



### **Agenda Action Form Overview**

The Board is requested to approve staff's recommendations for ARPA funding in response to Durham County's Community Request for Proposals initiated on July 5, 2022. Proposals were requested in seven target areas including: (1.) Capacity Building and Technical Assistance for Child Care; (2.) Expanding Access to Affordable Child Care; (3.) Improving Child and Family Social-Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) - Children Ages 0-12; (4.) Improving Youth and Family Social-Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) - Youth Ages 13-24; (5.) Youth Enrichment and Recreational Activities; (6.) Capacity Building for Culturally Affirming Maternal Health Support; and (7.) Crime Intervention Initiatives. Proposals were due August 15, 2022. The RFP Guidebook is attached.

### **Background/Justification**

In March 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Of the \$1.9 trillion package, Durham County will receive \$62,445,275. Funds must be incurred and obligated by December 31, 2024. In addition, all funds must be expended to cover obligations and all work must be completed by December 31, 2026.

In May 2022, the Board of County commissioners adopted a framework for ARPA fund use, that aligned with Guiding Principles established in June 2021. The framework allocated the ARPA funds into categories that aligned with US Treasury Guidelines and the Board of County Commissioner's Strategic Plan, totaling \$62.4 million. The launched the RFP allocated \$10.4 million in key priority areas with the proposed categories listed below.

- Capacity Building and Technical Assistance for Child Care – (\$1.6 Million)
- Expanding Access to Affordable Child Care – (\$2 Million)
- Improving Child and Family Social-Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) - Children Ages 0-12 (\$1.5 Million)
- Improving Youth and Family Social-Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) - Youth Ages 13-24 (\$800,000)
- Youth Enrichment and Recreational Activities – (\$1.5 Million)
- Capacity Building for Culturally-Affirming Maternal Health Support – (\$1.5 Million)
- Crime Intervention Initiatives – (\$1.5 Million)

Sixty-nine nonprofit organizations responded to the RFP request, seeking \$20.2 million in ARPA funding. The applications were reviewed by county staff, including internal and external subject matter experts. A scoring system considered the approaches on how funding would be used including, organizational capacity, project complexity, equity, fiscal management capacity and project sustainability beyond ARPA funding availability. The attachment provides the detailed RFP Guidebook.

If the Board supports the staff recommendations, contract negotiations will occur with nonprofit organizations. Contracts will be developed to begin as early as January 2023, with an end date of with a December 31, 2024. Staff will work organizations to refine project scope based on recommended funding levels or other recommendations.



The County will bolster infrastructure to support nonprofit entities to help ensure successful project completion and adherence to fiscal controls and reporting requirements, including the coordination of organization(s) that may serve in the role of fiscal agents for some of the nonprofit organizations. The Boys and Girls Club of Durham and Orange Counties will serve as one of the fiscal agents. The Board will receive additional updates in January on partner organizations that will assist with technical assistance, contract monitoring or serve in the capacity of a fiscal agent.

**Fiscal Impact**

American Rescue Fund Act grant dollars will be allocated for this expense. Fund use must comply with US Treasury Uniform Grant Guidelines. Funds not expended in accordance to US Treasury grant guidelines will have to be reimbursed to the federal government.

**Recommendation**

The County Manager recommends that the Board approves staff's recommendations for 49 ARPA proposals totaling \$10,383,139. The Board will approve each contract during a future BOCC meeting. Negotiated contracts are scheduled to begin as early as January 2023.