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Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Beaver Lake Lodge
Contact Name: John Martel
Contact Email: chubbermartel@yahoo.com
Telephone #: 479-301-8893

1. Name of Project: Beaver Lake Lodge Rescue Proposal

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $17,435

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Project is under category B; Economic Harm

4. Brief Project Description:

Beaver Lake Lodge is applying for assistance as a small business that has faced economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Beaver Lake Lodge, Located just outside of the City Limits in Rogers, Arkansas was built in 1964 and provides the area with a piece of history. It had been in

existence since the White River was dammed to create Beaver Lake and offers affordable lodging so that visitors can enjoy the beauty of the Natural State. This nostalgic motor inn style lodge overlooks Prairie Creek Marina, is located near Hobbs State Park, and is a short drive to all that Bentonville, Rogers, and Bella Vista have to offer. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has created significant barriers to keeping the lodge open. Conservative estimates show over a $60,000 annual direct revenue loss as a result of COVID-19 to date. We are asking for consideration for funding to assist in mitigating the financial hardship resulting from these declines in revenues.

5. Project Plan:

Upon receipt of rescue plan funds, Beaver lake Lodge will apply those funds to overdue back property taxes to Benton County. Within the first month we will also purchase lock boxes to provide a more efficient means of contactless check in and check outs.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Economic harm resulting from the pandemic has been widespread across the state of Arkansas. Northwest Arkansas and Benton County in particular is among the fastest growing regions in the state. Benton County has that has made a commitment to creating the communities and infrastructure necessary to continue in the growth of the area for both residents and visitors alike. Safety guidelines provided by the CDC as well as state and local authorities encouraged individuals to stay at home, restrict numbers of people gathering in groups, and avoid unnecessary travel. While these steps have been necessary to control the spread of Covid-19, particular industries such as that of tourism has been deeply affected and need assistance to recover as our communities recover.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

Tourism has been among one of the hardest hit industries by COVID-19. Data from the Arkansas Tourism Economic Impact Reports indicated that tourism in the area was experiencing exponential growth into 2019. By 2020 however, as a result of the pandemic, Tourism was down an estimated 20%. Additionally, the 2% tourism tax that funds many projects across the county and state was down by 1/3. Hotels and Motels in particular were hit even harder as Arkansas' Executive Order 20-13 required hotels, motels, and short-term rentals to refuse occupancy to recreational out-of-state travelers. While hotels statewide were still allowed to provide lodging to healthcare professionals, first responders, law enforcement, state and federal employees on official business, National Guard members on active duty, airline crew members, journalists and other essential employees, those like beaver lake lodge in more rural recreationally focused areas saw little revenue from supporting essential workers. If funded, it is believed that not only will Beaver Lake Lode be able to recover from the economic Injury that was experienced due to COVID-19, but it will help to ensure safety by using contactless check-ins and outs, effective sanitization procedures between guests, and encouraging current CDC and state guidelines for controlling the spread of COVID-19.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

The population to be served by his project is 2 fold. Residents of Benton County will be served by this project as it will provide tax revenues that will go back into community resources. It will support continued growth of the area in spite of COVID-19 economic impacts, and will also continue to support a pathway for tourism revenues to continue. Northwest Arkansas is a vacation destination for many in the country and internationally. As we continue to grow and encourage tourism, the area will benefit from the economic and cultural impact that growth brings. It will also impact visitors to this beautiful area of the state with improved access to National and State parks, and other locally owned businesses.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

Goal A: Full Implementation of safety policies; Contactless Check-In-Out Option. In month 1 after funding, lock boxes will be purchased and installed for ease of contactless check-ins and check-outs. Guests will be able to select contactless option when making a reservation. We will also provide opportunities to receive the number of guests using contactless check-ins and will provide satisfaction data regarding their experience.

Goal B: Pay all Property tax balances. Upon receipt of funding, all past due and current property taxes will be paid in full. Performance measure will be County tax receipts that can be provided with quarterly reports.

Goal C: Sustainability of tourism revenues. Each quarter revenues received via guests will be reported and compared to 2020 and 2021 revenues for that quarter. While there are many contributing factors to increased revenues, we believe that providing contactless service, communicating our dedication to guest safety, along with improving COVID-19 rates in the area we can reasonably expect to see a 10% increase in revenues from 2021. Each quarter revenues received via guests will be reported and compared to 2020 and 2021 revenues for that quarter as the performance measure to indicate success in projected sustainability.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

The Evaluation for this project is fairly straightforward. We will track and report the total number of guests, the percent that choose to use contactless check-in-out, and the results of their post-stay satisfaction data. Guest data will inform: what sites they/activities people are engaging in in Benton County (ie: crystal bridges, Hobbs state park, beaver lake etc.), and comfortability with safety practices. Financial reports and receipts will provide data for goals B and C.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

We recognize that many industries have been grossly affected by COVID-19. Emergency support toward healthcare, non-profits, and infrastructure has been crucial during these difficult past two years. We cannot afford to lose momentum in providing these services that directly address disparities as a community. Small business and tourism in particular is another area in desperate need of short-term support. By providing small businesses like ours a "life-line" to continue operating during this recovery time, Benton County will be investing in long-term sustainability of revenues through tax dollars that can be allocated to address the specific needs of Benton County residents. Current gaps and issues of inequality/disparities exist in a multitude of arenas such as the criminal Justice System, Health Care, and Education to name a few, all of which rely heavily of tax revenue. We are pleased to partner with Benton County through this project, and acknowledge the important work being done in our area to address these disparities.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

There are no sub-contractors or sub-awardees for this project.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

While Beaver Lake Lodge as an entity has not ever received grant funding, active member(s) of the organization have extensive experience with both Federal and State funding as well as reporting and evaluation. We are confident that we will be able to satisfy the required activities and reporting/evaluation that is required for this proposal.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

See Attached budget.

