

**Add-on Agenda Item #39
for
Meeting of Tuesday,
September 14, 2021**

General Business:

39. **ADDED** - Consideration of Additional COVID-19 Mitigation Measures
(County Administrator/ County Attorney/ County Administration)

This document distributed September 10, 2021.

**Leon County
Board of County Commissioners**

Notes for Agenda Item #39

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item #39

September 14, 2021

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator

Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney



Title: Consideration of Additional COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator Ken Morris, Assistant County Administrator
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Andy Johnson, Assistant to the County Administrator Kerri Post, Director, Division of Tourism Dan Rigo, Assistant County Attorney

Statement of Issue:

As directed by the Board at the September 7, 2021 Special Meeting, this item provides an analysis of policy options regarding additional mitigative measures the County may implement to slow the spread of COVID-19. Specifically, this item provides information and seeks Board direction on whether to implement a face covering requirement within Leon County Government facilities and whether to implement a requirement for Tourism grant recipients to require face coverings at County-funded events.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has no fiscal impact.

Staff Recommendation:

Option #4: Board direction.

Report and Discussion

Background:

During the September 7, 2021 Special Meeting, the Board directed staff to prepare an agenda item to explore additional mitigative measures the County may implement to slow the spread of COVID-19. Specifically, the Board requested that this item include policy options to consider implementing a face covering requirement within Leon County Government facilities and to consider a requirement for Tourism grant recipients to implement face covering requirements at indoor County-funded events. As such, this item provides an analysis of these potential mitigative measures and seeks direction as to whether the Board wishes to implement them.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance Regarding Face Coverings:

On July 27, 2021, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated guidance regarding face coverings; in summary, to maximize protection from the COVID-19 delta variant and to prevent possibly spreading it to others, the CDC recommends that all persons, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, who are in “an area of substantial or high transmission” wear a face covering in indoor public places. According to the CDC, areas of “substantial or high transmission” are counties with 50 or more new cases per 100,000 persons or 8% or greater positivity rate within the past seven days. The CDC maintains data regarding the level of community transmission which is updated daily. As of the publication of this agenda item, all counties in Florida and more than 97% of all counties nationwide are areas of substantial or high transmission.

At this time, the COVID-19 delta variant has surged nationwide, and Florida has become the epicenter of the virus. In Leon County, hospitalization rates reached all-time highs due to COVID-19 in recent weeks but have recently peaked and are trending downward. Data published by the CDC indicates that there were 602 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Leon County during the most recent seven-day reporting period (ending September 8, 2021), and the most recent case positivity rate was 11.2%. Both of these metrics have also recently peaked and are trending downward, as indicated in the graphs below. Finally, Leon County’s vaccination rate for eligible recipients is 58%, compared to 69% statewide. As discussed during the September 7 Special Meeting, the County’s vaccination rate has been steadily increasing, due in large part to the efforts of the Leon County COVID-19 Vaccination Community Education and Engagement Task Force to engage citizens and reduce vaccine hesitancy, particularly among underserved and hard-to-reach populations.

Figure 1: COVID-19 Cases in Leon County

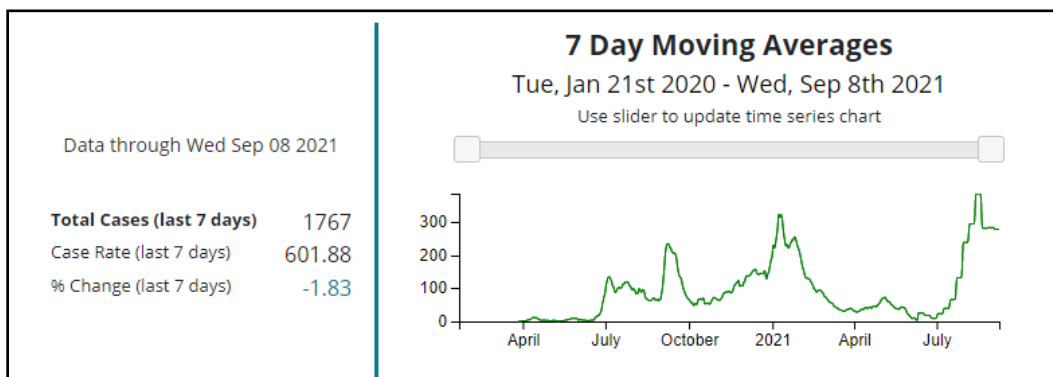


Figure 2: COVID-19 Testing and Positivity Rate in Leon County

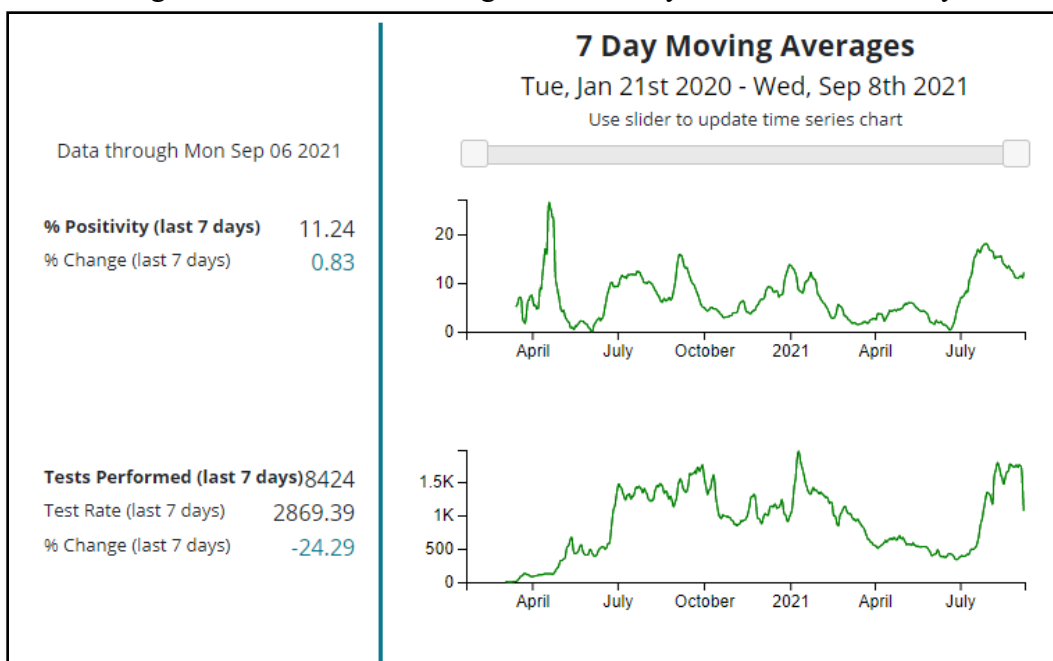
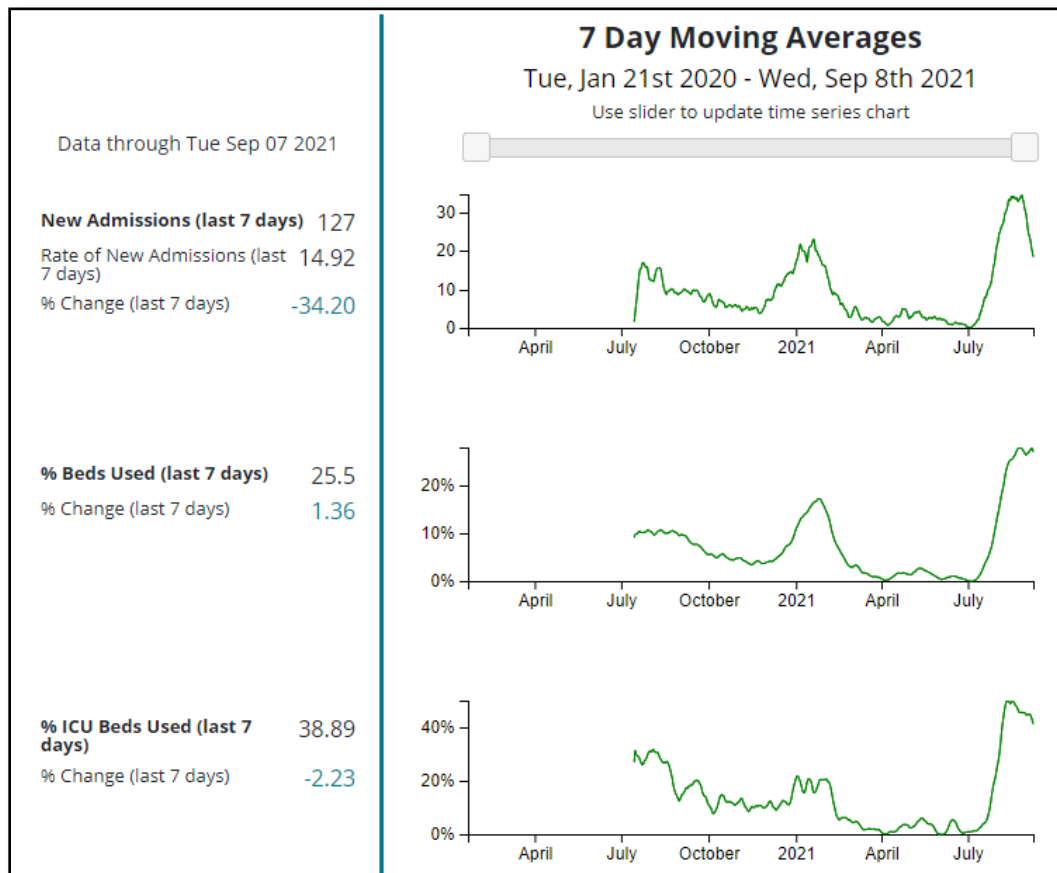


Figure 3: COVID-19 Hospitalizations in Leon County



COVID-19 Mitigative Measures for Leon County Facilities and Employees:

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Leon County Government has followed national health expert guidance with respect to face coverings, temperature screenings, and the safe conduct of County operations. Accordingly, immediately after the CDC issued the updated guidance on face coverings discussed above, the County Administrator directed all Leon County employees to do the following:

1. All Leon County employees (fully vaccinated and unvaccinated) must follow the revised CDC guidance and wear masks when indoors and unable to socially distance (at least six feet apart);
2. All Leon County employees (fully vaccinated and unvaccinated) must continue to perform COVID-19 screen protocols and forms daily when reporting to work;
3. Due to Leon County EMS' role as a health care provider, EMS employees continue to follow medical protocols as prescribed by the County's Medical Director. Since April 2020, Leon County EMS has required the use of mandatory surgical masks or N95 respirators by EMS members during all responses and has required patients and their family members to use an appropriate face covering as conditions allow.

On July 29, 2021, the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court issued Administrative Order AOSC21-17, Amendment 1, which delegated authority to chief judges throughout the state to require face masks to be worn by all persons in a courthouse or any portion thereof, among other authorities. On July 30, Chief Judge Sjoström issued Second Circuit Administrative Order 2021-05, First Amendment, requiring face coverings to be worn by all persons inside all court facilities, including the Leon County Courthouse. Chief Judge Sjoström's amended order applies to citizens, Leon County personnel, Constitutional Officers and their employees, and any other person within a court facility. Within all other Leon County facilities, all Leon County employees must adhere to the County's face covering direction as discussed above. With respect to citizens using County facilities, the County strongly recommends that all citizens follow CDC guidance and wear face coverings when indoors and unable to socially distance. Clear public health signage has been posted in entryways and on doors to County facilities, and cloth and disposable face coverings are available at no cost to any citizen in need at all County facilities. According to feedback from County facilities, the vast majority of citizens currently follow the CDC's public health guidance or do so when asked.

On July 28, the County Administrator issued a memo to all employees informing them that COVID-19 vaccines will be a condition of employment beginning October 1, 2021 (Attachment #1). As discussed during the September 7 Special Meeting, Leon County was the first local government and among the first employers of any type in the nation to implement an organization-wide vaccination requirement. The County Administrator's memo indicated that "As an employer, [Leon County Government is] required to provide a safe work environment for employees, and unvaccinated employees pose a significant risk to spread the virus. As an essential government agency, we are obligated to ensure our operational readiness to serve our community, and virus outbreaks among our workforce that could have been avoided pose a very real threat to our operational readiness." As required by federal equal employment opportunity laws, reasonable accommodations are available to employees who are unable to be vaccinated due to an ADA-covered disability, a doctor certified diagnosed medical condition which prevents an employee from receiving a vaccination, or "a sincerely held religious belief."

