



LOUDOUN HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK
P.O. Box 803 • Leesburg, Virginia 20178

February 13, 2023

Dear Board of Supervisors FGOEDE Committee, Mr. Hemstreet, Ms. Turner, Mr. Sandy, and Ms. Cox:

On behalf of the Loudoun Human Services Network, we want to express our appreciation for the county staff's time and hard work to develop funding recommendations for the \$2.5 million ARPA Tranche 2 grant proposals received to support emergency assistance provided by nonprofits, as well as the proposed uses of the remaining \$7.5 million of ARPA funding currently reserved.

Below we express the LHSN's perspective on the two ARPA items on the agenda for the February 14, 2023 FGOEDC meeting, as well as questions that our members have related to the items. We very much appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective and questions with staff and the FGODEC members.

ARPA Tranche 2 – Nonprofit Grants

Many LHSN member organizations submitted funding proposals for consideration in Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 (and some member organizations also submitted proposals not considered for funding). Therefore, we are unable to provide a Network endorsement of either scenario.

However, LHSN supports Board action that would deploy this funding into the community as soon as possible. The need for the services for Loudoun County residents and outlined in the grant proposals submitted for this funding continues to mount to critical levels.

In addition to urging the County to make these funds available for emergency services as soon as possible, we also have some questions below regarding the Tranche 2 recommendations. We appreciate the Board and staff's consideration of our questions, but do not wish for our questions to delay funding decisions or disbursements.

Question 1: Does the \$250,000 for the child care needs assessment need to come out of the \$2,500,000 allocated for grants to fund emergency services provided by nonprofits? The April 19, 2022 Board Item indicated that the \$3,000,000 of the Tranche 2 ARPA funding was allocated for grants to fund emergency services provided by nonprofits, with \$500,000 of that amount allocated to the CDBG Program. The April 19 item indicated one possible use of the remaining \$7.5M could provide \$250,000 for the child care needs assessment. Nonprofits were told during the September ARPA pre-application workshops and again during the October 6 information session regarding grant opportunities and ARPA eligibility requirements that \$2,500,000 from ARPA

Tranche 2 would be available for funding emergency services provided by nonprofits. In addition, LHSN provided an email to the Board of Supervisors on April 19, 2022 supporting the staff recommendation of \$3,000,000 specifically for grants supporting emergency services provided by nonprofits. While LHSN recognizes the necessity and importance of the mandated child care needs assessment and supports improved access to affordable child care in our community, to learn that the assessment will be funded out of the dollars allocated for emergency services comes as a surprise after previous interactions with county staff.

Question 2: What is the timeline for executing the \$5.75M rental assistance program funded through the \$12M ARPA allocations presented by the DHCD to the Board of Supervisors on January 17, 2023? The footnote on page 9 of the February 14 Tranche 2 Nonprofit Grant item states “Recommendation for rental assistance removed due to existing rental assistance program put forth by Housing in Item presented to Board of Supervisors on January 17, 2023,” even though rental assistance was clearly stated as an Area of Need in the [ARPA Tranche 2 grant application manual](#). While LHSN can appreciate the need to restructure how various services will be funded with ARPA dollars to best maximize resources, there’s concern about the length of time a procurement process will take to select the provider(s) to administer the rental assistance program when the need is at a critical level. Evictions are rising at an alarming rate. It would be helpful to know an approximate timeline for the implementing the \$5.75M rental relief program so organizations can plan accordingly in the interim.

In addition to the questions above, LHSN would also like to provide additional information from our member organizations’ perspective regarding the Tranche 2 Nonprofit Grant item.

1. Regarding the table on page 13 titled “Organizations with Multiple Requests,” we wish to clarify for the Board of Supervisors that organizations were guided and encouraged by staff to submit multiple requests if they proposed to address different areas as stated in the Area of Need section of the ARPA Tranche 2 grant application manual.
2. On page 10 under “Implications,” it states: “To be selected to administer a program on behalf of the County, the potential grantee must demonstrate its ability to provide the necessary data to report effectively to U.S. Department of Treasury. Please note that the County may be held liable for reporting issues.” LHSN can appreciate the need for grantees to provide the necessary data for reporting.

However, it is important to note that the guidelines for the Tranche 2 grant application stated that Tranche 2 funding was not intended to hire new staff ([page 10 under “Itemized Spending Plan for Requested”](#)). From our member organizations’ perspective,



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it is reasonable to include as part of a grant application budget an allocation for additional staff resources to manage large grant awards with such strenuous reporting requirements, especially given the stated shift from Tranche 1 to Tranche 2 to award much larger grants in the second round. The inability to add additional staff to assist with grant compliance and monitoring requirements was a limitation that impacted nonprofit applicants.

ARPA Reserve Funding

In addition to our questions above regarding the recommendations for the \$2.5 million in grants to support emergency assistance provided by nonprofit organizations, LHSN also has additional questions related to the item recommending uses for the \$7.5 million ARPA Reserve Funding.

Question 1: What's the anticipated timeline for making the funds available to service providers for the items listed under Transformational Initiatives for Resident Support (specifically Community Support Services, Emergency Shelter Services and Case Management, Homeless Prevention and Diversion, and Housing Location Services)?

Question 2: How will community organizations, including local nonprofits, be included in the use of the housing/homelessness data system that is being considered for \$1.5M in reserved ARPA funding (in addition to \$2M from the \$12M that was allocated for Housing initiatives), and how will that system be maintained financially after ARPA funding is expended? And is this system HMIS or another housing-related data collection system?

In closing, we greatly appreciate the Board of Supervisors FGOEDC's and county staff's consideration of LHSN's perspective and questions related to these important funding decisions that will provide so much assistance to those disproportionately impacted by the long-term consequences of the pandemic. We thank you for your partnership and leadership.

Best regards,

Loudoun Human Services Network