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# Deborah Kafoury

## Multnomah County Chair

May 5, 2022

### **Multnomah County**

### **Executive Budget Message: COVID-19 and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

#### **Summary**

For more than two years, Multnomah County has been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, working tirelessly to keep our community as safe, healthy and supported as possible. A key tool in our ability to continually meet the needs of our community has been the critical funding provided by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.

In FY 2022, Multnomah County invested its first \$78.8 million allocation of these one-time federal dollars in strategies that bolstered our ability to respond to and recover from this public health emergency, address the impacts of COVID-19, and help offset reductions in revenue where feasible. Our ARP investment decisions have been guided by the set of principles that the County has used throughout the pandemic to ensure that we remain responsive to the disproportionate harms experienced by communities of color and that our choices are grounded in our values.

With the first tranche of ARP funding, we invested in our efforts to build and maintain a rapid, robust and effective public health response. In order to help community members stabilize and recover, we prioritized wraparound support to individuals and families. We made investments that helped us keep people under the County's direct care in congregate settings safe, while also making critical investments in County infrastructure that helped our workforce safely and successfully pivot to a new paradigm of work. And we used ARP funding to continue or restore critical County services that faced the potential of being impacted by local, state and federal budget cuts.

Multnomah County is committed to applying the lessons and insights we've gained in the last year to our approach for investing the second allocation of ARP funding in our FY 2023 budget. As our community begins to prepare for the next stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will create a strategic and sustainable transition away from our crisis response efforts, toward long-term, transformational recovery.

Our FY 2023 ARP funding decisions continue to align with the principles and priorities that have guided the County's investments in our responses to COVID-19 and its impacts throughout the community. We want to ensure that the temporary federal funds help us build back stronger, form deeper relationships in the community, take bold action and build foundations for the transformative work we have ahead of us.

As the pandemic and its impacts continue to evolve, we are seeing a need to increase our focus on community recovery. Whether it's the need to invest in building the resilience of those who have been most impacted by the violence in our community, or continuing to provide rent assistance so that individuals and families can remain housed, we are investing ARP funds in stabilization and restoration.

## **What is the American Rescue Plan Act?**

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill designed to help the United States recover from the ongoing health and economic impacts of the pandemic. The bill was signed by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021.

As part of the recovery package, the ARP provides \$350 billion dollars in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to help them navigate the impacts of the public health emergency, namely the rise in expenses amid falling revenues.

Multnomah County's total direct allocation of ARP funds is \$157.6 million, which must be spent by December 31, 2024, as well as opportunities to access other specific programmatic resources to respond to the pandemic. The County's initial allocation of \$78.8 million became available on May 1, 2021. We are deploying the second tranche of \$78.8 million as part of the FY 2023 budget. We are also carrying forward \$10 million from FY 2022 from department underspending and ramping up of American Rescue Plan programs.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners approved the spending plan for the County's initial ARP allocation, as well as other dedicated COVID-19 funds from state and federal sources, when it unanimously adopted the FY 2022 budget on June 3, 2021. The spending plan for the second ARP allocation was proposed through the FY 2023 Executive Budget presented to the Board on May 5, 2022.

## **Guiding Principles**

Since the onset of the pandemic, Multnomah County has employed a set of principles to guide our decision-making throughout the crisis. These principles provide critical direction when the County faces challenging choices, while grounding our process in Multnomah County's values.

The County has relied on these values as we developed our reopening framework; our strategies to reach communities of color who have felt disproportionately severe health and economic impacts of COVID-19; and our investments using funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. And they have remained integral in developing proposals for investing the resources that Multnomah County received from the American Rescue Plan.

### Inclusively Leading with Race

In order to best serve people and populations who have been disproportionately impacted by inequities, Multnomah County inclusively leads with race. We honor the expertise, relationships, and resilience within communities of color through our partnerships, and are committed to co-creating solutions.

### Using an Equity and Racial Justice Approach

We use an equity and racial justice approach to help us account for the intersection of inequities, disease trends, and the belief that it is tremendously beneficial to the health of our whole community when we provide services in the languages and cultural traditions of our diverse communities.

## Listening to Those Closest to the Work

Providing excellent service and supporting people in our community is a hallmark of what Multnomah County does as a local government, safety net system and public health authority. At the heart of this work are our County employees and our community partners. Our work is at its best when we engage and listen to the expertise and insight of those who are on the front lines working with community members each day.