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

This project will be considered a Point-In-Time relief effort. It is expected that as our communities and Economy continues to heal from the effects of COVID-19, business "as usual" will support the sustainment of Beaver lake Lodge in years to come.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes, we will be able to provide spending reports as well as outcome Evaluation reports for the duration of the project period.

17. Special Considerations

We appreciate you time and consideration of this proposal. Beaver Lake Lodge has been a hallmark business of Rogers and Prairie Creek area for nearly 60 years. We have been please to provide affordable, safe, and fun lodging that gives people an opportunity to explore the natural state and the amenities that Benton County has to offer. This one time emergency funding will provide us the ability to continue in this tradition while improving our practices to meet the current safety needs of our time. Thank You.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Beaver Lake Lodge**
Project Name:	**Beaver Lake Lodge - Rescue Propsal**
Amount Requested:	**$17,435**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds		PENDING	
Total	$ -		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Lock Box Purchases	$ 1,250.00		$ 1,250.00		Lock boxs purchase and installation
Evaluation Supplies/ Digital Survey Links	$ 3,800.00		$ 3,800.00		Inittial Survey development and Implementation
2020 and 2021 Property Taxes	$12,385	$8,600	$ 20,985.00		Recovery funds to pay past due amount, 2022 sales through October to pay Current

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROPOSAL

Benton County Coroner's Office

Contact: Daniel Oxford ABMDI

Contact Email: Daniel.oxford@bentoncountyar.gov

Telephone: 479-621-9076 or 479-925-8021

NAME OF PROJECT: CORONER MORGUE TRAILER REQUEST

AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED: $86,345

CATEGORY OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN OUR PROJECT ADDRESSES:

PUBLIC HEALTH: Assists in the prevention of the spread of disease to the main morgue and Coroner's office. The spread of hazardous bodily fluids from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, and hazardous body fluids from remains with decomposition.

ECONOMIC IMPACT/INFASTRUCTURE: In the tragic event of a mass fatality: school/mass shooting, motor vehicle accident with multiple fatalities, and large population of COVID-19 deaths at one residence or scene. These situations would overwhelm Benton County Coroner's morgue and area hospital morgues.

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Our project is a request for a morgue trailer. The trailer would be put into use to isolate infectious diseased bodies. Also, the morgue trailer would be utilized for mass causality incidents, in where our resources and morgue would be overwhelmed.

PROJECT PLAN:

When the trailer becomes available for Benton County Coroner's Office, it will be implemented immediately. The morgue trailer will be located at Benton County Coroner's Office. The trailer will remain stationary, unless needed to be moved to a scene. An operation procedure will be put in place for the use and access to the trailer. The morgue trailer will be available for use, for Benton County Coroner's Office, 24/7/365. The trailer will be secured by a lock. The keys will be in control by the BCCO.

LINK TO COVID-19:

With this trailer, Benton County Coroner's Office will be able to seclude infectious disease remains to a secure location. Our office handled 2,182 calls in 2021 and 1,996 in 2020. Of those deaths, a total of 718 were COVID 19. A majority of those calls were at area hospitals; however, several were scene or residential calls. Out of the area hospitals, only Northwest and Mercy Medical Center have morgues. In the hospital morgues, they only have two drawers each. The trailer would serve purpose of holding bodies until a funeral home could be arranged.

The morgue trailer would also keep the main morgue and office clean. Anytime we have a COVID-19, we placed the person in our morgue cooler. After they are released to the funeral home, we have to decontaminate the morgue and office. The morgue trailer would keep the disease isolated to the trailer. Also, the exposure to the office staff would be limited by use of the morgue trailer.

STATEMENT OF NEED:

Not only does Benton County Coroner's Office handle COVID 19 deaths, we also handle different types of infectious diseases and blood borne pathogens in the field. Several of BCCO's cases this past year were decompositions (drownings, found deceased at residence, or outside). With these types of remains, hazardous odors and body fluids are present. If we were to obtain the trailer, we could place these remains into the trailer and they would be away from the office, morgue, and reduce the exposure. The remains would be secured in the trailer, outside the office, until a funeral home or autopsy was arranged. Currently, anytime we have an infectious deceased or hazardous deceased, we have to decontaminate the morgue cooler, office, and morgue. With the trailer we would only have to decontaminate inside and outside.

Not only do we handle infectious disease and hazardous remains, we also want to be prepared in the event of a mass fatality incident. The numbers continue to rise in mass shootings (schools, buildings, offices, ect, ect.) Benton County is a largely populated county with approximately 81 schools. Also, Wal Mart home office is located in Bentonville with hundreds of employees. Not only does Benton County have Wal Mart, but also multiple factories. The factories have thousands of employees who reside in Benton County, they travel from other counties as well. The day population of Benton County increases ten-fold during business hours.

Benton County also has a large number of highways and one interstate that runs north and south (I-49). Also, we have several highways throughout Benton County (Hwy 72, Hwy 59, Hwy 412, Hwy 102, Hwy 62, Hwy 16, Hwy 12, Hwy 127, Hwy 71). These highways and Interstate are traveled by thousands of people daily. At any point, multiple people could be killed in an accident. During the past year, our numbers have increased on fatalities on above highways.

Also, during Bike Blues and BBQ, thousands of motorcycles come to Benton County for a three-day event. Not only do we have a large population of travelers on the ground, Benton County has a large population of travelers by air.

