

Mary Jo Spino

From: Frank White
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 2:27 PM
To: Frank White
Cc: Mary Jo Spino; Bryan O. Covinsky; Troy Schulte; Caleb Clifford
Subject: Corrected: Working Together on ARPA Funds Allocation
Attachments: Working Together on ARPA Funds Allocation.pdf

Dear Members of the Jackson County Legislature,

I hope this message finds you well. Today, I'm sharing our proposed plan for allocating the remaining ARPA funds—an effort that underscores our commitment to building a stronger, more equitable Jackson County.

Attached, you'll find a more detailed breakdown of our plan. While I'm seeking your feedback on the entire proposal, I'm particularly interested on how we can best allocate the \$25,000,000 earmarked for community investments. Your insights on this are crucial, and I believe that by working together, we can move quickly to begin the solicitation process, if required, and ensure these funds reach the initiatives that will have the most impact.

I'd appreciate not only your feedback but also your availability for any discussions we may need to have as we refine this plan. Let's continue our work to meet the needs of our county and ensure that every resident benefits from our efforts.

Thank you for your dedication and partnership.

Sincerely,

Frank White, Jr.
Jackson County Executive



FRANK WHITE, JR.
Jackson County Executive

August 5, 2024

Dear Members of the Jackson County Legislature,

I want to take a moment to express my deep appreciation for every member of this Legislature for your input, professionalism and willingness to come together — sometimes across differences — for the greater good of our community. I'm particularly grateful to Chair Lauer for her leadership and partnership in moving forward with a resolution that provides a responsible path for the allocation of the remaining ARPA funds. Your dedication to our shared mission of public service has never been more important and I look forward to what we can achieve together.

Now, as we confront the significant needs in our county, we all recognize that the work ahead won't be easy. The reality is that the need far exceeds the resources at our disposal. We're faced with difficult decisions — decisions that will require us to balance our support for the many tremendous non-profits and public service providers who do essential work, with the equally important need to ensure that Jackson County itself can continue to provide the critical services our residents depend on.

It's easy to overlook the importance of things like improving the ADA accessibility of our facilities or ensuring that our hardworking county associates are fairly compensated. These aren't the kinds of projects that make the front pages, but they are the foundation of what we do — they're about delivering essential services, about fairness, about doing what's right. So, as we move forward, we must strike a careful balance that reflects the full scope of our responsibilities.

Today, I'm proud to support the resolution introduced by Chair Lauer. This resolution provides a thoughtful breakdown of how we can use the remaining ARPA funds to address both the immediate and long-term needs of our county. It offers us a framework, but also the flexibility to adapt as we finalize our plans, ensuring we can support as many vital projects and programs as possible.

Here's how we currently see the funding being allocated:

- **Community Investments (Non-profits, municipalities, public schools, etc.): \$25,000,000.00**
This funding will go to initiatives that strengthen our communities and address urgent needs. Cities, school districts, and other local entities, in addition to non-profits, can apply for these funds. We're talking about programs such as a **Small Business Loan Program** to help our local economy recover, an **Older Resident Home Repair Program** to ensure our seniors can live safely and comfortably while they age in place, as well as **Investments in Community Gathering Places** like neighborhood pools,



parks, and community centers, and initiatives to expand and reduce the cost of childcare. We're also looking at critical areas like **Affordable Housing**, **Food Insecurity**, and **Violent Crime Prevention**—prioritizing our most vulnerable by investing in programs that directly impact the quality of life for our residents.

- **Public Health: \$3,500,000.00**

Investing in public health is more important now than ever. These funds will enhance our public health programming, bridging divides and reducing the health disparities that we know exist in our county. This is about ensuring that everyone, regardless of where they live, has access to the care they need to lead healthy, productive lives.

- **Countywide Capital Improvements: \$29,300,000.00**

We've got shovel-ready projects that can make a real difference. Improving ADA accessibility, safety, and security at our downtown courthouse will make it a place where everyone feels welcome and secure. Completing our new administrative headquarters will ensure that residents have access to free parking, ADA-accessible services, and a better overall customer experience when they engage with county services.

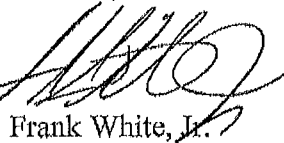
- **Infrastructure: \$12,000,000.00**

Wise investment in our infrastructure is essential. This funding will give us a clear understanding of the current condition of all county facilities, including our juvenile justice properties and the county-owned hospitals operated by University Health. In addition, this funding will allow the county to develop a detailed plan on how to address future infrastructure needs. It's about making sure our public spaces are well-maintained and used effectively, so they continue to serve the people of Jackson County for years to come.

Total ARPA Allocation: \$69,800,000.00

While this gives us a roadmap, I know our work isn't finished. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and collaborating with each of you as we refine this plan. Together, we can ensure that it meets the needs of our constituents and positions Jackson County for long-term success.

Sincerely,



Frank White, Jr.
Jackson County Executive