

FY 2023 American Rescue Plan Act Funds Guiding Principles and Priorities for Budget Development

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 COVID-19 pandemic. The bill was signed by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021.

This legislation provided a direct allocation of \$158 million to Multnomah County, paid in two tranches. The first tranche was included in the FY 2022 budget, and the remainder will be budgeted in FY 2023.

These resources greatly bolster 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.

Funding decisions will be made in alignment with the principles and priorities that have guided the County's investments in our responses to COVID-19 and its impacts throughout the community. Since the start of the pandemic, we've received input from County leaders, program staff, clients and stakeholders, and been anchored in the analysis of disease trends and impacts. Our commitment to listening to feedback and following the data has been instrumental to helping us develop the Guiding Principles and continue to refine the Investment Priority Areas below. And even as vaccines and boosters have shifted some of our work, we will continue to pay close attention to emerging COVID-19 trends and the cascading impacts that this public health emergency has on the health, wellness and resiliency of our community.

Guiding Principles for FY 2023 American Rescue Plan Act Funds

- We **inclusively lead with race** in order to best serve people and populations who have been impacted by historical and current inequities. We honor the expertise, relationships, and resilience within communities of color through our partnerships and co-creation of solutions.
- Using an **equity and racial justice approach** helps us take into consideration the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 in our community. There is tremendous value and positive impact when services are provided in the language and cultural traditions of our diverse communities.
- We pay attention to, learn from and are guided by client experiences as well as best practices 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.

- Providing excellent service and supporting people in our community is a hallmark of what we do as a government, safety net system, Local Mental Health Authority and Local Public Health Authority. County employees and our community partners are the heart of this work. Our work is at its best when we **engage and listen to the expertise and insight of those who are in and working with our community each day.**
- Embedding a **public health approach** within our priorities allows us to consider opportunities to impact the health and wellness of our community at an individual, community and population level, using data and making investments that can have short-term and long-term benefits.
- **Collaboration with our jurisdictional partners, community leaders and community based organizations** is a key component to increasing the effectiveness and impact of the dollars being deployed throughout the county, region and state.

Investment Priority Areas for FY 2023 American Rescue Plan Act Funds*

- **Public Health Emergency Response**

In FY 2022, investments in this area included testing, contact tracing, outbreak response, vaccination, call center, emergency operations, communication, education and engagement.

- **Core Services Supporting People in Our Care**

In FY 2022, investments in this area supported efforts to uphold the welfare of people in our direct care, particularly those in congregate settings like shelter, jail and juvenile detention.

- **Restoration of Services Impacted by Budget Reductions**

In this area, investments ensured we could continue important services that were impacted by budget cuts at the local, state or federal level.

- **Critical County Infrastructure**

In FY 2022, key investments in County infrastructure supported countywide capacity to improve technology, operations, finance and air quality.

- **Crisis Response & Community Recovery**

In FY 2022, investments in this focus area expanded the depth and breadth of safety services, provided direct assistance to community members in need, and funded programs and strategies that combat the negative impacts of the pandemic and focus on recovery and rebuilding. As these efforts spanned many different program areas, we created subcategories to provide additional clarity and assist in planning:

- Housing Stability, Rent Assistance and Eviction Prevention
- Wraparound Supports for Youth and Families
- Addressing Community Violence through Prevention, Intervention and Healing
- Deepening Safety Net Services
- Disease Prevention, Intervention and Surveillance
- Building Community Connection, Assets and Resilience
- Client Assistance

*Note: The FY 2023 Investment Priority Areas may be further updated or expanded as we continue to receive input from internal and external partners.