Benton County has an airport called XNA. Several flights come and out of that airport daily. For instance, on 01/20/2022, 33 planes were due to arrive and 41 planes were due to depart. ((01/20/22) *Departures & Arrivals*. FlyXNA.com. http://flyxna.com/depatures-arrivals.com)

With these numbers and travelers daily, a mass causality fatality is a highly likely event. In the event of a mass causality event, our office morgue cooler can hold 6 bodies and as mentioned before, the hospitals, combined, can hold 4 bodies. Some of the area funeral homes do not have body coolers. They rely on a transport and embalming service to store their bodies until preparation or cremation occur. These transport and embalming services are already overwhelmed from the funeral homes, so the number of bodies we could store there would be in the low numbers, in the event of a mass causality incident.

POPULATION SERVED:

According to World Population View, the current population of Benton County AR is 292,891. These numbers have increased by 6,875 since 2019 (worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/ar/Benton-county-population). As the numbers continue to grow, the population for a mass causality and COVID-19 grow exponentially. Not to mention the people that travel day in and day out of Benton County, whether by ground or air.

Also, with the COVID-19 numbers increasing and the hospitals being overwhelmed, several patients are being transferred from other states to Benton County Hospitals, ie: Oklahoma and Missouri. So not only do we have the COVID-19 numbers to worry about in Arkansas, but also the increase from the surrounding states.

RESULTS:

If the trailer was implemented at the Benton County Coroner's Office, the impact would lessen the stress and/or possible overwhelming of resources. Not to mention lessen, as mentioned before, the exposure to infectious disease.

The performance measures would be: How has the trailer improved the storage capability in the even of a large fatality? Also, did the trailer assist in the deceased of the hazardous exposure to diseases and fluids to staff and building? The numbers would be tracked by an excel program. Currently we keep track of bodies via paper forms and MDI log. The MDI log is our coroner report system which can track bodies by multiple different things (homicides, body tag numbers, COVID, decompositions, mass fatalities, water deaths, ect, ect.).

EVAULATION:

The data collection will be performed by paper and MDI log. Each case will be analyzed and documented. In the event of a mass causality event, each body will be assigned a number and body tag. The body tag number will be documented by form and MDI. With the COVID-19 and infectious disease cases, the case will be documented on MDI log and secured in the system. We will be able to look back and QI and QA the different cases.

EQUITY IMPACT:

By the use of the morgue trailer, will be able to segregate the infectious disease to a secure location. By doing so, the chance of spreading of COVID-19 to the main morgue and office will decrease significantly.

PROJECT PARTNERS: NONE

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Benton County**
Project Name:	**Benton County Morgue Trailer**
Amount Requested:	**$95,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 95,000.00	Pending	
Total	$ 95,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Morgue Trailer	$ 95,000.00		$ 95,000.00	Capital	

FEDHARMONY# 28162

08 Nov 2021

Robert McGowen

robert.mcgowen@bentoncountyar.gov

479-271-1004

Subject: **Benton County Morgue Trailer**

Reference: Solicitation **# Benton County Morgue Trailer**

Dear Mr. McGowen,

In response to Solicitation **# Benton County Morgue Trailer**, Global Enterprise, Inc. is pleased to submit the enclosed quote for the **Benton County Morgue Trailer.** The quote accounts for all labor, tools, equipment, materials, shipping, and project management needed to achieve the prescribed requirements. We reserve the right to impose a surcharge on credit card purchases that is not greater than our cost of acceptance. We state acceptance of all other solicitation terms, conditions, and provisions.

Our team has substantial past performance and experience delivering comparable projects. Our past successes and experience provide assurance for your organization that the final product will be delivered on time and as specified in the requirements.

We have confirmed this trailer on our GSA Contract. This quote of $86,345 includes shipping to the customer. The specs are exactly as written in the Acela documents. Additional information is available upon request.

You may reach me at 571-266-9082.

Respectfully,

Jeanne Hoffler
Project Coordinator
Global Enterprise, Inc.
jeanne@fedharmony.com
571-266-9082

GSA MAS 23V: GS-30F-040BA
GSA Schedule 84: GS-07F-248BA
DUNS: 02-321-3949
CAGE: 644N7
Business Size: Small Business

Technical and Management Approach

Solicitation Number: Benton County Morgue Trailer
Project Name: Benton County Morgue Trailer
FEDHARMONY#28162

Prepared For	Prepared By
Robert McGowen robert.mcgowen@bentoncountyar.gov 479-271-1004	Global Enterprise, Inc. 3521 Goddard Way Ste. 400 Alexandria, VA 22304

Prime Contractor	Program Management Office
Mr. Scott Smith President Global Enterprise, Inc. 3521 Goddard Way Ste. 400 Alexandria, VA 22304 Mobile: 703-624-1206 Email: scottsmith@fedharmony.com	Mrs. Jeanne Hoffler Project Coordinator Global Enterprise, Inc. 3521 Goddard Way Ste. 400 Alexandria, VA 22304 Mobile: 571-266-9082 Email: jeanne@fedharmony.com

This data, furnished in connection with Solicitation # **Benton County Morgue Trailer** shall not be disclosed outside the Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed in whole or in part for any purpose other than to evaluate the proposal; provided that if a contract is awarded to this Offeror as a result of or in connection with the submission of this data, the Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the contract. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use information contained in the data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction is contained in all sheets except page ii (Table of Contents).

TECHNICAL APPROACH

Global Enterprise, Inc. and Fedharmony are both S Corporations wholly owned by Scott Smith. For small business concerns they are distinct entities, but effectively they operate as a single company, with Scott Smith as President and owner of both. Global is a dealer/distributor of equipment using GS30F-040BA and GS07F-248BA. Automotive and Law Enforcement.

Fedharmony provides turn-key Business Development, Systems Engineering, Project Management, Contracts Administration, and Customer Service services. Fedharmony's primary 'customer' is Global, but also supports other GSA contract holders and 'sister' companies of Global/Fedharmony/Scott Smith (Worldwide Enterprise, Inc., Products on GSA, Inc., American Enterprises, Inc.)

