



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COOK COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES AND ALLOCATIONS

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the federal government authorized the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) which includes \$1.9 trillion in federal stimulus funds to hasten the United States’ recovery from the economic and health effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has authorized \$350 billion in ARPA funding to be directly allocated to eligible state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to aid in their recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners via Resolution 21-3654 accepted the ARPA federal award allocated to Cook County to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19 in the amount of approximately \$1,000,372,385.00; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 21-3654 further authorized the Cook County Budget Director and Comptroller to create and implement a Special Purpose Fund for the ARPA award and other accounting measures to track the acceptance and spending of the federal award; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 21-3654, the Cook County Budget Director is charged with distributing a report regarding the receipt of dollars from the ARPA federal award as well as the Special Purpose Fund created at each monthly Board of Cook County Commissioner’s meeting. Provided, however, if there is a month for which a Cook County Board meeting is not scheduled, then the report will be issued by the 25th day of such month; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2021, the Cook County American Rescue Plan Act Framework (the “ARPA Framework”) was presented to the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the ARPA Framework is a comprehensive plan for the County’s expenditure of ARPA funding which includes leveraging and expanding existing County programs and initiatives created by CRF as well as creating new near-term and long-term transformative initiatives. The ARPA Framework will guide investments and provide support for programs and initiatives to assist workers and families, small businesses, and impacted industries, as well as programs to address health disparities, housing and community needs, and other identified opportunities; and

WHEREAS, to effectuate the approach outlined in the ARPA Framework, the Chief Financial Officer and the Budget Director were authorized pursuant to Resolution 21-3657 to expend a limited amount of ARPA funding for the purpose of continuing and expanding existing County programs and initiatives, including any created under Coronavirus Relief Funds (“CRF”), as well as for the purpose of building operational support capacity within County departments and offices to assist with managing the ARPA funded initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 21-3657 authorized an amount up to \$25,000,000 to be spent from the ARPA award through December 31, 2021, divided into the following categories: \$3,000,000 in personnel costs, \$10,000,000 in professional services and administrative costs and \$12,000,000 for Cook County Community Recovery Initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 21-4938 and the FY2022 Annual Appropriation Bill and Resolution authorized an amount up to \$85,000,000 for pandemic pay and one-time payments to employees; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Cook County Policy Roadmap and the U.S. Treasury ARPA expenditure categories which include expenditures for Public Health, Negative Economic Impacts, Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities, Premium Pay, Infrastructure, Revenue Replacement and Administrative Costs, \$385M in ARPA funding was appropriated in the FY2022 Annual Appropriation Bill and Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the County's FY2022 \$385M ARPA appropriation was determined following extensive collaboration across stakeholder groups and receiving proposals from Commissioners, External Partners, Departments, County ARPA website, Community Survey Input and Separately Elected Officials, to identify and address the negative impacts on County residents as a result of COVID-19 as well as advancing County policy priorities and ensuring sustainability of County operations; and

WHEREAS, \$100M was appropriated in FY2022 for Revenue Loss which is to be used to support County Operations throughout the pandemic including administrative costs, government improvement, capital infrastructure and one time and sustainable ongoing personnel costs; and

WHEREAS, \$285M was appropriated in FY2022 for various program initiatives based upon the County's Policy Roadmap ("Roadmap") priorities; and

WHEREAS, six Policy Teams aligned with the Roadmap (Health Communities (Health and Wellness), Vital Communities (Community and Economic Development), Safe and Thriving Communities (Criminal Justice), Sustainable Communities (Environmental Sustainability), Smart Communities (Public Infrastructure) and Open Communities (Good Government)) were established to initially review and recommend funding proposals/program initiatives to an Executive Leadership Council ("ELC") established by the President, the President's Chief of Staff and the Cook County Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, all 426 proposals received totaling \$4.3B in requested funding were reviewed collaboratively, incorporating multiple evaluation criteria and metrics through a multi-phased approach and the various review committees worked to identify overlapping proposal ideas, merge ideas and ultimately advanced proposals aligned to the County's priorities; and

WHEREAS, the proposals received were broken down into near-term initiatives, longer-term initiatives and transformative initiatives and the program funding approved by the various policy review committees accounts for up to \$100M for Vital Communities, \$60M for Safe and Thriving, \$60M for Healthy Communities, \$40M for Smart Communities and \$25M on Sustainable Communities in FY2022.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, Chief Procurement Officer and applicable using agency to issue grants, contracts and agreements for up to \$100M in ARPA funding for Vital Community programs as provided for in Attachment A which shall include \$37M for the County's small business agenda, \$27.7M in household assistance and social services, \$8.1M for sector support and regional development, \$7.5M in housing support and \$6.6M in working support and workforce development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cook County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, Chief Procurement Officer and applicable using agency to issue grants, contracts and agreements for up to \$60M in ARPA funding for Safe and Thriving Community programs as provided for in Attachment A which shall include \$35.9M for violence prevention, \$16.3M for services to justice involved residents, \$3M in alternatives to incarceration and policies, and \$350K in emergency preparedness and response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, Chief Procurement Officer and applicable using agency to issue grants, contracts and agreements for up to \$60M in ARPA funding for Healthy Community programs as provided for in Attachment A which shall include \$21.7M for mental and behavioral health, \$15.4M for public health education and outreach, \$9M for healthcare, and \$4.5M for

food security and nutrition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, Chief Procurement Officer and applicable using agency to issue grants, contracts and agreements for up to \$40M in ARPA funding for Smart Community programs as provided for in Attachment A which includes \$30.5M for transportation initiatives, \$5M for water infrastructure, and \$3M for digital equity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, Chief Procurement Officer and applicable using agency to issue grants, contracts and agreements for up to \$25M in ARPA funding for on Sustainable Community programs as provided for in Attachment A which includes \$15M for hazard mitigation and pollution prevention and \$10M for environmental justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, Chief Procurement Officer and applicable using agency to issue grants, contracts and agreements in relation to the \$100M in ARPA funding identified as revenue loss as provided for in the FY2022 Appropriation Bill as well as hire personnel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any grants issued in regard to the above programs in an amount over \$1M shall require the approval of the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any contracts or agreements issued in regard to the above programs shall be in accordance with the Cook County Procurement Code and federal rules governing ARPA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the Budget Director or designee of the Budget Director to execute the various budgetary transfers required to implement the ARPA initiatives approved herein and uses authorized in the FY2022 Annual Appropriation Bill and Resolution. The Budget Director or designee shall be further authorized to modify program amounts as necessary within each Roadmap Community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Budget Director shall issue a report on the budgetary transfers permitted under this Resolution for the preceding month on the day that coincides with the date of the monthly Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting to the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Cook County Health System Board, where applicable. Provided, however, if there is a month for which a Cook County Board meeting is not scheduled, then the report will be issued by the 25th day of such month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Budget Director shall distribute a report regarding the ARPA special purpose fund and use of FY2022 ARPA funds authorized in accordance with this Resolution at each monthly Board of Cook County Commissioner's meeting. Provided, however, if there is a month for which a Cook County Board meeting is not scheduled, then the report will be issued by the 25th day of such month.