

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 need for future investment in public health, water, sewer and broadband infrastructure 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. These resources lay the foundation for a strong, equitable economic recovery, but also by addressing the systemic public health, safety, and infrastructure challenges that may have contributed to more severe impacts of the pandemic. Mitigating the impact of COVID-19, including taking actions to control its spread and support hospitals and health care workers caring for the sick, continues to require a major public health response. The need for public health measures to respond to COVID-19 will continue in the months and potentially years to come. The long-term health impacts of COVID-19 will continue to require a public health response, including medical services for individuals with “long COVID,” and research to understand how COVID-19 impacts future health needs and raises risks for those who have been infected.

Clean drinking water and services for the collection and treatment of wastewater and stormwater play a critical role in protecting public health. In recognition of this critical service, the Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used to make necessary investments in water and sewer infrastructure.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has also underscored the importance of universally available, high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband coverage as millions of Americans rely on the internet to participate in, among critical activities, remote school, healthcare, and work. Recognizing the need for such connectivity, the Fiscal Recovery Funds may also be used to make necessary investments in broadband infrastructure.

Clark County is requesting community stakeholders to provide a brief overview of potential investments in public health, safety, water, sewer and broadband infrastructure needed to address the challenges facing the community. Eligible programs and services include but are not limited to the following:

Cleared for Agenda

07/20/2021

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- Public Health and Safety
 - o COVID-19 testing, major expansions in contact tracing, vaccination, support for individuals in isolation or quarantine, enforcement of public health orders, new public communication efforts, public health surveillance, enhancement to health care capacity through alternative care facilities, and enhancement of public health data systems to meet new demands or scaling needs; and
 - o Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs, such as physical facility improvements to public hospitals and health clinics or adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics.
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Eligible projects are aligned with the wide range of types or categories of projects that would be eligible to receive financial assistance through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) including but not limited to:

- o Water infrastructure capital improvements, including the installation and replacement of failing treatment and distribution systems;
 - o Improve drinking water infrastructure, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems, including replacement of lead service lines; and
 - o Improve water quality and address water pollution through projects to construct, improve, and repair wastewater treatment plants, control non-point sources of pollution, improve resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events, create green infrastructure, and protect waterbodies from pollution.
- Broadband Infrastructure
 - o Investments in broadband designed to provide services meeting adequate speeds and are provided to unserved and underserved households and businesses;
 - o Designed to deliver, upon project completion, service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps;
 - o Integrate affordability options in the program design; and
 - o Prioritize projects that achieve last mile-connections.
- More information regarding eligible services can be found in the attached Interim Final Rule (pages 10 – 21 and 62 - 77)

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

- Identify the infrastructure needs;
- How the investment will assist in the community's overall recovery;
- The intended outcomes; and
- How the outcomes will be measured.