Fedharmony identifies a qualified manufacturer and outsources the production of the equipment according to the government specifications. Fedharmony's Systems Engineering understands a wide array of equipment manufacturing, and most importantly, government expectations, for workmanship, functionality, and acceptance testing.

Fedharmony's approach to outsourced manufacturing is consistent with the industry practice of private label manufacturing, and is a core competency of Mr. Smith, who previously held positions of Director of Total Quality Management and Director of Manufacturing for $100M+/year firms. Furthermore, Fedharmony's warranty complements the typical manufacturer warranty, with service provided by a local Place of Performance authorized service agent.

Acela Truck Company

Born from a desire to exceed the current industry standards for reliability and durability, Acela Truck Company has over 100 years of combined experience in the automotive and transportation industries. We're backed by more than a century of solution-oriented thinking that's motivated by a desire to increase productivity and keep you moving both on and off-highway.

The Acela Truck Company management team is comprised of savvy entrepreneurs and industry experts, bringing years of experience to this young company. They cultivate our strong culture and work tirelessly to help our team scale, grow, and succeed.

OUR CORE VALUES:
We listen, we care, we support.
We face challenges with an open mind.
We stay humble.
We strive to continuously improve.
We recognize our team makes our business succeed.

PALADIN
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SOLUTIONS COMPANY

80 Shire Trail
Bozeman, MT. 59718
(406) 924-3535 (800) 940-9639

QUOTE

2959485000006127007

Contact
Fed Harmony
Jeanne Hoffler
Jeanne@Fedharmony.com

Sales Person **Louise Rainone**

Quote Creation Date **Nov 5, 2021 01:24 PM**
Quote Valid Until

Item & Description	List Price	Qty	Discount	Amount
24-Foot Bumper Pull MMET 24-Foot Bumper-Pull (3/ 24 decedents (expandable to 36)	$ 84,900.00	1	5.00%	$ 84,900.00
Diesel Generator 7Kw Generator, Diesel, Kubota 120/240VAC, 7Kw - GL7000 (Transfer Sw.)	$ 5,990.00	1	5.01%	$ 5,990.00

Sub Total **$ 86,345.00**

Total **$ 86,345.00**

MANAGEMENT

Fedharmony, a division of Global Enterprises, Inc. (FH) will provide the program/project management role. Fedharmony will provide the program/project management role. In this role, Fedharmony will be the primary interface and advocate for this project to ensure that the project is completed on schedule, within approved cost, to specification and exceeds expectations. Fedharmony's program/project management, contract management, manufacturing experience and teaming portfolio provide a special ingredient to ensure success.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Strong program management and a good evaluation and control system are paramount in containing program cost and maintaining schedule. To facilitate the control process, FH will establish a project base line plan through the development of an integrated master schedule (IMS). The IMS will establish the timing required to perform each task and provide the tool necessary to maintain schedule and measure progress. The establishment of a weekly status report will provide the PM with the performance data necessary to measure performance against the established baseline. The PM will monitor the overall program performance and identify potential schedule or cost issues which can then be analyzed, using EVM techniques, to determine an appropriate course of action. If during the monitoring of the program performance cost becomes a concern, the EVM provides valuable tools that will allow the PM to measure and analyze material cost against actual and estimated actual cost to identify potential cost overruns and determine an appropriate course of action.

KEY PERSONNEL

Scott Smith, PMP, President, Fedharmony

Scott Smith is president of Fedharmony, a boutique firm specializing in bringing innovative solutions to small businesses and federal, state and local governments. His unique capability is a deep understanding of industry side of business as well as the complexities of government contracting. Highlights of his government support include authoring the American Red Cross's business plan for Coord Blood Banking, development of the Enterprise Architecture for the 2010 Census' hand-held devices and initiating the national digitization effort for the General Services Administration (GSA). Prior to federal contracting support, he spent a decade as a hands-on engineer and manager in the international apparel manufacturing industry. In addition to building factories for the likes of Rawlings Sporting Goods and Oxford Industries throughout Central America and the Caribbean he also managed full production and product development. He is a certified Project Management Professional and holds a BS in Industrial Engineering.

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Benton County Fair Association
Contact Name: Susan Koehler, Fair and Events Manager
Contact Email: manager@bentoncountyfairar.org
Telephone #: 303-517-9438

1. Name of Project: **Benton County Fair Sustainability**

2. Amount of Funds Requested: **$25,000**

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

The Benton County Fair Association is a 501c3 nonprofit. We produce an annual fair for the county and rely on income and fundraising from this event, as well as rental of our facilities to support our mission, and cover our expenses. The fair is an institution in our area and was established in 1904. It is both an educational and entertainment focused event for all NWA residents and even the region. In recent years, we've attracted more than 30,000 exhibitors and attendees during the week-long event. As an operating nonprofit, we differ from others in that the delivery of our programs requires significant infrastructure including over 100,000 square

feet under roof on a 60-acre campus. We've been working hard to increase both our fair and facility rental revenues. Due to the closure of facilities like ours in the spring of 2020, and remaining concerns for public health due to COVID, we estimate we lost 25 events, as well as fair sponsorship and income that was not replaced. We are seeking modest support from the American Rescue Plan grants to invest in infrastructure improvements and repairs to make our facility more energy efficient and reduce our expenses long term. We want to note, our facility is used at no cost to several organizations including Benton County 4H, Sharing and Caring, and the Benton County Sherriff's Office for training purposes. We estimate an in-kind donation of over $25,000 in 2021 for use of our facility. We also host numerous cultural celebrations for underserved and diverse populations in Arkansas including the Hmong, Hispanic and Filipino. We purposely offer the use of the facility at affordable rates to these community groups.

