

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Discussion on the Use of COVID Recovery Funds for Human Services in 2023
DEPARTMENT:	Recreation, Cultural and Community Services
PRESENTED BY:	Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn, Community Services Manager
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill. Within the ARPA, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund provides \$350 billion for states, municipalities, counties, tribes, and territories, including \$130 billion for local governments, split evenly between municipalities and counties. The City of Shoreline was awarded \$7,533,842 in ARPA funding.

On [June 14, 2021](#), Council indicated support for staff's Phase 1 funding recommendations, including funding 1.4 FTE COVID Recovery Navigator/Community Support Specialist positions; supporting human services and community, youth and business recovery efforts; and funding wastewater and stormwater capital projects. Additionally, in December 2021, the City Manager authorized an expenditure of \$87,500 to purchase grocery gift cards for the School District Holiday Gift Basket Event.

As was discussed as part of the [February 14, 2022](#), Council meeting, the ARPA funds were used to support a portion of the City's 2021 Police Services Contract. This is allowable under ARPA regulations to reduce the City's administrative burden and audit risk. The use of ARPA funds in this manner allowed the Council approved ARPA programs to be funded with City General Funds.

On [January 24, 2022](#), Council reviewed the proposed use of these funds for COVID Recovery Human Services funding in 2022. Further, on [August 8, 2022](#), Council approved a budget amendment which added funding to several 2022 COVID Recovery programs.

Tonight, staff will share updates on the use of 2022 funding and present recommendations for 2023 Human Services COVID Recovery programs.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Of the \$7,533,842 that was made available in the General Fund by the ARPA funding the City received, \$2,110,000 was reserved for Human Services COVID Recovery.

While the 1.4 FTE COVID Recovery Navigator positions were included in the 2023-2024 approved City Budget, the 2023 COVID Recovery Human Services funding will be included as part of a future budget amendment.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss the 2023 Human Services COVID Recovery funding recommendations. If Council n supports these recommendations, staff will bring back the related expenditures in the April 2023 Budget Amendment.

Approved By: City Manager **JN** City Attorney **MK**

BACKGROUND

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill. Within the ARPA, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund provides \$350 billion for states, municipalities, counties, tribes, and territories, including \$130 billion for local governments, split evenly between municipalities and counties. The City of Shoreline was awarded \$7,533,842. As was discussed as part of the February 14, 2022, Council meeting, the ARPA funds were used to support a portion of the City's 2021 Police Services Contract. This is allowable under ARPA regulations to reduce the City's administrative burden and audit risk. More information on this can be found here: [Discussion of Ordinance No. 954 – Amending the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget \(Ordinance No. 945\)](#).

As part of the discussion on the use of the COVID Recovery funding on June 14, 2021, Council allocated \$2,110,000 (of the \$7,533,842) to respond to the negative impacts of COVID by our community members through our Human Services Program. This includes an estimated \$511,000 for Limited Term Community Support Specialists (1.4 FTE); the continuation of which is included in the approved 2023-2024 Budget. More information on this can be found here: [Discussion of Proposed American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Funding Allocation](#).

On January 24, 2022, Council reviewed the proposed use of these funds for COVID Recovery Human Services funding in 2022, which can be found here: [Discussion of Proposed 2022 Human Services Allocations of American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Funding](#). Further, on August 8, 2022, Council approved a budget amendment which added additional funding to several 2022 COVID Recovery programs. More information on this can be found here: [Adoption of Ordinance No. 970 – Amending the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget \(Ordinance No. 954\)](#).

DISCUSSION

Tonight, Council will review the impact of the 2022 COVID Recovery Funding and the recommendations for the 2023 Human Services COVID Recovery investments.

Review of 2022 COVID Recovery Programs

Council previously approved 2022 COVID Recovering programming in three areas:

1. Emergency support for ongoing COVID Crisis Recovery (Category A);
2. Investments in direct service support to historically underserved populations disproportionately impacted by COVID (Category B); and
3. Investments to strengthen civic infrastructure hampered by COVID to build the ongoing capacity of historically underserved communities for long-term impact (Category C).

2022 COVID Recovery Programs

Category	Program	1/24/2022 Staff Report	8/8/2022 Budget Amend.	Total
A. Emergency Support	2022 Holiday Baskets	\$87,500		\$87,500
	Additional Grocery Cards	\$50,000		\$50,000
	Center For Human Services – Flexible Financial Support	\$50,000		\$50,000
	Canopy – Flexible Financial Support	\$25,000		\$25,000
	Shoreline Community Care – Flexible Financial Support	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$45,000
B. Investment in Services	Charmd/Grounded	\$78,500	\$20,000	\$98,500
	Center for Human Services	\$120,000		\$120,000
	Canopy	\$57,000		\$57,000
	Hotel Vouchers	\$10,000		\$10,000
	Bus/Transportation	\$5,000		\$5,000
	Housing Outreach*		\$35,839	\$35,839
C. Strengthen Civic Connections	Love Your Community Grants	\$10,000		\$10,000
TOTAL APPROVED TO DATE				\$593,839

*. This COVID Recovery funding supplements general fund support.

Report on Use of 2022 Funding

Category A – Emergency support for ongoing COVID Crisis Recovery

- **\$87,500 – Grocery cards for Shoreline Schools Holiday Baskets 2022 –**
This is a popular event in coordination with the Shoreline PTSA, Shoreline School District Family Advocates and the Shoreline YMCA. With the bulk discount provided, this amount purchased 736 grocery cards (cards do not allow purchases of lottery, alcohol, or tobacco) in support of the upcoming Holiday Baskets event scheduled for December 10, 2022. Over 600 families were assisted by the event in 2021.
- **\$50,000 – Additional grocery cards –** These cards were distributed throughout the year in partnership with community-based organizations as needs were identified. Staff provided grocery cards to the following agencies: Shoreline Teen Program, Shoreline Police, Grounded Black Coffee NW, Compass Housing – Ronald Commons, Seattle/Lake Forest Park Senior Center, Hopelink, and Lake City Partners Ending Homelessness.
- **\$120,000 – Flexible Financial Assistance –** This included \$50,000 to the Center for Human Services, \$45,000 to Shoreline Community Care, and \$25,000 to Canopy. Agencies report a high need for this type of flexible support. While the direct financial support is important, there is also a high level of additional effort to work with clients to meet other needs they have, as well as ways to reduce the need for support in the future. Utility, medical, and rent assistance remain the most common types of assistance provided.

Category B – Investments in direct service support to low-income, historically underserved populations disproportionately impacted by COVID

These programs are investments to address immediate COVID-related needs for those most negatively impacted, such as those who are low-income and part of historically underserved communities, including those experiencing homelessness, immigrant and refugee individuals and families, as well as those who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

- **\$98,500** to Charmd LLC/Grounded to provide mental health support for Immigrant and Refugee individuals and families. Charmd also subcontracts with Grounded to support a part-time Youth Mental Health Specialist of Color to specifically support Black youth and other Youth of Color. By September, 51 individuals have been provided group and/or individual counselling.
- **\$120,000** to the Center for Human Services (CHS) Family Support Program for an Information and Assistance Specialist and COVID program support. As of the end of September, CHS has aided 85 people seeking informational assistance and financial assistance and provided financial support to 22 households.
- **\$57,000** to Canopy for a part-time Family Coordinator and part-time Tutor Coordinator to strengthen the organization’s internal capacity and expand the number of students and families that can be offered tutoring support. Canopy works largely with East African families. They have served an average of 59 students in their tutoring program and provided 40 families with emergency financial support.
- **\$10,000** for emergency hotel vouchers to be distributed by Shoreline Police and/or Lake City Partners. Unfortunately, issues with implementation have so far hampered the program’s ability to be deployed. If issues cannot be resolved, staff will recommend reprogramming these funds in a future discussion with Council.
- **\$5,000** to purchase bus tickets or other transportation support for individuals utilizing the severe weather shelter, who are living unhoused and need assistance getting to a safer location, or who have unique transportation needs. Staff worked with local agencies to provide both King County Metro and Community Transit adult and youth tickets to the following agencies: Shoreline Teen Program, Shoreline Police, Grounded Black Coffee NW, Compass Housing – Ronald Commons, Seattle/Lake Forest Park Senior Center, Hopelink, and Lake City Partners Ending Homelessness.
- **\$35,839** to fully fund the Housing Outreach Worker through Lake City Partners. This expansion began in July and the funding allows the Housing Outreach Worker to be dedicated full time to outreach work in assistance of the unhoused in the Shoreline Community. Within the first three months of the program expansion, they have responded to ten urgent community engagement requests, 11 residents have been referred to The Oaks for housing, and two people moved into either shelter or housing.

Category C—Investments to strengthen civic Infrastructure hampered by COVID to build the ongoing capacity of historically underserved communities for long-term impact

This recommendation responded to staff findings regarding overall community fatigue, especially for individuals and communities that continue to face unstable employment

and financial strain. This category also aligns with the goals of the City's Anti-Racism Resolution.

- **\$10,000** to expand the Love Your Community Grant Program to encourage resident-driven efforts to build an anti-racist community as part of an overall COVID recovery process. This is a City mini-grant pilot program currently in operation and funded at \$8,800 for the 2021-2022 biennium. Unfortunately, the continued impact of the COVID and the current review of the Neighborhood program has delayed the implementation, but we expect these funds to be deployed in 2023.

