




JACKSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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To: Jackson County Board of Commissioners
From: Don Adams 
Date: August 9, 2022
Subject: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

The U.S. Treasury released final ARPA rules on January 27, 2022. The new rules contain a provision related to revenue replacement that will greatly simplify Jackson County's ability to use these funds. The new rules will allow counties to utilize up to \$10 million dollars of these funds to replace revenues. Jackson County's entire \$8,534,441 allocation can be utilized in this fashion. These additional revenues can be used for any local government public purpose. This new provision will greatly simplify Jackson County's ability to utilize these funds by removing the Federal OMB Purchasing and Contracting Guidelines when expending these funds. Jackson County will still have to follow all local government purchasing and contracting NC laws when expending these funds.

Jackson County has moved forward with several projects utilizing ARPA funds. These projects include:

1. \$1,210,451 : Used for public safety.
2. \$2,174,498 : Used to match a \$2,174,498 grant from Dogwood Health Trust to build a domestic violence shelter and to conduct a study regarding homelessness.
3. \$ 600,000: Used to match the NC Great Grant broadband infrastructure program.

\$4,549,492 of ARPA funds remain available.

Other ARPA conversations have been held that relate to responding to the negative impacts of the public health emergency. These discussions have included:

1. AWAKE facility needs.
2. Developing a non-profit application for those who perform human service functions.

Other concepts that have been discussed include:

1. Broadband. There will be additional opportunities through the upcoming NC CAB (Completing Access to Broadband) grant program.
2. Building of parks.
3. Affordable housing.

It is requested that the Board move forward with reviewing the AWAKE facility needs and to entertain the needs of other non-profits who perform human service functions.

I would propose that we invite AWAKE to the Board to discuss their physical facility needs. The AWAKE project will be a good model to assist in reviewing other human service non-profit needs within our community. Examples of why this would be a good model include:

1. AWAKE's primary mission is to serve child abuse victims. One of ARPA's primary uses has always been to respond to the negative impacts of a public emergency. It was determined that the pandemic greatly exacerbated problems such as child abuse and other social issues. Funding human service non-profits follows the original intent of ARPA.
2. The request is a one-time expense. AWAKE is attempting to repair and update its existing facility. AWAKE has developed multiple partnerships to meet their physical space needs. These partnerships range from real property donations to a significant fund raising effort. This effort will significantly reduce the financial request to the County.
3. There is a long history of Jackson County partnering with AWAKE in assisting the victims of child abuse. This goes beyond financial support. AWAKE partners with other County organizations such as Sheriff's Office and Social Services. It would not be possible to serve these victims without AWAKE.