

# CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## AGENDA ITEM

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**Petitioner:** Yolanda King, County Manager

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**Recommendation:**

**Receive information from community stakeholders regarding the immediate and long-term needs of the community as a result of the pandemic and its negative economic impacts and, in particular, the needs of households that were disproportionately and negatively impacted by the public health emergency and direct staff accordingly. (For possible action)**

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Fund #:	N/A	Fund Name:	N/A
Fund Center:	N/A	Funded PGM/Grant:	N/A
Amount:	N/A		
Description:	N/A		
Additional Comments:	N/A		

**BACKGROUND:**

Clark County was recently awarded \$440 million in Coronavirus State and Local Government Fiscal Recovery Funds (Fiscal Recovery Funds) under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These resources lay the foundation for a strong, equitable economic recovery, not only by providing immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses, but also by addressing the systemic public health and economic challenges that may have contributed to more severe impacts of the pandemic among low-income communities and people of color. Low-income communities and workers and people of color have faced more severe health and economic outcomes during the pandemic, with pre-existing social vulnerabilities such as low-wage or insecure employment, concentrated neighborhoods with less economic opportunity, and pre-existing health disparities likely contributing to the magnified impact of the pandemic.

Under ARPA, local governments have been afforded greater discretion in designated low-income areas. There are approximately 100 of these Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) within Clark County. This additional discretion is intended to allow local governments to address systematic public health and economic challenges that hinder these communities.

Other areas of public health have also been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, several surveys have shown an increase in reported symptoms of depression or anxiety in American adults. The proportion of children's emergency room visits related to mental health has also risen noticeably. Similarly, rates of substance misuse and overdose deaths have spiked: preliminary data from the CDC show a nearly 30 percent increase in drug overdose mortality from September 2019 to September 2020. Stay-at-home orders and other pandemic responses may have also reduced the ability of individuals affected by domestic violence to access services.

Cleared for Agenda

**07/13/2021**

File ID#

**21-986**

Clark County is requesting community stakeholders to provide a brief overview of potential programs and services designed to address the challenges our hardest hit communities are facing. Eligible programs and services include but are not limited to the following:

- Improve access to healthcare, behavioral health, and substance abuse services;
- Evidence-based community violence intervention programs;
- Assistance to households or populations facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19;
  - o food assistance; rent, mortgage, or utility assistance; counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness; emergency assistance for burials, home repairs, weatherization, or other needs; internet access or digital literacy assistance; or job training
- U.S. Treasury will presume that certain types of services, outlined below, are eligible uses when provided in a QCT, to families and individuals living in QCTs:
  - o New, expanded, or enhanced early learning services;
  - o Evidence-based educational services and practices to address the academic needs of students; including tutoring, summer, after school, and other extended learning and enrichment programs;
  - o Evidence-based practices to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students;
  - o New or expanded high-quality childcare to provide safe and supportive care for children;
  - o Home visiting programs to provide structured visits from health, parent educators, and social service professionals to pregnant women or families with young children; and
  - o Enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth to provide support and training on child development, positive parenting, coping skills, or recovery for mental health and substance use challenges.
- More information regarding eligible services can be found in the attached Interim Final Rule (pages 10 – 33)

Presentations should provide a brief overview of the program and should include the following:

- Identify the community needs and barriers addressed;
- Identify which of the County's attached "Strategic Priorities" the program addresses;
- How the services provided will assist in the community's overall recovery;
- How the services provided will address root causes and lead to sustainable improvements;
- How many individuals, units or households will be impacted;
- Estimated cost of the program;
- The intended outcomes; and
- How the outcomes will be measured.