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CLARK COUNTY
STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

DATE: 06/15/21

REQUESTED ACTION: Community Services is requesting that the county council approve the allocation of $15,500,000 in American Rescue Plan funding for the purpose of supporting the Clark County Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) in its response to increased unsheltered homelessness and authorize the County Manager to sign all related grant agreements, subcontracts, amendments, and required reports.

_X_ Consent _____ Hearing _____ County Manager

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has put significant pressure on the Clark County Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS), increasing visible unsheltered homelessness while at the same time making provision of homeless outreach services more difficult, increasing housing stabilization costs, increasing the amount of time persons are in need of services, and reducing available housing in the rental market. The upcoming end to the Governor's eviction moratorium is expected to add to these pressures. Though significant rent and utility assistance funding is in the process of being distributed throughout the county, it overwhelmingly targets households who have housing and owe rent. Funding for homeless services has not significantly increased.

To allow the Clark County HCRS to respond to the existing homeless crisis, Community Services requests $15,500,000 in one-time funding from the received American Rescue Plan funding for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the HCRS through 12/31/24 in the following ways:

$4,400,000 to increase the size, availability, coordination, and supports provided by homeless outreach teams in Clark County for a period of 2 years as well as provide flexible funds to be available for homeless outreach teams to provide housing barrier removal services, permanent housing placement support (such as move-in costs) and essential services that promote health and safety.

$800,000 for motel vouchers to increase indoor shelter bed capacity in the county along with increased staffing and operations support necessary to maintain adequate services for people sheltered in motels.

$5,000,000 for increased congregate and non-congregate shelters, support for shelters, and mitigation of increased permanent supportive housing costs for chronically homeless persons.

$300,000 for continued rental and housing supports for unhoused persons currently enrolled in a Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) pilot for which funding is currently slated to end on 06/30/21.

$2,500,000 for additional rent assistance and housing support for existing rapid rehousing programs that serve persons currently experiencing homelessness.

$2,500,000 for additional housing and support costs for existing permanent supportive housing programs.

The above amounts and service categories are estimates. Community Services requests council approval to adjust the amount of funds in each service category if higher priorities arise.

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COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS
There are no known Council policy implications.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS
There are no known administrative policy implications.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
The intent to submit this funding proposal was discussed at the County/City Joint Executive Board (JEB) on Homelessness meetings held on April 28, 2021, and June 8, 2021 and also at the Clark County council meeting on June 1, 2021.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

YES	NO	
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity.
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within existing appropriation
X		Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be referred to the county council with a recommendation from the county manager.

BUDGET DETAILS

Local Fund Dollar Amount	
Grant Fund Dollar Amount	$15,500,000
Account	Fund 1934
Company Name	

DISTRIBUTION:
Council staff will post all staff reports to the web. https://www.clark.wa.gov/council-meetings

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Michael Torres 06/10/21
Michael Andrés Torres
Program Manager II, Community Services

Vanessa Gaston 06/10/21
Vanessa Gaston
Director, Community Services

Primary Staff Contact Name and Extension: Michael Torres, 564.397.7801

APPROVED: Eileen J. O'Brien
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: June 15, 2021

SR# 106-21

APPROVED: _____
Kathleen Otto, County Manager

DATE: _____

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BUDGET IMPACT ATTACHMENT

Part I: Narrative Explanation

I. A – Explanation of what the request does that has fiscal impact and the assumptions for developing revenue and costing information:

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has provided funding under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 which was enacted on March 11, 2021.

Part II: Estimated Revenues

Fund #/Title	2021 Annual Budget		2022 Annual Budget		2023 Annual Budget	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Fund 1934		$15,500,000				
Total		**$15,500,000**				

II. A – Describe the type of revenue (grant, fees, etc.)

Part III: Estimated Expenditures

III. A – Expenditures summed up

Fund #/Title	FTE's	2021 Annual Budget		2022 Annual Budget		2023 Annual Budget	
		GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Total							

III. B – Expenditure by object category

Fund #/Title	2021 Annual Budget		2022 Annual Budget		2023 Annual Budget	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Salary/Benefits						
Contractual		$15,500,000				
Supplies						
Travel						
Other controllables						
Capital Outlays						
Inter-fund Transfers						
Debt Service						
Total		**$15,500,000**				