## Embedding a Public Health Approach

By integrating a public health approach into our spending priorities, we are able to consider opportunities to improve the health and wellness of our community at individual, community and population levels, using data and making investments that can have short-term and long-term benefits.

## Partnering with Diverse Stakeholders

Genuine partnerships with our jurisdictional partners, community leaders and community-based organizations is a key component to increasing the effectiveness and broadening the impact of our resources.

## Being Driven by Outcomes

We pay attention to, learn from and are guided by the experiences of the people the County serves, as well as best and promising practices. We invest in community impact, looking at outcome data and progress indicators, recognizing the limits of quantitative data and embracing efforts to lift up more just ways to collect, analyze and share community level data.

## **Priority Areas**

In addition to complying with the federal reporting requirements of ARP, the County has been diligently tracking our ARP investments in a way that is accessible and transparent to help ensure accountability and alignment with our overarching mission and General Fund budget investments. The following are the county's priority areas for ARP investments:

### Public Health Emergency Response

Support for the County's ongoing testing, tracing, outbreak response, vaccination, call center, emergency operations, communication, education and engagement efforts. Also includes funding for wraparound supports to aid people and households in isolation and quarantine.

### Core Services Supporting People in Our Care

Investments to uphold the welfare of people in our direct care, particularly those in congregate settings like shelters, jails and juvenile detention. This includes investments that maintain physical distancing in jails, funds additional and enhanced cleaning in County facilities, and supports people transitioning back into the community after incarceration.

### Crisis Response and Community Recovery

Preservation, and in some cases the expansion, of County safety net services, and investments that address the negative impacts of the pandemic to help our community recover. Informed deeply by data and community feedback, investments include housing stability and eviction prevention; supports for youths and families; violence prevention, intervention and healing; opportunities to build community assets and resilience; and other forms of client assistance.

## Critical County Infrastructure

Investments in infrastructure improvements and new assets that will enable the County workforce to work safely and successfully on site and in emerging models of work. Includes funding for building air quality equipment and telework technology.

## Restore Services Impacted by Budget Reductions

Restoration and continuation of important services that were at risk of being impacted by budget cuts at the local, state or federal level. This includes restoring programs in the Public Health Division and the District Attorney's Office.

## **FY 2023 Executive Budget ARP Investment Highlights (Direct Allocation to Multnomah County)**

### Public Health Emergency Response - \$24.1 million

Allocations for the second year of ARP investments will support the County's continued outbreak response, vaccination, call center, emergency operations, communication, education and engagement efforts. We are also investing in partnerships and capacity-building in Black, Indigenous and other communities of color. This priority also includes funding for wraparound services that support people and households in isolation and quarantine.

- Emergency Operations and Communications - \$3.79 million: Essential investments in the County's emergency call centers, central communications, warehouse space for PPE storage and increased staffing to support ongoing Emergency Operations Center responsibilities allow the County to maintain core elements of our emergency response in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- Community Partnerships - \$1.02 million: Community Partnerships and Capacity Building (CPCB) and Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion (CDPHP) are central to Public Health's goal to develop, implement, and advocate for policy, system, and environment changes that reduce disparities experienced by BIPOC communities to lower rates of the leading causes of preventable death. They are also hubs for developing, supporting, and maintaining partnerships across BIPOC communities. This investment will allow us to continue to support an increased capacity within these Public Health units and in Asian, Pacific Islander, Latinx, Black/African American, and African immigrant and refugee communities.
- Investigation and Response - \$4.8 million: Because the COVID-19 virus is still in the community, the Public Health Division must be prepared to continue performing contact tracing and disease investigations for high-risk populations. The goal is to slow community disease transmission, particularly for BIPOC communities and other vulnerable and priority populations. Public Health investigators work to identify close contacts and provide education and consultation for facilities. For identified outbreaks in congregate settings, Public Health coordinates testing, PPE, infection control inspections, and isolation and quarantine planning with the facility and state partners.
- Isolation, Quarantine and Wraparound Services - \$11.3 million: The County will continue to invest ARP funds in wraparound services to slow community disease transmission by providing the resources that individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, along with their families, households and close contacts, need to successfully isolate or quarantine. The scale of this investments is an adjustment down from last year in response to shifting community needs.

