



CITY OF FERNLEY

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 1, 2021

REPORT TO:	Mayor and City Council
REPORT FROM:	Trisha Conner, Assistant to the City Manager
REVIWED BY:	Daphne Hooper, City Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Brandi Jensen, City Attorney
REVIEWED BY:	Denise Lewis, City Treasurer

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>	CURRENTLY BUDGETED: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FUND/ACCOUNT: ARPA Funds 220-480-810
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ACTION REQUESTED: Consent Ordinance Resolution Motion Receive/File

AGENDA ITEM: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of the American Rescue Plan Act subaward agreement between the City of Fernley and Lyon County Human Services to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency in the amount of \$112,829.00.

Agenda Item Brief: Staff would like to present the Lyon County Human Services proposal for \$112,829.00 to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing rent/mortgage assistance, and utility assistance; provide services to disproportionately impacted communities by providing healthy childhood environments with childcare assistance; providing mental health services with behavioral health co-pay assistance; and addressing negative economic impacts to household through food programs.

Recommended Motion:
"I move to approve the ARPA subaward agreement between the City of Fernley and Lyon County in the amount of \$112,829.00 to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency."

Business Impact (per NRS Chapter 237):

A Business Impact Statement is Attached.

A Business Impact Statement is not required because this is not a rule (term excludes vehicles by which legislative powers are exercised under NRS Chapters 271, 278, 278A, or 278B).

See attached report for background, analysis, alternatives.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council may make any amendments or adjustments.

BACKGROUND:

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act to help states and localities address the economic and health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Fund) provides for payments to non-entitlement units of local government (NEUs), which are local governments typically serving a population under 50,000.

City Council adopted Resolution 21-005 on July 21, 2021, accepting \$18,921,964.50 from the Fund knowing the City would receive half of the advanced funds in July 2021 and the other half in July 2022. Subsequently, an amendment was presented to Council on August 4, 2021, to include an amendment, which provides a total of \$20,972,921.50.

The Secretary of the Treasury issued the Interim Final Rule to implement the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act, which states Congress provided State, local, and Tribal governments with significant resources to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts through four categories:

- To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small business, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

It further states that recipients should assess the connection between the negative economic harm and the COVID-19 public health emergency, the nature and extent of that harm, and how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Federal guidance provides eligible uses for responding to the negative economic impacts resulting from the pandemic. The City of Fernley and Lyon County Human Services has identified the following areas for consideration:

Assistance to Households: Assistance to households or populations facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19 is an eligible use. This includes food assistance; rent, mortgage, or utility assistance; counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness; cash assistance; emergency assistance for burials, home repairs, weatherization, or other needs; internet access or digital literacy assistance; or job training to address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker's occupation or level of training.

Promoting Healthy Childhood Environments: Children's economic and family circumstances have a long-term impact on their future economic outcomes. Increases in economic hardship, material insecurity, and parental stress and behavioral health challenges all raise the risk of long-term harms to today's children due to the pandemic.

Behavioral Health Care: New or enhanced State, local, and Tribal government services may be needed to meet behavioral health needs exacerbated by the pandemic and respond to other public health impacts. These services include mental health treatment, substance misuse treatment, other behavioral health services, hotlines or warmlines, crisis intervention, overdose prevention, infectious disease prevention, and services or outreach to promote access to physical or behavioral health primary care and preventative medicine.

PROPOSED PLAN:

City Council approve the ARPA Spending Plan on August 4, 2021. The plan set aside \$8 million for Wastewater Infrastructure; \$12 million for the Community Resource & Response Center; and \$151,323.00 for the Boys & Girls Club; leaving \$821,598.50 for other eligible needs and requests to be determined and presented to Council prior to expenditure.

Staff would like to present the Lyon County Human Services proposal for \$112,829.00 to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing rent/mortgage assistance, and utility assistance; provide services to disproportionately impacted communities by providing healthy childhood environments with childcare assistance; providing mental health services with behavioral health co-pay assistance; and addressing negative economic impacts to household through food programs.