Of note, on September 9, President Biden announced a national strategy to combat COVID-19 which, among other provisions, provides that the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is developing a rule that will require all employers with 100 or more employees to ensure their workforce is fully vaccinated or require any workers who remain unvaccinated to produce a negative test result on at least a weekly basis before coming to work. OSHA will issue an Emergency Temporary Standard to implement this requirement. In addition, under the President's national strategy, the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking action to require COVID-19 vaccinations for workers in most health care settings that receive Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement, such as hospitals, dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical settings, and home health agencies.

COVID-19 Mitigative Measures for Events Supported by County Tourism Development Funds:

Each year, Leon County reinvests Tourist Development Taxes (TDT) generated from transient lodging sales to promote Leon County as a visitor destination. The Leon County Division of Tourism administers competitive grant programs each year for event funding through five grant

categories: Legacy, Signature/Emerging Signature, Special, and Sports events. The County's Tourism Grant Programs support many local organizations with a demonstrated history or significant potential to draw visitors to the community for an event. Separate from these grant programs, 20% of TDT revenues are also dedicated to the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA) to administer grant programs to support local cultural arts tourism programs and activities.

At the January 26, 2021 meeting, the Board approved resuming the County's sponsorship of FY 2021 Tourism event grants for outdoor and virtual events beginning March 1, 2021 with a requirement that event organizers submit and enforce mitigation plans as a condition of County funding. Each applicant's plan must include strategies to maintain healthy environments and operations for all event staff and attendees. All FY 2021 COCA grant recipients were also required to submit COVID-19 safety plans as a condition of receiving funding. The Board did not approve resuming the County's sponsorship of indoor events at that time.

At the May 11, 2021 meeting, the Board directed the County Administrator to implement Phase 3 of the Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan. In Phase 3, the County continues its sponsorship of these outdoor and virtual events with a recommendation to event operators, rather than a requirement, that they continue to enforce any safety plans that were previously submitted. In addition, the County resumed its sponsorship of indoor visitor-generating events in Phase 3, similarly encouraging event organizers and attendees to follow current CDC guidance related to COVID-19 mitigation, including face coverings.

The FY 2022 Signature/Emerging Signature, Special, and Sports grant recommendations for 67 events were approved by the Tourist Development Council at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Multiyear agreements for Legacy Event grants will be presented to the Board for consideration and approval later this fall. FY 2022 COCA grant applications are anticipated to be scored by COCA's grant review panel on October 1, considered by the COCA Board of Directors at its October 28 meeting, and forwarded to the Tourist Development Council for approval at its November 4 meeting.

Analysis:

As discussed in the Background section above, Leon County has implemented significant mitigative measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. Importantly, the strategies discussed in this item relate only to County facilities, operations, personnel, and County-funded Tourism event grants; as discussed in several previous agenda items and updates to the Board, the County continues to administer tens of millions of dollars in federal assistance to support communitywide COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. This assistance continues to support public health measures throughout the community, rent and utility assistance for low-income households, assistance to the local business and nonprofit communities, and many more strategies to increase the communitywide vaccination rate, mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and support the community's economic recovery. A comprehensive summary of these efforts was provided to the Board during the May 25, 2021 Budget Workshop and is included as Attachment #2 to this agenda item for reference.

In addition to the mitigative measures discussed above, as directed by the Board during the September 7 Special Meeting, the Analysis section of this item discusses two additional policy

options for the Board's consideration: implementing a face covering requirement within Leon County Government facilities, and requiring grantees to enforce face covering requirements at events supported by Leon County tourism development funds.

Requiring Face Coverings in Leon County Government Facilities:

As discussed in the Background section above, Leon County has followed CDC public guidance throughout the pandemic with respect to face coverings, temperature screenings, and the safe conduct of County operations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The County has posted clear signage in all facilities, is providing free face coverings to any citizen who needs one, and the vast majority of citizens are currently following the CDC's public health guidance or do so when asked. However, should the Board wish to implement a requirement for face coverings to be worn within County facilities, it may do so by a majority vote of the Board. According to the County Attorney's Office, the County has the legal authority as a property owner to implement this requirement on properties it owns. If the Board implements a face covering requirement, it is recommended that it apply to indoor areas where Leon County Government business is conducted, such as County office areas and libraries; this analysis does not recommend applying this requirement to private tenants of County buildings, lobbies and common areas within County buildings which also house private tenants, or Constitutional Offices. Should the Board implement this requirement, clear signage would be posted at entrances and on doors to all County facilities and areas where face coverings are required, and the County would continue to provide free face coverings to any citizen who needs one.

The County's posture throughout the pandemic has always been and will continue to be to seek voluntary compliance with public health guidance and directives. However, although not recommended in this item, the Board may also enact an Ordinance establishing penalties for noncompliance should it wish to do so. In this instance, as provided by Sec. 1-9 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida, violation of such an Ordinance would be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding 60 days; or alternatively, the Board may adopt an Ordinance that provides for civil rather than criminal penalties. In either case, the County would work with the Leon County Sheriff's Office to enforce such an Ordinance. The normal adoption procedure for a County Ordinance requires that the County advertise the public hearing at which the Ordinance is to be considered with a ten-day notice; under this process, the Board could consider such an Ordinance at a September 28 public hearing. Alternatively, the Board may adopt such an Ordinance on an emergency basis at the September 14 meeting; to do so, the Board would need to determine that an emergency exists and that there is a need for an emergency Ordinance. This process requires an affirmative vote of four-fifths of the Board for adoption. According to the County Attorney's Office, such an Ordinance would not fall under the definition of "emergency order" under Sec. 252.38(4), Florida Statutes, which was created by the Florida Legislature during the 2021 session and provides that emergency orders automatically expire seven days after issuance but may be extended in seven-day increments for a maximum of 42 days.

Whether by majority vote of the Board or by Ordinance, should the Board wish to require face coverings to be worn within Leon County facilities, the County is required to provide accessible services to all citizens, regardless of whether they choose to wear a face covering. As such, should

the Board establish a face covering requirement, the County would make accommodations across all work areas to provide services outside County buildings for citizens who may not wish to wear a face covering. In the event that a citizen refuses to wear a mask or receive accommodative services outside the facility, County staff would continue to make every effort to safely provide services inside the facility by attempting to de-escalate any potential conflict and offering a free face covering. At that point, if a citizen continues to refuse, staff would make the best attempt possible to maintain social distance while providing services inside the facility.

It is recommended that any face covering requirement within County facilities remain in place until such time as Leon County is no longer an area of “substantial or high transmission” as defined by the CDC. At that time, the County would recommend that unvaccinated persons continue to wear face coverings and would continue to provide free face coverings to any citizen who may need one.

Requiring Face Coverings at Tourism Grant-Funded Events:

As discussed in the previous Background section of this item, grant agreements have not yet been executed for FY 2022 Signature/Emerging Signature, Special, and Sports grants, FY 2022 Legacy Event grants, or FY 2022 COCA grants. Should it wish to do so, the Board may require these grantees to implement and enforce face covering requirements at County-funded events as a condition of receiving this grant funding.

At this time, the latest CDC guidance indicates that face coverings are generally not needed in outdoor settings. In areas of high community transition, the guidance recommends that people “consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.” Accordingly, should the Board wish to implement this requirement, it is recommended that it apply only to indoor events. As discussed above regarding face coverings in County facilities, it is recommended that any face covering requirement for Tourism and COCA events remain in place until such time as Leon County is no longer an area of “substantial or high transmission” as defined by the CDC.

Options:

1. Accept the update on additional COVID-19 mitigation measures and take no additional action.
2. Require face coverings to be worn by all persons in Leon County Government facilities until such time as Leon County is no longer an area of “substantial or high transmission” of COVID-19 as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
3. Direct staff to include a requirement in all FY 2022 Tourism event grant and FY 2022 COCA grant agreements for grantees to implement and enforce face covering requirements.
4. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Option #4

Attachments:

1. County Administrator memorandum to County employees, July 28, 2021
2. May 25, 2021 Budget Workshop Agenda Item, "Proposed Expenditure Plan for the County's Allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act"



Leon County Government

INTEROFFICE MEMO

DATE: July 28, 2021

TO: All Leon County Employees
(under the supervision of the County Administrator and the County Attorney)

FROM: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccination Memo

Today, as vaccinations stagnate and the delta variant has created a resurgence of the COVID 19 virus with the state of Florida at its epicenter, vaccinations against COVID 19 will now become a condition of employment at Leon County Government for new and existing employees under the supervision of the County Administrator and the County Attorney.

As you all know, Leon County employees have been on the front lines in combating the COVID 19 pandemic for over a year and a half. It has been both a humbling and a very proud time to be a County employee. As an organization, we have risen to seemingly endless challenges, and as co-workers we have adapted to changing working conditions that I know none of us ever contemplated. Through the darkest days of the pandemic we learned first-hand, despite extraordinary efforts, just how limited we were as individuals and as a community to protect those most vulnerable to the virus. We also learned first-hand the enormity of the resources that would be required to attempt to restore the livelihoods disrupted due to the virus. And, of course, our efforts to promote vaccines, which have been proven to be highly effective to protect against the virus, have been exhaustive.

This is very simple and very serious. As an employer, we are required to provide a safe work environment for employees, and unvaccinated employees pose a significant risk to spread the virus. As an essential government agency, we are obligated to ensure our operational readiness to serve our community, and virus outbreaks among our workforce that could have been avoided pose a very real threat to our operational readiness.

Implementation

All employees will have until October 1, 2021 to become fully vaccinated and provide vaccination verification to Leon County Human Resources on or before that date. Vaccination verifications will not be accepted after October 1, 2021 for existing employees. Employees who fail to get vaccinated (except in the case where an accommodation has been granted) will be terminated. All new employees will be

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required to be fully vaccinated before starting employment. For employees who receive the 2-dose vaccine, “fully vaccinated” means two weeks following the administration of the second dose. For employees who receive the 1-dose vaccine, “fully vaccinated” means two weeks following the administration of the vaccine.

Employees may begin immediately providing vaccine verifications to Candice Wilson, the Director of Human Resources, at 315 S. Calhoun Street, #210, Tallahassee, Florida 32301, in a sealed envelope marked “CONFIDENTIAL” via intra-office mail or hand-delivery. These vaccine verifications constitute medical information and will be kept confidential.

Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be available to employees who are unable to be vaccinated due to an ADA-covered disability, a doctor certified diagnosed medical condition which prevents an employee from receiving a vaccination or “a sincerely held religious belief.” Requests for such accommodation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and granted, if applicable, consistent with the law and EEOC guidance. Accommodation request forms will be available on Monday, August 2, 2021 on the Human Resources page on the County intranet site.

In order to give employees whose requests for an accommodation have been denied time to get vaccinated, the accommodation request form must be completed and submitted to Leon County Human Resources on or before August 16, 2021. The information in an accommodation request form that contains medical information will be kept confidential. Employees may begin sending accommodation request forms to Candice Wilson, the Director of Human Resources, at 315 S. Calhoun Street, #, Tallahassee, Florida 32301, on Monday, August 2, 2021, in a sealed envelope marked “CONFIDENTIAL” and delivered via intra-office mail or hand-delivery.

Employees who are granted an accommodation to this condition of employment will be required to wear a mask at all times while at work. In addition, the County may opt to require that unvaccinated employees submit a negative COVID test on a weekly basis.

All employees may contact Candice Wilson, Director of Human Resources, for additional details if necessary. I appreciate all your efforts and together we will do all that we can to provide a safe workplace for Leon County employees, to ensure our operational readiness to serve our community, and to continue to protect our most vulnerable citizens.

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Budget Workshop Item #2

May 25, 2021

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator

Title: Proposed Expenditure Plan for the County's Allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator Wanda Hunter, Assistant County Administrator Ken Morris, Assistant County Administrator
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Andy Johnson, Assistant to the County Administrator Nicki Paden, Management Analyst Mathieu Cavell, Assistant to the County Administrator Shington Lamy, Director of Human Services and Community Partnerships Cristina Parades, Director, Office of Economic Vitality Scott Ross, Director, Office of Financial Stewardship Michelle Taylor, Director, Office of Information and Technology

Statement of Issue:

This budget discussion item seeks Board consideration of a proposed expenditure plan (Attachment #1) for Leon County's allocation of \$57.0 million in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The proposed expenditure plan would mitigate significant revenue impacts incurred by Leon County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, provide one-time funds to support major wastewater infrastructure improvements, and address remaining community recovery needs in the areas of public health, human services, and small business support.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has a fiscal impact. Leon County is eligible to receive up to \$57.0 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the federal American Rescue Plan Act. The attached Resolution and Budget Amendment Request (Attachment #2) would allocate these funds as recommended in the proposed expenditure plan.

