

Richland County Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: American Rescue Plan Act: Final Rule (#9) and Appropriating (#10)

Department	Administration	Presented By:	Administrator
Date of Meeting:	01 February 2022	Action Needed:	Vote
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Structure E
Date submitted:	31 January 2022	Referred by:	
Action needed by no later than (date)		Resolution	<u>N/A</u> , prepared, reviewed

Recommendation and/or action language:

Motion to... accept report and direct the County Administrator to move forward with utilizing remaining “Public Sector Lost Revenue” apportionment as a county contingency fund to help cover potential operational gaps until balance in expenditures can be reached through prioritizing services.

Background: *(preferred one page or less with focus on options and decision points)*

American Rescue Plan Act Final ruling — The final rule was released by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Executive Summary of Major Changes and Clarifications

The final rule provides broader flexibility and greater simplicity in the program, in response to public comments. Among other clarifications and changes, the final rule provides for the following:

- **Public Health and Negative Economic Impacts:** In addition to programs and services, the final rule clarifies that recipients may use funds for capital expenditures that support an eligible COVID-19 public health or economic response. For example, recipients may build certain affordable housing, childcare facilities, schools, hospitals, and other projects consistent with the requirements in this final rule and the Supplementary Information. In addition, the final rule presumes that an expanded set of households and communities are “impacted” or “disproportionately impacted” by the pandemic, thereby allowing recipients to provide responses to a broad set of households and entities without requiring additional analysis. Further, the final rule provides a broader set of enumerated eligible uses available for these communities as part of COVID-19 public health and economic response, including making affordable housing, childcare, and early learning services eligible in all impacted communities and making certain community development and neighborhood revitalization activities eligible for disproportionately impacted communities.

Further, the final rule allows for a broader set of uses to restore and support government employment, including hiring above a recipient’s pre-pandemic baseline, providing funds to employees that experienced pay cuts or furloughs, avoiding layoffs, and providing retention incentives.

- **Premium Pay:** The final rule offers more streamlined options to provide premium pay, by broadening the share of essential workers who can receive premium pay without a written justification while maintaining a focus on lower-income and frontline essential workers. = **All county employees are “essential.”**

- **Revenue Loss:** The final rule offers a **standard allowance for revenue loss of \$10 million**, allowing recipients to select between a standard amount of revenue loss or complete a full revenue loss calculation. Recipients that select the standard allowance may use that amount for government services.

Richland County Committee

Agenda Item Cover

- Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure: The final rule significantly broadens eligible broadband infrastructure investments to address challenges with broadband access, affordability, and reliability, and adds additional eligible water and sewer infrastructure investments, **including a broad range of lead remediation and stormwater management projects.** = eligible use for drainage ditch on airport.

Allocation of remaining ARPA Funds:

The Finance and Personnel Committee has taken previous action to apportion ARPA funds in a 10%,10%,10%,20%,50% portions to the categories below (zero apportionment for section in blue):

ARPA Approved Spend			
Approved Area	Approved Amt	Current Spend	Balance
Public Health Response	335,099.90	-	335,099.90
		-	
Negative Economic Impacts	335,099.90	-	
Childcare/Education Grant	335,098.16	260,098.16	75,000.00
		-	
Premium Pay for Essential Workers	335,099.90	-	
PV Premium Pay Rate	120,000.00	112,500.00	222,599.90
		-	
Water, Sewer, Broadband Infrastructure	670,199.80	-	670,199.80
UW Extension broadband survey	8,100.00	-	
		-	
Hard Hit Communities & Families	-	-	-
		-	
Public Sector Lost Revenue	1,675,499.50	-	1,675,499.50
MIS support staff	10,000.00	-	
Historic Roof Project	284,000.00	-	
Cottification/Digitization	25,000.00	-	
JAMF Pro Subscription	4,680.25		
Data Policy & Content Filtering	5,092.00		
	3,350,999.00	372,598.16	2,978,400.84

Richland County Committee

Agenda Item Cover

As we are working through our capital improvement program and long-term operational budget planning it is becoming more evident that **the “Lost Revenue” section of our apportionment may best be utilized as a short-term contingency fund to bridge gaps until a balance in expenditures can be reached through prioritizing services.** Consideration for appropriating from other categories may also be considered at future meetings pending on the final outcome of the planning and prioritizing initiative.

Attachments and References:

https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf Summary of Major Changes and Clarifications ranging from pages 6 and 7.	

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

(summary of current and future impacts)

Approval:

Review:

Clinton Langreck

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)
