

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Bob Yeomans
INITIATED BY



3/3/2022
DATE DRAFTED

Reserving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for an Initiative to Aid All Municipalities and 501C3 Charities in Rock County in Their Efforts to Provide Resources to Help Alleviate the Challenges of Homelessness

WHEREAS, unmet needs and community-wide challenges related to homelessness continues to surface in all areas of Rock County; and,

WHEREAS, the Human Services Department, and the County in general, does not have responsibility, funding, nor designated staff for housing and homelessness related efforts and programs, yet challenges related to homelessness impact County operations daily; and,

WHEREAS, adequate response to these needs requires designated staff resource and specific subject matter expertise to recommend policy actions, coordinate county related efforts, and collaborate with local stakeholders including the Rock County Housing Authority; and,

WHEREAS, the recent creation of a Homeless Coordinator position as a project position to be hired in 2022 and to end in 2024, would play a key role in advancing efforts to reduce homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, this new position will need tools to help strengthen homeless initiatives in all areas of Rock County; and,

WHEREAS, ARPA allows for funds to be utilized for this purpose, as the Final Rule states that “Programs or services to improve access to stable, affordable housing among individuals who are homeless, and the development of affordable housing to increase supply of affordable and high-quality living units, are responsive to individuals and households that were impacted by the pandemic”, and lists “promoting long-term housing security” as an eligible use of ARPA funds; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 10th day, March2022 does hereby allocate \$3,000,000 of American Recovery Plan Act funds to be reserved for the implementation of a Matching grant program, to be run by the Homeless coordinator that will encourage local development of programs to help the homeless. With ARPA funds being matched at a \$1.00 ARPA funds for every \$1 dollars raised locally through private, non-governmental, funds and a match of local government funds in the amount of \$1.00 for every \$4.00 to qualifying projects; and a match of local governments with populations under 8,000 funds in the amount of \$1.00 for every \$1.00 to qualifying projects; with a maximum total amount of ARPA funding not to exceed \$3,000,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022 budget be amended as follows:

Account	Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Source of Funds 19-1980-0000-42100 ARPA	\$24,001,795	\$3,000,000	\$27,001,795
Use of Funds 19-1980-2181-64622 Local Grants	-0-	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution requests \$3,000,000 of the County's ARPA funds to be used to provide matching grants to others for projects to reduce homelessness. Since the County would be passing these funds to subrecipients, monitoring procedures for allowability will need to be formulated.

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to reserve these funds in the 2022 budget pursuant to §§ 59.01, 59.51, & 66.90(5) . As an amendment to the adopted 2022 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to § 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

However, whether any particular grant falls within a category of expenditures that counties are permitted to make, will depend on the specifics of what activities and/or organizations seek funding from this program. Under Wisconsin Law, "a county board has only such powers as are expressly conferred upon it or necessarily implied from the powers expressly given or from the nature of the grant of power." Town of Vernon v. Waukesha Cty., 102 Wis. 2d 686, 689, 307 N.W.2d 227 (1981). In 2017, the Wisconsin Attorney General concluded that a County Board was not authorized to appropriate money to nonprofit corporations for the purposes of running food pantries as the power to do so was not expressly delegated to counties, nor could it be implied in the Wisconsin Statutes. See OAG 01-17(available at <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/dls/ag-opinion-archive/2017/2017.pdf>) Accordingly, any appropriations to nonprofit corporations or other municipalities made pursuant to this program will need to fall within a power conferred upon counties.

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Addressing homelessness and housing issues, in general, is an eligible use of funding under ARPA rules. To ensure the specific uses proposed by municipalities or 501(c)(3) organizations were eligible, the newly created Homelessness Coordinator position, in conjunction with other County staff, would review each grant application to make a specific determination as to whether it complied with ARPA rules.

Josh Smith
County Administrator

Committee Action

Human Services Board

Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Podzilni. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Fox was absent.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reserving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for an Initiative to Aid All Municipalities and 501C3 Charities in Rock County in Their Efforts to Provide Resources to Help Alleviate the Challenges of Homelessness

This resolution is designed to provide the new position with a financial tool to encourage and aid in the development new, and improvement of existing, local programs by providing financial resources to design and implement local methods of funding. The goal is to help Local governmental and NGO organizations create enduring programs that will succeed beyond the two-year period of this position. They will develop funding methods that do not rely on County Funds, but only on county resources for aiding the homeless directly.

The position will require that the person be an aggregator of information and an ombudsman between the locals and our Human Services Department. It will require relationships with local governments (city hall, police, fire) and local non-governmental organizations (NGO) (United way, Foundations, Churches Food pantries, and existing organizations) to understand what is currently succeeding and identifying gaps needing attention. It will require efforts throughout the County to share best practices and offer financial help to those who present plans for developing sustaining business models.

This tool, well used, will ensure that homelessness responses throughout the County are improved for years after the position is finished.