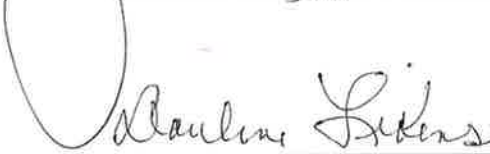# Madison County, Indiana
American Rescue Plan Act Allocation and Engagement Plan

Adopted by the Madison County Commissioners:

_____
John M. Richwine, President

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Darlene Likens, Vice President

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Kelly Gaskill, Member

Attest:

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Rick Gardner, Auditor

11/9/2022
_____
Date

Overview

Madison County is taking the necessary steps to ensure that the County acts in a timely, responsible manner to maximum the benefits of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) assistance. The process will involve engaging County officials, County employees, community representatives, and residents.

These plans have been formulated to enable the County to make strategic use of ARPA funds to ensure alignment the needs and priorities of the County and the community.

Leadership Team

The County has established a Leadership Team comprised of County officials to oversee and guide implementation of the ARPA funds. The Leadership Team includes:

- John Richwine, County Commissioner
- Darlene Likens, County Commissioner
- Kelly Gaskill, County Commissioner
- Ben Gale, County Council
- Anthony Emery, County Council
- Tom Shepherd, County Surveyor
- Rick Gardner, County Auditor
- Stephanie Mellinger, County Health Department Administrator
- Jessica Bastin, County Engineer and non-voting team coordinator

Leadership Team Responsibilities

1. Identify funding opportunities contained in ARPA, including:
    - Direct assistance to Madison County ($26 million)
    - Collaborative opportunities with other communities
    - Other funding opportunities in ARPA
2. Track ARPA developments on spending requirements, allowable uses, and reporting uses
3. Develop and implement a strategic funding plan that identifies community priorities and aligns with eligible uses for ARPA
4. Receive proposals from stakeholders and ensure clarity and completeness
5. Facilitate discussions about proposals received and solicit feedback from pertinent stakeholders, as needed
6. Score proposals and identified recommendations to the County Commissioners and County Council for advancement
7. Support efforts to seek community engagement and input on ARPA priorities

Community Engagement Team

The County has established a Community Engagement Team comprised of leaders throughout the community to oversee and guide implementation of the ARPA funds. The Leadership Team includes:

- John Richwine, County Commissioners
- Diana Likens, County Council
- Rob Steele, County Council
- Beatrice Ramey, Madison County Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator
- Clayton Whitson, Madison County Chamber of Commerce
- Tammy Bowman, South Madison County Community Foundation
- Ben Davis, Madison County Community Foundation
- Barbara Scott, Aspire Indiana, Inc.

Once formed, the Community Engagement Team will meet to discuss the team composition and identify additional members for consideration. Additional members will be added with consensus from the team.

Community Engagement Team Responsibilities

1. Lead efforts to seek community engagement and input on ARPA priorities
2. Facilitate execution of the Community Engagement Plan
3. Continually review the Community Engagement Plan for alignment with the goals and objectives and update the plan as needed
4. Monitor, track, and report progress of the Community Engagement Plan
5. Support stakeholders in developing and submitting proposals
6. Serve as a liaison between the Leadership Team, community stakeholder groups, and the community

County Priority Areas

County leadership has identified the following priorities for utilizing the ARPA funding:

- To support recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and build resiliency for responding to future pandemics
- To increase the accessibility of the County government while improving the services provided to constituents and stakeholders in the community, particularly those groups most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- To facilitate transformational changes in the County by improving the environment, promoting economic viability, addressing aging infrastructure, and increasing the overall quality of life in Madison County

Plan Implementation

The Leadership Team and the Community Engagement Team will collaborate to implement the Fund Allocation and Community Engagement Plans. These plans are detailed, below.

ARPA FUND ALLOCATION PLAN

Overview

The purpose of the ARPA Fund Allocation Plan is to outline the County's procedures for strategically appropriating the ARPA allocations. The Leadership Team is responsible for overseeing the fund allocation process.

Proposal Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, a proposal must be submitted by at least two eligible champions. Proposal champions can be an elected official or department head working for Madison County or a resident of Madison County representing a municipality, community group, not-for-profit organization, or other similar entity located primarily within the County. Proposals should meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Support for public health expenditures by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, such as medical expenses, medical supplies, telemedicine, behavioral healthcare, and specific public health and safety staff.
- Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and expand access to broadband internet.
- Provide equity-based services to a population that has been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Proposals

To be considered for ARPA funding, a proposal must be submitted to the Leadership Team for review and consideration. Proposals should contain the following general information:
- Name of proposed project
- Name and contact information for proposal point of contact
- Proposed funding plan
- Project description and explanation of how it aligns with the intent of the ARPA program
- Confirmation of eligibility for the ARPA program funds
- Proposal outcomes and impacts

The following online form has been created to submit proposals for consideration: https://form.jotform.com/222375730346051.

Proposal Scoring

The Leadership Team will score proposals on a regular basis using the following scoring matrix:

Project Eligibility *Does the proposal meet the eligible uses defined in the ARPA rule?* *Does the proposal align with County objectives?* *Is the proposal complete?*	30
Project Need/Benefits *Does the proposal address known/identified needs within the community?* *Does it support the County's recovery efforts from the economic, health, and other effects of the COVID-19 pandemic?* *Does the proposal support equity-based services and benefits for populations disproportionally impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?*	35
Funding Plan *Does the proposal have a solid funding plan? Are additional funds leveraged?*	20
Project Schedule *Does the proposal meet the ARPA timeline requirements for completion by 2026?*	Yes/No
Proposal Metrics *Does the proposal have measurable outcomes that can be tracked and reported?*	15

To be considered for ARPA funding, proposals must receive a minimum average score of 80 from the Leadership Team. The Leadership team reserves the right to request additional information regarding submitted proposals, as needed.