5. Project Plan:

We need to make some repairs and improvements to our facility. **1.** The auditorium, which is our most used building for a variety of events needs an upgraded HVAC thermostat with greater consumer-friendly programmable controls. **2**. We need to continue to upgrade and replace non-working lighting across the campus and in buildings with LED lights to decrease our energy use and help reduce our utility expenses. **3.** We need to improve our gates at two main entrances to better accommodate traffic, and security at our facility. **4.** We need to install a video security system on the campus. **5.** We need to install a campus wide Public Announcement system so we can communicate with fair goers or guests on our property in the event of an emergency or with general event information. We've not gotten recent specific estimates on these repairs or improvements.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

We lost an estimated $34,000 in revenue in 2020 due to COVID that we are aware of. Not only did we lose business in that year, but we also lost the long-term potential of that business as some of these events were new, and the producers had expected to continue them. We are making up for this loss the best we can in a variety of ways. The American Rescue Plan grant will help better position our facility for continued growth, use and increased environmental and financial sustainability into the future. Our facility was used for COVID 19 vaccines and Benton County

meetings in addition to the other uses described above. We remain open to hosting community benefit events or others as needed, depending on the availability of the facilities.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need and cite the source of the data.

As an operating nonprofit with significant property and capital assets, our expenses are larger than many other nonprofits. We have made progress increasing our revenue from earned event and facility rental income. The improvements in our facility outlined with this grant would help us to ensure increased safety, energy efficiency and help us reduce our energy expenses.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served:

We serve a diverse range of NWA residents beyond multi-generational fairgoers of the Benton County Fair. We serve the Hispanic community nearly weekly who book the auditorium for Quinceanera celebrations. We also serve the Hmong Community, Filipino and other culturally diverse community groups. In addition, we support Benton County 4H and Benton County Sharing and Caring, the Benton County Sheriff's office with training events, and public events such as Cops and Costumes.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure:

We seek to reduce the energy use of the HVAC unit at the Auditorium given its current complexity and lack of flexible consumer programming. We seek to reduce our utility costs and energy consumption with the LED lighting.

We seek to reduce labor costs and modernize the most used facility gates, and make it more secure with the security system. We also believe these improvements will add to guest satisfaction and reduce the risk of safety concerns.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

We will compare utility costs monthly and quarterly. We have had one recent issue of damage by vandalism so will measure the lack of any additional issues. We also had an incident where the police were called to the facility during an event. Security cameras could have helped us, and law enforcement better understand this matter at that time or ensure greater public safety. The same goes with the PA system that can help us avoid any public safety issues. We will work with guests to request reviews and testimonials about their experience at the facility.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

We are a nonprofit with sustainable capital and overheard due to the nature of our mission and the physical space required to hold such educational programs. We serve many of the populations disproportionately impacted by COVID including agricultural workers or youth considering agriculture as a career, we serve low-income populations through 4H, senior citizens and others who engage with the Benton County Cooperative Services Extension Office and Sharing and Caring. In addition, we serve underserved populations looking for event rental space at affordable rates. We also serve the safety of the community by helping train Benton County Sherriff Officers.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

We expect MCC Contractors, a Trane HVAC commercial installer will lead the installation of the new HVAC thermostat. We have not identified the best sources for the other projects. Bertschy Electric installed some LED lights recently. The Fair Board will establish a committee led by President Ashley Hays, an executive superintendent at Crossland Heavy Contractors to oversee any work to be performed. When possible, fair board members will be asked to volunteer to assist if there is no danger, and their assistance or skills are qualified. We expect to contract with many if not all local small businesses to perform the work needed creating more positive economic impact in our community.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds:

We have managed several large grants including a $91,000+ grant from the Walton Family Foundation to plant some 57 trees at the fairgrounds. We manage annual fair premium and some minor construction funding. We also manage several annual sponsorship grants from various corporate partners including providing annual reports for some. We have a separate account for restricted funds and a contracted bookkeeper and accounting firm to help prepare our annual 990 public report. We also received and were forgiven two PPP loans from Grand Savings Bank to help reduce labor expenses in 2020 and 2021.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire:

We continue to increase our earned revenue and fundraising capacity to make other improvements to the facility and repairs.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes!

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection:

We ask that you please consider our application and take into consideration all the ways we are asked to support the community for in-kind, where we do not receive any compensation for the

use of our facility, and all the ways we serve the community at reduced rates enabling events that likely would not occur if not for our facility. These events are often youth and cultural focused providing education, building community or providing services to various populations in NWA.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Benton County Fair Association**
Project Name:	**Benton County Fair Sustainability**
Amount Requested:	**$25,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$25,000	Pending	
In-Kind project oversight by qualified fair board members or volunteers	$5,000	Pending	Fair board officers Ashley Hays and Robert Smith will play a key role in overseeing projects and work with contractors to reduce expenses or materials and labor if possible. Other board members may also be able to assist.
In-Kind or reduced expense donations from contractors	$2,500	Pending	We may be able to trade some recognition for work or promote contractor companies, perhaps provide free use of the facility for a small gathering etc
Fair and Events Revenue	$2,500	Pending	Misc funds to support projects if needed
Total	$ 35,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
HVAC Upgrade Auditorium	$7,500		$ 7,500.00	Capital	https://multi-craft.net/services/building-automation-services-bas/#retrofits-
LED Lights	$7,500		$ 7,500.00	Captial	https://www.warehouse-lighting.com/collections/outdoor-wall-lighting
Gates	$1,000		$ 1,000.00	Capital	https://www.homedepot.com/p/Ranch-Master-144-in-x-50-in-Wire-Filled-Tube-Gate-40132127/100319503?MERCH=REC-_-pipsem-_-100319502-_-100319503-_-N
Security System			$ 5,000.00	Capital	https://www.nwaalarm.com/commercial-security-systems
Public Announcement System			$ 4,000.00	Capital	https://anchoraudiooutlet.com/product-category/portable-pa-systems/?product_order=desc

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Benton County Fire Departments (SCBA)
Contact Name: John Whisenant
Contact Email: jwhisenant@beaverlakefiredept.com
Telephone #: 479.202.0270

1. Name of Project:

SCBA Replacement, Unincorporated Benton County

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$1,420,417

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

This project will replace existing, outdated, and unrepairable SCBAs for fire departments in unincorporated Benton County receiving no support from a municipality. It will place firefighters in the most current level of respiratory **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**, allowing them to perform job duties safely and efficiently.

5. Project Plan:

This project will replace existing, outdated, and unrepairable SCBAs. Upon receipt of funds, departments will immediately purchase equipment as listed in the quotes submitted, with exception to NEBCO Fire Dept. and Rocky Branch Fire Dept. who have made partial purchases of SCBA through department funds or grants. Differences in original quote and new need are reflected in the Budget Template.

6. Link to COVID-19:

SCBAs in the fire service are a critical component of the **PPE** ensemble worn by firefighters to work in an Immediate Danger to Life or Health (IDLH) environment. They provide clean breathing air to perform job responsibilities in various hazardous incidents.

7. Statement of Need:

SCBAs needing to be replaced are 1997 or 2002 models, per NFPA 1852, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Replacement parts critical to the function of these models are no longer being manufactured, nor readily available. Upon electronic parts failing, the SCBA is no longer safe or able to be used for its intended purpose and must be removed from service. Additionally, surrounding departments, primarily mutual aid municipal departments have upgraded over the last 10+ years, making interoperability impossible, especially in situations where a firefighter has become trapped or injured in a fire emergency. The most current model available is 2018.

8. Population Served:

The 9 fire departments represented in this request provide primary fire protection for more than 20,000 citizens, nearly 8,000 homes, 200 commercial structures and an elementary school, all in unincorporated Benton County. These numbers grow exponentially when mutual aid responses are factored in.

9. Results

This request would bring these departments to current NFPA standards with SCBAs that will last 15-20 years. Additionally, an increased interoperability with mutual aid departments in the county would be obtained. Firefighters would be able to perform their duties with confidence knowing their equipment is up to date.

10. Evaluation

SCBAs will be serviced and maintained per each department Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

11. Equity Impact

SCBAs in unincorporated Benton County will be brought to the most current NFPA standard, with increased interoperability with municipal departments as they update their SCBAs. Additionally, SCBAs will have a service life of 15-20 years. The vast majority of current SCBAs were purchased by the county nearly 20 years ago.

12. Project Partners:

No partners/subcontractors associated with request

13. Capacity

SCBAs are critical in the safety of firefighters. This request simply replaces existing, out of date and unrepairable SCBAs. Departments are well versed in care and maintenance of SCBA. Purchases would be made immediately following the receipt of requested funds.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

One time project cost

16. Reporting:

Reporting will be provided once purchases are made and SCBAs received, likely Q2 FYE2022

17. Special Considerations

As a benchmark, Washington County recently approved spending $5.4M in ARP funds to purchase new SCBAs for their county fire departments. SCBA is one of the most critical components of firefighter **PPE**. Without it, they subject themselves to highly toxic environments known to cause cancer, and is fatal if inhaled in large doses, as well as superheated air that can cause immediate death. SCBA is the most expensive tool a firefighter wears, and due to the number required per apparatus (1 per seated position), it becomes the 2nd most expensive tools a fire department has, aside from a fire engine.

The job of a firefighter is inherently dangerous. We ask for your support to equip those who choose to serve by providing up to date SCBA that can be relied upon and relieve a very expensive burden from the departments. Departments have applied for grants for funding in the past, with little to no success.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Benton County Fire Departments (SCBA)**
Project Name:	**SCBA Replacement Unincorporated Benton County**
Amount Requested:	**$1,420,417**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds			
Total	$ -		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Avoca Fire Dept	$ 259,067.05		$ 259,067.05		30 SCBA
Beaver Lake Fire Dept	$ 175,766.47		$ 175,766.47		20 SCBA
Hickory Creek Fire Dept	$ 191,413.64		$ 191,413.64		22 SCBA
Hwy 94 East Fire Dept	$ 124,778.92		$ 124,778.92		14 SCBA
NEBCO Fire Dept	$ 108,120.24		$ 108,120.24		12 SCBA, 8 already purchased by dept, quote reflects 20, requested funding reflects updated need
Mayesville Fire Dept	$ 134,126.95		$ 134,126.95		15 SCBA
Piney Point Fire Dept	$ 259,073.55		$ 259,073.55		30 SCBA
Pleasure Heights Fire Dept	$ 74,802.88		$ 74,802.88		8 SCBA
Rocky Branch Fire Dept	$ 74,802.92		$ 74,802.92		8 SCBA, 4 purchased with a grant, quote reflects 12, requested funding reflects updated need
Rocky Branch Fire Dept	$ 18,464.55		$ 18,464.55		SCBA Fill Station

CECILE BLEDSOE
SENATOR
3RD DISTRICT
PHONE: 479-636-2115
cecile.bledsoe@senate.ar.gov
709 SKY MOUNTAIN DRIVE
ROGERS, ARKANSAS 72756

THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

CHAIR:
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & LABOR

MEMBER:
JOINT AUDIT
CHILDREN AND YOUTH
STATE AGENCIES & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
RULES, RESOLUTIONS & MEMORIALS

December 7, 2021

Benton County American Rescue Plan Committee
215 East Central Avenue
Bentonville, Arkansas 72712

