



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1597, Agenda Item #: 2.

5/6/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance to accept \$97,900,000 in funds from the Federal government, United States Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan; and amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Financial Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to appropriate \$44,800,000 for public health expenses related to the Coronavirus disease outbreak and recovery efforts and for community navigators to support the community in accessing funding available through the American Rescue Plan.

Lead Department

Budget Office

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$97,900,000 is available from the U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan. A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information:

Diana Thomas, Financial Services, Interim Deputy Chief Financial Officer / 974-1166

Additional Backup Information:

This item will accept \$97,900,000 from the United States (U.S). Federal Government American Rescue Plan Act (ARP). This is the first year of a two-year federal funding allocation and the City expects to receive an additional \$97,900,000 in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Funding of \$44,800,000 will be appropriated in accordance with Resolution 20210325-111 which directed the City Manager to:

- Identify immediate and emergency relief needs and planned public health expenses that are so significant that they should be considered for funding from the ARP funds;
- Identify opportunities to maximize the recovery for residents and for businesses of funding that is awarded to them directly with the strategic use of navigators; and,
- Deploy funding sources in a manner that reserves the most flexible funding sources for purposes that may not fit within the guidelines of more restrictive funds.

Staff estimates an additional \$81.0 million will be needed to continue to respond to the public health emergency. Of that, it is expected FEMA will provide a reimbursement of \$36.7 million. The City's share of the total cost is \$44.3 million and will be funded by the ARP. The funding will be used to continue the operations of non-congregate shelters, isolation facilities, the alternate care site, infusion center, and the Emergency Operations Center and assumes services will begin transitioning to pre-emergency levels in the spring. Also included in the budget are all testing services; the purchase of PPE and other necessary supplies; the Eating Apart Together (EAT) program for unsheltered homeless and the AISD Caregiver Meals program; and contact tracing, epidemiology, and general public safety. Additionally, \$500,000 in ARP funding will be used to partner with community navigators and champions that can help Austin-based businesses, non-profit organizations, and creatives with technical support on federal applications and to amplify program outreach capacity.

The remaining \$53.1 million in ARP funds will be reserved to address the additional Council directions in Resolution 20210325-111 which are intended to prioritize building long-term capacity and making

transformative change by leveraging opportunities that have a maximum impact in addressing priorities and challenges

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government that Works for All