Appropriation Priorities

Through the Local Recovery Act, the County has been awarded approximately $26 million. The proposed allocation breakdown is as follows:

- **Pandemic recovery/public health expenditures** – This includes expenditures incurred that can directly be attributed to the COVID 19 pandemic as well as efforts to improve resiliency in anticipation of future pandemic events. Additionally, this would include addressing negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency. ***Targeted Allocation – $6 million***
- **Infrastructure Investment** – Eligible infrastructure investment can be made into water, wastewater, stormwater, and broadband internet services. ***Targeted Allocation – $5 million***
- **Expansion of equity-based services** – Knowing that certain population segments have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the County has designated a portion of these funds to support groups that have been historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. ***Targeted Allocation – $5 million***
- **Lost Revenue** – The County has claimed the eligible $10 million of "lost revenue." While these funds can be used for a variety of efforts, the County has stated that the overreaching objective for the "Lost Revenue" funds is to make impactful changes in the

County needed to improve the quality of life for residents and to facilitate economic growth and redevelopment. ***Claimed Allocation – $10 million***

The Leadership team will determine the actual allocations through the proposal review/approval process.

Funding Approval

Proposals selected for advancement by the Leadership Team will be presented to the County Commissioners for adoption into the ARPA Fiscal Plan. A majority vote of the County Commissioners is required for the proposal to be approved.

Once a proposal has been adopted into the ARPA Fiscal Plan, it will be presented to the County Council. A majority vote from the Council is required to approve the ARPA Appropriation for the Proposal.

Fund Disbursement

Once a proposal has been adopted into the ARPA Fiscal Plan and an ARPA Appropriation has been approved, the proposal may proceed. All applicable local, state, and federal procurement laws must be followed. Disbursement of funds must be approved by the County Commissioners office or proxy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Objective

The purpose of the Community Engagement Plan is to outline the County's approach for strategically engaging stakeholders through the community to encourage and facilitate involvement in the ARPA Allocation Process.

Community Engagement Plan is meant to be living document. Using this document as a starting point, the Community Engagement Team will regularly update the plan throughout the ARPA process. Engagement activities and findings will be reported to the Leadership Team, and progress reports will be shared on the County's ARPA website.

Community Engagement Objectives

Through the Community Engagement Plan, the County will strive to:
- Inform the community about opportunities through the ARPA program
- Obtain feedback on priorities and needs within the community, giving a voice to traditionally underrepresented and disadvantaged populations
- Partner with stakeholders and community groups to leverage opportunities and collaborate

Community Partners

The County recognizes that collaboration with community partners is critical to successful implementation of the ARPA Allocation and Engagement Plans. Once formed, the Community Engagement Team will meet to discuss the team composition and identify additional members for consideration. Additional members will be added with consensus from the team.

The team will also work to identify key audiences within the community and tailor tools as needed to maximize engagement.

Engagement Tools

The County will utilize a variety of tools theroughout the Community Engagement effort . These tools will use a combination of in-person, online, and remote engagement strategies. Tools will be targeted to engage specific audiences and stakeholders. Additionally, information will be extrapolated from similar community engagement efforts and used to complement these efforts.

General tools to be used are listed below. As the Community Engagement Team refines the engagement process, the tool list will be updated.

Priorities Survey

Purpose: To receive high-level data on community needs and interests
Type: Online, in-person
Target Audience: Public, identified stakeholder groups as needed
Anticipated Time Frame: Through Q1 2022
Availability: County website, social media, public meetings, County buildings

ARPA Feedback Form

Purpose: To allow on-going communication on the ARPA process
Type: Online, in-person
Target Audience: Public, stakeholders
Anticipated Time Frame: Through December 2026
Availability: County website, social media, County buildings

ARPA Public Forum

Purpose: To provide a forum for public commenting on the Alloation and Engagement Plan and the proposed County priorities
Type: In-person
Target Audience: Public, stakeholders
Anticipated Time Frame: Q4 2022
Availability: Public forum

Government Stakeholder Listening Sessions

Purpose: To engage key municipal leadership on specific topics related to collaboration between communities
Type: In-person
Target Audience: Municipal and Township Leaders
Anticipated Time Frame: Ongoing through Q2 2023
Availability: In-person meetings

Business Stakeholder Listening Sessions

Purpose: To engage key business leadership on specific topics related to supporting existing businesses and encouraging economic development
Type: In-person
Target Audience: Business Leaders
Time Frame: Ongoing through Q3 2023
Availability: In-person meetings

Not-for-Profit Stakeholder Listening Sessions

Purpose: To engage key not-for-profit leadership on specific topics related to supporting existing organizations
Type: In-person
Target Audience: Not-for-profit Leaders

Time Frame: Ongoing through Q3 2023
Availability: In-person meetings

Plan Progress Communication

The Community Engagement Plan is a living document. It will be updated and revised throught the ARPA process to detail specific engagement events and to track and report findings. Progress will be shared through:

- The County website
- Regular updates at County Commissioners and County Council Meetings
- Coordination with local media outlets