



COUNTY OF NEVADA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: January 10, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Informational presentation on Community Resiliency Grant Awards funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the informational presentation on Community Resiliency Grant Awards updates funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

FUNDING:

A total of \$2,032,710 was granted to eligible entities through multiple resolutions. Resolution 21-480 approved thirty-two awards totaling \$1,991,884 in "Community Resiliency Grants" funded by Federal American Rescue Plan (ARPA) dollars. One award totaling approximately \$100,000 could not move forward, and a second competitive process awarded three entities a total of \$140,000 in resolutions 22-0575, 22-0576, and 22-0577.

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. There were no General Fund dollars used.

BACKGROUND:

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("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. A summary of the Expenditure Plan projects and expenditures as of October 30, 2022 are included in Attachment 1 to this board item. Total approved project expenditures are \$13.3M, with approximately \$6.0M of projects to be determined with further board direction. Staff will bring a more complete discussion of ARPA remaining funds and a list of possible projects to the Board of Supervisors at the 2023 Board Workshop in January.

The plan included a recommendation to allocate 30% of ARPA funds (\$5.8M) to “Community & Economic Resiliency” projects. This included four grant programs and one loan program as listed in the table below.

This staff report addresses the “Community Resiliency Grants” program.

“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. Total obligated to date: \$202,125.
Community Resiliency Grants Program	\$2,032,710	BOS approved Awards 11/9/21 and 5/24/22. Total obligated: \$2,032,710.
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-\$1 million (450,000 ARPA/\$400,00 non-ARPA)	Approved by board on 6/28/22, total obligated \$415,570.
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 Requests for Applications (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.

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.

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.

Approval of Funding Recommendations: A total of 34 awards were approved by the board. On November 9th, 2021, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors passed and adopted resolution 21-480, approving the award of \$1,991,884 in 32 “Community Resiliency Grants” funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), directing staff to develop individual agreements, and further directing the auditor-controller to amend the fiscal year 2021/22 fund 1111 budgets. One award totaling approximately \$100,000 could not move forward, and a second competitive process awarded three entities a total of \$140,000 in resolutions 22-0575, 22-0576, and 22-0577.

Award agreement and reporting requirements: Individual Grant Award Recipient Agreements were developed with each Grant Award Recipient and reviewed with the Auditor-Controller to ensure Grant Award Recipient is in good standing with the County. Each individual agreement was brought back to the board. These were completed individually beginning January 2022; with one final agreement being brought to board for execution on January 10, 2023, all 34 award agreements will be executed.

Grant Award Recipients entered into a Grant Award Recipient Agreement with the County, affirming that 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. Further, grant award recipients are 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 provided quarterly reports including quarterly “Project and Expenditure Reports beginning in March 2022. These reports are posted on the County of Nevada’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) web page.

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.

Recommended action:

Staff recommends the Board accept this presentation offering a progress update on Community Resiliency Grants.

Item Initiated by: Ariel Lovett, Project Administrator

Approved by: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer