

Request for Legislative Action

Res. #20949
Sponsor: Ronald E. Finley
Tony Miller
Date: May 10, 2022

Completed by County Counselor's Office

Action Requested:	Resolution	Res.Ord No.:	20949
Sponsor(s):	Tony Miller;Ronald E. Finley	Legislature Meeting Date:	5/10/2022

Introduction

Action Items: ['Authorize', 'Transfer']

Project/Title:

A Resolution transferring \$2,400,000.00 within the 2022 American Rescue Plan Fund and authorizing the County Executive to execute a Cooperative Agreement with Harvesters - The Community Food Network of Kansas City, MO, for the purpose of providing food assistance at a cost to the County not to exceed \$2,400,000.00

Request Summary

Requesting a transfer of \$2,400,000 within budgeted American Rescue Plan funds that were allocated for Disadvantaged Communities for the purpose of providing food assistance. This request would further authorize the County Executive to execute a \$2,400,000 contract with Harvesters - The Community Food Network of Kansas City, Missouri for food purchases.

Harvesters has an extensive partner agency network comprised of over 420 schools and more than 760 non-profit agencies with over 600 partner agencies in Jackson County. These partners rely on Harvesters to provide shelf-stable and highly nutritious food at no cost. Harvesters was previously allocated \$500,000 from the CARES Act Fund for food assistance. To continue to meet the need for food assistance, a proposal for funding under the American Rescue Plan is attached.

Requested for the agenda of May 10th. Legislator Finley will sponsor.

Contact Information

Department:	County Legislature	Submitted Date:	5/2/2022
Name:	Crissy Wooderson	Email:	CWooderson@jacksongov.org
Title:	Legislative Auditor	Phone:	816-881-3310

Budget Information

Amount authorized by this legislation this fiscal year:	\$2,400,000
Amount previously authorized this fiscal year:	\$ 0
Total amount authorized after this legislative action:	\$2,400,000
Is it transferring fund?	Yes
Transferring Fund From:	

Request for Legislative Action

Fund:	Department:	Line Item Account:	Amount:
050 (American Rescue Plan Fund)	7801 (ARPA Disadvantaged Communities)	56790 (Other Contractual Services)	\$2,400,000
Transferring Fund To:			
Fund:	Department:	Line Item Account:	Amount:
050 (American Rescue Plan Fund)	8002 (Harvesters)	56789 (Outside Agency Funding)	\$2,400,000

Prior Legislation	
Prior Ordinances	
Ordinance:	Ordinance date:
5371	June 22, 2020
Prior Resolution	
Resolution:	Resolution date:
20437	May 26, 2020

Purchasing	
Does this RLA include the purchase or lease of supplies, materials, equipment or services?	No
Chapter 10 Justification:	
Core 4 Tax Clearance Completed:	
Certificate of Foreign Corporation Received:	
Have all required attachments been included in this RLA?	

Compliance	
Certificate of Compliance	
In Compliance	
Minority, Women and Veteran Owned Business Program	
Goals Not Applicable for following reason: Services from a nonprofit	
MBE:	.00%
WBE:	.00%
VBE:	.00%
Prevailing Wage	
Not Applicable	

Fiscal Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds sufficient for this appropriation and/or transfer are available from the source indicated on 	

Request for Legislative Action

Submitted by County Legislature requestor: Crissy Wooderson on 5/2/2022. Comments: Requested for the agenda of 5/10.

Approved by Department Approver Mary Jo Spino on 5/2/2022 4:14:26 PM. Comments: mjs

Not applicable by Purchasing Office Approver Barbara J. Casamento on 5/3/2022 8:31:42 AM. Comments:

Approved by Compliance Office Approver Jaime Guillen on 5/3/2022 9:06:41 AM. Comments:

Approved by Budget Office Approver Mark Lang on 5/3/2022 9:38:10 AM. Comments: The fiscal note is attached.

Returned for more information by Executive Office Approver Sylvania Stevenson on 5/4/2022 11:27:22 AM. Comments: The County Executive Office is working to develop a plan and process for the authorization and award of American Rescue Plan Funds to outside agencies that provide food assistance. Therefore, at this time, the RLA will not be approved.

Submitted by Requestor Crissy Wooderson on 5/4/2022 4:24:31 PM. Comments: RESUBMITTING without changes so the Counselor's Office has the eRLA request in their que to prepare a Resolution for the agenda of 5/10 pursuant to the Rules of the Legislature 19 thru 23 for the authority to introduce resolutions. The fiscal note of \$2,400,000 was previously attached.

Approved by Department Approver Mary Jo Spino on 5/4/2022 4:34:46 PM. Comments:

Not applicable by Purchasing Office Approver Barbara J. Casamento on 5/4/2022 4:42:43 PM. Comments:

Approved by Compliance Office Approver Jaime Guillen on 5/4/2022 4:52:44 PM. Comments:

Approved by Budget Office Approver Mark Lang on 5/5/2022 9:31:50 AM. Comments:

Approved by Executive Office Approver Sylvania Stevenson on 5/16/2022 11:23:52 AM. Comments: committee substitute was approved

Approved by Counselor's Office Approver Elizabeth Freeland on 5/16/2022 12:02:24 PM. Comments:

Rising Costs & the Ongoing Need for Food Assistance

Inflation is currently ravaging our country and our community. Our Jackson County neighbors are finding their dollars don't stretch as far as they used to. As of February, grocery prices were up 7.9% year-over-year and it is estimated to increase an additional 3-4% by the end of 2022. This rise in costs means families, children and seniors are having to make tough choices between buying food and other critical expenses like housing, utilities or medical care.

According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap, approximately 89,820 Jackson County residents were food insecure prior to COVID-19. While numbers have fluctuated, Harvesters is consistently seeing that the need for food assistance is 30% higher than it was prior to the pandemic. This means more than 100,000 Jackson County residents may not know where their next meal is coming from.

The Need:

Harvesters is uniquely situated to the task of providing resources to the underserved and provides an essential service throughout our 26-county service area in northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas. Harvesters distributes food and household products through a network of over 420 schools and 760 nonprofit agencies. Over 600 partner agencies are located in Jackson County and utilize Harvesters to order shelf-stable, highly desirable and nutritious food at no cost. Independent surveys show that 80% of Jackson County agencies report that if Harvesters were not available, it would have a major negative impact on their ability to deliver services to community members.

The Response:

Harvesters remains committed to providing food to anyone who finds themselves in need. Through our partner agency network, we will provide more than 20 million meals to Jackson County families, children and seniors throughout calendar year 2022.

The Cost:

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted Harvesters business model, which relied on donated food and volunteer labor. Since the pandemic began, Harvesters has been spending \$500,000 to \$800,000 each month to purchase shelf stable and other food items in short supply. Fewer volunteers has required the purchase more expensive "retail pack" produce, rather than bulk. Harvesters has also needed to utilize temporary labor and purchase special equipment.

The high price of food coupled with increases in fuel and freight costs, means the cost to feed neighbors in need has increased. Harvesters believes we will continue to need to make a significant volume of additional food purchases to meet the need.

Harvesters' mission is to feed hungry people today and work to end hunger tomorrow.

In calendar year 2022, we anticipate that Harvesters will spend a total of \$3.5 million in food purchases for distribution throughout Jackson County. Of that amount, \$2.4 million in food purchase is considered eligible for funding through the American Rescue Plan.

How To Help:

Financial support from the American Rescue Plan will allow Harvesters to meet the significant and costly need for emergency food assistance in our community and will support our Jackson County neighbors.

Harvesters is requesting that the Jackson County Legislature consider a grant of up to \$2.4 million in support of ARPA eligible food purchases for Jackson County residents. This support, along with the strong community support we have already received, will help us to continue to leverage our buying power to purchase the food that our network of partner agencies needs and will align with Jackson County's goal of using American Rescue Plan funds to help mitigate the continuing public health and economic impact of COVID-19.