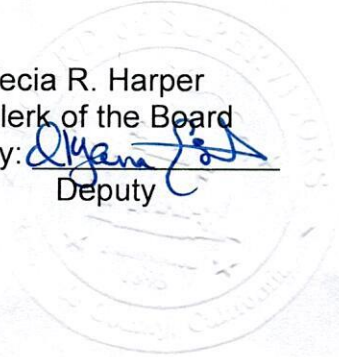
Jeff Van Wageningen, County Executive Officer 4/22/2021

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Washington, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, and Perez
Nays: None
Abstain: Hewitt
Date: April 27, 2021
xc: EO

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board
By:
Deputy



**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: NA			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	20/21 – 21/22

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (H.R. 1319) into law. The \$1.9 trillion package is intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts.

As part of the \$362 billion in federal fiscal recovery aid for state and local governments, \$65.1 billion is provided in direct aid to counties. Riverside County's share of the American Rescue Plan funding is estimated to be \$479 million and will be received over a two-year period. The Executive Office is presenting the attached allocation plan (Attachment A) for the Board's consideration, discussion, and direction. Our Cities in Riverside County are expected to receive an additional \$439 million in direct funding, and our education sector will also be receiving direct allocations from ARP (Attachment B). Additionally, Federal funding will be made available through targeted ARP program grants and FEMA for specific programs such as vaccine distribution and testing.

The deadline for expenditure of the ARP funds is December 31, 2024. The County's share of the funding will be received in two installments. The first installment is expected to be received by May 11, 2021. The second installment is expected to be received no sooner than 12 months following the first installment. The recommendations contained herein are to program allocation of the first installment, assess the programs delivered over the first year, evaluate the overall public health and economic conditions as they progress over this next year, and adjust the expenditure recommendations for the second year accordingly.

The U.S. Treasury Department is expected to release detailed eligibility guidelines in early May. These guidelines may require reassessment and adjustment of some of the recommendations contained herein. The Executive Office is recommending that the Board consider, discuss, and provide general direction on the recommended allocation plan, for the Executive Office to return with an updated

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allocation recommendation after we have received the guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department.

The general eligibility categories for the funds include their use to:

- Respond to or mitigate the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
- Provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue (i.e. online, property or income tax) due to the public health emergency.
- Make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
- Respond to workers performing essential work.
- The National Association of Counties American Rescue Plan Act legislation analysis can be found under Attachment C.

RECOMMENDED FIRST YEAR ALLOCATION PLAN

This plan is separated into broad categories, similar to the approach that we used with the CARES Act funds. Detailed programs will be developed for each individual category and returned to the Board for future consideration and approval. In general, the recommended allocations are founded on the following broad principles:

- Provide recovery funding to those sectors of our economy and society that are struggling most to recover from the pandemic.
- Have a constituent and community-based focus. The CARES Act expenditures were primarily used on the County's *Response* to the pandemic, as we dealt with the many public health and emergency management needs of testing and tracing, modification of facilities to create safe spaces, and the impacts on the hospital and medical care infrastructure. The intent is to primarily focus the funds on the *Recovery* of our communities as we rebuild.
- Provide a vehicle for transformational investment in our County's Recovery from COVID-19, so that when we look back on the expenditure of these one-time funds in the coming years we can point to positive outcomes that were

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sustainable, contributed to the growth of our communities, and added to our long-term resiliency to deal with other potential future disruptions to our economy and public health systems.

- Provide for countywide equity. The allocations for the Economic Recovery, Homelessness Solutions, Infrastructure, and Non-Profit Assistance are generally intended to be allocated by Supervisorial districts, or across programs and projects that benefit multiple districts.
- Focus on one-time investments, rather than funding ongoing operational costs for County Departments or community partners, so that we are not creating on-going obligations that will impact the County's General Fund into the future.

With these principles in mind, the Executive Office is recommending that the following categories be established. Individual Form 11s for each category, with operational detail on how the funds would be expended, will be brought forward for the Board's consideration.

Economic Recovery – Develop programs to assist businesses and industries struggling to rebound from the pandemic as well as focus on strategic investment projects for future economic growth and resiliency. The Economic Recovery Task Force will provide an Economic Recovery framework for Board approval in May to maximize opportunities for a strong and equitable recovery.

Housing and Homelessness Solutions – This one-time investment will significantly increase local sheltering capacity, permanent supportive housing units and affordable housing which are critical to addressing homelessness.

County Department Response – Our County Departments, in particular our health system (Public Health, Behavioral Health, Hospital and health clinics), along with our Emergency Management Department, continue to be on the front lines of our response. We will be maximizing the use of FEMA and other ARP direct grants to fund these programs, but there will still be a need for use of County ARP funds to cover shortfalls.

Infrastructure – Infrastructure is a new category that was not eligible under CARES. The legislative language specifically names water, sewer, and broadband as eligible infrastructure expenses. The Treasury guidelines may provide more detail on infrastructure eligibility.

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Non-Profit Assistance – We are recommending a significant expansion of funding assistance to our Non-profit community compared to what was allocated through CARES. Our Non-profits provide essential community support services that will assist in our recovery and increase our resiliency as a County moving forward.

Revenue Backfill – ARP provides eligibility for revenue backfill of lost revenue due to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19. The recommended expenditures for revenue backfill center primarily on dramatically reduced interest income and funding for specific departments that were particularly hard hit through the loss of user fees due to COVID-19.

Rental Assistance – The County has received a separate allocation of \$57 million in Federal funds earlier in 2021. These funds will be used to assist with rental and utility relief for impacted residents.