Rent/Mortgage Assistance (\$1127 (avg rent)*2 months * 20 households)	\$45,080
Utility Assistance (180 (avg bill)*2 months*20 households)	\$7,200
Child Care Assistance (\$200/one month * 20 households)	\$4,000
Behavioral Health Co-pays (\$50 per visit * 12 visits *10 individuals)	\$6,000
Hot Shot/Meal Star Truck – Home Delivered Meals	\$50,549
TOTAL	\$112,829

The subaward agreement with Lyon County Human Services will “provide direct assistance aids individuals and families at economic risk overcome situational instances that are caused directly or indirectly by the pandemic and allows them to regain their financial stability. This is done by assessing the current financial hardship through bank statements, utility bills, and other invoices, and verifying to the best of our ability their COVID impact. LCHS obtains release of information forms to allow staff to reach out to businesses and other companies to verify the impact such as lost wages, reduction in service, etc. A self-declaration statement is obtained by the individual seeking assistance and review of all their applicable documents shows impact” (Lyon County Proposal, 2021).

In addition to the financial assistance, Lyon County is proposing the purchase of a Hot Shot/Meal Star Truck for Home Delivered Meals. According to LCHS, “home-delivered meals in itself is not an evidence-based intervention; however, there is a significant body of research calling for the need to have these types of programs evaluated for future pandemic response. The CDC recommends Meals on Wheels for individuals with diminished mobility as a food system resource during the COVID-19 pandemic (<https://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/resources-publications/food-and-food-system-resources-during-covid-19-pandemic.html>). LCHS is a Meals on Wheels affiliate. There is also significant research support the Nutrition Services Program offered through the Older Americans Act (of which LCHS is an NSP recipient and compliant with all nutrition guidelines, menus, and preparation) is a critical program during the pandemic for our compromised older adults (<https://www.mathematica.org/blogs/providing-vulnerable-older-adults-with-nutritious-meals-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>). One article outlines the critical aspects of good nutrition to fight viral infections such as COVID-19 (Frontiers | COVID-19 and Food: Challenges and Research Needs | Nutrition (frontiersin.org))). During the 20/21 fiscal year LCHS provided 10,395 home delivered meals to older adults in the Fernley area.”

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the approval of the agreement with Lyon County as they’ve provided this service for the City using CARES Act funding and staff is confident in their internal process in determining need and verifying through documentation that the need a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Staff will reimburse LCHS expenses for the rent/mortgage assistance; utility assistance; childcare assistance; and behavioral health co-pay assistance that are directly or indirectly linked to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Hot Shot/Meal Star Truck expense will, also, be reimbursed by the City of Fernley for the use, possession, ownership to Lyon County Human Services for the purpose of Home Delivered Meals program in Fernley. The Home Delivered Meals program will mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 public health emergency by decreasing congregation at the Fernley Senior Center with our vulnerable populations. The meal delivers not only provide nutritious meals but it also provides time for LCHS staff conduct health checks on a regular basis.

Balance of the ARPA Funding:

Project	Description	Amount
Wastewater Infrastructure	Funding will be used to complete capital projects established in Capital Improvement Plan for wastewater.	\$8,000,000
Community Resource and Response Center	Development of a Community Resource and Response Center that will provide a designated location for vaccine distribution and testing, food distribution, programs and services related to the direct impacts of COVID-19 and the negative economic harm caused including but not limited to food insecurity, childcare, educational needs, mental health.	\$12,000,000
Boys & Girls Club – The Club operational costs and personnel salaries & benefits	Addressing educational disparities and promoting healthy childhood environments.	\$151,323.00
Lyon County Human Services	Respond to negative economic impacts, provide services to disproportionately impacted communities, mental health services, and household assistance food programs.	\$112,829.00
To Be Determine	Other eligible needs and requests will be presented to Council prior to expenditures	\$708,769.50
TOTAL		\$20,972,921.50

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

The City of Fernley must comply with Department of the Treasury, 31 CFR Part 35, Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

A formal expenditure plan will be presented to the City Council for approval prior to any obligation of these funds. Funds may be used for eligible costs incurred during the period beginning March 3, 2021, and ending December 31, 2024, for purposes established in the Act. Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and projects in progress must be completed by December 31, 2026. Any funds not obligated by December 31, 2024, must be returned.

ATTACHMENTS:

Subaward Agreement
Lyon County Human Services Proposal