

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: November 28, 2023

TO: Shawn Rolland, Co-Chair, Ricardo Diaz, Co-Chair,  
Milwaukee County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Task Force

FROM: Shakita LaGrant McClain, Executive Director, Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)

SUBJECT: ARPA Community Support Project Reallocation

**REQUEST**

Requesting approval of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding totaling \$1,613,900 from 1AR43 - Reducing Medical Debt project to two existing ARPA projects administered by DHHS: 1AR02 - Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool project and 1AR05 - Credible Messenger Program project. The request intends to repurpose funding originally allocated to 1AR43- Reducing Medical Debt project.

**POLICY**

Milwaukee County Board file 21-555: “A resolution to create a Task Force to review and recommend funding allocations to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for monies received by the County in the Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021”

**BACKGROUND**

Milwaukee County will directly receive \$183 million between 2021-24 in federal ARPA aid. Of this amount, approximately \$40,415,339 has been allotted for Community Support projects. This subsection was established to generate project-level allocation recommendations to respond to economic harm to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.

In March 2023, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved the Reducing Medical Debt project for \$1,613,988 in ARPA funds to purchase and forgive Milwaukee County residents’ medical debt (File [23-377](#)). The Reducing Medical Debt project will not be implemented due to hospital systems expressing a preference to promote their charity care programs, which would also address medical debt concerns targeted by the ARPA project. It is recommended that the \$1,613,988 of ARPA funds be transferred to two existing ARPA projects as shown in Table A below. Funding these requests would fully allocate the Community Support Expenditure Category.

**Table A: Recommended ARPA Funded Projects**

Project Name	Description	Transfer
1AR43 - Reducing Medical Debt	The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved ARPA funding to purchase and forgive Milwaukee County residents’ medical debt (file <a href="#">23-377</a> ). The Reducing Medical Debt project will not be implemented due to hospital systems expressing a preference to promote their charity care programs, which would also address medical debt concerns targeted by the ARPA project.	(\$1,613,900)
1AR02 - Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool	The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved APRA funding to create an emergency flexible housing subsidy pool (file <a href="#">21-861</a> ). Funding will increase the	\$613,900

	ability to help unhoused individuals and families through a master leasing strategy. The additional funding is needed to maintain programming and is anticipated to house 55 additional unsheltered or housing insecure households through September 30, 2026.	
1AR05 - Credible Messenger Program	The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved APRA funding to work with youth in the justice system who have been negatively impacted by racial inequities across all systems (file <a href="#">22-418</a> ). Funding will support an evidence-based approach to Community Violence Interventions (CVI). This includes investing in the Credible Messengers and Advance Peace evidence based CVI approaches. The additional funding is needed to maintain programming and fidelity to the evidence-based model through September 30, 2026.	\$1,000,000
<b>Net Fiscal Impact</b>		<b>\$0</b>

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the recommendation to reallocate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding totaling \$1,613,900 from 1AR43 - Reducing Medical Debt project to two existing ARPA projects administered by DHHS: 1AR02 - Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool project and 1AR05 - Credible Messenger Program project. This would eliminate ARPA funding to 1AR43 - Reducing Medical Debt ARPA, increase funds to 1AR02 - Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool by \$613,900, from \$1,500,000 to \$2,113,900, and 1AR05 Credible Messenger by \$1 million, from \$1,201,200 to \$2,201,200.

**PREPARED BY:**

Bess Earl, Office of Strategy, Budget & Performance, Senior Grants Analyst

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the strategic plan:

2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity

2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions

3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities

3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

**ATTACHMENTS:**

ARPA Community Support Project Reallocation Recommendation PPT