

American Rescue Plan Act Funding and County Investments

Perspective from Dorchester County

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Dorchester County

GFOA Guiding Principles

- **Temporary Nature of ARPA Funds.** ARPA funds are non-recurring so their use should be applied primarily to non-recurring expenditures.
 - Care should be taken to avoid creating new programs or add-ons to existing programs that require an ongoing financial commitment.
 - Use of ARPA funds to cover operating deficits caused by COVID-19 should be considered temporary and additional budget restraint may be necessary to achieve/maintain structural balance in future budgets.
 - Investment in critical infrastructure is particularly well-suited use of ARPA funds because it is a non-recurring expenditure that can be targeted to strategically important long- term assets that provide benefits over many years. However, care should be taken to assess any on-going operating costs that may be associated with the project.

GFOA Guiding Principles

- **ARPA Scanning and Partnering Efforts.** State and local jurisdictions should be aware of plans for ARPA funding throughout their communities.
 - Local jurisdictions should be cognizant of state-level ARPA efforts, especially regarding infrastructure, potential enhancements of state funding resources, and existing or new state law requirements.
 - Consider regional initiatives, including partnering with other ARPA recipients. It is possible there are many beneficiaries of ARPA funding within your community, such as schools, transportation agencies and local economic development authorities. Be sure to understand what they are planning and augment their efforts; alternatively, creating cooperative spending plans to enhance the structural financial condition of your community.

GFOA Guiding Principles

- **Take Time and Careful Consideration.** ARPA funds will be issued in two tranches to local governments. Throughout the years of outlays, and until the end of calendar year 2024, consider how the funds may be used to address rescue efforts and lead to recovery.
 - Use other dedicated grants and programs first whenever possible and save ARPA funds for priorities not eligible for other federal and state assistance programs.
 - Whenever possible, expenditures related to the ARPA funding should be spread over the qualifying period (through December 31, 2024) to enhance budgetary and financial stability.
 - Adequate time should be taken to carefully consider all alternatives for the prudent use of ARPA funding prior to committing the resources to ensure the best use of the temporary funding.

Guiding Principles: Personal Takeaway

- Designate a subject matter expert for your organization who can liaison with departments and senior staff.
- This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Be careful with use of ARPA funds for bonuses or other forms of employee pay. We have all experienced that pressure.
- Sort through other grant opportunities before considering major allocations of ARPA funds, especially if the project under consideration has an open timeline.
- Plan to address all facets of government operations under your purview to ensure collaboration and buy-in.
- Look for ways to decrease cost of mandated services with portions of the funding.

County Investments

Paid for by

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN



Initial Setup

- **Funding Experience**

- Received first tranche of \$15,811,870 soon after completing required forms and applications.
- Deposited funds into Local Government Investment Pool account segregated from other sources.
- Hired a “Federal Programs Liaison” who will be solely responsible as the subject matter expert on the American Rescue Plan and responsible for developing all of Dorchester County’s documentation and reporting.

- **Roadblocks Resolved**

- Revenue loss calculation guidance is problematic to Dorchester County. We had several sources experience significant declines, but overall saw 9% revenue growth in the applicable time period.
- The final rule from US Treasury allowed greater flexibility with the revenue loss calculation, of which Dorchester County elected the \$10 Million allowance to provide for flexibility and decrease reporting requirements for some capital initiatives.

Approved Allocations

- **COBRA Premium Assistance**
 - As needed allocation of \$40,000 to cover 100% COBRA premium coverage during eligible period.
- **Future Anticipated Costs for Operations**
 - Contingency of \$200,000 for rapid response to ongoing needs that can be disbursed through a requisition process by approval of CFO and Federal Programs Liaison. Examples include PPE, technology support, etc.
- **Purchase and Upfit of a Mobile Command Post**
 - Approximately \$600,000 to deliver a custom mobile command post that will be used to replace a bus that has been deployed since the beginning of the pandemic for mobile offices, vaccine clinics, testing, etc. This will also serve as a public safety mobile command center for the County for an estimated 20 years.
- **Broadband Expansion to Unserved and Underserved Areas**
 - Executed agreements with Home Telecom and PRTC
 - Expanding gigabit internet to virtually every targeted zone by 2024
 - \$17 Million investment, 50% ARPA and 50% private funding

Approved Allocations

- **Partnerships with Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy and Department of Mental Health**
 - Providing community outreach, working with staff to connect with unsheltered populations, and providing bolstered support to public safety
- **Renovation of Remainder of Former Detention Center – Medical Facility**
 - Final wing of this building was constructed in 2003 and will be renovated into an urgent care facility to serve the St. George area.
- **Purchase of Building Occupied by Alcohol and Drug Commission**
 - Allows the County to save approximately \$250,000 in rent on a recurring basis. Savings from rent were used to supplement other funding to implement a classification and compensation study.
- **Renovation of Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement Center**
 - Bond funding was in place to gut and renovate the existing law enforcement center.
 - ARPA funding was added to avoid value engineering the scope and to provide for anti microbial paint and flooring surfaces.

Approved Allocations

- **Matching Funds for Infrastructure Projects**
 - \$3,625,000 provided to match a grant to construct a 500,000-gallon elevated water storage tank and install fire hydrants near St. George
- **Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) Program**
 - Purchased SUVs and provided them to Countywide fire service.
 - Staff is authorized to sign up for overtime shifts funded by ARPA (one year) and respond to low-acuity medical calls which augments EMS
- **Construction of a Homeless Shelter**
 - Partnership agreement to provide for a men's homeless shelter and support services facility in the Summerville area.

\$21.2 Million in ARPA funding has been allocated of total of \$31.6 Million to be received. Community response has been positive and frequent updates are being provided through our PIO and other channels to remain transparent.

Documentation and Reporting

COASTAL CRISIS CHAPLAINCY



DORCHESTER COUNTY

SERVICE REPORT: JANUARY 2022



COASTALCRISISCHAPLAIN.ORG | 843-724-1212 | ERIN@COASTALCRISISCHAPLAIN.ORG

526

INDIVIDUALS SERVED



76%
FIRST
RESPONDERS



23%
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS

183

HOURS SERVED

"The Chaplains are truly caring, compassionate people who approach their mission with the idea that no one should ever have to be alone in times of crisis. They are not only there for the families affected by tragedy, but also for the first responders who have to work through these events. They provide comfort and aid to my investigators every day, and with that enables my staff to work with confidence that they have a shoulder to lean on, when needed."

-Paul J. Brouthers, Dorchester County Coroner



48 STATION VISITS



5 CRISIS SUPPORT CALLS



26 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Documentation and Reporting

GRANT SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN SUB AWARD

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into this 8th day of Nov., 2021 by and between Dorchester County, South Carolina, a local government located at 201 Johnston Street, Saint George SC 29477 ("GRANTOR") and Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy, an organization located at 2500 City Hall Lane, North Charleston, SC 29406 ("SUBRECIPIENT").

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2021 GRANTOR has established policies for the granting of funds from Dorchester County to a requesting entity; and

WHEREAS, SUBRECIPIENT submitted a proposal to the GRANTOR for a program that complies with the terms of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy program for (\$81,177.44).

GRANTOR and SUBRECIPIENT AGREE:

1. **The Sub Award.** GRANTOR will award and release to SUBRECIPIENT a sum of up to eighty-five thousand five hundred eighty-four dollars (\$81,177.44) from its American Rescue Plan Fund (the "Grant") pursuant to the payment terms in Section 3.
2. **Use of Funds.** Grant funds in the amount of up eighty-one thousand, one hundred seventy-seven dollars and forty-four cents (\$81,177.44) will be used by SUBRECIPIENT for the sole purpose of providing chaplaincy team services to county personnel, outreach initiatives, and community members as described in the proposal submitted by SUBRECIPIENT, attached hereto as Exhibit A and by this reference incorporated herein.
3. **Term.** Program and expenditures must be performed during the term from the date of execution of this Agreement through December 31, 2022.
4. **Payment of Funds**
 - a. GRANTOR agrees to reimburse SUBRECIPIENT for costs actually incurred and paid by SUBRECIPIENT in accordance with the Approved Budget attached hereto as Exhibit B and for the performance of the Approved Services under this Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$81,177.44 (the "Total Agreement Funds").
 - b. The amount of Total Agreement Funds, however, is subject to adjustment by GRANTOR if a substantial change is made in the Approved Services that affects this Agreement or if this Agreement is terminated prior to the expiration of the

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