Attachment A



ARP Allocation Plan
Executive Office
Recommendation

American Rescue Plan Act 1st Year Funding Allocations



Economic Recovery

\$54 million



Housing & Homelessness

\$50 million



County Departments Response

\$48 million



Infrastructure

\$45 million



Revenue Backfill

\$22 million



Non-Profit Assistance

\$20 million

ARPA 1st Payment \$239 million



Rental Assistance

\$57 million

Attachment B



Cities Estimated
ARP Funds

Nonentitlement Allocation Projections - 03-08-21

Riverside County	
Estimated ARP Funds to Cities in California in Millions	
Cities	Allocation
Banning	5.88
Beaumont	9.61
Blythe	3.70
Calimesa	1.72
Canyon Lake	2.12
Cathedral City	15.29
Coachella Valley	8.61
Corona	31.14
Desert Hot Springs	5.44
Eastvale	12.08
Hemet	22.99
Indian Wells	1.03
Indio	21.71
Jurupa Valley	29.79
La Quinta	7.86
Lake Elsinore	13.04
Menifee	13.02
Moreno Valley	50.74
Murrieta	21.88
Norco	5.01
Palm Desert	10.22
Palm Springs	11.19
Perris	22.75
Rancho Mirage	3.49
Riverside	79.28
San Jacinto	9.26
Temecula	13.95
Wildomar	7.01
Total	439.81

Attachment C



The National
Association of
Counties American
Rescue Plan Act – ARP
Legislation Analysis

Legislative Analysis for Counties: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Updated for Final Passage



INTRODUCTION

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (H.R. 1319) into law. The \$1.9 trillion package, based on President Biden's *American Rescue Plan*, is intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts.

As part of the **\$362 billion in federal fiscal recovery aid for state and local governments**, **\$65.1 billion is provided in direct aid to counties and an additional \$1.5 billion for public land counties**. The *American Rescue Plan Act* also allocates hundreds of billions of dollars for public health and vaccines, assistance for vulnerable populations, education and housing stabilization, economic recovery assistance and direct assistance for families and individuals.

This analysis highlights **key provisions for county governments**.

NACo
WHAT WE DO TOPICS ADVOCACY RESOURCES EVENTS & EDUCATION NEWS COUNTY EXPLORER

COVID-19 RECOVERY CLEARINGHOUSE

Timely resources for counties, including allocation estimations, examples of county programs using federal coronavirus relief funds, the latest news and more.

State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Find your county's estimated allocation, NACo's legislative analysis and more.

LEARN MORE

Investing CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds

Find examples and best practices, as well as U.S. Treasury guidance and FAQs.

LEARN MORE

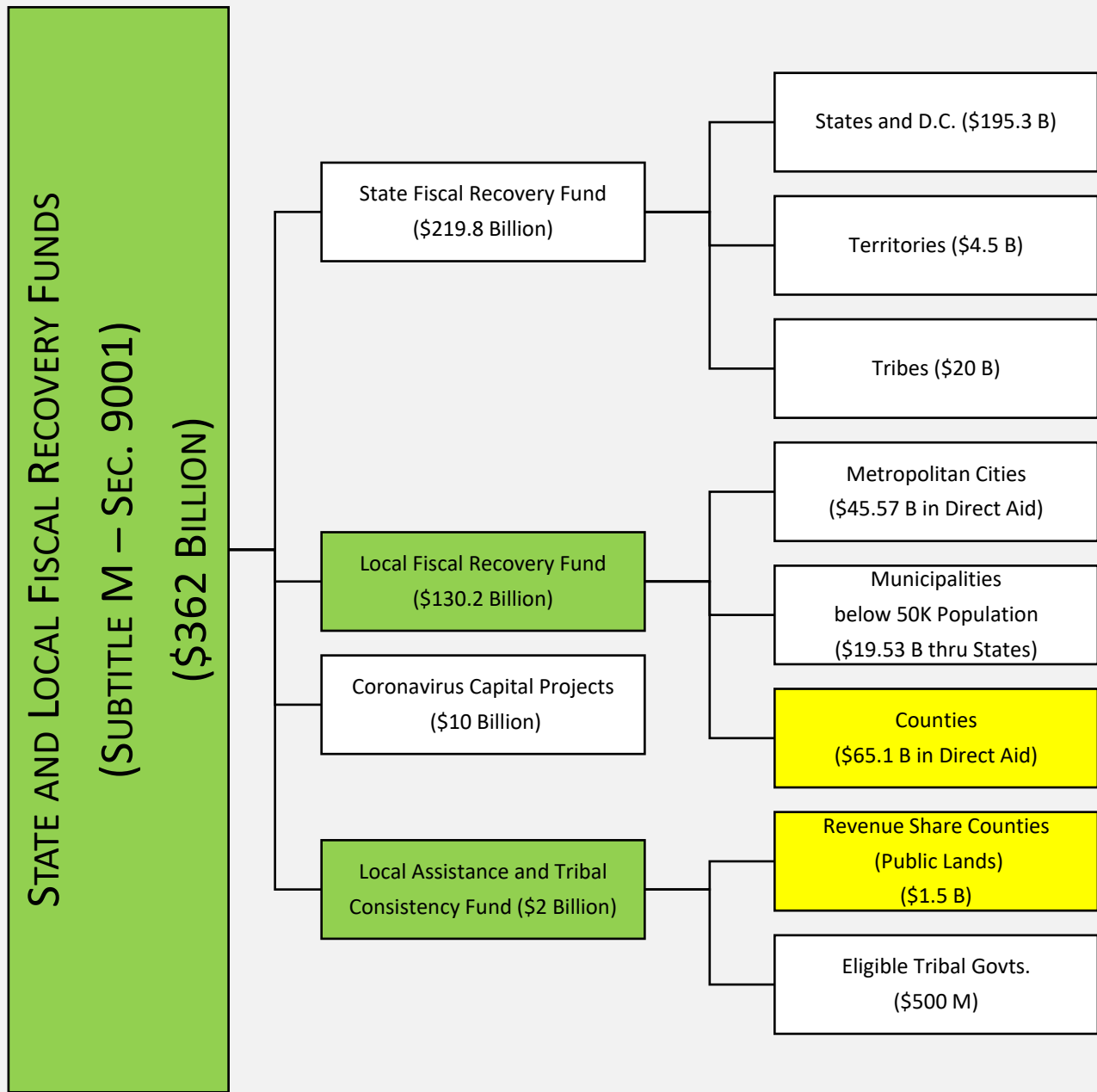
COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