Title: Proposed Expenditure Plan for the County's Allocation of Coronavirus State and Local
Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act

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Staff Recommendation:

- Option #1: Approve the proposed expenditure plan for the County's allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (Attachment #1).
- Option #2: Authorize the County Administrator to expend Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as provided in the proposed expenditure plan and enter into subgrant agreements with fund recipients, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.
- Option #3: Approve the associated Resolution and Budget Amendment Request (Attachment #2).

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Report and Discussion

Background:

This budget discussion item provides an overview of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds authorized by Congress in the “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021” (H.R. 1319, referred to as the “ARPA” throughout this item) and seeks the Board’s consideration of a proposed expenditure plan for Leon County’s allocation of these funds. The ARPA builds upon COVID-19 economic relief legislation enacted by Congress over the past year in providing direct financial support to address the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARPA provided \$1.9 trillion in economic relief and stimulus for individuals and families, small businesses, and state and local governments, including \$360 billion to help state and local governments mitigate the significant fiscal impacts stemming from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Leon County is eligible to receive a direct allocation of \$57,024,862 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFR funds), to be distributed in two tranches in FY 2021 and FY 2022.

The County has conducted an extensive evaluation of the specific statutory and administrative requirements of the ARPA as well as the community’s remaining recovery needs in developing the funding recommendations in the proposed expenditure plan. The County has also coordinated extensively with local human service providers, public health entities, the local business community, and the City of Tallahassee to identify any remaining community recovery needs resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency. As discussed in detail in the Analysis section of this item, the proposed expenditure plan seeks to meet these remaining recovery needs while also mitigating the significant revenue impacts incurred by the County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This strategy is critical to maintaining a balanced County budget over the next several fiscal years while avoiding tax or fee increases, capital project reductions, or workforce reductions. Preliminary guidance issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, discussed later in this item, highlights the importance of this strategy as a key component of the broader economic recovery.

The remainder of the Background section of this item provides an overview of the ARPA as well as a review and summary of previous COVID-19 relief and recovery funding authorized by Congress over the past year. The Analysis section provides a more detailed overview of the specific statutory and administrative requirements for the use of CSLFR funds and a comprehensive discussion of the proposed expenditure plan for the County’s allocation.

Overview of the American Rescue Plan Act

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the ARPA into law, providing \$1.9 trillion in economic relief and recovery assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARPA provides additional direct economic support for individuals and families, hard-hit industries and vulnerable populations, and state and local governments. This includes rent, mortgage and utility assistance for low-income households; food and nutrition assistance; additional resources to address the COVID-19 public health emergency such as funding for testing and vaccines; grants for childcare assistance, additional federal unemployment assistance, a third round of direct stimulus payments; additional targeted assistance for small businesses impacted by the pandemic;

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and more. In addition, the ARPA established a \$360 billion Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Fund to help state and local governments offset increased expenditures, recover lost revenues, and mitigate the negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is discussed in detail in the Analysis section of this item. A detailed analysis of all of the ARPA's provisions compiled by Squire Patton Boggs, the County's federal lobbying team, is included as Attachment #3 to this item.

The ARPA builds upon and expands the unprecedented level of financial support provided by Congress over the past year to address the immediate economic impacts of the pandemic. Where the ARPA provided assistance to facilitate the economic recovery from the pandemic, previous COVID-19 legislation focused largely on providing resources to assist the country's immediate public health and economic response. Following is a summary of major COVID-19 relief and recovery legislation enacted by Congress since the beginning of the pandemic:

- H.R. 6074, signed into law on March 6, 2020: a supplemental appropriations bill enacted in March 2020 which provided \$8.3 billion in support for public health measures to combat COVID-19.
- H.R. 6201 (the "Families First Coronavirus Response Act"), signed into law on March 18, 2020: provided approximately \$192 billion in support for food safety needs in the wake of school and business closures, enhanced unemployment insurance benefits, new federal emergency paid leave benefits and refundable tax credits for small businesses to defray the cost of the paid leave, an increase in Medicaid matching funds to support healthcare providers, and policies to ensure that COVID-19 testing is significantly expanded and free to everyone in the U.S.
- H.R. 748 (the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" or "CARES Act"), signed into law on March 27, 2020: provided \$2.2 trillion in direct economic relief and stimulus for businesses, individuals, federal agencies, and state and local governments. Major provisions of the CARES Act included over \$500 billion in expanded lending programs for businesses, another \$350 billion to help small businesses meet payroll costs, and a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund for state and local government to help offset necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency (discussed in more detail in the Background section of this item). The CARES Act also provided \$290 billion in direct supplemental payments to eligible taxpayers, \$260 billion in expanded unemployment insurance, and additional flexibility for mortgage and student loan payments.
- H.R. 266 (the "Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act"), signed into law on April 24, 2020: provided additional funding for small businesses beyond the assistance provided in the CARES Act including \$321 billion in additional Paycheck Protection Program funding, \$10 billion in additional Emergency Injury Disaster Loan program funding, and \$50 billion in additional Small Business Administration Disaster Loans Program funding.
- H.R. 133 (the "Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021"), signed into law on December 27, 2020: a year-end supplemental appropriations

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bill that included a \$908 billion COVID-19 relief package. Major provisions of this legislation included the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to provide rent and utilities assistance to low-income households, additional resources for COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, childcare assistance, food and nutrition assistance, a second round of direct stimulus payments to individuals and families, extended federal unemployment assistance payments of \$300 per week, additional funding for forgivable business loans through the Paycheck Protection Program, a new grant program for venue operators severely impacted by the pandemic, and an extension of a moratorium on student loan payments.

Of note, the ARPA is the first COVID-19 legislation that provides funding for local governments to offset decreases in revenues as a result of the economic impact of the pandemic. While this legislation has provided critical financial resources to address the most pressing public health, economic, and human service needs related to COVID-19, this legislation has not addressed the significant challenge of balancing the County's budget given the severe revenue losses associated with the conscious decision to shut down the economy to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Leon CARES and the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

As discussed above, Congress enacted the CARES Act in March 2020 to provide direct economic assistance in response to the financial fallout related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in the CARES Act was a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) for state and local governments to help offset necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. At the July 14, 2020 Budget Workshop, the Board approved the "Leon CARES" expenditure plan to distribute the County's \$51.2 million CRF allocation of through a variety of partnerships and direct assistance programs which included programs to address critical public health needs, housing and utility assistance, small business assistance, food insecurity, childcare assistance, support for mental health and homelessness services, and more. The quick and successful implementation of the Leon CARES plan positioned the County to receive an additional \$11 million allocation from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, which allowed the County to provide assistance to thousands more individuals, families, and local businesses in the community. In total, the County successfully leveraged \$62.2 million in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds to support a broad range of community needs through the Leon CARES plan. Highlights of the success of the Leon CARES plan include the following:

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LEON CARES Community Impact At-A-Glance



Caring for Lives and Livelihoods of Those Impacted by COVID-19

Through the Leon CARES program, Leon County Government successfully leveraged \$62.2 million allocated under the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (the "CARES Act," H.R. 748) to address the community's greatest needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The following statistics summarize the positive impacts of the Leon CARES program throughout the community.

► DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



4,900+

individuals and families assisted with past due rent, mortgage, and utilities | **\$11.4 MILLION AWARDED**



930+

local businesses assisted with expenses or losses due to COVID-19; **6,600+ LOCAL JOBS RETAINED/CREATED** | **\$18.1 MILLION AWARDED**



120

community human service agencies assisted to continue providing vital services | **\$1.8 MILLION AWARDED**



180+

local nonprofit organizations assisted with expenses or losses due to COVID-19 | **\$2.6 MILLION AWARDED**

► SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND THE HUNGRY



3.4M

meals distributed or soon-to-be distributed to food insecure | **\$4 MILLION**



FOUR

homeless shelter facilities improved to better serve clients and stop the spread of COVID-19 | **\$2.7 MILLION INVESTED**



400

children of essential workers received no-cost childcare | **\$980,000 ALLOCATED**



300

referrals to mental health service providers

► EXPANDING AND STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH OPERATIONS



Leon County EMS responded to **5,000+ COVID-19 CALLS**



Increased community-wide testing and testing access with **50+ ADDITIONAL MOBILE EVENTS** serving **3,400 RESIDENTS** throughout the community (*Through these and other community efforts, the community now tests approximately 2,000/day, ten times the state-recommended average.*)



Hired **38 ADDITIONAL CONTACT TRACERS**, **43 SCHOOL HEALTH MONITORS**, and **4 EPIDEMIOLOGISTS**



Launched the largest public information campaign in Leon County's history to inform and educate; **26 MILLION TIMES SEEN, READ OR HEARD**

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A detailed final report on the community-wide impacts of the Leon CARES plan, which includes a full discussion of the metrics summarized on the previous page, was presented to the Board during the 2021 Annual Retreat and is also included as Attachment #4 to this item.

Also discussed above, in late December 2020 Congress enacted an additional \$908 billion COVID-19 relief package which included \$25 billion to establish an Emergency Rental Assistance ("ERA") program to be implemented by states, territories, tribal governments, and local governments. Immediately following Congress' approval, Leon County took quick action to develop and implement this program locally. At the January 26, 2021 meeting, the Board accepted Leon County's allocation of approximately \$8.9 million in ERA program funding and approved the establishment of Leon County ERA program to provide rent and utility assistance to eligible low-income households. The County immediately began the process of planning and developing its ERA program, consistent with federal statutory and administrative guidelines, and engaged other Florida counties to exchange best practices for the efficient distribution of this assistance throughout the community. Leon County also contracted with several local partner organizations to raise awareness of the ERA program through grassroots outreach to targeted neighborhoods, conducted extensive outreach with local landlords and nonprofit human service providers, and launched a multimedia promotional campaign which built from and leveraged the success of the County's previous "Leon CARES" branding efforts.

Since the Leon County ERA program launched on March 29, 2021, as of the publication of this item, the County has approved more than 800 applications for assistance through this program totaling over \$3.4 million in awards. The program is projected to provide rent and utility assistance to approximately 1,500 to 2,000 Leon County households in total. Also, beginning September 30, 2021, the U.S. Treasury will recapture excess ERA funds not obligated by state and local governments to be reallocated to other eligible entities which, by that time, have obligated 65% or more of their initial allocation. Should the County be eligible for an additional ERA funding award, a separate agenda item will be presented seeking the Board's consideration to accept funds and provide additional rent and utility assistance. In addition, the ARPA also included a second round of funding for the ERA program. A separate budget discussion item on the May 25 Budget Workshop agenda provides additional details on this additional ERA program funding and seeks the Board's approval to accept and distribute this funding.

Analysis:

The Analysis section of this budget discussion item begins by providing a detailed overview of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("CSLFR Fund") created by the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"), as well as the eligible uses of the County's CSLFR allocation. Following this, the item presents a proposed expenditure plan for the County's use of these funds based on the specific statutory and administrative requirements in the ARPA, as well as extensive outreach with community partners to identify any remaining unmet recovery needs.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act

As discussed above, the ARPA included an allocation of \$130 billion to help state, local, and tribal governments continue to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The ARPA is also

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the first COVID-19 relief legislation authorized by Congress that intends and allows for governmental entities to recover revenue losses resulting from the economic effects of the pandemic. An Interim Final Rule published by the U.S. Department of the Treasury related to the implementation of the CSLFR Fund provides a discussion which specifically addresses the impacts to state, local, and tribal governments resulting from COVID-19:

Amid this once-in-a-century crisis, State, territorial, Tribal, and local governments have been called on to respond at an immense scale. Governments have faced myriad needs to prevent and address the spread of COVID-19, including testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, public communications, issuance and enforcement of health orders, expansions to health system capacity like alternative care facilities, and in recent months, a massive nationwide mobilization around vaccinations. Governments also have supported major efforts to prevent COVID-19 spread through safety measures in settings like nursing homes, schools, congregate living settings, dense worksites, incarceration settings, and public facilities. The pandemic's impacts on behavioral health, including the toll of pandemic-related stress, have increased the need for behavioral health resources.

At the same time, State, local and Tribal governments launched major efforts to address the economic impacts of the pandemic. These efforts have been tailored to the needs of their communities and have included expanded assistance to unemployed workers; food assistance; rent, mortgage, and utility support; cash assistance; internet access programs; expanded services to support individuals experiencing homelessness; support for individuals with disabilities and older adults; and assistance to small businesses facing closures or revenue loss or implementing new safety measures.

In responding to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, State, local, and Tribal governments have seen substantial increases in costs to provide these services, often amid substantial declines in revenue due to the economic downturn and changing economic patterns during the pandemic. Facing these budget challenges, many State, local, and Tribal governments have been forced to make cuts to services or their workforces, or delay critical investments. From February to May of 2020, State, local, and Tribal governments reduced their workforces by more than 1.5 million jobs and, in April of 2021, State, local, and Tribal government employment remained nearly 1.3 million jobs below pre-pandemic levels. These cuts to State, local, and Tribal government workforces come at a time when demand for government services is high, with State, local, and Tribal governments on the frontlines of fighting the pandemic. Furthermore, State, local, and Tribal government austerity measures can hamper overall economic growth, as occurred in the recovery from the Great Recession.

Through the CSLFR Fund, Congress has provided state, local, and tribal governments with significant resources to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts through four specific categories of eligible uses. As provided in the ARPA, these funds may be used:

- To respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19, or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;

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- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

On May 10, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released preliminary guidance related to the CSLFR Fund, including an Interim Final Rule for the implementation of the funds (Attachment #5) and a fact sheet and a “frequently asked questions” document (Attachment #6). The guidance issued by the Treasury indicates that “Within the categories of eligible uses, recipients have broad flexibility to decide how best to use this funding to meet the needs of their communities.”

Based on the funding formula provided in the ARPA, Leon County's allocation totals \$57.0 million. The County will receive its allocation in two equal tranches; the first tranche of \$28.5 million is expected to be distributed by the Treasury in May 2021, and the second tranche is expected to be disbursed approximately 12 months later. Of note, city governments are eligible to receive a separate direct allocation of CSLFR funds, and the City of Tallahassee is expected to receive approximately \$46.5 million. The deadline for expenditure of these funds is December 31, 2024, and local governments will be required to submit periodic reports to the U.S. Treasury with detailed accounting of the use of funds.

To help local governments plan for the prudent use of CSLFR funds, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has issued a series of guiding principles which the GFOA recommends for use in the development of CSLFR expenditure plans. These guiding principles strongly emphasize that CSLFR funding is a one-time infusion of federal resources, and therefore, local governments should consider how to ensure the long-term value of their investments using these funds and the financial stability of the organization. A summary of the GFOA's American Rescue Plan Act Guiding Principles is provided below, and the full series of recommendations is included as Attachment #7 to this item:

- Given the temporary, one-time nature of the CSLFR funds, the GFAO recommends that these allocations should be applied primarily to non-recurring expenditures rather than for the creation of new programs or expansion of existing programs that require an ongoing financial commitment.
- Replenishing reserves that were used to offset revenue declines during the pandemic should be given high priority to rebuild financial flexibility/stability and restore fiscal resiliency. Using CSLFR funds to cover operating deficits caused by COVID-19 will support governmental entities in rebuilding financial stability; however, these funds should be considered temporary and additional budget restraint may be necessary to achieve/maintain structural balance in future budgets.
- As discussed in detail earlier in this item, Congress has provided an unprecedented level of financial support for a variety of public health, human service, and economic recovery needs. Several of these assistance programs, particularly those authorized under the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, are currently being implemented by state and local governments. GFOA recommends that

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local governments be cognizant of state-level efforts as well as initiatives implemented by other ARPA recipients in order to avoid duplication of effort.

- GFOA recommends prioritizing CSLFR funds for expenditures that are not eligible under other ARPA funding allocations as well as other federal and state assistance programs. It is recommended to consider all alternatives for the prudent use of CSLFR funds to ensure the best use of these resources prior to allocation.

Individual, Household, Business, and Public Health Assistance Under the ARPA

The Background section of this item provided a brief overview of the various assistance programs authorized by Congress in the ARPA as well as a review of other COVID-19 relief and recovery legislation enacted by Congress over the past year. Following is a more detailed summary of specific assistance programs that are or will be available under the ARPA beyond the CSLFR Fund, including additional information regarding the implementation status of these programs where available. It should be noted that the following summary is a non-exhaustive list of assistance programs provided through the ARPA; a comprehensive analysis is provided in the Squire Patton Boggs analysis which is included as Attachment #3 to this item.

In the area of public health assistance, the ARPA provides:

- \$14.05 billion for vaccine production, distribution, and administration through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and \$47.8 billion for to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID-19 infections through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Both agencies are authorized to distribute this funding to states, localities, and local health departments through grants or cooperative agreements.
- \$7.6 billion to support the public health workforce, awarded via grants to state, local, and territorial public health departments or non-profit organizations to hire contact tracers, nurses, epidemiologists, communications personnel, and other related positions.
- \$10 billion for Community Health Centers to assist with testing and treatment of COVID-19, as well as vaccinations. As of the publication of this item, the following awards have been made to local Federally Qualified Health Centers through this program:
 - Bond Community Health Center: \$2.7 million
 - Neighborhood Medical Center: \$4.4 million
 - North Florida Medical Center: \$5 million
- \$1 billion for construction and renovation projects at Community Health Centers; this funding can be used to construct new facilities or expand and renovate existing facilities.
- \$3.9 billion for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which includes formula-based block grant funding to states and service providers; grant funding to health care providers for mental and behavioral health training; grant funding to states, localities, and non-profit organizations to carry out community behavioral health programs, overdose prevention programs, and other substance abuse disorder treatment activities; and more.

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In the area of housing and homelessness assistance, the ARPA provides:

- \$21.55 billion for a second round of Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program funding. A separate item on the May 25 Budget Workshop agenda provides additional information on this program and seeks the Board's consideration to accept and implement Leon County's funding allocation. In addition, on May 10, 2021, the State of Florida launched a statewide ERA Program called the "OUR Florida" program using \$800 million allocated to the State under the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. The State is expected to receive an additional "ERA 2" allocation for this program under the ARPA. Additional information about the State's program is included in the separate May 25 Budget Workshop item.
- \$10 billion for a Homeowner Assistance Fund to provide assistance with mortgage-related expenses and utility assistance to low- and moderate-income homeowners. This funding will be distributed to states; Florida is expected to receive \$676 million to implement this program.
- \$5 billion for emergency housing vouchers for tenant-based rental assistance. As of the publication of this item, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not yet issued guidance as to how these vouchers will be implemented; however, the program will likely be administered locally by public housing agencies and be available to very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.
- An additional \$5 billion to be distributed through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for tenant-based rental assistance, affordable housing, supportive services, and the acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units. This funding will be allocated through the existing HOME Investment Partnerships Program; the City of Tallahassee is a designated grantee and is expected to receive approximately \$3.4 million for this program.
- \$4.5 billion to provide assistance with home energy bills through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in FY 21 and FY 22.
- \$800 million through the U.S. Department of Education to identify and provide homeless children and youth with wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID-19. The State of Florida is expected to receive approximately \$46 million through this program.

The ARPA also provides the following direct assistance to individuals and households:

- Recovery rebates of \$1,400 per individual and an additional \$1,400 for each dependent, which were paid beginning in March 2021.
- An extension of the federal unemployment benefit of \$300 per week through September 6, 2021.
- An increase in the maximum number of weeks an individual may claim benefits through regular state unemployment plus the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, or through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, to 74 weeks.

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- An expansion of the federal Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit to eligible households.
- Also, the Florida Legislature has allocated \$208 million from the State's share of CSLFR funds to provide \$1,000 one-time bonus payments to first responders for their service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity is expected to distribute this funding during summer 2021. Generally, law enforcement officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and firefighters who are employed by state or local government agencies will be eligible to receive these payments, including Leon County EMS and Leon County Sheriff's Office employees.

In the area of food and nutrition assistance, the ARPA provides:

- An extension of the current 15% increase in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through the remainder of FY 21. This is projected to provide approximately \$28 more per person per month in additional SNAP benefits.
- An expansion of the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program, which was originally authorized in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020. The P-EBT program provides eligible schoolchildren who would typically receive free or reduced-price meals temporary emergency nutrition benefits on an EBT card in order to purchase food. This bill expands the program through the duration of the pandemic and includes summers outside the normal school year.
- An additional \$4 billion through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support the food supply chain, including purchasing and distributing agricultural commodities to nonprofit organizations and providing grants and loans for food processors, distributors, and farmers.

In the area of child care assistance, the ARPA provides:

- \$14.9 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, which provides child care subsidies for low-income families with children under age 13.
- \$23.9 billion for child care stabilization grants for child care providers, specifically to help pay for personnel, training, rent, and sanitation at child care facilities.

In the area of infrastructure, the ARPA provides:

- Authorization for state and local governments to use a portion of their CSLFR Funds for water, wastewater, or broadband infrastructure. Of note, the Florida Legislature allocated \$500 million from the State's share of CSLFR Funds to support septic-to-sewer projects in the State's FY 2022 budget. As discussed later in this item, this may provide an additional funding source to leverage County funds for septic-to-sewer projects throughout the community. The Legislature also allocated another \$500 million for a new Resilient Florida Grant Program that will provide funding to local governments for community resilience planning and for projects that reduce the risk of flooding and sea level rise.
- \$10 billion for a Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund to provide funding to states, territories, and tribal governments to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work,

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education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The U.S. Department of the Treasury is expected to begin accepting applications for review in summer 2021.

In the area of small business assistance, the ARPA provides:

- An additional \$7.2 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which provides forgivable loans to small businesses to keep their workers on payroll. On March 30, 2021, the President signed H.R. 1799 (the "Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act of 2021") into law, which extended the PPP application deadline to May 31, 2021 and extended the federal authorization for the program through June 30, 2021.
- An additional \$15 billion for Economic Injury Disaster Loans.
- \$28.6 billion for a new Restaurant Revitalization Fund to be administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration. This program will provide up to \$10 million grants to restaurant businesses (limited to \$5 million per location for companies with multiple locations) to cover the difference between a recipient's 2019 and 2020 revenue. Eligible entities include restaurants, bars, food trucks, brewpubs, saloons, inns, taverns, tasting rooms, food carts, and caterers.
- An additional \$1.25 billion for the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant (SVOG) program, which was established under the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. This program provides grants to venue operators that have significant economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible entities for this program include live venue operators or promoters, theatrical producers, live performing arts organization operators, museum operators, motion picture theatre operators, and talent representatives.

Proposed Expenditure Plan for Leon County's Allocation of CSLFR Funds

Similar to the development of the Leon CARES expenditure plan, the County has coordinated extensively with the local business community, healthcare and human service providers, and other local government stakeholders to share information about the many assistance programs provided through the ARPA and other previous legislation, and also to identify any remaining unmet recovery needs. This input from community partners has been incorporated through the proposed expenditure plan presented in this item. Like Leon CARES, the expenditure plan proposed in this item would continue to leverage the County's successful partnerships with community stakeholders to ensure the most efficient distribution of funds to meet the immediate needs of citizens, local businesses, community nonprofit agencies, the local health care community, and other partners resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based upon the unprecedented level of direct financial assistance made available by Congress over the past year, which includes trillions of dollars of support for individuals, households, and businesses that is still being implemented presently, and based upon the feedback gathered from the County's extensive outreach to community partners, the proposed expenditure plan for Leon County's allocation CSLFR funds does not contemplate another round of individual assistance or small business assistance. Community partners have indicated that the current and upcoming

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assistance made available by Congress through the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the ARPA, including two rounds of emergency rent and utility assistance, a similar mortgage and utility assistance program for homeowners, additional support for small businesses, and other assistance available through this legislation is adequate to address most outstanding recovery needs for households and small businesses. As such, the expenditure plan proposed in this item seeks to support the community's economic recovery by mitigating the significant revenue impacts incurred by the County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; by identifying and providing funding to address the community's specific remaining recovery needs in the areas of nonprofit and human services assistance, public health support, and targeted support for the local business community; and by leveraging local and state funding to complete three major infrastructure projects which have been impacted by a significant recent increase in construction costs.

As discussed below, the first priority in the proposed expenditure plan is to recover the approximately \$25.6 million reduction in Leon County and Blueprint revenues over the next two fiscal years which occurred as a result of the pandemic (illustrated in Table 2 on Page 16 of this item). This strategy will be critical to maintaining a balanced County budget over the next several fiscal years while avoiding tax or fee increases, capital project reductions, or workforce reductions. In addition, consistent with Treasury requirements as well as GFOA recommendations, the proposed expenditure plan includes funding to complete three major wastewater infrastructure projects. The temporary, one-time nature of this funding presents a unique opportunity to leverage this funding to fulfill the County's commitments to these projects, which will not only promote the effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure but will also support local economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for local workers. Following this, the proposed expenditure plan includes approximately \$10 million to address remaining community recovery needs in the areas of public health and healthcare services, homelessness assistance and other human services, and support for the local business community. The recommended allocations in these areas were developed based upon input gathered from the extensive outreach to community partners discussed above. Finally, the proposed expenditure plan includes a reserve/replenishment account that can be used to address future needs and to adapt to any changes in federal guidance that may allow for new uses of the County's CSLFR Funds without impacting existing funding categories.