- Coordination and Data - \$600,000: The County will finalize efforts to provide a Health Data Exchange platform to accurately and transparently share, track and analyze data, as well as continue to invest in a health officer to support ongoing coordination and community engagement, including tracking and coordinating severe weather shelter needs, voluntary isolation motel workflows, and coordination of licensed volunteers for ongoing county efforts.

<b>Table 1. Public Health Emergency Response</b>		
<b>Program Offer</b>	<b>Program Offer Name</b>	<b>FY 2023 Proposed ARP Multico Direct Allocation</b>
<b>Dept. of County Human Services</b>		
25399A	ARP - ACHP Registered Nurse	\$200,000
25399D	ARP - COVID-19 Response Coordination	\$80,000
<b>Dept. of Community Justice</b>		
50099C	ARP - Enhanced Cleaning Juvenile Justice Center and East Campus	\$120,000
50099D	ARP - Transportation Services	\$20,000
<b>Health Department</b>		
40199A	ARP - Public Health - COVID-19 Investigation and Response	\$4,800,720
40199C	ARP - Public Health - Isolation and Quarantine	\$1,1341,425
40199E	ARP - COVID-19 Response Health Officer	\$205,848
40199I	ARP - COVID-19 Response Support Services	\$1,406,494
40199J	ARP - Public Health Community Partners and Capacity Building Expansion	\$1,023,795
40199K	ARP - Public Health Communicable Disease Services Expansion	\$711,208
40199O	ARP - Health Data Exchange	\$400,000

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Table 1 (continued)		
Public Health Emergency Response		
Program Offer	Program Offer Name	FY 2023 Proposed ARP Multico Direct Allocation
<b>Nondepartmental</b>		
10092	ARP - Communications Office Public Health Emergency Response	\$325,000
10093A	ARP - Emergency Management (EM) Logistics	\$2,425,000
10093B	ARP - EM Community Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & County Supplies	\$1,040,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$24,099,490</b>

Core Services Supporting People in Our Care - \$11.15 million

Investments in this priority area aim to uphold the welfare of people in our direct care, particularly those in congregate settings like shelter, jail and juvenile detention.

- Joint Office of Homeless Services - \$9.4 million: As part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Joint Office took immediate steps to ensure that all congregate and semi-congregate shelters within the shelter system provided necessary physical separation, hygiene and cleaning practices for occupancy, sleeping, eating and access to services. Initial response efforts in FY 2020 included building capacity to serve up to 450 people in physical distancing shelters in local community centers, and voluntary COVID-19 isolation rooms in local motels (isolation motels). It also included enhanced safety on the streets outreach to assist those who are unsheltered to physically distance and reduce transmission of COVID-19.

As the ongoing impacts of the pandemic continue to harm our houseless neighbors, the County will invest ARP funds to maintain 200 rooms of motel shelter and 100 beds of congregate shelter, as well as staff to support transitions out of motel shelter and into permanent housing as rapidly as possible. Additionally, the pandemic made access to basic hygiene services for the unsheltered population more critical than ever, while simultaneously making it even more difficult to find those kinds of services. The second round of ARP will continue to fund basic hygiene services for people living unsheltered, with a priority on East County and other underserved areas.

Recognizing that outreach services for the diverse racial and ethnic communities that make up our unsheltered populations are most effective when they are delivered by people from those communities, ARP funds will also continue to support culturally specific outreach services.

- Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office and Corrections Health - \$1.47 million: Investments in the Sheriff’s Office and Corrections Health support continued staffing and dorm capacity to ensure compliance with ongoing COVID-19 protocols. The County approved ARP dollars during FY 2022 to fund the purchase of signage and washing machines, but due to delays, those purchases will be made in FY 2023.

- Department of Community Justice - \$250,000: Investments will continue to provide short- and long-term housing and shelter for high-risk, justice-involved adults with special needs through several contracted community-based agencies.

<b>Table 2.</b>		
<b>Core Services Supporting People in Our Care</b>		
<b>Program Offer</b>	<b>Program Offer Name</b>	<b>FY 2023 Proposed ARP Multco Direct Allocation</b>
<b>Dept. of Community Justice</b>		
50099A	ARP - Expanded Rent Assistance of Justice Involved Individuals	\$250,000
<b>Joint Office of Homeless Services</b>		
30900	ARP - Emergency Response - Shelter Operations and Outreach Supplies	\$8,261,000
30902	ARP - Emergency Response - Expanded Hygiene Access	\$750,000
30903	ARP - Emergency Response - Culturally Specific Outreach	\$425,000
<b>Multnomah County Sheriff's Office</b>		
60997	ARP - MCIJ Dorm 5	\$773,344
60998	ARP - MCIJ Dorm 13	\$637,357
60999	ARP - Electronic Signage and Washing Machine	\$60,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$11,156,701</b>

## Crisis Response and Community Recovery - \$48 million

As we move from addressing the surge of COVID-19, Multnomah County must continue to maintain the social service safety net, and make investments that address the negative impacts of the pandemic to support an equitable and transformational recovery in our communities. Even while the County responds to immediate crises in our community, we look to focus on longer-term recovery and leverage ARP funding to build a foundation for community resilience.

