



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 26-0763, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR AN ARPA VITAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTED BY THE BUREAU OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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, specifically, the federal government has authorized and allocated a federal award of approximately \$1,000,372,385B of ARPA funding to Cook County to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19; 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, to effectuate the approach outlined in the ARPA Framework, the Cook County Board of Commissioners authorized the Chief Financial Officer and the Budget Director to expend a limited amount of ARPA funding via Resolution 21-3657 for the purpose of continuing and expanding existing County programs and initiatives, including any created under 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 22-0637 authorized the Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, Chief Procurement Officer and applicable using agencies to issue grants, contracts and agreements for up to \$100M in ARPA funding for Vital Community programs approved via Resolution 22-0637; and

WHEREAS, to further the Policy Roadmap Goal to pursue inclusive economic and community growth by supporting residents, growing businesses, attracting investment and nurturing talent, the Bureau of Economic Development (BED) has developed a menu of Vital Community programs and initiatives, including the Hotel-Based Sheltering Program, which have undergone review and approval through the Project Management Office process to utilize ARPA funding for such programs and initiatives pursuant to the issuance of grants, contracts and agreements; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 22-0637 provided that any grants issued regarding ARPA programs in an amount over \$1M shall require the approval of the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago periodically releases Tax Increment Financing dollars (TIF funds) to itself and affected taxing bodies including Cook County, and did so for its FY26 budget as approved by the City Council on December 20, 2025;

WHEREAS, in its own Fiscal Year 2026 budget passed on November 20, 2025, Cook County allocated these TIF funds toward critical social services. For funds allocated to Bureau of Economic Development programs, the priority was to keep residents stable through additional funding for food and housing support as areas particularly affected by major federal policy and funding shifts; and

WHEREAS, the Hotel Shelter program in partnership with BEDS Plus, Respond Now, Journeys, South Suburban PADS

and Housing Forward is intended to expand resources for homelessness in suburban Cook County to help quickly resolve a housing crisis

WHEREAS, while ARPA funding is still available within the Hotel-Based Sheltering Program, the Bureau of Economic Development desires to provide funding from the TIF funds to BEDS Plus, Respond Now, Journeys, South Suburban PADS and Housing Forward to support their continuation of the Hotel-Based Sheltering Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the issuance of the following agreement amendments by the BED, subject to satisfactory performance of the program by the respective subrecipients and subject to annual appropriation by the Board:

1. Amend the Subrecipient Agreement with shelter agency BEDS Plus to increase the total funding by \$ 465,600 in TIF funds from the current approved amount of \$2,880,750 to a revised aggregate amount of up to \$ 3,346,350 to continue their implementation of the Hotel-Based Sheltering Program. Under this Program, agencies provide safe and dignified sheltering, meals, and case management services, and work to connect residents and families to permanent housing options.
2. Amend the Subrecipient Agreement with shelter agency Respond Now to increase the total funding by \$ 42,600 in TIF funds, from the current approved amount of \$1,058,000 to a revised aggregate amount of up to \$ 1,100,600 to continue their implementation of the Hotel-Based Sheltering Program. Under this Program, agencies provide safe and dignified sheltering, meals, and case management services, and work to connect residents and families to permanent housing options.
3. Amend the Subrecipient Agreement with shelter agency Journeys to increase the total funding by \$67,500 in TIF funds, from the current approved amount of \$1,786,250 to a revised aggregate amount of up to \$1,853,750, to continue their implementation of the Hotel-Based Sheltering Program. Under this Program, agencies provide safe and dignified sheltering, meals, and case management services, and work to connect residents and families to permanent housing options.
4. Amend the Subrecipient Agreement with shelter agency South Suburban Pads to increase the total funding by \$63,000 in TIF funds, from the current approved amount of \$ 667,532 to a revised aggregate amount of up to \$730,532 to continue their implementation of the Hotel-Based Sheltering Program. Under this Program, agencies provide safe and dignified sheltering, meals, and case management services, and work to connect residents and families to permanent housing options.
5. Amend the Subrecipient Agreement with shelter agency Housing Forward to increase the total funding by \$50,000 in TIF funds, from the current approved amount of \$250,000 to a revised aggregate amount of up to \$300,000 to continue their implementation of the Hotel-Based Sheltering Program and repair and mitigate flood damage recently affecting its 24-Hour Emergency Shelter location. Under this Program, agencies provide safe and dignified sheltering, meals, and case management services, and work to connect residents and families to permanent housing options.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Bureau Chief of BED or its designee to modify the agreements and funding allocations to all BED selected organizations based upon need and utilization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for the above programs shall be subject to availability of funds from the United States Government and appropriation of funding by the Cook County Board of Commissioners.