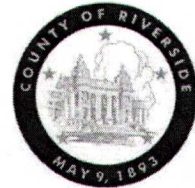


**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 3.5
(ID # 17394)**

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, October 19, 2021

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 1st Installment Funding Allocations

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Review and approve the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding first year allocation
2. Authorize the Auditor Controllers Office to establish the ARPA budget for FY 21/22

ACTION:

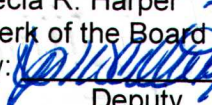
Juan C. Perez, Chief Operating Officer

10/14/2021

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: October 19, 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: N/A | | | Budget Adjustment: | No |
| | | | For Fiscal Year: | 21/22 |

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) in to 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, of which the first installment of \$239,937,299 was received on May 10, 2021. The second installment of the remaining amount is expected to be received by May 10, 2022. The deadline for spending the ARPA funds is December 31, 2024, except for the category of infrastructure projects for which the deadline is December 31, 2026.

On April 27, 2021, the Executive Office presented the Board of Supervisors with a preliminary ARPA funding allocation plan prior to the U.S. Treasury release of the ARPA funding guidelines. On May 7, 2021 the U.S. Treasury released the ARPA interim funding guidelines. In September, the Treasury announced that the final guidelines may not be released until late fall, possibly later. The Treasury further stated that until Treasury adopts a final rule, and the final rule becomes effective, the Interim Final Rule is, and will remain, binding and effective.

Given the desire to get funds on the street to meet critical community needs, the Executive Office is recommending that the Board approves the overall distribution of the funding received now, ahead of receiving the final Treasury guidelines, in accordance with the revised funding allocation plan (Attachment A). The plan comprises 7 funding categories, including a new category for Child Care. The Child Care category was not initially identified as a stand-alone category. On August 24, 2021 the Board of Supervisors authorized the ARPA funding allocation of \$1 million for the Non-profits

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

Community Improvement Designation Fund, to support COVID-19 response efforts and economic recovery within Riverside County. On September 14, 2021, the Board approved an allocation of \$15 million for Child Care.

The recommendations contained herein are to program the 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 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.

RECOMMENDED FIRST YEAR ALLOCATION PLAN

This plan is separated into broad categories, similar to the approach that was used with the CARES Act funds. Detailed programs are being developed for each individual category. 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.

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

- 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 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, Non-Profit Assistance, and Child Care 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.

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. Supervisors will identify priority projects in their district, with assistance from County staff.

As part of the County's Broadband strategy a Broadband Assistance Program is being developed to support the underserved within the county. The Executive Office is

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

developing a program to address the Digital Divide. A future Form 11 will come before the Board with the details, and it is anticipated that funding for the program could come from the Infrastructure category, since Broadband is one of the eligible uses.

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.

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.

County Departments 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.

Revenue Backfill – ARPA 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.

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.

Child Care – ARPA also provides eligibility for programs and efforts supporting the return of working parents to the workforce including early care and education retention, recruitment, and expansion of workforce, providers, and facilities.

Rental Assistance – The County has received a separate allocation of \$235 million in Federal funds earlier in 2021. These funds will be used to assist with rental and utility relief for impacted residents.

Attachment A



American Rescue Plan Act
1st Year Funding Allocations
(October 19, 2021)

American Rescue Plan Act 1st Year Funding Allocations



Infrastructure

\$65 million



Housing and Homelessness

\$50 million



Economic Recovery

\$40 million



County Departments Response

\$31 million



Revenue Backfill

\$22 million



Non-Profit Assistance

\$16 million



Child Care

\$15 million

ARPA 1st Payment \$239 million



Rental Assistance

\$235 million

Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:50 AM
To: COB; mloera@leadershipcounsel.org
Subject: Board comments web submission

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the Riverside County email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



First Name: Mariela
Last Name: Loera
Phone: +1 (909) 728-8680
Email: mloera@leadershipcounsel.org
Agenda Date: 10/19/2021
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 20211019. 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.

Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 6:50 PM
To: COB; mariagpozar@gmail.com
Subject: Board comments web submission

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Nombre: Maria
Apellido: Pozar
Dirección (calle, ciudad y código postal): North shore 92254
Teléfono *: 760 863 9432
Correo electrónico: mariagpozar@gmail.com
Fecha de la agenda: 10/19/2021
Punto del orden del día # o comentario público *: 3.5

Comentarios: Los fondos de recuperación America, Cómo vamos a recuperar América si no hemos comenzado , antes de la pandemia o después de la pandemia nuestras comunidades del este del valle necesitan mucha prioridad por parte de los supervisores de Riverside en nuestro distrito 4 nuestras comunidades sufren de muchas desigualdades necesidades es así que esta mañana me dirijo ustedes para pedirles que tomen es las prioridades ,infraestructura de electricidad ,infraestructura para el Internet ,que fue uno de los grandes obstáculos que tuvieron los niños durante la pandemia , la falta de viviendas, pero por qué no hay viviendas en nuestras comunidades porque no se ha invertido en hacer un ,estas prioridades drenaje líneas, de gas ,infraestructura de electricidad fuerte ,por eso los inversionistas no quieren invertir en estas comunidades porque no son ni siquiera incorporadasTenemos que comenzar porque si nunca comenzamos nunca vamos a terminar tomen en cuenta nuestros comentarios que viene de la comunidad hacia los supervisores y por favor les pedimos que nos pongan traducción experta, muchas gracias

Gracias por enviar su solicitud para hablar. La oficina del Secretario de la Junta ha recibido su solicitud y estará preparada para permitirle hablar cuando se llame a su artículo. Para asistir a la reunión, llame al (669) 900-6833 y utilice el número de identificación de la reunión 864 4411 6015 . La contraseña es 20211005 . Se le silenciará hasta que se retire el elemento y se llame su nombre. Marque a las 9:00 am con el número de teléfono que proporcionó en el formulario para que lo puedan identificar durante la reunión.

Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 5:56 PM
To: COB; sandra113075@gmail.com
Subject: Board comments web submission

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the Riverside County email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Nombre: | Sandra |
| Apellido: | Ramírez |
| Dirección (calle, ciudad y código postal): | 84859 Calle verde Coachella Ca 92236 |
| Teléfono *: | 7602381231 |
| Correo electrónico: | sandra113075@gmail.com |
| Fecha de la agenda: | 10/19/2021 |
| Punto del orden del día # o comentario público *: | 3.5 |
| Indique su postura a continuación: | neutral |

Gracias por enviar su solicitud para hablar. La oficina del Secretario de la Junta ha recibido su solicitud y estará preparada para permitirle hablar cuando se llame a su artículo. Para asistir a la reunión, llame al (669) 900-6833 y utilice el número de identificación de la reunión 864 4411 6015 . La contraseña es 20211005 . Se le silenciará hasta que se retire el elemento y se llame su nombre. Marque a las 9:00 am con el número de teléfono que proporcionó en el formulario para que lo puedan identificar durante la reunión.

Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 5:53 PM
To: COB
Subject: BOS web comments

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First Name: Yurema
Last Name: Arvizu
Email: yuremaarvizu@gmail.com
Agenda Date: 10/19/2021
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.5

Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 5:53 PM
To: COB; ogastelum@leadershipcounsel.org
Subject: Board comments web submission

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| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Nombre: | Omar |
| Apellido: | Gastelum |
| Teléfono *: | 7603936766 |
| Correo electrónico: | ogastelum@leadershipcounsel.org |
| Fecha de la agenda: | 10/19/2021 |
| Punto del orden del día # o comentario público *: | 3.5 |

Gracias por enviar su solicitud para hablar. La oficina del Secretario de la Junta ha recibido su solicitud y estará preparada para permitirle hablar cuando se llame a su artículo. Para asistir a la reunión, llame al (669) 900-6833 y utilice el número de identificación de la reunión 864 4411 6015 . La contraseña es 20211005 . Se le silenciará hasta que se retire el elemento y se llame su nombre. Marque a las 9:00 am con el número de teléfono que proporcionó en el formulario para que lo puedan identificar durante la reunión.

Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 5:49 PM
To: COB; brenda_bug@icloud.com
Subject: Board comments web submission

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| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Nombre: | Brenda |
| Apellido: | Ortiz |
| Teléfono *: | 7603336032 |
| Correo electrónico: | brenda_bug@icloud.com |
| Fecha de la agenda: | 10/19/2021 |
| Punto del orden del día # o comentario público *: | Ítem 3.5 |

Gracias por enviar su solicitud para hablar. La oficina del Secretario de la Junta ha recibido su solicitud y estará preparada para permitirle hablar cuando se llame a su artículo. Para asistir a la reunión, llame al (669) 900-6833 y utilice el número de identificación de la reunión 864 4411 6015 . La contraseña es 20211005 . Se le silenciará hasta que se retire el elemento y se llame su nombre. Marque a las 9:00 am con el número de teléfono que proporcionó en el formulario para que lo puedan identificar durante la reunión.

Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:47 PM
To: COB; ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org
Subject: Board comments web submission

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



First Name: Nataly
Last Name: Escobedo Garcia
Phone: 8054079800
Email: ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org
Agenda Date: 10/19/2021
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 20211019. 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.

Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:50 AM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



First Name: Sandra
Last Name: Ramirez
Phone: (760) 238-1231
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 20211019. 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.

Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:51 AM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the Riverside County email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



First Name: Yurema
Last Name: Arvizu
Phone: 760-625-4338
Agenda Date: 10/19/2021
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 20211019. 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.

Maxwell, Sue

From: Nataly Escobedo Garcia <ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 12:25 PM
To: COB; District 4 Supervisor V. Manuel Perez; District5; District3; District2; Supervisor Jeffries - 1st District
Cc: Rebecca Zaragoza; Mariela Loera; Lesly Figueroa; Omar Gastelum
Subject: Comment Letter: RivCo BOS 10/19 Agenda Item 3.5 ARPA Year 1 Allocations
Attachments: RC - ARPA Comment Letter 2021.pdf

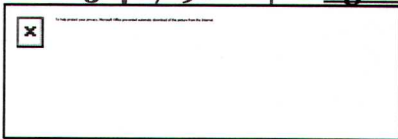
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Good afternoon,

Attached are our comments and concerns regarding agenda item 3.5. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, 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



October 18, 2021

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

Submitted Via Email

RE: Item 3.5 American Rescue Plan Act 1st Installment Funding Allocations

Dear Mr. Jeff Van Wagenen and Riverside County Board of Supervisors,

We are excited to see Riverside County and the Executive Office move forward with directing ARPA funding to communities. We greatly believe that this opportunity will help bring infrastructure development and other resources and services to communities that need it the most. Leadership Counsel continues to work with community residents across the Eastern Coachella Valley to ask for equitable investments and collectively ask the County for projects that will help this region be more resilient to climate change and economic impacts, as well as to recover stronger and be prepared for future public health and environmental hazards.

Below are our recommendations on the proposed 1st year installment funding allocations along with specific project priorities for the ECV for your consideration:

Infrastructure

We recommend that the proposed \$65 million allocation for infrastructure focus on bringing critical infrastructure upgrades to the Eastern Coachella Valley, such as water/wastewater infrastructure, community centers, broadband, and climate resilient infrastructure. ARPA funding can support making critical upgrades to overall infrastructure in the Eastern Coachella Valley that will help alleviate issues seen during the pandemic, but also prepare the ECV for our worsening climate crisis. Additionally, we would like to remind the board that the majority of the ECV has been designated Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)¹, meaning funding can be used for a

¹ A qualified Census Tract must have 50 percent of households with incomes below 60 percent of the Area Median Gross Income (AMGI) or have a poverty rate of 25 percent or more.

10/19/21 3.5

much broader range of services and programs to address the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has had on them.

Project recommendations:

- **Funding to supplement state and federal funding to expedite the expansion of broadband infrastructure to rural and agricultural communities.** The County can help increase this support with additional funding to fill in any gaps for infrastructure and accessibility. We would like to see funding support for cost subsidies to provide equitable economic access to the internet and financial support for the necessary infrastructure to be connected to internet systems, but primarily, the community needs new broadband infrastructure directly in rural communities and those that are harder to reach to bridge the digital divide.
- **Funding to support the structural upgrade of the electrical power grid in the ECV.** For years, the electrical power grid in the ECV, and rural communities in general, has failed to provide reliable energy service to constituents. Extreme weather events have become more common and are exacerbated by climate change. These have caused significant damage to the existing power grid in the region, such as downed transmission lines due to strong winds and rainstorms and unreliable capacity in mobile home parks. When this happens, residents go days without electricity, losing food, access to critical medical equipment, access to educational resources, among other issues that challenge the safety of residents. These events are extremely common in rural communities and in 2021, we are only seeing that they will continue to happen and be more frequent and severe. This allocation from the County can jumpstart a series of long-term investments, a stronger emergency response, short-term response solutions, and a growth-based, not just maintenance-based, partnership with the Imperial Irrigation District to bring critical infrastructure to the ECV.
- **\$10 million to support the planning and implementation of water and wastewater projects in the ECV.** Residents from Sunbird Mobile Home Park and nearby Polanco Parks have been actively working on a septic to sewer conversion project with the Coachella Valley Water District, the State Water Resources Control Board, Leadership Counsel, and other agencies to implement such a project, but funding is an ongoing barrier that has further prolonged the implementation process. Additionally, there is potential to build a base for drinking water infrastructure in the ECV through the completion of the Avenue 66 Transmission Main Project. In addition to State and Federal funding that's already being pursued, County funding can help fill in smaller infrastructure or administrative fees that often prevent small communities from consolidating. The Sunbird and Avenue 66 Septic to Sewer Project can help serve about 10 mobile home parks, over 200 families, extend service to the Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians, and help guarantee that residents in at-risk areas have equal access to

basic infrastructure that can protect public health, while also facilitating more needed development like affordable housing and small businesses in the region.

- **Funding for a multi-purpose community health and resilience center in the community of North Shore.** As one of the most isolated communities in the ECV, North Shore lacks an accessible and central community center to serve as a cooling center, gathering space, food distribution site, emergency shelter, community programming, and mobile clinic site. The County can help initiate the implementation of a community center in North Shore by providing funding to kickstart the design and engineering process.

Housing and Homelessness

We recommend that the County's 50 million dollar allocation for housing and homelessness prioritize building and improving affordable housing as well as developing programs to keep residents housed. There is a severe shortage of affordable housing in the Eastern Coachella Valley that is only made worse by the substandard conditions of much of the existing housing stock. ARPA funding could provide the much needed investment in affordable housing that has been lacking in the region.

Project recommendations:

- **\$10 million for a mobile home replacement, improvement, and buyer assistance program.** To continue increasing access to affordable housing, particularly in rural areas of the County, the County must ensure that residents have access to assistance programs to purchase, upgrade, and replace their mobile homes. Mobile homes are one of the most accessible and affordable housing options for residents, especially for farmworkers and people with lower incomes, but they also come with more challenges and impacts to health based on their conditions. Improving the conditions of mobile home units and parks will provide better protections to residents and their health with safe and appropriate living conditions that are up to the codes and standards set forth by the County.
- **Funding for a legal right to counsel program.** Although the statewide eviction moratorium has ended, many residents are still experiencing hardships brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Establishing a legal right to counsel program would ensure that tenants are protected from unlawful evictions and are informed on all of their rights under state and federal law.

Participatory Budgeting Process

As the County moves forward with Item 3.5 and future decisions on ARPA funding, we would like to request a transparent, accessible, and community-oriented participatory budgeting process. Hearing directly from community residents and stakeholders will help ensure that ARPA funding is used in the most effective and needed ways. This includes providing adequate translation of material and interpretation services at all County-led meetings. In addition, we would like to request that a detailed timeline be shared with the public on the upcoming public input and engagement opportunities for each funding category.

Revenue Backfill

The county is currently proposing to allocate \$22 million for revenue backfill. As per 31 CFR Part 35, there is a four step process that must be followed to calculate backfill of lost revenue due to pandemic impacts. It is currently unclear how the County calculated its backfill allocation. Until this process is made clear and there is assurance that the county has calculated this backfill according to 31 CFR Part 35, the county cannot designate \$22 million for revenue backfill.

* * * * *

We are excited to see ARPA funding reach communities and help deliver much needed infrastructure and resources, especially those that have historically lacked this level of investment. To do this well, we strongly urge the County to lead a participatory budgeting process for each funding category to allow more community residents from across the region to engage. We are happy to support in this effort. If there are any questions or if you wish to discuss this further, please contact Rebecca Zaragoza at rzaragoza@leadershipcounsel.org.

Sincerely,

Nataly Escobedo-García
Policy Coordinator

Rebecca T. Zaragoza
Regional Policy Manager