In order to most efficiently meet the community's remaining recovery needs, this item also recommends partnering with the City of Tallahassee to jointly fund several of the programs and initiatives included in the proposed expenditure plan on a countywide basis. The County Administrator and City Manager are recommending a cost-sharing arrangement that would allow both entities to leverage a significant portion of their CSLFR funding to address food insecurity, small business needs, and homelessness support as part of a highly coordinated, communitywide plan. A discussion of this proposed cost-sharing arrangement for community recovery initiatives is provided throughout the remainder of this item.

The table below summarizes the funding categories included in the proposed expenditure plan, followed by a detailed discussion of each:

Table 1: Proposed Leon County CSLFR Expenditure Plan

Category:	Proposed Funding:
COVID-19 Revenue Loss Mitigation	\$25.6 million (45%)
Infrastructure Improvements	\$12.6 million (22%)
Local Human Services Partner Support	\$6.6 million (12%)
Public Health Response Support	\$1.7 million (3%)
Small Business Support	\$1.4 million (2%)
County Continuity of Operations Support	\$2.0 million (4%)
ERA Program Support	\$1.5 million (2%)
Reserve/Replenishment Account	\$5.7 million (10%)
Total:	\$57.0 million (100%)

**Sum of the separate figures may not match the total due to rounding*

COVID-19 Revenue Loss Mitigation (\$25.6 Million):

According to the Treasury Interim Final Rule, it is critical that local governments utilize the ARPA funding to mitigate drastic budget reductions and thereby avoid constraining the economic recovery:

During the period following the 2007-2009 recession, State and local government budget pressures led to fiscal austerity that was a significant drag on the overall economic recovery.

...the American Rescue Plan Act allows recipients facing budget shortfalls to use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to avoid cuts to government services and thus enable State, local and Tribal governments to continue to provide valuable services and ensure that fiscal austerity measures do not hamper the broader economic recovery.

While the County previously received millions of dollars in funding through the CARES Act, the legislation did not allow for this funding to be used to offset the significant revenue losses being experienced locally. One of the main differences between CARES Act and ARPA funding is how each program addresses the financial burden the pandemic placed on local governments. While the CARES Act provided millions of dollars in immediate and necessary support for those most impacted by COVID-19, including vulnerable individuals, small businesses and service providers, CARES Act funding was ineligible to be used to offset any revenue losses experienced by local governments. For Leon County, the initial projected revenue loss was \$17 million which was offset through hiring freezes (which enabled the County to avoid any layoffs), operating budget cuts, and capital project eliminations and deferrals. The overriding purpose of the ARPA is to provide resources for local governments to continue to provide critical services to the community by replacing local revenue losses with federal funding. The ARPA specifically authorizes CSLFR funding to be used to offset both prior and future revenue losses.

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Treasury guidance establishes a specific methodology to calculate reduction in revenue. Recipients will compute the extent of their reduction in revenue by comparing their actual revenue to a projection that would have been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic. The methodology is based on a summation of all County revenues; there is no distinction for individual revenues. Counties can calculate revenue loss since the beginning of the pandemic and at several points throughout the program.

Based on the Treasury methodology, Leon County revenue losses were calculated for FY 2020 and FY 2021. Given the lag in how the methodology is calculated, the revenue losses will be available for budgeting for next year (FY 2022) and the following budget cycle (FY 2023). As shown in Table #2 below, the total projected revenue loss is \$20.6 million for Leon County Government. This includes all County revenues (state shared sales taxes, gas taxes, tourist taxes, property taxes, etc.). Regarding Blueprint Sales Tax losses, this item recommends the County and City share in mitigating these reductions. It is recommended 55.2% of the reduction in Blueprint revenues be addressed through the County’s CSLFR allocation and 44.8% through the City’s allocation, which is proportionate to the amount of CSLFR funding the County and City are each receiving.

Table 2: Projected Revenue Loss Mitigation

	FY 2022 Budget <i>(Projected FY 2020 Loss)</i>	FY 2023 Budget <i>(Projected FY 2021 Loss)</i>	Total
Leon County Revenue	\$11,280,165	\$9,348,302	\$20,628,467
Blueprint (County Share)	\$2,494,488	\$2,429,378	\$4,923,866
Total Revenue Mitigation	\$13,774,653	\$11,777,680	\$25,552,333

Under the Treasury guidance, there may be a small amount of additional revenue losses calculated which could be included in the FY 2024 budget. At that time, the Board may wish to reallocate funds from the proposed Reserve/Replenishment Account (discussed in further detail below) to assist in balancing the budget.

As presented in the budget overview item, this item recommends \$11.28 million in revenue loss mitigation funding be used to not only address immediate budgetary needs, but also to ensure the continued long-term financial stability of the County by investing:

- \$2.8 million through the operating budget to:
 - Eliminate the need to raise any fees or property taxes, maintaining the EMS MSTU, the stormwater non-ad valorem assessment and the fire fee at their current rates;
 - Assist in rebuilding reserves by reducing the use of fund balance; and
 - Lift the hiring freeze implemented last year
- \$3.6 million to ensure funding is available for the base maintenance capital program
- \$2.2 to address the significant impact to Tourism revenues through:
 - Enhanced marketing/promotion to support rebuilding the local tourism economy;

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- Funding for the Amtrak renovation to address significant industry-wide construction inflation cost increases; and
- Funding to support on-going development of the Apalachee Regional Park
- \$2.7 million to address transportation and flood relief projects that were delayed or not funded because of the pandemic

Without the use of the CSLFR revenue loss mitigation strategy discussed above, this item would be presenting a slate of alternative options for the Board to consider in balancing the FY 2022 budget including operating reductions, hiring freezes, capital project deferrals/eliminations, additional use of fund balances, and possible tax or fee increases. Over the next several budget cycles, as the economy continues to grow, the proposed expenditure plan will facilitate gradually reducing budgetary reliance on revenue loss mitigation funding, correspondingly replacing this funding with projected increased revenue collections (through half cent sales tax revenues, property taxes, etc.).

Infrastructure Improvements (\$12.6 Million)

As discussed above, the ARPA provides that the County's CSLFR Fund allocation can be used to make necessary investments specifically in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. In Leon County, the City of Tallahassee and Talquin Electric Cooperative operate drinking water utilities; the County does not own or maintain any drinking water infrastructure. Also, the County's role in wastewater infrastructure is limited, as the City and Talquin also operate sanitary sewer utility infrastructure. All water and wastewater utility services throughout Leon County are provided by the City of Tallahassee, Talquin Electric Cooperative, or another provider via exclusive franchise. However, as part of its commitment to protect the community's natural resources, Leon County has aggressively and successfully pursued state grant funds over the past several years for wastewater infrastructure improvements leading to the removal of septic tanks within the Wakulla Springs Primary Springs Protection Zone. In the area of broadband infrastructure, there are eight residential broadband internet service providers operating in Leon County. As discussed in a comprehensive status report on broadband availability presented to the Board at the March 9, 2021 meeting (Attachment #8), counties and cities in Florida are limited by state law in their ability to expand broadband access to their citizens. Although Leon County does not own or maintain any broadband infrastructure, the County has led several initiatives to support internet access both before and during the pandemic including providing free internet access through Leon County Libraries, extensively engaging citizens to share information about low-cost internet options, promoting discounted services that are made available through the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, and more. As discussed in detail in the March 9, 2021 agenda item, the County continues working with state, federal, and private sector partners on a variety of current initiatives to increase broadband internet access throughout the community. Given the factors discussed above, Leon County's use of CSLFR funds to support infrastructure initiatives is limited to sewer infrastructure. Accordingly, this item recommends allocating a portion of the County's CSLFR allocation to support three major wastewater infrastructure projects.

In partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the County has established the nine-year Water Quality and Springs Protection Infrastructure Improvement Plan

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(Attachment #9) to enhance the region’s water quality through a series of septic-to-sewer conversion projects. In recent years, the County has leveraged the commitment of over \$60 million in state and local funds with plans to upgrade or eliminate a total of 1,610 septic tanks in the Primary Springs Protection Zone. Most recently, the County has been awarded state funding through FDEP’s Springs Restoration Grant Program to begin the implementation of the Northeast Lake Munson Sewer System, Belair/Annawood Sewer System, and Woodville Sewer Projects. The total state and local funding committed for these projects across the nine-year project plan is as follows (these totals reflect the County’s cost share; FDEP provides an equal matching amount toward each project):

- Northeast Lake Munson Sewer System: \$5.5 million
- Belair/Annawood Sewer System: \$3.5 million
- Woodville Sewer (4 Phases): \$18.7 million

Due to current construction pricing trends which have substantially increased over the past year, the budget estimates detailed in the initial grant applications for each of these projects will be insufficient to complete construction. Given the temporary, one-time nature of the CSLFR funding provided under the ARPA, this funding represents a unique opportunity to fulfill the County’s commitments to these projects despite the recent increase in construction costs. This proposed strategy will not only enable the County to complete these projects and provide high-quality wastewater infrastructure for the community but will also support local economic recovery by facilitating strong employment opportunities for local workers. Under the ARPA, local infrastructure projects that are supported using CSLFR funds must be completed by December 2025.

The proposed allocation of CSLFR funds to support remaining costs for these projects, including estimated consulting costs, is outlined below:

Table 3: Proposed Infrastructure Improvements Using CSLFR Funding

Project	Budgeted Amount	Projected Shortfall
Northeast Lake Munson Sewer System	\$5.5 million	\$2.9 million
Belair/Annawood Sewer System	\$3.5 million	\$1.4 million
Woodville Sewer (4 Phases)	\$18.7 million	\$8.3 million
Total Proposed Allocation:		\$12.6 million

Also, as discussed earlier in this item, the Florida Legislature has allocated \$500 million from the State’s share of CSLFR Funds to support septic-to-sewer projects in the State’s FY 2022 budget. In the coming months, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is expected to develop program guidelines for the State’s implementation of this funding. Should the Board approve the proposed expenditure plan, the County would seek to leverage State funding with the local funds allocated by the County for the projects listed in Table #3 above. If successful, this could make a

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significant portion of the County funding allocated toward these projects, available to support other wastewater infrastructure projects throughout the community.

Local Human Services Partner Support (\$6.6 Million)

This proposed expenditure category dedicates funding to provide targeted assistance, in partnership with a variety of local human service partner agencies, for Leon County residents hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and who are lagging the overall economic recovery. As discussed earlier in this item, the County extensively engaged local nonprofit and human services partners to share information regarding the assistance made available through the ARPA and earlier COVID-19 relief legislation as well as to identify any remaining gaps in human service needs throughout the community. This category includes approximately \$6.6 million, further leveraged by a proportionate contribution from the City of Tallahassee, to address food insecurity, provide housing and homelessness support, expand access to legal services, and support mental health and other healthcare services. In addition, a portion of this funding allocation will be dedicated to local nonprofit organizations that provide human services and programs for local residents impacted by COVID-19. Proposed expenditures within this category are as follows:

- *Homelessness and Housing Support: \$3.5 Million (Total with City Share: \$6.3 Million)*

Leon County has four emergency shelters designated to assist the homeless population: the Kearney Center for single individuals experiencing homelessness; Hope Community, operated by Big Bend Homeless Coalition for families; Capital City Youth Services (CCYS) operates a youth shelter; and Refuge House operates a shelter for domestic violence victims. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, homeless sheltering generally consisted of “congregate” facilities where homeless individuals were housed at a single location, often with several individuals living in the same room. COVID-19, however, required homeless service providers to fundamentally adjust this model – public health guidelines related to physical distancing required providers to shift to “non-congregate” sheltering arrangements which involve placing homeless individuals in hotels, motels, or other facilities that allow for greater physical distancing to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. This approach to sheltering, which requires significantly more square footage and often the use of privately-owned lodging facilities, is necessarily much more expensive than the traditional congregate sheltering model. Compounding this challenge is the significant increase in demand for homeless sheltering due to the economic effects of the pandemic. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, all four emergency homeless shelters have experienced a significant increase in clients at their congregate or non-congregate facilities. In order to meet CDC guidelines for social distancing, each provider has had to reduce the number of clients in their congregate shelters and develop waiting lists for shelter services due to the increased demand. As a result, there has been a larger number of unsheltered homeless individuals utilizing vehicles and homeless encampments.

It should be noted that this challenge is not unique to Leon County; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress indicated a 2.2% increase in homelessness during its 2020 “Point-in-Time” count, which reflects the most current available data, compared to 2019. This marks the fourth consecutive

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annual increase in homelessness following sustained reductions between 2010 and 2016. The Point-in-Time count took place in January 2020, in the weeks preceding the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. As such, these findings shed light on a homelessness system that was significantly burdened long before the COVID-19 pandemic forced economic disruption and housing crises on households nationwide.

