



ARPA SLFRF Funding Phase 2 Approved Projects

To: Boulder County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
From: Leslie Irwin, ARPA Administrator
Date: June 8, 2022
Re: ARPA SLFRF Phase 2 Pandemic Recovery and Relief Projects

The federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021, and within that Act the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) provided urgent and targeted state and local funding for COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Boulder County has received half of its total allocation of \$63,359,749 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, with the second half anticipated mid-2022, to respond to public health and economic and disparate impacts of the pandemic through 2026 for projects obligated by the end of 2024.

Of the \$63,359,749 total ARPA funding, the BOCC approved an initial \$ 5,546,010 during the BOCC business meeting October 27, 2021, for 2021 immediate needs requests and up to 10% of the overall costs for the complex administration of this federal grant. Staff today requests Board approval of nine additional project categories totaling \$36,500,000 in expenditures for projects that were recommended by community members through a highly inclusive public engagement process. While ARPA will fund most of these costs, if necessary, to provide greater flexibility for increased transformational impact, some pandemic projects could be funded with general fund from ARPA dollars.

To determine the greatest impacts and needs in our community related to the pandemic, the County and partners engaged in a Phase 1 and Phase 2 community engagement and planning process, with the assistance of consultant Rebuild by Design and in collaboration with Community Foundation Boulder County and the ARPA Steering Committee. During Phase 1, the County heard from more than 1500 residents about needs and impacts of the pandemic; Phase 2 consisted of three working groups planning and prioritizing project recommendations based on Phase 1 feedback and additional considerations.

The ARPA Steering Committee presented Phase 1 findings on needs and impacts for residents and businesses in Boulder County to the BOCC in November 2021. Community feedback identified three areas of greatest need: Economic Challenges, Housing Affordability, and Mental Health and Social Resilience. Rebuild by Design and the ARPA Steering Committee designed a Phase 2 Working Group process, launching with a call for applications from community members with experience in one of the focus areas to participate. One hundred and sixty-two (162) responses were received, and thirty-four (34) Working Group members were selected based on diversity of backgrounds and professional and lived experience. Phase 2 Working Groups formed around each of the themes from Phase 1 to identify projects that could address those issues for a transformative and equitable recovery, building on insights and ideas collected from residents of Boulder County in Phase 1.

In addition to the U.S. Treasury-mandated criteria, the ARPA Steering Committee determined that the working groups should strive for final recommendations that would:

- Be transformational
- Ensure that the most impacted by the pandemic will benefit the most
- Strike a balance between long-term transformational change and short-term immediate relief for those in crisis
- Be able to be deployed easily to help the people in need quickly
- Be sustainable when ARPA funding runs out
- Focus on equity and addressing racial, economic, and health disparities
- Leverage other funds and existing planning processes
- Leverage already completed plans and reports, e.g. Regional Affordable Housing Plan
- Be groundbreaking, something that County Government would not have done on its own

Working groups were composed of community members from non-profits, businesses, and other stakeholders, along with county staff and leadership. Working Groups were planned for kick off in early January 2022, but due to the tragic Marshall Fire and deployment of many county staff and community partners to assist with response and recovery, the process was delayed by two months. The first meeting of the ARPA Working Groups was held on February 28, 2022, and subsequently the Working Groups met for eight weeks to develop and prioritize a strong set of project recommendations that support equitable recovery and transformational outcomes.

Each Working Group was sponsored by a Commissioner and co-led by a community leader and a Boulder County department head. Their work was informed by feedback from Phase 1 as well as stakeholder input, best practices and research, advice from subject matter experts, and other ways. Working Group members compiled comprehensive lists of project ideas and then prioritized plans according to the most impactful work that aligns with the above criteria. All Working Group meetings were recorded, interpreted into Spanish and American Sign Language, and posted on the County website for transparency and accountability. The recordings of these meetings are available on boco.org/arpa.

Boulder County recognizes and appreciates all community voices and the Working Group members for volunteering many hours to this work, as well as dedicating passion and expertise in order to identify and then prioritize the most impactful projects for an equitable recovery. Boulder County also thanks County staff and leadership that dedicated time and expertise during this process. A final report of the process and recommendation is posted on boco.org/arpa.

Working Group members, Rebuild by Design, and County staff presented recommendations to the BOCC at a public hearing on May 3, 2022, for nine proposed project categories, some including subprojects resulting in at least 16 distinct projects. The BOCC further evaluated proposals and initial Phase 2 projects at meetings with staff on May 11, June 1, and June 6. Other projects not listed here are still under consideration.

The following amounts are requested for approval in each of the focus areas, and project-specific information is included below: Economic Challenges up to \$13.5 million, Housing Affordability \$12 million, and Mental Health and Social Resilience \$11 million. The approved projects are intended to have transformational impacts in our community, in alignment with Treasury's goals for the funding. To offer some examples, the Direct Cash Assistance model has been shown to lift families out of poverty. Acquisition of mobile home parks by their residents not only ensures housing security but also can build wealth for resident-owners of parks. Mental Health and Social Resilience projects work together in a hub-and-spoke model to ensure an array of culturally appropriate ways to access care,

while decriminalizing and destigmatizing behavioral and mental health issues. Other examples can be seen across projects.

A list of Phase 2 projects is below, with project descriptions and funding amounts. The remaining proposed projects are under consideration and will be brought forward to future business meetings.

