



COUNTY OF NEVADA COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the award of \$1,991,884 in “Community Resiliency Grants” funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Fund 1111 Budgets (4/5 affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Resolution.

FUNDING:

The “Community Resiliency Grants” awards in the amount of \$1,991,884 will be funded with Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. Resolution 21-450 established a budget for the remainder of the first tranche of the ARPA allocation, including \$2,000,000 for Community Resiliency Grants, in accordance with the ARPA Expenditure Plan presented to the Board of Supervisors on April 27, 2021. A budget amendment is included with this Resolution to place the authorized appropriation for the grants into the Fund 1111 Budgets. There is no impact to the General Fund.

BACKGROUND:

ARPA (H.R. 1319) is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package passed by Congress and signed by President Joseph Biden on March 11, 2021 in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic challenges. ARPA included \$350 billion in State and Local Aid, which included \$65.1 billion in direct funding to counties. Based on US Treasury allocations, Nevada County has been allocated \$19,376,239 in funding.

On April 27, 2021, staff brought a preliminary ARPA Expenditure Plan to the Board for direction. The plan included a recommendation to allocate 30% of ARPA funds (\$5.8M) to “Community & Economic Resiliency” projects. This includes four grant programs and one loan program as listed in the table below.

This staff report addresses the “Community Resiliency Grants” program, which has been allotted up to \$2 Million.

“Community & Economic Resiliency” Programs	Amount:	Status:
Nevada County Relief Fund	\$250,000	BOS approved 7/13/21; microgrants to small businesses managed by Sierra Business Council
Community Resiliency Grants Program	Up to \$2,000,000	Seeking BOS approval on 11/9/21 for Awards
Resilience Loan Fund	\$250,000	Pending. For revolving loan fund to be managed by Sierra Business Council
Economic Recovery Funds (infrastructure)	Up to \$2,500,000	Pending. For eligible infrastructure projects (water, sewer, broadband)
Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Safety Funds	\$800,000 to \$1M	Pending. For improvements to major river crossings and trailheads impacted by increased visitation
Total:	\$5,800,000*	<i>*Allocations to remain flexible to best support Board objectives</i>

Program Summary:

On July 27, 2021, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors passed and adopted Resolution 21-339 approving the Request for Applications (RFA) and award selection procedures for the Community Resiliency Grant Program and authorizing the Purchasing Division to advertise for qualified applications.

The County solicited RFA from eligible entities with programs and projects that respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and are designed to increase resiliency, support recovery, and provide relief. The County encouraged applications for services, programs, and projects from our community-serving organizations and institutions that increase resiliency, build capacity, and leverage other resources.

Recognizing the pandemic’s impacts on civic engagement, these grants are intended in part to support the community gathering places at the heart of our social and cultural life. These include, but are not limited to, our community centers, arts and cultural centers, granges, senior centers, veterans’ centers, daycare centers, family resource centers, and recreational centers. These places are often where some of the most impacted and vulnerable community members such as children, at-risk youth, and seniors are served – many of whom have been disproportionately

impacted by the pandemic as well. (Applicants were not required to have a publicly accessible location but should demonstrate how they serve the community.)

The “Community Resiliency Grants” Program provides one-time grants to eligible entities including nonprofit organizations, for-profit businesses, and special purpose districts.

The “Community Resiliency Grants” were capped at \$100,000. Applicants were instructed to make their grant request in an amount that reflects their overall organization size, capacity, and alignment with ARPA intent. The County reserved the right to recommend an amount less than the total requested.

Funds may cover costs from March 3, 2021 through December 31, 2024. However, funds may be used to assist businesses and nonprofits for economic harms experienced prior to March 3, 2021, and in this program the County is requiring that funds must be spent by 12/31/24. Awardees will be required to submit quarterly “Project and Expenditure Reports” until the funded project is complete.