On March 18, 2020, Leon County Emergency Management convened a Local Homeless COVID-19 Task Force to address planning and coordination needs related to implementing the CDC guidance for homeless shelters with respect to COVID-19. The task force was led by Shington Lamy, Director of Leon County's Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships, and included representatives from the following organizations:

- Big Bend Continuum of Care (CoC)
- Big Bend Homeless Coalition / HOPE Community
- The Kearney Center
- Refuge House
- Capital City Youth Services (CCYS)
- Florida Dept. of Health in Leon County
- City of Tallahassee

The task force has convened regular conference calls to discuss mitigation strategies, service changes, and applying for FEMA reimbursement for eligible expenses. Additionally, Leon County staff and other task force members have assisted shelters with meeting CDC guidelines including developing protocols to care for residents who show respiratory symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19; accessing needed supplies such as face masks, thermometers, and cleaning supplies; and identifying additional shelter space to ensure beds are adequately distanced from each other. In addition, the Leon CARES plan approved by the Board in 2020 dedicated funding to support facility improvements at each of the local emergency shelters to meet distancing requirements as well as the purchase of vehicles to facilitate socially-distanced transportation of homeless service clients to medical appointments, grocery stores, and other destinations.

The availability of CSLFR funding presents an opportunity to significantly enhance the community's homelessness support infrastructure through several targeted strategies. The proposed CSLFR expenditure plan recommends allocating an additional \$6.3 million to the Big Bend Continuum of Care (BBCoC) to expand a variety of initiatives and programs in order to alleviate the increased demand for homelessness support services including community outreach, permanent supportive housing, homelessness diversion services, and recruitment of established organizations to expand homeless prevention services locally. The BBCoC is the agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the regional planning and oversight organization for Leon, Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla counties. As directed by the Board at the April 13, 2021 meeting, Leon County will hold a joint workshop with the City of Tallahassee on July 13, 2021 to discuss strategies to address homelessness as well as a strategic plan that the BBCoC is

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expected to complete in early summer. The recommended allocations in the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan to address the highest needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness during and following the global COVID-19 pandemic are consistent with the initiatives that will be included in the BBCoC's strategic plan.

This assistance would complement the extensive resources for homelessness assistance that is provided separately in the ARPA, as discussed earlier in this item. In addition, this category would provide additional funding to the four emergency shelters to address unanticipated expenses related to COVID-19 and that are not covered by FEMA reimbursement or other federal and state funding sources. Of the \$6.3 million recommended in this category, the County's share would be approximately \$3.5 million, and the City would contribute the balance from its allocation of CSLFR funds.

An overview of the allocations recommended under this funding category is provided below:

- *Street Outreach (\$375,000)*: Locally, community outreach is one of the smallest yet most effective initiative in supporting the transition of people from homelessness into permanent housing. An average of 80% of local residents utilizing permanent housing services have transitioned from homeless situations. Presently, twice a week the BBCoC coordinates outreach teams for adults to engage unsheltered individuals at known encampments by offering services and resources such as hygiene kits, snacks, and personal protective equipment (PPE). The goal of the outreach teams is to offer services that will get the individuals housed within Leon County or divert them to their community of origin. Services include referrals to local emergency shelters, referrals to medical and mental health services, eligibility assessments for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing, and case management referrals to assist with accessing benefits such as Social Security and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. This funding would expand outreach efforts by employing up to ten (10) individuals over the next two years that have successfully exited homelessness to engage those currently experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The additional staff will expand the efforts of the outreach teams to 3-4 times a week (increased from two times per week) and work primarily with homeless individuals and families living in vehicles and homeless encampments to connect them with available resources in the community including shelter services, as well as diversion and prevention programs. This will also serve as employment experience for those hired to serve on the outreach team to gain higher paying jobs post pandemic recovery. According to the BBCoC, the enhancement of the outreach team contemplated in the proposed expenditure plan will directly serve approximately 250 individuals and families, increase homeless prevention services, and reduce the rate of those returning to homelessness.
- *Diversion and Prevention (\$1.25 Million)*: Over the past year, more than 200 households have been diverted from entering homeless emergency shelters through diversion and prevention practices. The BBCoC anticipates an additional 400 households can avoid homelessness by expending access to local diversion assistance. Specifically, this assistance involves covering one-time financial needs such as rent,

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- utilities, bus/train fare, car repairs, and hotel costs; housing mediation; and relocation support such as security deposits and utility deposits to prevent the use of emergency shelters. In addition, this funding will expand the availability of hotel vouchers for the local emergency shelters as a short-term solution to addressing the current waiting lists for shelter services.
- *Permanent Supportive Housing (\$2.5 Million)*: As a direct result of the pandemic, the BBCoC estimates that there are over 260 individuals in Leon County who are currently experiencing homelessness and are living with medical conditions that make them at-risk to contracting COVID-19. This category would dedicate funding to provide housing stipends to approximately 75 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Specifically, rent and utility stipends and case management would be provided for up to 12 months for individuals that have a serious health condition and have either experienced long-term chronic homelessness in the past or are currently experiencing prolonged homelessness due to the pandemic. Following the 12 months of funding that would be provided under the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan, the BBCoC anticipates that clients will secure long-term funding through pensions, social security benefits, and veteran benefits, as well as permanent supporting housing from the State of Florida through the Department of Children and Families, federal funding through HUD, and housing vouchers through the Tallahassee Housing Authority. As such, the proposed Leon County CSLFR expenditure plan would position the community to benefit from immediate assistance that is likely to continue with state support.
 - *Neighborhood-Based Partner Capacity Building (\$360,000)*: The BBCoC currently works with a limited number of contracted service providers in Leon County who have demonstrated the ability to administer federal and state funding per guidelines and statute requirements. Given this, the BBCoC has requested funding to provide training and technical support to nonprofit organizations in an effort to expand the local homeless service partner network. By offering capacity-building activities and training to smaller non-profits in the community, these entities can be better positioned to offer homeless prevention services and learn to secure and administer federal and state funding to directly support individuals experiencing homelessness. The BBCoC would focus on providing training and assistance to neighborhood-based and faith-based organizations, including those that have operated emergency cold night shelters, to build these organization's capacity to secure additional federal and state funding. This training and assistance would include educating smaller organizations on HUD and DCF requirements for homeless services funding and assisting the organizations with making modifications to their organizational structure and programming to be eligible and competitive for federal and state funding.
 - *Homeless Shelter Providers (\$1.78 Million)*: To reduce the spread of COVID-19 among individuals experiencing homelessness in our community, the four local emergency shelters (Kearney Center, Big Bend Homeless Coalition, Capital City Youth Services, and Refuge House) have made various improvements and modifications to their facilities and operations consistent with the COVID-19 sheltering guidelines established by the CDC. This category dedicates funding to support

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unanticipated expenses experienced by these providers related to COVID-19 that are not supported through FEMA or other federal and state funding sources, including increased security costs, increased costs for food services, and building retrofits to meet CDC and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements. This category includes specific funding for the Kearney Center as requested by the Board during the March 9, 2021 meeting. At that time, the Board considered a request from the Kearney Center to reallocate \$1 million in Leon CARES funding previously approved by the County to pay for COVID-19 related expenses for homeless shelter services not eligible for FEMA reimbursement. At that time, the Board authorized the Kearney Center to reallocate \$500,000 of this funding and repurposed the remaining \$500,000 to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and vaccine access for communities of color. Additionally, the Board directed that a budget discussion item be included to consider an additional \$500,000 to the Kearney Center; this funding is included in this line item of the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan. Within this category, approximately \$1.5 million would be allocated to the Kearney Center by the County and City for services not eligible for FEMA reimbursement such as incidentals at non-congregate shelters, meals to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, and transportation of clients. An agreement for the funding would include commitment to the full operation of the Kearney Center at Municipal Way. Of note, the County also continues to work with the Kearney Center to secure federal funding for FEMA-eligible costs, which may require the County to submit reimbursement requests on behalf of the Kearney Center.

- *Food Insecurity: \$767,000 (Total with City Share: \$1.39 Million)*

Due to the ongoing negative financial impacts experienced by households in the community as a result of COVID-19, food insecurity continues to be a concern in Leon County. Second Harvest of the Big Bend (Second Harvest) is a non-profit food bank that accepts and distributes donations of food through a network of 135 local food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, senior community centers, and children's feeding programs. Last year, Leon County provided more than \$4 million to Second Harvest through the Leon CARES plan to address local food insecurity, which facilitated the distribution of over 3.4 million meals across the community. Leon CARES funding supported Second Harvest in purchasing food supplies, hiring program staff, and purchasing refrigerator trucks and other equipment to distribute meals to the community's most vulnerable populations.

The proposed CSLFR expenditure plan allocates \$1.4 million in additional funding to the Second Harvest for the purchase of approximately 722,000 meals. This allocation would be shared proportionately by the County and the City according to each entity's share of CSLFR funds (the County's contribution would total approximately \$767,000). These meals would be distributed to Leon County families that continue to be impacted by COVID-19, including low-income children participating in virtual school and summer camps. Additionally, this funding would support Second Harvest in purchasing and operating four temperature-controlled grocery lockers that will be established in the community to increase access to meals with flexible schedules for food pickup at nearby locations.

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- *Legal Services: \$447,000 (Total with City Share: \$810,000)*

Over the past year, the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in a significant increase in households facing the risk of eviction or foreclosure due to an inability to pay their rent or mortgage. This expenditure category would dedicate funding to expand legal assistance resources for low-income households facing eviction/foreclosure in an effort to reduce their vulnerability to homelessness. Legal Services of North Florida is seeking support to hire a full-time attorney, paralegal, community outreach-partner relations specialist, and law clerk for two years to expand their capacity in addressing the current and continuing need for eviction defense in our community. Eviction defense services involve providing support to individuals in accessing rental assistance, foreclosure defense, stimulus checks, and unemployment compensation, among other resources. In addition, Legal Aid of North Florida is also seeking support to hire case managers and intake specialists for two years to assist pro bono lawyers with the continued and growing need for eviction and foreclosure defense. Like the other nonprofit and human services categories above, this allocation would be shared proportionately between the County and the City.

- *Mental Health Services: \$110,000 (Total with City Share: \$200,000)*

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, mental health services remain a critical need in our community. Local human service partners have experienced an increased demand for these services over the past year in assisting clients who have been impacted by COVID-19 in various ways including job loss, reduced income, and increased feelings of anxiety, depression, and isolation. According to 2-1-1 Big Bend, suicide calls have increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to previous years. Under the Leon CARES expenditure plan, the County allocated over \$185,000 to support 2-1-1 Big Bend in enhancing access to mental health resources in the community. To address the increase in call volume of individuals that are experiencing mental health crisis, this funding supported the hiring of two additional positions by 2-1-1 Big Bend to triage mental health calls to appropriate free or low-cost mental health services in Leon County.

This category would dedicate additional funding to 2-1-1 Big Bend to retain these Mental Health Triage Specialists through FY 2022. The 2-1-1 Big Bend Mental Health Triage Specialists would continue to be responsible for providing support to 2-1-1's call takers by referring callers experiencing mental health crisis immediately to local mental health resources including scheduling counseling appointments, dispatching a Mobile Response Team, or connecting telehealth services for mental health. Funding to support these positions in future years will be sought by 2-1-1 Big Bend through the County and City's Community Human Service Partnership. Like the other nonprofit and human services categories above, this allocation would be shared proportionately between the County and the City.

- *Nonprofit Services Grant Program: \$1.8 Million (Total with City Share: \$3.3 Million)*

Over the past several months, Leon County has worked closely with the City of Tallahassee, United Partners for Human Services (UPHS), the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA), the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE), and the United Way of the Big Bend (UWBB) to address the significant demand for services that nonprofits and human service

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organizations have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2021, UPHS, COCA, and INIE conducted a survey of local nonprofit organizations, which found that 72% of the organizations experienced an increase in demand for their services since the onset of COVID-19 (Attachment #10). The organizations represented sectors such as education, healthcare, legal services, and workforce development. The Nonprofit Services Grant Program contemplated in this category of the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan would provide funding to local nonprofit organizations to continue to meet the immediate demand that they continue to experience for essential human service needs such as after school/summer enrichment programs, computer technology, and crisis management.

As recommended by UPHS, COCA, and INIE, this category would provide up to \$20,000 in one-time assistance to support local nonprofit agencies that are providing or will provide human services/programming to Leon County residents impacted by COVID-19. The funding level is consistent with the Leon CARES Human Services Grant established in 2020, which awarded funding to 121 local nonprofit organizations. Under this proposed grant program, it is recommended that applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization registered with the State of Florida to be eligible, and priority for funding consideration through this program would be given to organizations that did not receive previous assistance through the Local Economic Assistance for Nonprofits (LEAN) Program, the Leon CARES Human Services Grant Program, or the Leon CARES Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program.

The County and City would contract with UPHS, INIE, COCA, and UWBB to provide technical support to agencies seeking to apply for this grant program. This contracted support would involve hosting webinars on program guidelines and eligibility requirements and assisting local nonprofits with submitting applications and the required documentation. In addition, these agencies would support other local nonprofits in the community with securing other federal and state funding support available through the ARPA over the next year. As above, the cost to implement this program would be shared proportionately by the County and the City.

Public Health Response Support (\$1.7 Million)

This proposed expenditure category would dedicate funding for expenses related to Leon County's ongoing COVID-19 response efforts. Under the Leon CARES expenditure plan approved by the Board in July 2020, the County dedicated nearly \$5 million in funding for critical public health needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic including enhanced communitywide testing and contact tracing capabilities, purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), and targeted efforts to serve the medical needs of low-income residents in partnership with local primary healthcare providers. Leon CARES funding supported over 50 mobile COVID-19 testing events through May 2021 to supplement state-supported testing efforts, testing approximately 3,400 citizens. In addition, this funding allocation supported the Leon County Health Department's hiring of over 80 personnel to support enhanced COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and school monitoring.

The proposed CSLFR expenditure plan would allocate approximately \$1.6 million in additional funding to further expand and strengthen public health operations related to COVID-19.

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Specifically, this category would dedicate funding for the Leon County Health Department to support communitywide vaccination distribution, acquisition of PPE, COVID-19 infection prevention and control, and minor facility enhancements. In addition, this category would dedicate additional funding to support the local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the community's primary healthcare providers to ensure they have the necessary resources to serve the medical needs of Leon County's low-income residents. An overview of the allocations recommended under this funding category is provided below:

- *Leon County Health Department – Vaccine Distribution and Response: \$535,000*

This category would provide funding to support the Leon County Health Department (LCHD) in ensuring broad vaccine distribution across the community, including expanding vaccine distribution access for high-risk and underserved populations. The LCHD would utilize these funds to supplement state and federal funding allocations and support COVID-19 immunization expenses not otherwise supported by other funding sources. The LCHD seeks to hire 8 additional staff positions to provide oversight in ensuring the safe, equitable administration of vaccines and to expand the immunization capacity of the LCHD clinics. The LCHD would also partner, plan, and implement vaccination activities with critical organizations across the community, including churches, businesses, and non-traditional providers that serve underserved populations. In addition, the LCHD would lead community engagement strategies to expand messaging to promote COVID-19 vaccinations, increase vaccine confidence, and provide details on how and where citizens can receive a vaccine.

This funding would also support the hiring of additional staff and facility improvements at the LCHD clinics to support COVID-19 infection prevention and control efforts. These COVID-19 Infection Control Specialists would lead the expansion of infection control efforts including training staff on implementation of infection control practices, collecting data and monitoring infection control practices across departments, and investigating and reporting incidents of infection. This category would also support the availability of supplies required for infection control and facility improvements at LCHD clinics to accommodate increased staff as a result of the pandemic.

- *Neighborhood Medical Center: \$500,000*

This category would dedicate funding to support Neighborhood Medical Center (NMC), a local FQHC, in renovating a former bank building into a medical facility to provide general healthcare services for low-income residents. In 2019, NMC purchased the 8,310 square-foot facility located at 2613 South Monroe Street. The reconfigured building will open in January 2022 and include a waiting area, exam rooms, dental operatories, offices, records rooms, a lab, and patient services. Along with COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, NMC will also offer other healthcare services at the reconfigured site. The total project cost is approximately \$1.3 million and NMC is committing \$800,000 from federal grants, bank loans, local donations, and capital reserves. NMC is requesting an allocation of \$500,000 to support the remaining construction and equipment costs not covered by other funding sources.

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- *Bond Community Health Center: \$300,000*

This category would dedicate funding to Bond Community Health Center (Bond), a local FQHC, to support renovations at its current facilities to meet CDC guidelines for reducing the spread of COVID-19 and mitigating the risk of infection. In addition, this funding would also support Bond in making physical improvements to its mobile units which are utilized for COVID-19 testing and vaccination events throughout the community.

- *Vaccine Hesitancy Engagement and Promotion: \$331,000 (Total with City Share: \$600,000)*

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began and throughout the vaccine rollout, Leon County Government has been the lead coordinator of emergency communications alongside the Florida Department of Health. Specific to vaccinations, in January 2021 the Board approved \$175,000 for public information efforts to engage and educate the community on vaccines. Also, in March 2021 the Board approved an additional \$500,000 to fund minority and underserved community outreach with door-to-door canvassing, pop-up vaccination clinics, and a robust public information campaign including public safety announcements with local leaders. The proposed CSLFR expenditure plan would allocate an additional \$600,000 to fund public information efforts through December 30, 2021 that engage, motivate, and provide access to unvaccinated populations.

As part of the County's ongoing vaccination efforts, a hesitancy survey was conducted in December 2020 and again in April 2021 to compare and contrast citizens' responses. As a result of coordinated public information efforts as well as the effects of seeing friends and family vaccinated, hesitancy among those with concerns dropped by half. In short, nearly 80 percent of respondents said they would be open to receiving a vaccine. However, now that everyone 12 years and older is eligible for a vaccine at many different locations throughout our community, only 39 percent of the County's total vaccine-eligible population has received at least one dose. While the vaccination rate has declined due to additional age groups becoming eligible, vaccine supply and availability continues to increase. In the 18 to 24-year age group, the vaccination rate hovers around 20 percent. Through County-coordinated in-field research, the majority of those surveyed state they would rather "wait and see," pointing to potential vaccine reactions or a general lack of urgency.

To reach and mobilize the remaining unvaccinated majority in our community, the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan includes resources enabling the County to work with the Leon County Coronavirus Vaccination Community Education and Engagement Task Force to reach underserved communities in innovative ways tailored to increase vaccinations. As indicated above, the proposed expenditure plan would allocate \$600,000 (shared with the City; the County's share would be \$331,000) to fund vaccine public information and outreach efforts until December 30, 2021. These efforts would include continued partnership with the Leon County Coronavirus Vaccination Community Education and Engagement Task Force; promoting vaccination efforts, rollout; and other public health information; targeted outreach to communities of color through the Task Force; and more.

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Small Business Support (\$1.4 Million)

This proposed expenditure category would dedicate funding to support several programs and initiatives directly supporting the local business community. As discussed below, this would include direct assistance to minority- and women-owned businesses through the SmartSteps Revolving Micro-Lending Program, support for the three local Chambers of Commerce to expand programming and resources for local businesses; and funding for local entrepreneur support entities to help startup companies in the post-pandemic economy. Proposed expenditures within this category are as follows:

- *SmartSteps Micro-Loan Program: \$1.1 Million (Total with City Share: \$2 Million)*

During the November 17, 2020 meeting, the Board authorized the County Administrator to execute an agreement with FAMU Federal Credit Union (FAMU FCU) to establish a micro-loan program for Black-, minority-, and women-owned businesses. As approved by the Board, Leon County has committed \$1 million in Leon CARES funding for the micro-loan program, known as the SmartSteps Program, which was supplemented with a \$250,000 match from FAMU FCU. The SmartSteps Program launched in February 2021 to enhance and diversify the existing capital pool in the market for minority businesses. Since that time, approximately \$883,000 in loans have been administered through the program as of April 2021. It is anticipated that FAMU FCU will administer the remaining funds by the early summer of 2021.

This proposed funding category would allocate an additional \$1.5 million to extend the SmartSteps Program and further support the needs of growing MWSBE businesses. In addition, this funding category would allocate \$500,000 to support the administration of the SmartSteps Program as part of the City of Tallahassee's Neighborhood First Initiative. Through the Neighborhood First initiative, the City has worked with community members within the Greater Bond, Griffin Heights, Frenchtown, and Providence neighborhoods to collaboratively plan community improvements within these areas such as housing improvement programs, economic development, and placemaking. During these planning efforts, each of the four neighborhoods have requested access to microloans as an economic development goal within its plans. As proposed, the additional funds would be dedicated to the SmartSteps Program to be distributed to MWSBE businesses within these geographic areas. As with other programs discussed above, the County and City would share the cost of this micro-loan program.

- *Local Chambers of Commerce Support: \$166,000 (Total with City Share: \$300,000)*

As discussed above, the three local chambers of commerce (Big Bend Minority Chamber, Capital City Chamber, and Greater Tallahassee Chamber) were fundamental in providing technical assistance to local businesses applying for the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Program in 2020. The County also contracted with the local chambers using Leon CARES funding to provide training to help local small businesses adapt to new technologies and practices as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These trainings have supported local businesses in assessing needs, coordinating resources, and implementing training for current and new employees on new technologies and business practices in response to COVID-19.

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This proposed expenditure category would allocate \$300,000 in additional funding to the local chambers to provide continued assistance to local businesses by further expanding their programming aimed to helping businesses mitigate challenges and capitalize on new opportunities for job creation and growth. Specifically, the local chambers would provide targeted, essential support to local businesses over the next two years which would include:

- Business Outreach and Education: Local programming centered on bridging the talent, education, and workforce gap, job creation and economic development, and establishing sustainable business climates.
 - Talent Pipeline Enhancement: Continued implementation of "Talent Hub," a platform established by the Greater Tallahassee Chamber in 2020 to assist the local workforce with exploring careers, building skills, and finding jobs. The Talent Hub platform seeks to support efforts in bridging the local talent gap by centralizing education and employment resources to explore careers, build skills, and find employment opportunities. Going forward, the Talent Hub will feature resources focused on enhancing partnerships, connecting with more career seekers and employers, and expanding career exploration programs.
 - Targeted Assistance to Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses: New training opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses on a variety of topics including networking, marketing, cash flow management, technology improvement, contract negotiations, and capacity building.
- *Entrepreneurship Support: \$166,000 (Total with City Share: \$300,000)*

Small businesses nationwide have experienced the significant economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and have been disproportionately affected due to revenue losses from forced closures and unanticipated expenses related to keeping employees and customers safe. While these impacts have particularly affected minority- and women-owned small businesses and those within certain industry sectors, entrepreneurs and startup companies have also faced significant challenges due to COVID-19. A 2020 National Bureau of Economic Research survey found that the financial health of nearly half, or 48%, of startup companies had been negatively or very negatively impacted by the pandemic. Locally, entrepreneur support entities such as North Florida Innovation Labs and Domi Station have experienced dramatic challenges related to their capacity and ability to host and instruct entrepreneurs. The risk of COVID-19 resulted in increased costs associated with digitizing trainings, acquiring PPE, and implementing other safety measures at their facilities. Meanwhile, the need and demand for entrepreneur training and incubator resources have only increased over the past year as individuals previously employed in sectors disrupted by COVID-19 have begun to explore new employment ventures and existing businesses and enterprises have sought to better adapt to the changing economic landscape over the past year.

Through the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Program, the County distributed \$18.1 million in financial assistance to support the restart, re-launch, and re-opening of over 930 small businesses in the community, with over \$7.8 million awarded to local businesses that are minority-owned and woman-owned. Like small businesses, entrepreneurs and startup

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companies are critical to the economic vitality of any community, providing contributions in additional employment opportunities for residents and industry diversification within the local business community. As such, this proposed expenditure category would allocate \$300,000, shared proportionately with the City, to address local entrepreneurs' and startup companies' demonstrated need for assistance while also further promoting resilience among the local business community as a whole. Specifically, this funding would be distributed over the next two years to the local entrepreneur support entities, North Florida Innovation Labs and Domi Station, for enhanced training series, employment connection opportunities, and resources to support talent retention, revenue growth, and innovation among the local entrepreneurial community. With the dedication of these funds, the local entrepreneur support entities seek to train up to 75 new entrepreneurs, support the hiring of up to 20 new employees by local startup companies, and assist local startups in achieving \$1 million in revenue growth in the next two years.

County Continuity of Operations & ERA Program Support (\$3.5 Million)

- *County Continuity of Operations Support (\$2.0 Million)*

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many Leon County Government departments and divisions transitioned to a remote working environment, which required quick deployment of laptop computers to support County personnel working from home. The Office of Information and Technology (OIT) worked to address this need for laptops throughout the organization by using departments' pooled laptops and using other laptops assigned to the County's libraries. In addition, OIT found that the County's current virtual network environment did not have adequate capacity for the widespread remote connection needs of the organization, particularly from unknown devices when County personnel worked from home using personal devices, such as their own desktop computers or tablets. As a result, this increased the vulnerability of the network due to the number of unknown, potentially infected devices connecting directly to the County's network. Given this, OIT identified a need to transition all remote connections to a secured virtual desktop solution, which requires the use of devices setup and regularly maintained by OIT to facilitate improved security within the network.