Dear Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to write this letter on behalf of the following volunteer fire departments as they file a joint application for funding with the Benton County American Rescue Plan Committee: Mayesville, Avoca, Nebco, Beaver Lake, Piney Point, Pleasure Heights, Hickory Creek, Rocky Branch, and 94E. If granted, the funds would be used to replace self-contained breathing apparatuses that are outdated, no longer comply with safety standards, and are so aged as to become unreliable. Keeping this vital equipment updated is essential to each department's ability to serve and protect area citizens.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. Respectfully, I would ask those with the power to do so to give this application every possible consideration. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Cecile Bledsoe
Assistant Pro Tempore
District 3

CB:lag

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Benton County RDA
Contact Name: Cassie Elliott
Contact Email: cassie.s.elliott@gmail.com
Telephone #: 479.531.8897

1. Name of Project: Old Hwy 68 water extensions

2. Amount of Funds Requested:$11,952,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

XX A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

XX B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

XX C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

XX D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

Benton County Rural Development Authority has built several water systems in Benton County along Beaver Lake at Rambo/Rocky Branch areas and near Frisco Springs. They would like to build a new water system east of Siloam Springs to the Benton County line mainly along the corridors of Hwy 412 and Old Hwy 68. This would include several side roads off these main highways that would serve a large portion of people in Southern Benton County.

5. Project Plan:

Final Design would be completed by the engineers along with the required environmental. Easements would be obtained and then the project would be bid out for a licensed contractor. Construction would then begin. All should be completed in plenty of time to utilize ARP funds and their deadlines. All required reports and financials would be provided to the county as with any other grant project requirements.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

If drinking water contains unsafe levels of contaminants, it can cause health effects, such as gastrointestinal illnesses, nervous system or reproductive effects , and chronic diseases such as cancer, per the EPA. All of this coupled with people contracting covid is very dangerous to the health and well-being of individuals on well water that is contaminated. Building this water system would be instrumental in ensuring the safety of these residents of Benton County who now are already at a disadvantage having unsafe drinking water.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

Clean, healthy drinking water will benefit all who live in the area as shown on the maps.
To compile the list as provided with the water lines, we managed to access the Benton County GIS website and count individually each parcel number and owner and their acreage to come up with the information provided. (325 parcels of land and 5,074 acres) This does not account for the other roads along the way that may be able to be served in the future.
Well contamination was reported by the individual property owners to the BCRDA.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

The population of southern Benton County will be served. It will affect 325 property owners and 5,074 acres in this area. Some of these areas are a few farms with chicken houses, an rv park, a couple of churches, a few commercial businesses and the majority being single family residences.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

The Benton County RDA will provide costs of construction of the project, the signups by the individual property owners and the location of the lines and signups to determine feasibility of their projects in the future, cost measures, amount of users per line and cost per user.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Qualified engineers will ensure that all laws and standards are followed including environmental, OSHA, federal wage guidelines such as Davis Bacon will be observed and reported. Pay requests will be submitted and reviewed for accuracy with the work that has been completed. Expenditures will be requested and signed off on by the appropriate authorities before checks are written to contractors. Upon completion, a final inspection will be performed by all entities to make sure all items are addressed such as clean up to properties, installation of all lines and water meters and acceptance of the owner. Any other requirements will also be completed to be in accordance with ARP guidelines.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

If people do not have clean water, they cannot even begin to combat covid. They need clean water to drink, to bathe in, cook with, and clean their home in order to not spread the disease to others throughout the community. Contaminated drinking water is destructive to our bodies and increase risk of disease including cancer, and other documented illnesses by the EPA. Our farms especially are at risk with all the runoff from the livestock operations and flooding that contaminates the wells. Being able to serve these people with clean water will prove to be beneficial to all the homes in the area as well as future homes built in the area that can tap onto the clean water.

Also there will be an impact to these homes in the area served, fire protection will be better for these areas after it is built.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

Subcontractors may be employed by the main contractor on the project as needed. That will be determined when the project bid opening is completed. They will be held to the same standards as the main contractor of the project.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Benton County RDA has built 4 water systems and currently maintains 2. They are all running efficiently and are up to date on audits, They are financially sound and growing. The managers have been involved for over 20 years taking care of the customer's needs and installing new water meters and doing repairs as needed.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

See attached last page

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

The project will fund itself by water sales and new customers. A fund will be set up for capital expenses as required by funding agencies these days to paint tanks, replace water lines as needed.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Absolutely. As mentioned previously, all reports will be kept as all water projects on a monthly basis for review of the owner/Benton County. It will show how much was spent on each line item including engineering, inspection, construction, and any other categories needed.