The County formed a 9-person evaluation panel, comprised of 6 community leaders and 3 staff members, who reviewed and scored the responses to select the top ranked entities based on the evaluation criteria published in the RFA and compliance of proposed use of awarded funds with Federal guidance regarding eligible uses of ARPA funds. The evaluation panel presented its recommendations to the County Executive Officer, Alison Lehman, who developed the final recommendation.

Criteria and Scoring: The evaluation panel relied on the criteria listed in the RFA, which requested applicants to describe:

1. the economic harm the organization experienced because of the pandemic;
2. how their proposal directly responds to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic;
3. how their proposal will provide ongoing community benefits with impactful, measurable outcomes;
4. how they will leverage additional partnerships, funding, and other resources as part of their proposal; and
5. demonstrate their capacity to manage, implement, measure and report on the grant.
6. Evaluation Panel reviewed and scored responses to select the top ranked entities based on the weighted evaluation criteria in the RFA (see below).

EVALUATION CRITERIA:	Entity Description	COVID-19 Impacts	Project Description	Leveraging Partnerships and Resources	Management Capacity & Measurable Outcomes	Community Benefit	Budget & Financials	TOTAL
Max Points:	5	20	40	20	20	20	25	150

Notification: The RFA was advertised in The Union/Sierra Sun, and published on the County Purchasing webpage, Friday Memo, County social media accounts, Nevada County Covid-19 Business Task Force, and other email mailing lists.

Awards Process and Timeline: The application process opened July 27th; a pre-application conference was held August 11th; and applications were due on September 10th.

Applications received: The Purchasing Department received 73 eligible applications totaling \$4,967,963 in requests.

Recommendations for funding: The CEO recommends the following summary of awards to 32 eligible entities listed below in rank order (See Exhibit A for detailed summaries and scores).

RESPONDING FIRMS	Recommended Award Amount
South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)	\$53,202
Bear River Recreation and Park District	\$100,000
Interfaith Food Ministries	\$25,000
Truckee River Watershed Council	\$20,000
Bear Yuba Land Trust	\$20,000
Tahoe Truckee School of Music	\$75,000
League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County	\$12,000
KidZone Museum	\$50,000
Music In the Mountains	\$75,000
San Juan Ridge Community Library	\$25,000
Truckee Downtown Merchants Association	\$85,000
Golden Empire Grange #806	\$15,000
Penn Valley Community Rodeo Association	\$25,000
Sierra Community House	\$100,000
Woolman at Sierra Friends Center	\$31,500
Gold Country Senior Services	\$99,490
Habitat for Humanity	\$100,000
Grass Valley Downtown Association	\$99,174
Gateway Mountain Center	\$85,000
Bright Futures for Youth	\$85,000
Curious Forge	\$92,120
Child Advocates of Nevada County	\$50,000

Nevada Theatre Commission	\$100,000
Neighborhood Center for the Arts	\$100,000
Rough & Ready Grange	\$38,500
Nevada County Arts Council	\$76,000
Nevada City Chamber of Commerce	\$50,000
Local Planning Council for Child Care Development	\$100,000
Community Beyond Violence	\$50,000
Synergia Learning Center	\$19,560
Greenhorn Firewise Community	\$62,370
North San Juan Community Center	\$72,968
TOTAL	\$1,991,884.00

Next Steps:

Award agreement and reporting requirements: Awardees will enter in to “Grant Award Recipient Agreements” with the County. Grant Recipients will use the ARPA monies to cover only those eligible costs identified in the RFA and necessary for the COVID-19 public health emergency in accordance with federal guidance. Grant Recipient shall be responsible for reimbursement to County of any grant funding provided under this agreement that are determined by federal or state officials to be unauthorized expenditures. Grant recipients will provide quarterly reports beginning in January 2022.

Grant Award Recipient Agreements will be developed on a case-by-case basis and reviewed with the Auditor-Controller to ensure the grantees are in good standing with the County. Each grant agreement will then be brought back to the Board for authorization by the Chair of the Board.

Recommended action:

Therefore, staff recommends the Board adopt the attached Resolution approving the list of recommended awardees in the amount noted.

Item Initiated by: Caleb Dardick, Projects Administrator

Approved by: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer