



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin and Members of the City Council

FROM: William A. Kolschowsky, Management Analyst

DATE: May 12, 2022

RE: **Discussion Item: ARPA: Accelerated Track Option for Time-Sensitive Projects and Programs**

Background

In order to solicit meaningful public input, draft a Concept Plan outlining desired outcomes, and monitor and report on uses of ARPA¹ funds in a fiscally responsible, outcome-oriented manner, the City entered into a Project and Fiscal Management Agreement with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) in August of 2021. In conjunction with the City, the RPC developed an ARPA timeline, summarized below and available in full on the City's [ARPA website](#).

- Phase 1: Background Research and Synthesis of Priorities: Fall 2021-Spring 2022
- Phase 2: Develop a Concept Plan: Spring 2022
- Phase 3: Implementation: Fall 2022 – Spring 2027

Phase 1 has concluded and the RPC will present a summary of ARPA public input at the May 16, 2022 City Council Meeting.

Accelerated Track Proposal

A number of time-sensitive projects and programs have emerged during the ARPA public input phase that are clear in scope and align well with ARPA Priorities and City Council/Mayor Goals. Delaying funding until the fall under the original ARPA Concept Plan timeline could have an adverse impact on desired outcomes. Therefore, in response to opportunities that have arisen over the past few months, Council direction is being asked on the possibility of adding an option to allocate a portion of the ARPA funds to qualified projects/programs on an accelerated timeline.

Qualified projects/programs would need to meet the tentative criteria below:

Abundantly clear alignment with ARPA Priorities and Council Goals
Efficiently uses funds by leveraging ARPA dollars with other funding sources
Immediately implementable
Outcome-oriented
Urgent in need and time-sensitive

¹ American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Recovery Funds. Of which, the City of Urbana was awarded approximately \$12.97 million.

Organizations with potentially qualified projects would be invited present their proposals to City Council. City Council would decide what projects will receive funds as part of the accelerated track. Projects that do not receive funds as part of accelerated track have the option of using the conventional track. The Council may elect to cap the maximum allocation for the accelerated track. For example, an allocation cap of \$5 million would represent approximately half of the remaining unobligated funds, after RPC Administration and the Standard Allowance.

Proposal Rationale

This accelerated track proposal was developed in response to several potentially transformative opportunities that have emerged over the past few months. These projects align with adopted priorities and goals, are time-sensitive and further analysis is unlikely to elucidate better information. The outcomes these projects seek to address may be harmed by delay. The two largest projects, Urbana Park District's Health and Wellness Center and Urbana School District's "Plan for U", involve investment in infrastructure and would serve as locations for subsequent programming provided by community organizations and agencies for years to come. Among other things, they address root causes of community violence, promote health and well-being, provide job training and focus on the needs of youth and their families.

List of Potentially Qualified Projects

A review of public input has identified several projects that may fit the accelerated track criteria (**Exhibit A**). Potentially qualified projects include:

- A. *"Plan for U"/Infrastructure* – Urbana School District #116
- B. *"Plan for U"/Trauma Training* – C-U Trauma and Resilience Initiative
- C. *Health and Wellness Facility* – Urbana Park District
- D. *CDFI Micro-lending for Small Business Development* -Champaign County Economic Development Corporation & Justine Petersen Housing and Reinvestment Corporation
- E. *YouthBuild* - Housing Authority of Champaign County
- F. *Gun Bounty and Reward Program* - Champaign County Crime Stoppers Program

Tentative Timeline

The timeline for the accelerated track is proposed to be:

- May 16: RPC Presentation on Public Input and accelerated track discussion.
- (Optional) June: Addition presentation to Council on Concept Plan outline and/or remainder of process.
- June: Presentations of potentially qualified projects (Special City Council meetings will likely be needed).
- June: COW Discussing Allocation of Funds for accelerated track Qualified Projects.
- June: Council Meeting Allocating Funds for accelerated track Qualified Projects.

Key Question for Discussion

For this discussion item, there is one key question that staff is seeking guidance on:

- 1) Is there a willingness to allocate a portion of the ARPA funds following an 'Accelerated Track' option?