While County staff have since returned to normal in-office operations, the limited availability of laptops in each work area reduces the County's ability and agility, should the County need to once again transition to remote work during the remainder of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The availability of CSLFR funding presents an opportunity for the County to enhance remote working capabilities by acquiring and proactively deploying additional laptops, configured with secure virtual desktop capability, for use throughout the public health emergency. Accordingly, this proposed expenditure category would allocate funding to support the acquisition of approximately 850 laptops, which would include 650 laptops to be deployed across County work areas and an additional 200 laptops to be deployed across the Constitutional and Judicial Offices. In addition, these new laptops and existing laptops owned by the County will be enhanced with the new secured virtual desktop solution to provide additional security across these devices.

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- *Emergency Rental Assistance Program Support (\$1.5 million)*

As discussed in detail in a separate item on the May 25 Budget Workshop agenda, Leon County has aggressively implemented its Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program. In less than six weeks since the program launched, the County has approved rent and utility assistance for more than 800 Leon County households, totaling over \$3.4 million in awards. While federal program guidelines allow up to 10% of the County's allocation of ERA funding to be used for administrative purposes, this maximum administrative allowance will not provide the funding needed to complete reviews of the large volume of applications received for the program while providing the enhanced level of support necessary to ensure that our most vulnerable residents receive the application assistance and technical support they need. In addition to a call center, the County has set up an intake center at the Amtrak building (supplemental to the contracted support funded through the County's ERA Program administrative allowance) to provide in-person assistance to citizens in completing applications. To date, the County has provided in-person assistance to more than 2,500 citizens at this intake center. The County also launched an extensive marketing and promotion initiative and directly engaged and contracted with community partners to promote community awareness of the ERA program. These efforts proved to be extremely successful; after the first three weeks of the program, the County received more than 6,000 applications for assistance totaling more than \$20 million in requests, far in excess of the \$8 million available through the program. Several larger Florida counties continue to report that their volume of applications is comparatively lower and are estimating that it may take several more months to expend their full ERA program allocation.

In addition to the ERA program, as discussed earlier in this item, the federal government is also launching a separate program to provide mortgage and utility relief to homeowners. While these funds will be provided directly to the states, it is unclear at this time whether the State of Florida will establish a pass-through program for local governments to administer. A preliminary review of the program guidelines indicates that the mortgage assistance program will be very complex to administer, and like the ERA program, will require personalized assistance for applicants to be successful.

Considering these factors, the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan would allocate \$1.5 million to continue supporting the implementation of the Leon County ERA program, including contracted services for an extraordinary volume of application reviews as well as application assistance and technical support. This funding would also be available to provide additional support as needed for a mortgage relief program in the event that the State of Florida passes this funding through to local governments for implementation as well as any other program that requires an enhanced level of citizen support. Funding allocated in this category would be used to pay for temporary employees, increased contractual services for application review and call center support, and personnel expenses (such as overtime costs) associated with reassigning Leon County employees from their normal job duties to assist with implementation of the ERA program.

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Reserve/Replenishment Account (\$5.7 Million)

The establishment of a Reserve/Replenishment account is a key component of the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan. This category establishes a reserve funding that may be allocated to any of the categories above based on future needs or for any potential changes in federal guidance that may allow for new uses without impacting existing categories. The ARPA provides that CSLFR funds may be used to cover costs obligated by the grantee through December 31, 2024, and obligated funds will remain available to complete projects through December 31, 2026.

Following the May 25 Budget Workshop, the County will immediately begin implementation of the CSLFR expenditure plan as approved by the Board in order to distribute this funding assistance throughout the community as quickly as possible. Accordingly, this item recommends authorizing the County Administrator to expend funds according to the plan as approved by the Board. Like the Leon CARES and Leon County ERA programs, the County Administrator will provide regular updates to the Board on the County's progress in implementing the CSLFR expenditure plan. Any recommendations that may be warranted for reallocating funds between categories or from the Reserve/Replenishment Account would be brought back to the Board for consideration at the appropriate time.

Summary and Conclusion

This budget discussion item provides an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and seeks the Board's consideration of a proposed expenditure plan for Leon County's allocation of \$57.0 million in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provided under the bill.

As discussed throughout this item, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the lives and livelihoods of citizens throughout Leon County. In addition to the public health and safety threats of COVID-19, impacts of the pandemic to local businesses have affected citizens' ability to meet basic living expenses due to layoffs, furloughs, and reductions in work hours. In response, Congress has authorized and appropriated an unprecedented level of financial support over the past year to address the immediate economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including trillions of dollars of support for a variety of public health, human service, and economic recovery needs. In 2020, Leon County successfully leveraged \$62.2 million in federal funding to support a broad range of these community needs through the Leon CARES plan. Several of the assistance programs authorized by Congress over the past year, particularly those authorized under the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the ARPA, continue to be implemented currently by state and local governments. Leon County continues to implement several of these programs, including the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program, Leon CARES-funded pop-up vaccination clinics, vaccine outreach to targeted populations, and more.

In March 2021, President Biden signed the latest major COVID-19 recovery legislation, the ARPA, into law, providing an additional \$1.9 trillion in economic relief and recovery assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARPA provides additional direct economic support for individuals and families, hard-hit industries and vulnerable populations, and state and local governments. This includes rent, mortgage, and utility assistance for low-income households;

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food and nutrition assistance; additional resources to address the COVID-19 public health emergency such as funding for testing and vaccines; grants for childcare assistance, additional federal unemployment assistance, a third round of direct stimulus payments; additional targeted assistance for small businesses impacted by the pandemic; and more. The ARPA also established a \$360 billion Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Fund (CSLFR) to help state and local governments offset increased expenditures, recover lost revenues, and mitigate the negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Importantly, the ARPA is also the first COVID-19 recovery legislation authorized by Congress that intends and allows for governmental entities to recover revenue losses resulting from the economic effects of the pandemic.

Immediately following the enactment of the ARPA, Leon County conducted an extensive evaluation of the specific statutory and administrative requirements for these funds, local government best practices, and conducted extensive community outreach with local nonprofits, human service agencies, public health and healthcare partners, and the local business community to identify any community recovery needs that remain unmet following the extensive relief provided by Congress over the past year. Based upon the unprecedented level of direct financial assistance made available by Congress over the past year, which includes trillions of dollars of support for individuals, households, and businesses that is still being implemented presently, and based upon the feedback gathered from the County's extensive outreach to community partners, the proposed expenditure plan for Leon County's allocation CSLFR funds does not contemplate another round of individual assistance or small business assistance. Community partners have indicated that the current and upcoming assistance made available by Congress through the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the ARPA, including two rounds of emergency rent and utility assistance, a similar mortgage and utility assistance program for homeowners, additional support for small businesses, and other assistance available through this legislation, is adequate to address most outstanding recovery needs for households and small businesses.

As such, the expenditure plan proposed in this item presents a series of recommended funding categories, consistent with the eligible uses of CSLFR funds under the ARPA and based upon input received from community partners regarding the community's remaining recovery needs. The proposed plan seeks to support the community's economic recovery by mitigating the significant revenue impacts incurred by the County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; by identifying and providing funding to address the community's specific remaining recovery needs in the areas of nonprofit and human services assistance, public health support, and targeted support for the local business community; and by leveraging local and state funding to complete major wastewater infrastructure projects which have been impacted by a significant recent increase in construction costs. As discussed earlier in this item, the proposed expenditure plan would mitigate \$25.5 million in revenue losses incurred by the County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which will be critical to maintaining a balanced County budget over the next several fiscal years while avoiding tax or fee increases, capital project reductions, or workforce reductions. In order to most efficiently meet the community's remaining recovery needs, the proposed expenditure plan contemplates a partnership with the City of Tallahassee to jointly fund several of the programs and initiatives included in the plan on a countywide basis. The County Administrator and City Manager are recommending a cost-sharing arrangement that would allow both entities to leverage

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a significant portion of their CSLFR funding to address food insecurity, small business needs, and homelessness support as part of a highly coordinated, communitywide plan.

Finally, the proposed expenditure plan includes a Reserve/Replenishment Account that would be available for reallocation to any of the categories included in the plan based on future needs or for any potential changes in federal guidance that may allow for new uses without impacting existing categories. Notwithstanding the above, the ARPA provides broad flexibility to local governments to determine how best to use CSLFR funds to meet the unique needs of their community. Accordingly, the Board has the opportunity to provide any additional policy direction regarding the use of these funds within the guidelines of the ARPA.

The following table summarizes the proposed allocation of the County's CSLFR funds, including a summary of the proposed cost sharing arrangement between the County and the City for the jointly funded programs discussed in this item:

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Table 4: Proposed CSLFR Expenditure Plan Including County/City Cost Share

Proposed Category	County Funding Share	City Funding Share	Total
COVID-19 Revenue Loss Mitigation			
Leon County Revenues	\$20,628,467	--	\$20,628,467
Blueprint Revenues (County Share)	\$4,923,866	\$3,996,181	\$8,920,047
<i>Category Subtotal:</i>	<i>\$25,552,333</i>	<i>\$3,996,181</i>	<i>\$29,548,514</i>
Infrastructure Improvements			
Northeast Lake Munson Sewer	\$2,900,000	--	\$2,900,000
Belair/Annawood Sewer	\$1,444,000	--	\$1,400,000
Woodville Sewer	\$8,256,000	--	\$8,300,000
<i>Category Subtotal:</i>	<i>\$12,600,000</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>\$12,600,000</i>
Local Human Services Partner Support			
Food Insecurity	\$767,280	\$622,720	\$1,390,000
Homelessness and Housing Support	\$3,462,144	\$2,809,856	\$6,272,000
Legal Services	\$447,120	\$362,880	\$810,000
Mental Health Services	\$110,400	\$89,600	\$200,000
Nonprofit Grant Program	\$1,843,680	\$1,496,320	\$3,340,000
<i>Category Subtotal:</i>	<i>\$6,630,624</i>	<i>\$5,381,376</i>	<i>\$12,012,000</i>
Public Health Response Support			
Leon County Health Department	\$534,702	--	\$534,702
Neighborhood Medical Center	\$500,000	--	\$500,000
Bond Community Health Center	\$300,000	--	\$300,000
Vaccine Hesitancy Engagement and Promotion	\$331,200	\$268,800	\$600,000
<i>Category Subtotal:</i>	<i>\$1,665,902</i>	<i>\$268,800</i>	<i>\$1,934,702</i>
Small Business Support			
SmartSteps Program	\$1,104,000	\$896,000	\$2,000,000
Local Chambers of Commerce	\$165,600	\$134,400	\$300,000
Entrepreneurship Support	\$165,600	\$134,400	\$300,000
<i>Category Subtotal:</i>	<i>\$1,435,200</i>	<i>\$1,164,800</i>	<i>\$2,600,000</i>
County Continuity of Operations & ERA Program Support			
County Continuity of Operations Support	\$1,981,000	--	\$1,981,000
ERA Program Support	\$1,500,000	--	\$1,500,000
<i>Category Subtotal:</i>	<i>\$3,481,000</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>\$3,481,000</i>
Reserve/Replenishment			
Reserves/Replenishment Account	\$5,659,803	--	\$5,659,803
<i>Category Subtotal:</i>	<i>\$5,659,803</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>\$5,659,803</i>
Proposed Category Totals:	\$57,024,862	\$10,811,157	\$67,836,019

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Options:

1. Approve the proposed expenditure plan for the County's allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (Attachment #1).
2. Authorize the County Administrator to expend Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as provided in the proposed expenditure plan and enter into subgrant agreements with fund recipients, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.
3. Approve the associated Resolution and Budget Amendment Request (Attachment #2).
4. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Options #1 through #3

Attachments:

1. Proposed Expenditure Plan for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2. Resolution and Budget Amendment Request
3. Squire Patton Boggs Memorandum: "The American Rescue Plan Act: Key Provision Analysis"
4. Leon CARES Community Impact Report
5. U.S. Department of the Treasury Interim Final Rule: "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds"
6. U.S. Treasury Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Quick Reference Guide and Frequently Asked Questions
7. Government Finance Officers Association American Rescue Plan Act Guiding Principles
8. March 9, 2021 Agenda Item: "Status Report on Broadband Access in Rural Communities"
9. Leon County Water Quality and Springs Protection Infrastructure Improvement Plan
10. Survey of Local Nonprofit Human Service Agencies