Action Requested:

- BOCC approval of Phase 2 Pandemic Recovery Relief Projects

Attachment:

- **List of Working Group members**

Boulder County Phase 2 Pandemic Recovery Projects

Economic Challenges, up to \$13,500,000

Survive and Thrive Nonprofit Grants, amount to be determined but not to exceed \$7,500,000 – Immediate distribution of funds to support nonprofit organizations for meaningful short- and long-term investments that will stabilize their business condition, workforce, and operations (Survive). These funds will come with the requirement that awarded nonprofits engage with a variety of entities that provide business support services (Thrive).

Direct Cash Assistance to Families with Young Children, \$6,000,000 – Direct cash assistance to low-income families with young children aged 0 to 3 years old, which have been particularly impacted by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and live in lower-income and vulnerable households. Modeled after the expanded Federal Child Tax Credit, funding amounts are \$300 per month per child aged 0 to 3.

Housing Affordability, \$12,000,000

Affordable Housing Pipeline, \$7,000,000 – Working with Boulder County Housing Authority, Boulder Housing Partners, Longmont Housing Authority, and other non-profit developers on affordable housing pipeline projects for gap financing and to deepen affordability on existing projects. Specific projects to be determined as part of the vetting process.

Manufactured Housing Park Acquisition and Upgrades, \$5,000,000 – Creates a reserve fund to supply grants or zero-interest forgivable loans to provide partial support for (a) acquisition of manufactured housing parks by residents that form resident-owned communities (ROCs) or assign their rights to the County or nonprofit land trusts; (b) major infrastructure improvement projects for ROCs or landlords who commit to long-term affordability; and (c) home repair assistance for low-income residents in these communities.

Mental Health and Social Resilience, \$11,000,000

Community Mobile Response Teams, \$3,000,000 – Resources a mobile response team to engage individuals experiencing a mental health crisis in order to de-escalate, assess, decriminalize, and determine a care plan that would result in increased access to behavioral health treatment, therapy, and supportive services. The program should be culturally responsive and coordinated across jurisdictions and across county services.

Community-Wide Navigation Hub, \$3,000,000 – Provide a community-wide resource to support navigation and care coordination to appropriate mental and behavioral health services for all Boulder County community members.

Equitable Access (Front Door Model): Community-Based Grants, \$3,000,000 – Grant program for mental health-related community-based organizations that allows organizations directly serving the community to either offer specific programs and services to a larger audience than they're currently serving and/or provide these services for free.

Equitable Access (Front Door Model): Mental Health Vouchers, \$1,000,000 – Mental health voucher/reimbursement program to allow community members to seek care, including alternative care, without worrying about financial burden.

Equitable Access (Front Door Model): School-Based Services, \$500,000 – Addressing the impacts of the pandemic on youth mental health through a model to be developed in collaboration with school and other related partners in order to provide supports in locations that are readily accessible to youth.

Equitable Access (Front Door Model): Community Trainings, \$500,000 – Mental Health First Aid/RISE for All will educate the broader community and help reduce stigma and increase awareness surrounding mental health. To effectively reach specific priority populations, it will be important to include a variety of training options including in-person learning; working through schools, faith- and community-based organizations; and offering classes in different languages.

ARPA Working Groups Membership

Economic Challenges

Co-Leads:

Susan Caskey, Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services
Rebecca Novinger, Health and Human Services Alliance

Members:

Hayden Dansky, Boulder Food Rescue
Jessica Erickson, Longmont Economic Development Partnership
Miranda Fisher, Town of Nederland
Rachel Garcia, Boulder Small Business Development Center
Jorge Gonzalez-Soria, Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Non-Violence
Tatiana Hernandez, Community Foundation Boulder County
Debbie Pope, YWCA Boulder County
Scott Sternberg, Boulder Economic Council
Simon Smith, Clinica Family Health
John Tayer, Boulder Chamber
Berenice Garcia Tellez, Latino Chamber
Julie Van Domelen, Emergency Family Assistance Association

Sponsor:

Marta Loachamin, Boulder County Commissioner

Housing Affordability

Co-Leads:

Karen Gerrity, InterMountain Alliance, P2PHHS Alliance
Paul Jannatpour, Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services

Members:

Marc Cowell, OUR Center
Mary Lee Geary, Front Range Community College
Stefka Fanchi, Elevation Community Land Trust
Ana Fernandez Frank, Emergency Family Assistance Association
Kurt Firnhaber, City of Boulder Housing and Human Services
Annmarie B Jensen, East County Housing Opportunity Coalition
Charlotte LaSasso, Boulder County Arts Alliance
Molly O'Donnell, City of Longmont Housing & Community Investment Division
Michael Peirce, Colorado Coalition of Manufactured Home Owners, San Souci Cooperative
Laura Sheinbaum, Boulder Housing Partners
Anne Tapp, Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence

Sponsor:

Claire Levy, Boulder County Commissioner

Mental Health and Social Resilience

Co-Leads:

Robin Bohannan, Boulder County Community Services Department
Katrina Harms, Peak to Peak Human Services Alliance

Members:

Jenna Clinchard, Rise Against Suicide
Chris Current, Peak to Peak Human Services Alliance

Jorge De Santiago, El Centro AMISTAD
Desiree Firle, Boulder County District Attorney's Office
Jenna Howerton, Out Boulder County
Elly Johnson, TGTHR
Johnnie LeFaiver, Boulder Valley School District
Jen Leosz, Mental Health Partners
Kathy Partridge, Affiliated with BVCAN, Together Colorado Boulder County, and Longmont Supporting Action for Mental Health
Julie Piller, Sister Carmen Community Center
Carmen Ramirez, City of Longmont Community and Neighborhood Resources
Craig Towler, Center for People With Disabilities

Sponsor:

Matt Jones, Boulder County Commissioner