If there is agreement that this approach generally conforms with the existing ARPA process and there is support for allocating some ARPA funds at the conclusion of this process, then the City can begin

undertaking this process immediately. A final list of potentially qualified proposals will be curated with Council input, guidelines finalized, and presentations scheduled. Support for an accelerated track process is not a commitment to fund any particular project. At the conclusion of the accelerated track process, the City Council may elect to fund any or none of the projects presented. Concept Plan development by the RPC would occur concurrently and any funds not awarded through the accelerated track process would be allocated at a later date.

If there is not general support for an accelerated track option, the City would follow the ARPA single-track process as originally proposed. After the Concept Plan, project seeking ARPA funds would submit applications to the RPC to be evaluated and scored. It is anticipated that City Council would have an opportunity to allocate funds by the end of 2022 or early 2023.

Attachments

Exhibit A: Potentially Qualified Projects List

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Project Name	Organization	Description	Funding Request	Leverage Funding	Time Sensitive	ARPA Priority Area(s)	Council Goal(s)	Contact Information
Plan for U	Urbana School District #116	Restorative, therapeutic program for youth in grades 6-12 and their families, focusing on youth development, academic and social skills, violence prevention, trauma and mental health training.	\$700,000 for building renovation, technology, bus for Fall 2022 opening	YES	YES	Public Health and Safety, Human Rights and Social Services,	#1Public Safety and Well-Being, 1.a) Address root causes of community violence 1.c) Promote community well-being, 2b) Promote workforce development	Superintendent Jennifer Ivory-Tatum
Plan for U/Trauma Training	C-U Trauma and Resilience Initiative	Trainings include: Integrative Treatment of Complex Trauma for Adolescents; Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; Seeking Safety; I-Care and Strong Families; Youth Trauma Center; Start 2 Heal	\$110,000 (coordinated with Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint; admin costs)	YES	YES	Public Health and Safety	#1Public Safety and Well-Being, 1.a) Address root causes of community violence 3.a) Fund community partners that promote health and wellness	Founding Director Karen Crawford Simms
Health and Wellness Center	Urbana Park District	Community Health and Wellness Center serving all ages promoting health, fitness, and community programming. Located on East Washington St., Urbana. Full Plan Facility includes 2 gyms, 2 fitness rooms, weights/equipment room, 1 multipurpose community room	\$2.5 million for construction of "full plan" facility	YES	YES	Public Health and Safety, Sustainable Infrastructure, Economic Recovery, Human Rights and Social Services	#1Public Safety and Well-Being, 1.a) Address root causes of community violence 3.a) Fund community partners that promote health and wellness #3 Infrastructure 3. Expand Green infrastructure within the community #4Economic Recovery and Development	Executive Director Timothy Bartlett
Small Business Development Through Microlending through a US Treasury Certified Community Development Financial Institution	Champaign County Economic Development Corporation/ Justine Petersen Housing and Reinvestment Corporation	Small business development through microloans for entrepreneurs and small businesses for job creation, job retention, tax base enhancement and building equity and wealth.	Each \$125,000 investment leverages \$1,000,000 in available funding	YES	YES	Economic Recovery and Development, Public Health and Safety, Human Rights and Social Services	1.a) Address root causes of community violence 3.a) Fund community partners that promote health and wellness 4Economic Recovery and Development	Executive Director Carly McGrory-McKay
YouthBuild	Housing Authority of Champaign County	Pre-apprenticeship program for disadvantaged youth ages 16-24. Occupational and leadership training addressing educational, physical, social, and emotional needs of youth. Full tuition per participant: \$10,000. Covers high school diploma, career certifications, monthly stipend, uniforms and PPE, tools and equipment	\$250,000 for 25 Urbana residents on wait list as of Spring 2022	YES	YES	Public Health and Safety; Economic Recovery and Development; Affordable Housing;	#1Public Safety and Well-Being, 1.a) Address root causes of community violence 3.a) Fund community partners that promote health and wellness 4Economic Recovery and Development	Interim Executive Director Lily Walton
Gun Bounty Reward Program	Champaign County Crime Stoppers	Crime Stoppers pays \$2500 cash for tips leading to an arrest where gun was used in felony crime, and \$5,000 cash for tip leading to arrest in homicide case.	\$50,000.00	YES	YES June	Public Health and Safety	Public Safety and Well-Being 1c Fund options that enhance police investigative capacity to solve serious crimes	Vice President Dawn Coyne Trimble