Explore key considerations for counties in COVID-19 vaccine distribution plans.

LEARN MORE

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DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND

Provides approximately \$362 billion to help states, territories, counties, cities, and tribal governments cover increased expenditures, replenish lost revenue and mitigate economic harm from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit the [NACo COVID-19 Recovery Clearinghouse](#) for timely resources, including county allocation estimations, updates on Treasury guidance, examples of county programs using federal coronavirus relief funds and other timely news.

Distribution Formula: A total of \$362 billion is allocated as follows:

- **States and District of Columbia: \$195.3 billion**
 - \$25.5 billion equally divided.
 - \$169 billion allocated based on the states' share of unemployed workers over a three-month period from Oct.-Dec. 2020.
 - \$1.25 billion in additional aid for the District of Columbia.
- **Local governments: \$130.2 billion divided evenly between non-county municipalities and counties**
 - **\$65.1 billion in direct federal aid to all counties** based on the county share of the U.S. population (including parishes in Louisiana, boroughs in Alaska and consolidated city-county entities). Counties that are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients (urban entitlement counties) will receive the larger of the population-based share or the share under a modified CDBG allocation formula. Treasury shall allocate the first tranche of payments within 60 days of enactment.
 - **\$65.1 billion to cities and other non-county municipalities.**
 - *With populations of at least 50,000:* \$45.57 billion in direct federal aid using a modified CDBG formula.
 - *With populations below 50,000:* \$19.53 billion based on each jurisdiction's percentage of the state's population, not exceeding 75 percent of its most recent budget as of January 27, 2020. Aid is distributed through the states.
- **U.S. Territories: \$4.5 billion**
- **Tribal governments: \$20 billion**

[Click here
to view
your
county's
estimated
funding
allocation.](#)

Allowable Uses for Recovery Funds:

- **Respond to or mitigate the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19 emergency or its negative economic impacts**, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality. *These examples are intended to clarify congressional intent that these activities are eligible. However, state and local activities are NOT limited only to these activities.*
- **Provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue** (i.e. online, property or income tax) due to the public health emergency.
- **Make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.**
- State and local governments can transfer the funds to a private nonprofit organization, a public benefit corporation involved in the transportation of passengers or cargo **or a special-purpose unit of State or local government.**
- **Respond to workers performing essential work** during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work.
 - **“Premium pay” means** an additional amount up to \$13 per hour that is paid to an eligible worker for work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The law imposes a cap of \$25,000 for any single eligible worker.

Guardrails for Recovery Funds:

- **States are not allowed to use the funds to either directly or indirectly offset a reduction in the net tax revenue** that results from a change in law, regulation or administrative interpretation during the covered period that reduces any tax. If a state violates this provision, it will be required to repay the amount of the applicable reduction to net tax revenue.
- **No funds shall be deposited into any pension fund.**
- Any local government, including counties, that **fail to comply with the federal law and related guidelines shall be required to repay** the federal Treasury.

Program Administration:

- **Funds will be distributed** by the U.S. Department of Treasury.
- **The deadline to spend funds is December 31, 2024.**
- The U.S. Treasury is required to **pay the first tranche to counties not later than 60-days after enactment**, and second payment no earlier than 12 months after the first payment.
- The law provides an additional \$77 million for the Government Accountability Office and \$40 million for the Pandemic Response and Accountability Committee **for oversight and to promote transparency and accountability.**

Reporting Requirements for State and Local Governments:

- **States are required to report how funds are used and how their tax revenue was modified** during the time that funds were spent during the covered period (covered period begins on March 3, 2021 and ends on the last day of the fiscal year a state or local government has expended or returned all funds to the U.S. Treasury).
- **Local governments, including counties, are required to provide “periodic reports”** providing a detailed accounting of the use of funds.
- If a state, county or municipality **does not comply with any provision of this bill, they are required to repay the U.S. Treasury** an equal amount to the funds used in violation.

CORONAVIRUS CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (SEC. 604)

- **Provides \$10 billion for states, territories, and tribal governments to carry out critical capital projects**, specifically related to enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. *This funding includes broadband infrastructure.*
- Each **state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico will receive a minimum allocation of \$100 million**, plus another \$100 million is divided among other U.S. territories and another \$100 million is designated for tribal governments and Native Hawaiian use.
- **Of the remaining funds, states receive an additional allocation** based on population (50 percent), number of individuals living in rural areas as a percentage of the U.S. rural population (25 percent), and proportion of the state’s population of households living in poverty.

LOCAL ASSISTANCE
AND TRIBAL
CONSISTENCY
FUND (SEC. 605)

Provides an additional \$1.5 billion, split evenly over FY 2022 and 2023, for eligible revenue share counties (i.e., public land counties) as well as \$500 million over both fiscal years for Tribal governments:

- U.S. Treasury is responsible for determining the funding formula, taking into account the economic conditions of each eligible revenue sharing county, using measurements of poverty rates, household income, land values, and unemployment rates as well as other economic indicators, over the 20-year period ending with Sept. 30, 2021.
- **Eligible counties may use these funds for any governmental purpose other than a lobbying activity.**
- **Counties shall be required to provide periodic reports** with a detailed accounting of the use of funds.
- **Failure to submit required reports or misuse of funds will result in the recoup of funds** by the federal government.

According to a statement for the record by U.S. Senate Finance Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), “[The Senator] fully expect[s] Treasury to consult with others in government who have history in this arena on the creation of this new formula such as the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, **as well as the National Association of Counties, state county associations, including the Association of O&C Counties Oregon,** and many other groups with a deep understanding of these impacts across the United States.”

INVESTMENTS IN VACCINE DISTRIBUTION AND HEALTH

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

Vaccine Distribution Funding: Provides \$20 billion to establish a National COVID-19 Vaccination Program, of which \$7.5 billion will be allocated to CDC to support state, local, tribal and public health departments and community health centers in the distribution of vaccines through information technology and data enhancements, facility enhancements and public communications.

Another \$7.5 billion of the \$20 billion appropriated is provided to the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to establish vaccination sites.**

Counties play an integral role in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines as key administrators of health and human services at the local level, supporting over 900 hospitals, 824 long-term care facilities, and 1,943 local health departments.

Vaccine Confidence Education: Provides \$1 billion for the CDC to strengthen vaccine confidence by furthering the distribution of information and education and improving vaccination rates.

County officials and local public health agencies are trusted voices, often responsible for messaging vaccine confidence to the public.

SUPPORT FOR MEDICAID

FMAP Enhancements: Enhances state Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP), the federal contribution to Medicaid, including:

- A 100 percent FMAP for states that opt to provide coverage to the uninsured for COVID-19 vaccines and treatment without cost sharing.
- An enhanced FMAP for states that wish to expand Medicaid programs to cover mobile crisis intervention services for individuals experiencing mental health or substance use disorders.
- Increasing the state's base FMAP by five percentage points for two years if they expand Medicaid; currently there are 12 states that have yet to expand Medicaid and will be eligible for this increase.
- A temporary FMAP increase of 7.35 percentage points for states to improve Medicaid home and community-based services for one year.

Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Payments: Amends the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L.116-127) so states do not have to make higher DSH payments due to the 6.2 percent FMAP increase in the legislation.

Counties in 26 states contribute up to 60% of the non-federal share of Medicaid, totaling approximately \$7 billion per year.

FUNDING FOR TESTING, PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT & RESOURCES

Testing and Contact Tracing: Provides \$47.8 billion to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support state and local health departments in distributing and administering COVID-19 tests, acquiring and distributing PPE and other supplies, expanding contact tracing capabilities, and sustaining the nation's public health workforce.

Counties support over 1,900 of America's 2,800 local health departments, providing essential public health prevention services like public education, vaccine coordination and logistics, contact tracing, and COVID-19 testing.

Public Health Workforce Expansion: Provides key enhancements for healthcare and public health workforce supports, including:

- **\$7.6 billion for HHS to establish, expand, and sustain a public health workforce** and make awards to state, local, and territorial public health departments.
- **\$7.6 billion for Community Health Centers** for ongoing COVID-19 response efforts.
- **\$800 million to the National Health Service Corps** to enhance and diversify the nation's clinician's workforce.

Federal investments are responsible *for nearly 25 percent of local health departments' revenue. Over the past decade, the number of local health department jobs has decreased by 25,000, a statistic that is further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic—effectively shrinking the public health workforce when it is needed most.*

FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) and Community Mental Health Block Grants: Provides \$1.5 billion for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency's (SAMHSA) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) and another \$1.5 billion for Community Mental Health block grant programs.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics: Provides \$420 million for Certified Community Behavioral Clinics (CCBHCs) which helps counties and other local entities provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals.

County-based behavioral health systems exist in 23 states that represent 75% of the population, and counties deliver community-based mental health and substance use disorder services through 750 behavioral health authorities.

Overdose Prevention: Provides \$30 million for SAMHSA to create grants to state, local, tribal and territorial governments to support community-based overdose

prevention programs and other harm reduction services in light of increased pandemic related drug-misuse.

County leaders across the public health, justice and public safety, and behavioral health sectors are on the front lines of the opioid epidemic and continue to formulate effective responses for this ongoing pandemic.

SUPPORT FOR LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

Nursing Home Strike Teams: Provides \$500 million for HHS to allocate money to states and territories to establish strike teams that will respond to COVID-19 outbreaks in skilled nursing facilities.

Counties own, operate, and support 758 skilled nursing facilities and nursing homes, facilities that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Pandemic Emergency Fund: Provides \$1 billion for states to provide short-term targeted aid (cash assistance or otherwise) to families in crisis. States will receive funds based on their population's share of children and portion of prior TANF expenditures dedicated to cash assistance.

Nine states representing half of the program's national caseload delegate the administration of TANF (which funds a wide range of anti-poverty programs and family services) to counties.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) Expansion:

- In 2021, expands the CTC to **\$3,000 per child aged 6-17 (\$3,600 for children under age 6)** and makes the credit fully refundable in 2021. Instructs the U.S. Treasury Department to issue the credit in the form of periodic payments or as frequently as is feasible beginning in July, 2021.
- In 2021, increases the EITC for childless workers by **up to \$1,000 and expands the minimum and maximum age** for claiming the credit.

The proposed CTC expansion is expected to cut child poverty by half in 2021, a key county priority.

Individual Assistance Payments: Provides another round of Economic Impact Payments worth \$1,400 per individual (including child and non-child dependents up to age 17), up to \$75,000 income threshold level for individuals and \$150,000

for households, with an accelerated phase-out for higher-income earners capped at \$80,000 for individuals and \$160,000 for household income.

HOUSING AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Emergency Rental Assistance Program: Provides \$21.6 billion in another round of emergency rental assistance to be distributed by the U.S. Treasury Department to allocate to states, territories, counties and cities.

County governments with populations greater than 200,000 are eligible to receive another round of direct funding from Treasury to keep families in stable housing and prevent an eviction crisis during the health emergency. Counties below 200,000 may receive funds through their state government.

Homeless Assistance: Provides \$5 billion to HUD for homeless prevention and supportive services through the HOME Investment Partnerships program formula.

The majority of HOME funds (60 percent) are distributed to 647 local jurisdictions, including urban counties with populations over 200,000 not including their largest metropolitan city, to provide affordable housing to low-income families.

Housing Choice Vouchers: Provides \$5 billion to HUD for emergency Housing Choice Vouchers.

Counties support increasing the supply of housing choice vouchers to assist with providing affordable housing for families.

Rural Housing: Provides \$100 million for rural housing through the U.S. Department of Agriculture for rental assistance.

Counties support assistance to families in rural areas struggling with rental payments due to the pandemic.

Homeowner Assistance Fund: Provides \$10 billion for the Homeowner Assistance Fund and allocates funds to states, territories, and tribes to provide homeowners struggling to make mortgage payments due to the pandemic with direct assistance for mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, utilities, and other housing related costs.

Counties support assistance to families to maintain stable housing conditions during the public health crisis and beyond.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): Provides \$4.5 billion in emergency LIHEAP funds to remain available until September 30, 2022.

Counties fully or partially administer the LIHEAP program in 13 states.

FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):

- Extends the recently enacted 15% SNAP benefit increase **through September 30, 2021** (previously set to expire June 30).
- Provides an **extra \$1.1 billion in funds for state SNAP administration** to be allocated over the next three fiscal years, an amount commensurate with a 100 percent federal administrative match.
- **Extends the Pandemic-EBT program** (which provides SNAP benefits to low-income children who have lost access to meals at school and child care due to the pandemic) through the summer months in both FY 2021 and the summer of FY 2022. *Note: administrative costs for P-EBT are 100 percent reimbursable by the federal government.*

Ten states representing 32 percent of total participants delegate the administration of SNAP (which funds monthly grocery benefits for low-income families) to counties. In these states, counties often contribute local dollars to the program's 50 percent non-federal administrative match.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Provides \$880 million in emergency funds, \$490 million of which will enhance benefits for four months and \$390 million of which will support outreach innovation and program modernization funding.

WIC (which provides food assistance, nutrition education and service referrals to nutritionally-at-risk, low-income pregnant/post-partum women, infants and children) operates through 1,900 local agencies in 10,000 clinic sites, many of which are county health departments.

SUPPORTS FOR WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS

Federal Unemployment Benefits: Extends enhanced federal unemployment of \$300 weekly through September 6, 2021. Those making less than \$150,000 a year and receiving unemployment benefits are eligible for a \$10,200 tax break. Also extends the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program through September 6, 2021 and allows emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations.

Emergency Paid Leave and Paid Leave Tax Credit: Extends the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) (FFCRA) emergency paid leave program through September 30, 2021 and provides up to 12 weeks of paid sick and family medical leave related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notably, public sector employers, including counties, are now eligible to receive the FFCRA tax credit for wages or compensation paid to an employee who is unable to work due to the pandemic. Under previous law, counties were not eligible to receive this credit, impacting already strained county budgets.

Additionally, as previously authorized under the FFCRA, a local government employer that provides paid leave wages under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act or Expanded Family Medical Leave Act will not be required to pay the employer's share of social security tax on the paid leave wages.

Counties employ 3.6 million individuals, and without this tax credit, the high costs of funding the enhanced paid leave benefits could harm counties' ability to provide critical services that are necessary for a successful pandemic response.

AGING SERVICES

Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs: Provides \$1.4 billion in emergency OAA funding, including \$750 million for senior nutrition programs, \$460 million for home-and-community-based support services, \$45 million for disease prevention, \$10 million for the long-term care ombudsman program and \$145 million in assistance for grandparents caring for grandchildren.

OAA funding is allocated directly to Area Agencies on Aging, more than half of which are fully or partially operated by county governments.

Elder Justice Act Programs: Provides at least \$188 million for the Elder Justice Act in both FY 2021 and FY 2022.

The Elder Justice Act program is the only dedicated federal funding source available to states and counties to prevent elder fraud and abuse.

You asked. We listened.

New and improved County Explorer...

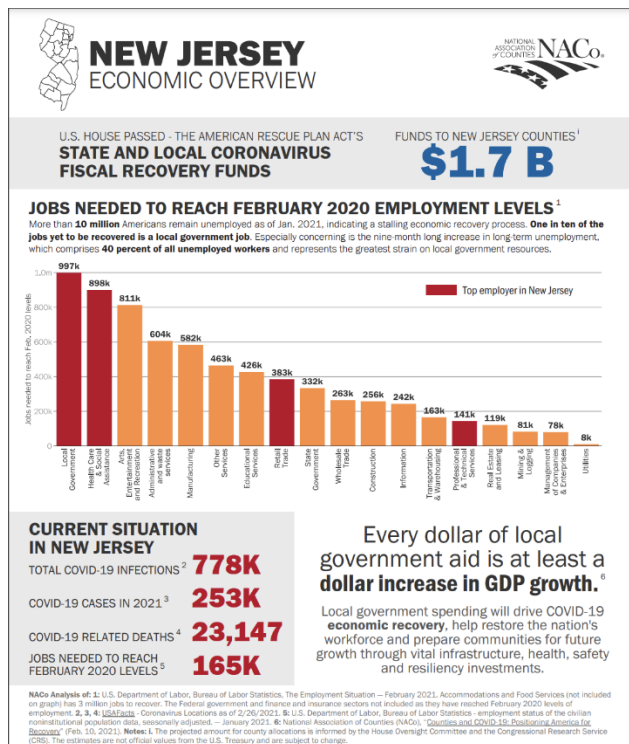
simple.
accessible.
impactful.



...we're changing the way you see county data – literally.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
NACo
COUNTY EXPLORER

County Explorer is now more accessible and user-friendly. The new tool sports a redesigned user interface which makes navigation simple, while maintaining familiarity. County Explorer now works on mobile devices, and it looks particularly great on tablets. Check out the new design, functionality, and more at Explorer.NACo.org. #CE2 @NACoTweets



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE STABILIZATION

Education Stabilization Fund: Provides \$123 billion in emergency funds to support K-12 schools in safely reopening, of which 20 percent must address learning loss. Other set-asides include:

- \$1.25 billion for **summer enrichment**.
- \$1.25 billion for **afterschool programs**.
- \$3 billion for **education technology**.
- \$800 million for wraparound services to **homeless students**.

In addition to the ESERF, provides:

- \$3 billion for the **Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA)**.
- \$2.75 billion for **private K-12 schools**.
- \$40 billion for **higher education, including community colleges**.

*Along with sharing a tax base with local school boards and providing complementary services to local students, **counties play a role in supporting and funding K-12 schools in five states: Alaska, Md., N.C., Va. and Tenn. Certain counties also contribute funding to community colleges.***

Distance Learning: Provides nearly \$7.2 billion for the Emergency Connectivity Fund within the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) E-Rate program, helping schools and libraries obtain affordable broadband to support virtual learning.

During the pandemic, counties have contributed local dollars and federal relief funds to help students without at-home internet attend virtual school.

Head Start: Provides \$1 billion in emergency funding to be distributed across existing Head Start agencies according to their share of total enrolled children.

*Head Start (which funds early childhood education for low-income children) delivers services through 1,600 local agencies, **many of which are sponsored by county governments.***

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF): Provides \$39 billion in emergency funds for the discretionary portion, the Child Care Development Block Grant program (CCDBG), \$15 billion of which will be distributed according to the regular formula and available through FY 2024. The remaining \$24 billion will go to states to make subgrants directly to child care providers. The mandatory Child Care Entitlement to States (CCES) will also receive a permanent annual increase of \$600 million, with the state match waived in FY 2021 and FY 2022.

Eight states delegate the administration of CCDF (which supports child care subsidies for low-income families) to counties.

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC): In 2021, expands the CDCTC, making it refundable (therefore available to lower-income employees) and increasing the maximum rate by 50 percent.

County employees may be able to claim this credit, making it easier for them to afford the necessary child/dependent care to continue working.

SUPPORTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL): Provides an additional \$7.25 billion for the PPP and \$15 billion for the EIDL Advance program.

The PPP and EIDL program help stabilize county economies by keeping small businesses afloat. Many counties also provided small business loans and other support with CRF dollars authorized under the CARES Act.

Economic Development Administration: Provides \$3 billion for economic adjustment assistance. Of this amount, 25 percent of funding is reserved for assistance to communities that have suffered economic injury as a result of **job losses in the travel, tourism or outdoor recreation sectors.**

Of this amount, 25 percent of funding is reserved for assistance to communities that have suffered economic injury as a result of job losses in the travel, tourism or outdoor recreation sectors.

EDA is a critical resource, particularly for rural counties, in providing essential competitive grants for job creation, economic recovery and planning.

TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION

Public Transit: Provides \$30.46 billion available through FY 2024 at a 100 percent federal share for eligible recipients of urban, rural, senior citizens and individuals with disabilities, and intercity bus transit formula grants for operating expenses incurred beginning on January 20, 2020, including payroll, operating and maintenance costs due to lost revenue, and the payment of leave for personnel laid off due to service reductions.

Counties directly support 78 percent of the nation's public transit systems.

Airports: Provides \$8 billion available through FY 2024 through Airport Improvement Program (AIP) formulas at a 100 percent federal share, including:

- **Funding for operations, personnel and sanitation to combat the spread of COVID-19:** \$6.5 billion for primary and certain cargo airports and \$100 million for general aviation and commercial service airports.
- \$800 million for **primary airport** sponsors to meet rent and other obligations to airport concessionaires.
- \$608 million to cover the **full federal share of these projects**, including retroactively for FY 2020.

Counties own or support 34 percent of America’s public airports.

Amtrak: Provides \$1.7 billion available through FY 2024, including \$970.39 million for the Northeast Corridor and \$729.61 for the National Network.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) RESOURCES

Disaster Relief Fund: Provides \$50 billion for FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund to meet the immediate needs of state, local, tribal and territorial governments. [\(NOTE that the Biden administration issued an Executive Order on February 2, 2021 that waives the non-federal match of 25 percent from January 20, 2020 through September 31, 2021 for COVID-related eligible reimbursements.\)](#)

FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund provides funding for key FEMA programs important to counties, including the [Public Assistance \(PA\) Program](#).

Funeral Assistance: Extends the **100 percent federal cost share increase for funeral assistance** provided by FEMA, which had previously only been for costs incurred before December 30, 2020.

Funds will reimburse county residents for funeral costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional Funding for FEMA Programs: Provides funding for a wide variety of FEMA programs that support local agencies in FY 2021 to remain available through FY 2025, including:

- Emergency **Food and Shelter** Program (\$400 million)
- Assistance to **Firefighters Grants** (\$100 million)
- **Emergency Management** Performance Grants (\$100 million)
- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (**SAFER**) Grants (\$200 million)

Counties rely on these critical federal grant programs to provide much-needed funding and other resources to local firefighters, first responders and other frontline workers.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY (EPA)
GRANTS**

Funding for Pollution and Disparate Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic:

Provides \$100 million to the EPA to address health outcome disparities from pollution and the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Of this amount, \$50 million will support activities that identify and address **disproportionate environmental or public health harms and risks in minority populations or low-income population.**

Counties support an increase in federal technical and financial assistance to states and local governments for the development and administration of pollution control programs.



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Maxwell, Sue

From: Eloisa Lopez-Valencia <eloisav@berkeley.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 10:34 AM
To: COB
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Oasis MHP Housing Relocation

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system.
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My name is Eloisa Lopez and I am a Coachella resident. I would like to voice my support of Oasis MHP Housing Relocation. I urge the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to allocate a one-time \$30 million investment to support sustainable affordable housing opportunities and protect these communities. The American Rescue Plan should be used to address the environmental and health hazards that have long existed in the Eastern Coachella Valley. These residents deserve the opportunity to live in a safe community!

Thank you.

Best,

--

Eloisa Lopez
Project Specialist | **OneFuture CV**
(760) 485-3860 | eloisav@berkeley.edu

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 7:00 PM
To: COB; ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Gerardo
Phone: 760-984-8396
Email: ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5
State your position below: Neutral

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 7:02 PM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Eugenia
Phone: 760-397-6368
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5
State your position below: Neutral

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.



April 26, 2021

Riverside County Board of Supervisors
4080 Lemon Street, 1st. Floor
Riverside, CA. 92501

Submitted Via Email

RE: ARP Allocation Priorities

Dear Riverside County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Riverside County's proposed American Rescue Plan (ARP) principles and funding categories. We appreciate and generally support the initial framework developed by the County Executive Officer, Mr. Van Wagenen. We offer the comments below to strengthen and expand upon this framework with specific community identified priorities that reflect urgent needs and recovery opportunities in the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV).

COVID-19 has highlighted and exacerbated long standing problems for many of the communities we work with, such as access to safe drinking water, access to affordable housing, economic opportunity, access to public health services and workforce protections. As the staff report notes, ARP dollars represent an unprecedented opportunity to invest in the recovery efforts that will ensure communities are much better protected and prepared in future crises. While we are generally supportive of this initial framework, we urge the County to work with communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic to develop the economic recovery framework referenced in the staff report and develop specific funding priorities within each category through a participatory process that is inclusive of all communities in Riverside County.

Community Identified Priorities for ARP Funding

The following priorities were developed in partnership with community residents from the Eastern Coachella Valley. These priorities reflect a history of infrastructure and resource deficiencies that have long existed in the ECV which had a serious impact in this region's vulnerability to COVID-19. With dedicated funding from the ARP for constituent and community-based priorities, the ECV and other communities will be able to focus on their recovery and achieve long-term resiliency and transformative change.

We note that while the United States Treasury has not yet released program guidance for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, the funding recommendations below fall within eligible uses included in federal law.

Housing & Homelessness

We appreciate and support increased investment in local sheltering capacity, permanent supportive affordable units and addressing homelessness. As an initial matter, we urge the County to increase the initial allocation of \$50 million to at least \$80 million to be inclusive of the requests below.

Relocation for Oasis Mobile Home Park Residents

We thank and appreciate Supervisor Perez for meeting with Oasis MHP residents and making a commitment to support their request for relocation utilizing ARP dollars. Residents at Oasis MHP have requested both short-term and long-term solutions to address dire health and housing conditions. Through these comments, we join Juntos Por Un Mejor Oasis to respectfully urge the County to allocate \$30 million for relocation of Oasis MHP families. Doing so would be consistent with the County's stated goals of utilizing ARP to support community-based recovery strategies.

Rental Assistance

We thank Riverside County for continuously dedicating funding for rental assistance. This has provided much needed support to keep residents housed and will continue to be needed as communities recover and regain stability. Based on community feedback, we recommend that the County and its partner organizations who are implementing the program, allow the assistance to be provided directly to tenants instead of landlords. In some instances, landlords have been unwilling to provide any signed permission for tenants to receive the funds and providing the assistance directly to residents will allow the County to support more residents.

