

COUNTY OF KANE

Corinne M. Pierog MA, MBA
Kane County Board Chairman



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kane County Announces ARPA Funds Oversight Process/Timeline

GENEVA, IL –The Kane County Board on Tuesday approved the selection process to hire a consulting firm and project manager to ensure compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements related to the disbursement of \$103 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

“We cannot rush this process,” said Kane County Board Chair Corinne Pierog. “Before we make any decisions regarding the American Rescue Plan funds or how much money will be allocated to those eligible, we must first ensure proper management and fiscal oversight of the entire process. These initial steps are critical to ensure that all voices are heard and that we have in place a fair and proper process.”

The ARPA, signed into law on March 11, 2021, is designed to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and its economic and social impacts. Kane County received the first half (\$51.7 million) of the funds in May of this year and will receive the other half in May of 2022. Funds received may be awarded to cover eligible costs incurred related to the pandemic from March 3, 2021 to December 31, 2024. Kane County is responsible for allocating the U.S. Department of Treasury funds by December 31, 2024.

Specifically, the ARPA cites four main categories that qualify as an eligible use of funds:

1. Respond to public health emergency with COVID-19 or its negative economic impact;
2. Provide premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work;
3. Recoupment of lost revenue due to COVID-19 public emergency;
4. Investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure.

Kane County Board Member and Chairman of the American Rescue Plan Act Committee Jarett Sanchez said the county is open to supporting any number of organizations and programs whose resources have been strained during the pandemic.

“We’re looking into ways to support, for example, evidence-based programs provided by local area non-profits and social service providers, expanded broadband access in Kane County, and bolster local tourism,” Sanchez said.

In addition, Sanchez said an online application portal will be in place soon so that social service organizations can apply for community support grants.

“Community support grants will go a long way to addressing the short-term, immediate needs of the community by providing some relief to social service organizations,” Sanchez said.

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Kane County ARP Funds Oversight Process Announcement

In addition to the four broad categories outlined by the ARPA that qualify for funding, the U.S. Department of the Treasury also issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) on May 17, 2021, that provides additional details on how the money can and cannot be used. <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/FRF-Interim-Final-Rule.pdf>

For example, in the category of recoupment of lost revenue due to COVID-19 public emergency, the IFR states that the funds can be used for a broad number of government services including, but not limited to, infrastructure needs allowable by the act; modernization of cybersecurity; health services; environmental remediation; school or educational services; and police, fire and other public safety service.

“There are many organizations, projects and programs worthy of support,” Pierog said. “By putting the time in now, we can ensure the funds are spent appropriately and that the supported initiatives will have long-term benefits for all of our residents.”

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