- Housing Stability, Rent Assistance and Eviction Prevention - \$25.6 million: Understanding that the economic impacts of the pandemic continue to put thousands of households at risk of getting evicted, nearly \$23 million of American Rescue Plan funding will go toward ongoing direct rent assistance. Assistance will be distributed by the robust and responsive network of teams that was created for the initial rent assistance program to prevent as many evictions as possible. We have seen pairing financial support with legal services creates an additional level of protection that can mean the difference between stability and homelessness. These efforts will go hand-in-hand with the County's work to distribute an additional \$22 million in rent assistance that we have received from the state and federal government and \$400,000 of ongoing General Fund dollars into these legal services to ensure that households who become at risk of eviction even beyond the pandemic can continue to have access to legal professionals.
- Wraparound Supports for Youth and Families - \$4.07 million: ARP resources will continue to fund family resource navigators for our SUN Community School sites and community-based partners, a critical form of support and navigation that emerged as part of the County's pandemic response for children and families. This investment will continue to help families connect to basic needs and services into and through the upcoming school year.
- Addressing Community Violence through Prevention, Intervention and Healing - \$3.1 million: The surge in community violence comes on the heels of long-existing inequities and other underlying factors that were made worse and more volatile by the pandemic. Multnomah County is investing ARP funds into services that help reduce risk factors, and build the resilience of individuals, families and communities who have been most impacted by the violence in our community.

Prevention and intervention strategies supported by the second year of ARP resources include the Gun Violence Behavioral Health Response Team that provides direct mental health services to youth ages 10 to 18 and their families who have been impacted by gun violence, specifically focusing on the African American, Latinx and African Refugee community.

ARP funds will also continue to support capacity in the District Attorney's office to effectively address homicides. The DCJ community violence prevention initiatives that were funded with ARP resources in FY 2022 will now be funded through the County's General Fund budget in recognition of the need to provide more permanent funding for this evolving and deepening issue.

- Deepening Safety Net Services - \$3.0 million: The impacts of the pandemic have increased both the frequency and severity of domestic violence incidents. A spectrum of community-based and systems-based responses are required to address this increase and ensure that survivors have access to the supports and services they need. ARP funds will maintain an increased capacity for culturally specific domestic violence service providers and the Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team.

In addition to investments to address domestic violence, ARP funds will support the behavioral health needs of the community. The second full year of the pandemic further heightened disparities in social indicators of health in BIPOC communities across the age spectrum, impacting mental health acuity and crisis, substance use, violence and education. The Behavioral Health Division will continue to provide counseling and culturally specific care, flexible peer support, and enhanced crisis response to address increased needs in BIPOC, LGBTQIA and other vulnerable populations.

- Building Community Connection, Assets and Resilience - \$1.55 million: Social safety net services are just one facet of the County's work to build up a stable, healthy and thriving community. ARP funding will be invested in initiatives that are critical to building community strength, breaking cycles of poverty, and building generational wealth and wellness. We continue our investments in the Multnomah Mother's Trust Project, providing approximately 100 Black, women-led families with immediate access to a monthly income to meet basic needs and connections to other community assets. We are also continuing a critical investment in the County's Community Reaps Our Produce and Shares (CROPS) farm partnership with Mudbone Grown, advancing the program's goal of supporting African American and African Immigrant farmers.
- Client Assistance - \$8.15 million: The County is committed to maintaining our social service safety net and, as much as possible, investing in services that increase access to food, housing assistance, healthcare, mental health services and case management. That means investing more deeply in community outreach, education and direct assistance that facilitate getting resources to communities that need them most. ARP funds will help increase the amount of the direct financial support that departments and programs across the County can leverage alongside critical services. The Department of County Human Services can serve approximately 6,900 households through unconditional cash transfers - a strategy that recognizes that families understand their own most pressing financial needs best. Those needs may include food, living expenses, housing, debt, childcare, transportation, and medical care. The Department of Community Justice will continue to use client assistance to serve women, children, mental health clients and domestic violence survivors.

