

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



ITEM: 3.5  
(ID # 25808)

**MEETING DATE:**  
Tuesday, August 27, 2024

**FROM :** BOS DISTRICT 5

**SUBJECT:** BOS DISTRICT 5: Approval of Fifth District American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the creation of the RivCo Connect Mobile Tech Hub Program to support a mobile digital equity program, District 5. [\$1,100,000.00 Total Cost – 100% American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)] (4/5th Vote Required)

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the use of \$1,100,000 from Fifth District American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Allocation for the Riverside County Information Technology Broadband Program to create the RivCo Connect Mobile Tech Hub Program and direct the department to prepare the necessary budget adjustments.

**ACTION:Policy**

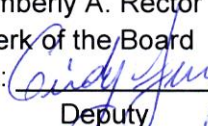
  
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez 8/19/2024

---

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: August 27, 2024  
xc: BOS-Dist. 5, E.O.

Kimberly A. Rector  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

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

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> 100% American Rescue Plan Act			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b> Yes	
			For Fiscal Year: 24/25	

**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. On April 27, 2021, the Executive Office presented the Board of Supervisors with a preliminary ARPA funding allocation, then on October 19, 2021, presented a revised funding allocation after the U.S. Treasury released the ARPA interim funding guidelines.

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 ARPA funding is \$479 million, of which the first installment of \$239.9 million was received on May 10, 2021, and the second installment in the same amount was received on June 6, 2022. The Board approved the allocation of ARPA funding from both installments for eligible projects in the categories of infrastructure, housing and homelessness, workforce development, neighborhood revitalization, business revitalization, childcare facilities, and non-profits. On October 4, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved the ARPA 2nd installment funding allocation which allocated \$33 million per district. The funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

The following project is being recommended for Fifth District ARPA funding allocation and is determined to follow ARPA funding objectives and US Treasury eligibility criteria by the Executive Office.

**RivCo Connect Mobile Tech Hub Program - \$1,100,000.00**

During the pandemic, and still today, there are few locations beyond libraries where residents may utilize safe public computers and public internet at no cost. Additionally, many residents do not have the skills needed to navigate online services, update their devices, or troubleshoot software and hardware issues, etc.

The creation of a Mobile Tech Hub Program provides broadband digital equity services for residents of Riverside County within District 5. These Mobile Tech Hubs will act as mobile Wi-Fi hot spots, providing digital literacy training to community groups and individuals in

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

need, mobile IT support, and digital navigation services for eligible covered populations to help residents connect with online public services.

To fill this digital divide, the Mobile Tech Hubs would be staffed with knowledgeable IT and digital equity professionals able to provide the required services for the community. Mobile tech support would improve outreach to community members in need. It is estimated that 2,000 to 3,000 residents per year could be served with the Mobile Tech Hubs. This brings the idea of 'meeting people where they are' to fruition, by bringing access to the internet, computers, and training for skills residents need to navigate online services, as well as providing support with updating and repairing computers, signing up for low-cost internet plans, and accessing county service online.

Below is the estimated cost breakdown, which covers the purchase and maintenance of two Mobile Tech Hub Vans operating for two years, throughout fiscal years (FY) 2024/25 and FY2025/26, concluding no later than December 31, 2026.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Vans and Equipment	\$450,000
Staffing	\$500,000
O&M	\$100,000
Contingency	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

This program responds to the negative public health and economic impact disparities as described in the ARPA Final Rule. It will further strengthen our communities in recovering from the effects of the pandemic, in accordance with ARPA eligibility guidelines, through additional investments to close the gaps in broadband service and the digital divide.

**Additional Fiscal Information**

The proposed services will be funded entirely by ARPA funding from United States Department of Treasury funds and will not impact the County's General Fund. Project expenses will occur in FY 24/25 through FY 26/27.