Right to counsel

We urge the County to establish a right to counsel program to support vulnerable tenants especially as state and federal eviction protections policies are set to expire soon. We have heard from many tenants about the difficulty of navigating complex eviction protection program without access to legal advice and counsel. Even before the pandemic, tenants face many challenges in evictions proceedings without legal counsel. Establishing A right to counsel program will support the county's stated goals of preventing homelessness during this time. .

Community Infrastructure

Water & Wastewater

As this pandemic has highlighted, access to water and wastewater infrastructure is critical in protecting public health. APR funding should be used to expand on existing and construct new water and wastewater infrastructure within each of the unincorporated communities in the ECV.

Broadband Infrastructure Expansion

APR funding should be used to expand broadband infrastructure within each of the unincorporated communities in the ECV as well. This will ensure that residents have access to critical technology, resources, education, and community and government processes.

Community Resource Centers

ARP funding should include an allocation for two new multi-purpose community resource centers in Oasis and North Shore. As two of the most rural and underserved communities in the Coachella Valley, Oasis and North Shore need community resource centers to better access information, technology, internet, food distributions, and gathering spaces. Without such centers, Oasis and North Shore, and other areas, have no facilities to host COVID-19 testing or vaccination events.

The County can partner with the Desert Recreation District or other appropriate agencies to manage these centers and provide community programming for long-term sustainability and development.

Community Health Center

The ECV is also a region that lacks medical facilities that are accessible to low-income residents. We recommend the County fund a permanent community health center in the unincorporated area of the ECV to address health issues like asthma, respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, and other emergency response services. A new medical facility in the ECV will help address the growing health impacts in residents that are being driven and exacerbated by environmental injustices.

The County can partner with the Desert Healthcare District and/or Borrego Health to lead the operation and maintenance of the center.

Premium Pay for Essential Workers

Several local and municipal governments have recently adopted ordinances to require additional wage premiums for employees in the grocery, agriculture and public health sectors, including the City of Coachella. The county should direct ARP funding to establish premium pay for all essential workers throughout the county, regardless of legal status.

We believe in the importance of meaningful community engagement and public participation. We urge the Board to work proactively with community residents most impacted by COVID-19 to develop and implement ARP programs and funding. We are ready to work alongside community residents, businesses, and the Board of Supervisors to make this happen. Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Zaragoza
Regional Policy Manager

Boydd, April

From: Nataly Escobedo Garcia <ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 5:10 PM
To: COB
Cc: Rebecca Zaragoza; Veronica Garibay; Phoebe Seaton; Lesly Figueroa
Subject: Written Comment Submission: Agenda Item 3.5
Attachments: RivCo ARP Letter.pdf

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Good evening,

Attached is our written comment for the April 27th Board of Supervisors agenda item 3.5. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Best,

--

Nataly Escobedo Garcia, MA | *Policy Coordinator - Water Programs*
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
C: 805-407-9800 | E: ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org



[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 1:53 PM
To: COB; rzaragoza@leadershipcounsel.org
Subject: Board comments web submission

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First Name: Rebecca
Last Name: Zaragoza
Phone: 7607743528
Email: rzaragoza@leadershipcounsel.org
Agenda Date: 04/27/2021
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 10:41 AM
To: COB; ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Nataly
Last Name: Escobedo Garcia
Phone: 8054079800
Email: ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org
Agenda Date: 04/27/2021
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5
State your position below: Support

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2021 2:39 PM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission

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First Name: Nataly
Last Name: Escobedo Garcia
Phone: 8054079800
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5
State your position below: Neutral

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 7:15 PM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Pedro
Phone: 760-464-9048
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 7:16 PM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Jeanet
Phone: 760-625-8623
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5
State your position below: Neutral

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 7:02 PM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Eugenia
Phone: 760-397-6368
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5
State your position below: Neutral

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 7:16 PM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Jose
Phone: 760-267-3674
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5
State your position below: Neutral

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Boydd, April

From: Brenda Ortiz <brenda_bug@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 10:21 PM
To: COB
Subject: Agenda Item 3.5

Hello, my name is Brenda Ortiz and I am a resident of Thermal. I strongly support allocating the 30 million dollar investment to building more sustainable housing opportunities and recovery efforts, and urge the county to do so. This would immensely help relocate the Oasis Mobile Home residents who are currently living under the threat of eviction in dilapidated houses and contaminated water. Secure housing is a human right, so please allocate the one time 30 million dollar investment to sustainable affordable housing.

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 9:05 AM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Mariela
Last Name: Loera
Phone: 9097288680
Agenda Date: 04/27/2021

Agenda Item # or
Public Comment: 3.5

State your
position below: Support

Comments: My name is Mariela Loera with Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability I will be commenting on Agenda item 3.5. I will start by thanking CAO Mr. Van Wagen and the County's executive office for developing a distribution plan that prioritizes a just recovery with a strong foundation. We respectfully request that you increase the allocation for the housing and homelessness category in the plan so that it allows for the relocation of residents in the Oasis Mobile Home Park. We ask that the county make a one-time investment of \$30 million targeted at the Oasis Mobil home park for their relocation. Everyone should have access to basic amenities, like clean reliable water as well as reliable electricity. Residents of the Oasis Mobil Home Park do not have access to these amenities and relocation can provide them with a safe community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 9:09 AM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission

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First Name: Jose
Phone: 760-267-3674
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5
State your position below: Neutral

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Boydd, April

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 9:08 AM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Juanita
Phone: 760-289-0499
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5
State your position below: Neutral

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210427. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.