Table 3.

**Crisis Response and Community Recovery**

Program Offer	Program Offer Name	FY 2023 Proposed ARP Multco Direct Allocation
<b>Multnomah County District Attorney's Office</b>		
15901	ARP - Gun Violence Case Backlog	\$821,802
<b>Dept. County Human Services</b>		
25399B	ARP - Multnomah Mothers' Trust Project (MMTP)	\$1,350,000
25399B	ARP - Domestic Violence Services	\$755,000
25399E	ARP - SUN Community Schools: Family Resource Navigators	\$4,073,000
25399J	ARP - Peer Support Tenant Services & Housing Stability	\$515,000
25399Q	ARP - YFS Division Support Staff Expansion	\$148,000
25490B	ARP - Emergency Rent Assistance	\$22,785,668
25490C	ARP - YFS Rent Assistance Team Staffing Capacity	\$2,730,000
25492B	ARP - DCHS Client Assistance	\$5,400,000
<b>Dept. of Community Justice</b>		
50099E	ARP - Client Assistance	\$275,000
50099F	ARP - Gun Violence Prevention Incubator Pilot	\$300,000
50099H	ARP - Community Violence Interruption Pilot	\$300,000

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Table 3 (continued)

**Crisis Response and Community Recovery**

<b>Program Offer</b>	<b>Program Offer Name</b>	<b>FY 2023 Proposed ARP Multco Direct Allocation</b>
<b>Health Department</b>		
40199D	ARP - Behavioral Health - Continuing COVID Response	\$1,625,888
40199Q	ARP - Gun Violence Impacted Families Behavioral Health Team	\$1,214,400
40199R	ARP - Culturally Specific Behavioral Health Programs	\$625,000
40199W	ARP - Old Town Inreach	\$1,100,000
<b>Library</b>		
80099	ARP - Outreach Hotspots	\$200,000
<b>Multnomah County Sheriff's Office</b>		
60990	ARP - Civil Process – Reducing Community Violence Involving Firearms	\$314,382
60991	ARP - Detectives Unit – Reducing Community Violence Involving Firearms	\$161,977
60993	ARP - Add'l Close Street Supervision Positions	\$348,461
<b>Nondepartmental</b>		
10090	ARP - Countywide Client Assistance	\$2,500,000
10094	ARP - Office of Sustainability Food Access Focus	\$200,000
10091A	ARP - COVID-19 Policy and Project Coordination	\$215,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$47,958,578</b>

Critical County Infrastructure - \$5.5 million

Allocations of our second round of American Rescue Plan funding include investments in key County infrastructure, including improved air quality in our buildings and expanded technology for telework. These investments also ensure that the County maintains compliance with the rules and regulations related to ARP spending and reporting, and supports our efforts to review how the County workforce utilizes and occupies space as part of a long-term hybrid work model.

<u>Table 4.</u> <b>Critical County Infrastructure</b>		
<b>Program Offer</b>	<b>Program Offer Name</b>	<b>FY 2023 Proposed ARP Multco Direct Allocation</b>
<b>Dept. of County Assets</b>		
78900	ARP - Facilities Air Quality Improvements	\$800,000
78901	ARP - Staff Telework Software Bundle	\$1,473,000
78902	ARP - Digital Access Coordinator	\$165,592
<b>Dept. of County Management</b>		
72900	ARP - Federal Grant Compliance and Monitoring	\$160,000
72901	ARP - Future of Work Coordinator and Space Planning	\$2,705,000
72902	ARP - Labor Relations Expanded Support	\$235,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,538,592</b>

Restore Services Impacted by Budget Reductions - \$191,354

ARP investments will be used to support critical services that were impacted by budget cuts at the local, state or federal level, including the District Attorney Office's capacity to address the backlog of domestic violence cases.

<u>Table 5.</u> <b>Restore Services Impacted by Budget Reductions</b>		
<b>Program Offer</b>	<b>Program Offer Name</b>	<b>FY 2023 Proposed ARP Multco Direct Allocation</b>
<b>Multnomah County District Attorney's Office</b>		
15900	ARP - Domestic Violence Case Backlog	\$191,354
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$191,354</b>