

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brian Knudson
INITIATED BY



2/10/2022
DATE DRAFTED

Reserving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for an Initiative to Develop a Family Centered Transitional Housing Resource in Rock County

WHEREAS, there is an acute shortage of affordable housing in Rock County; and

WHEREAS, limited housing opportunities negatively impact employee recruitment and employment; and

WHEREAS, insecure housing negatively impacts the psychosocial well-being of adults and children; and

WHEREAS, the increase of such housing for families with children combined with the provision of professional caseworker services will generate long-term benefits for the County as whole, for employers, for adult participants, and for the children; and

WHEREAS, there is established community stakeholder support for and progress underway in the development of a family-centered low income housing initiative and this effort entails time for project development; and

WHEREAS, Rock County continues to spend tens of thousands of dollars annually on short term fixes to housing insecurity, including motel stays and emergency sheltering, which do not produce long term changes and housing insecurity also contributes to increased county expenditures related to foster care, mental health and substance use services; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act funds awarded to Rock County may be used to support the development of family centered low – income housing, as the Final Rule states that “programs or services to improve access to stable, affordable housing among individuals who are homeless, and the development of affordable housing to increase supply of affordable and high-quality living units, are responsive to individuals and households that were impacted by the pandemic”, and lists “promoting long-term housing security” as an eligible use of ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, the allocation of \$3 Million in ARPA funds to be reserved for a transitional housing initiative represents a wise investment in long term reductions in homelessness and increased access to affordable housing in Rock County, thereby saving money spent on short-term solutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this ____ day _____, 2022 does hereby allocate \$3,000,000 of American Recovery Plan Act funds to be reserved for the implementation of a transitional housing initiative until that time in which a satisfactory proposal for such a project as described above comes before the Board for consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022 budget be amended as follows:

Account	Budget 2/1/22	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Source of Funds			
19-1980-0000-42100	\$17,723,024	\$3,000,000	\$20,723,024

ARPA

Use of Funds			
19-1980-3101-64604	-0-	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Program Expense			

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution allocates \$3,000,000 in ARPA funds to create a transitional housing program.

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats. As an amendment to the adopted 2022 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to § 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats. This resolution reserves funding in the budget, but does not authorize its expenditure. Future action will be needed to authorize expenditure of these funds.

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

In general, addressing housing needs, such as transitional housing, would be an eligible expenditure under ARPA. Once a specific project is identified, an additional assessment would be conducted to ensure the specific project is an eligible use of funds before a subsequent resolution authorizing that project is brought before the Board.

In addition, ARPA-funded capital projects exceeding \$1 million trigger additional requirements, including that they be designed to address the needs of those most harmed from COVID-19 and proportional to the extent of that harm. Further justification would include documentation of why a capital project is necessary (rather than additional funding for current programs or services, for example). Also required would be a comparison of at least two alternative capital options and an explanation of why the chosen option is best, including data to support that conclusion, if available.

Josh Smith
County Administrator

Committee Action

Human Services Board

The Human Services Board recommended this resolution for approval by acclamation. Supervisor Pam Bostwick was absent.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommended this resolution for approval by acclamation. Supervisor Fox was absent.