

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM

Petitioner: Yolanda King, County Manager

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 small businesses and individuals requiring job training in order to re-enter the workforce and direct staff accordingly. (For possible action)

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. As the economy recovers, the effects of the pandemic-related recession may continue to impact households, including a risk of longer-term effects on earnings and economic potential.

The pandemic has also severely impacted many businesses, with small businesses hit especially hard. Small businesses make up nearly half of the U.S. private-sector employment and play a key role in supporting the overall economic recovery. Since the beginning of the pandemic, small businesses have closed, with many more at risk. Sectors with a large share of small business employment have been among those with the most drastic drops in employment. The negative outlook for small businesses has continued: as of April 2021, approximately 70 percent of U.S. small businesses reported that the pandemic has had a moderate or large negative effect on their business, and over a third expect that it will take over 6 months for their business to return to their normal level of operations. This negative outlook is likely the result of many small businesses having faced periods of closure and having seen declining revenues as customers stayed home. In general, small businesses can face greater hurdles in accessing credit, and many small businesses were already financially fragile at the outset of the pandemic.

Clark County is requesting community stakeholders to provide a brief overview of potential programs and services designed to address the challenges unemployed and/or underemployed individuals and small businesses are facing. Eligible programs and services include but are not limited to the following:

Cleared for Agenda

07/15/2021

File ID#

21-996

- Assistance to Unemployed and Underemployed Workers
 - o Job training to accelerate rehiring of unemployed workers; these services may extend to workers unemployed due to the pandemic or the resulting recession, or who were already unemployed when the pandemic began and remain so due to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. ARPA particularly recommends job training in low income disproportionately impacted census tracts.
- Assistance to Small Businesses
 - o Loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship such as declines in revenues or impacts of periods of business closure, for example by supporting payroll and benefits costs, costs to retain employees, mortgage, rent, or utilities costs, and other operating costs;
 - o Loans, grants, or in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, such as physical facility changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers or partitions, or COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or contact tracing programs; and
 - o Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs.
- More information regarding eligible services can be found in the attached Interim Final Rule (pages 10 – 35)

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

- Identify the individual and small business 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, employees or businesses will be impacted;
- Estimated cost of the program;
- The intended outcomes; and
- How the outcomes will be measured.