Impact of Community Support Specialists

An important component of our COVID Recovery Program has been the addition of 1.4 FTE in Community Support Specialists. These efforts have focused on providing programmatic and technical support to the funded agencies and direct support to Shoreline residents in need.

As part of their role, staff have worked closely with COVID Recovery funded agencies in the implementation of their programs, as several are new to receiving government funding. Additionally, staff have completed program visits to three of the four funded programs, with the remaining one scheduled for early December.

The Community Support Specialist role has continued to provide direct assistance to residents in need which includes helping residents identify appropriate resources and providing assistance with completing application forms as needed. In some cases, individuals and families are referred to organizations that have the capacity to provide ongoing case management support.

Since the beginning of the Community Support Program in late 2021, assistance has been provided to 146 Shoreline residents. Of those, 106 were referred to other community organizations, and 51 were assisted directly, either through meeting in person or over the phone/email. Assistance provided involved the follow issues:

- Food/Basic Needs: Safeway grocery cards; applications to a range of programs offered through the state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
- Housing: rent and mortgage assistance
- Financial/Transportation: providing bus tickets; help with car repairs; accessing community transportation; ORCA card; energy and water assistance; applying for Social Security
- Employment: resumé assistance; day-care training enrollment; interview help at Workforce
- Health/Medical: applying for health insurance; access COVID vaccinations/boosters; obtaining eyeglasses
- Legal: domestic violence; immigration assistance; support for family overseas

Additionally, staff have continued to form connections with community leaders and organizations. These conversations have informed staff regarding ongoing funding recommendations for how best to equitably distribute the COVID Recovery funding for human services investments.

2023 Funding Recommendations

Based on the impact of the 2022 funding, staff is recommending the following investments of the COVID Recovery Funding for 2023:

Proposed 2023 COVID Recovery Programs

Category	Program	2022	Proposed for 2023
A. Emergency Support	Holiday Baskets	\$87,500	\$50,000
	Additional Grocery Cards	\$50,000	\$0
	Center For Human Services – Flexible Financial Support	\$50,000	\$50,000
	Canopy – Flexible Financial Support	\$25,000	\$25,000
	Shoreline Community Care – Flexible Financial Support	\$45,000	\$50,000
B. Investment in Services	Charmd/Grounded	\$98,500	\$98,500
	Center for Human Services	\$120,000	\$120,000
	Canopy	\$57,000	\$57,000
	Hotel Vouchers*	\$10,000	\$0
	Bus/Transportation	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Housing Outreach**	\$35,839	\$25,839
	Hopelink – Food	\$0	\$30,000
C. Strengthen Civic Connections	Love Your Community Grants	\$10,000	\$0*
TOTALS		\$593,839	\$511,339

**As these funds went unspent in 2022, we will request the funds be carried forward into the 2023 budget.*

***Will fully fund Housing Outreach worker through June 30, 2023.*

Highlights to 2023 Recommendations

- Maintain programs within the “Investment in Services” Category and corresponding flexible financial support provided through those programs.
- Reduce support to Grocery Card Purchases for Holiday Baskets Program and Additional Grocery Cards – as the COVID Recovery funds are limited, we recommend stepping down the support of this component, unless another source of funding is identified.
- Increase to Flexible Financial Support for Shoreline Community Care (\$5,000) due to the high level of need demonstrated.
- Add support to the Hopelink Food Program (\$30,000) as food insecurity remains an issue in the community.
- Carryover Love Your Community Grant (\$10,000) and Hotel Voucher (\$10,000) into 2023.

- Support the Housing Outreach Worker (\$25,839) through June 30, 2023, to aid the unhoused members of our community.

After the planned expenditures in 2023, we estimate there will be approximately \$370,000 in COVID Recovery funds available. There are several factors that will affect funding recommendations for 2024; staff will return in late 2023 to share the impact of 2023 funding and make recommendations for 2024.

Council Discussion Questions

Tonight, staff is seeking Council's feedback on the following discussion questions:

1. Does Council have any questions regarding the specific recommended investments?
2. Does Council support the proposed 2023 Human Services ARPA allocation recommendations?

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

Of the \$7,533,842 that was made available in the General Fund by the ARPA funding the City received, \$2,110,000 was reserved for Human Services COVID Recovery. While the 1.4 FTE COVID Recovery Navigator positions were included in the 2023-2024 approved City Budget, the 2023 COVID Recovery Human Services funding will be added to the budget as part of a future budget amendment.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss staff's recommended 2023 Human Services COVID Recovery funding recommendations. If Council is in support of these recommendations, staff will bring back the related expenditures in the April 2023 Budget Amendment.