17. Special Considerations

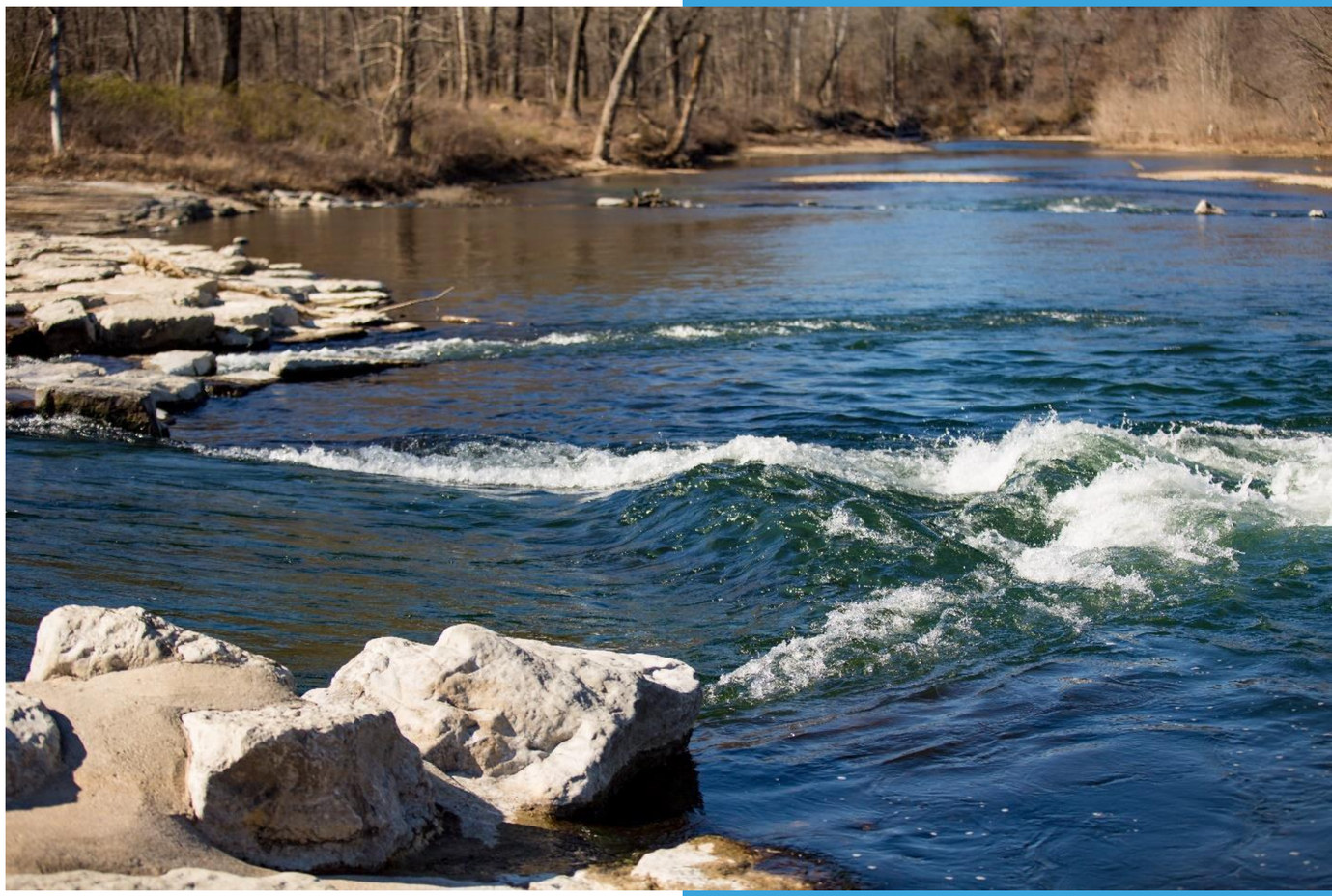
Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

Known Contaminated Wells in the Area:

18251 Taylor Corn Road-Total Coliform levels of 686.7 in recent well tests*
17525 Old Hwy 68
16158 Old Hwy 68-Sulphur
19381 Keck Road-Fuel Contamination
17101 Old Hwy 68
18931 Old Hwy 68-Sulphur
15614 Osage Hill Road-Coliform, Ecoli, Lots of cancer in the family per owner
16728 Old Hwy 68
15156 Old Hwy 68-deemed unsafe by ADH

	Approximate Quantity		Description	Unit Price	Customers	Customers)	Customers)
1	34,000	LF	12" Diameter Ductile Iron Water Main	$ 70.00	$ 2,380,000.00	$ 2,380,000.00	$ 2,380,000.00
2	27,000	LF	8" Diameter AWWA C900 PVC Water Main	$ 50.00	$ -	$ 286,000.00	$ 1,350,000.00
3	4,250	LF	6" Diameter AWWA C900 PVC Water Main	$ 40.00	$ -	$ 170,000.00	$ 170,000.00
4	21,500	LF	4" Diameter AWWA C900 PVC Water Main	$ 30.00	$ -	$ 489,000.00	$ 645,000.00
5	2,600	LF	12" Diameter Lock Joint PVC Water Main	$ 85.00	$ 221,000.00	$ 221,000.00	$ 221,000.00
6	675	LF	8" Diameter Lock Joint PVC Water Main	$ 65.00	$ -	$ 26,000.00	$ 43,875.00
7	80	LF	6" Diameter Lock Joint PVC Water Main	$ 55.00	$ -	$ 4,400.00	$ 4,400.00
8	600	LF	4" Diameter Lock Joint PVC Water Main	$ 45.00	$ -	$ 22,500.00	$ 27,000.00
9	5,160	LF	1" HDPE Service Line	$ 12.00	$ 6,720.00	$ 36,000.00	$ 61,920.00
10	40	EA	12" Gate Valve	$ 6,000.00	$ 120,000.00	$ 228,000.00	$ 240,000.00
11	25	EA	8" Gate Valve	$ 4,000.00	$ -	$ 40,000.00	$ 100,000.00
12	4	EA	6" Gate Valve	$ 3,000.00	$ -	$ 12,000.00	$ 12,000.00
13	30	EA	4" Gate Valve	$ 2,000.00	$ -	$ 52,000.00	$ 60,000.00
14	2	EA	Air Release Valves	$ 8,000.00	$ 16,000.00	$ 16,000.00	$ 16,000.00
15	20	EA	Three-Way Fire Hydrant Assembly	$ 4,500.00	$ 45,000.00	$ 76,500.00	$ 90,000.00
16	8	EA	Two-Way Fire Hydrant Assembly	$ 3,500.00	$ -	$ 24,500.00	$ 28,000.00
17	15,000	LB	Ductile Iron Fittings	$ 10.00	$ 68,000.00	$ 120,540.00	$ 150,000.00
18	1	EA	Connect to Existing Water Main	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
19	1	LS	Master Meter Vault Connection to Two-Ton	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00
20	1	LS	Booster Pumping Station	$ 600,000.00	$ 600,000.00	$ 600,000.00	$ 600,000.00
21	1	LS	Water Storage Tank	$ 1,500,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -
22	3	LS	Pressure Reducing Vault	$ 25,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -
23	150	EA	Single Meter Setters	$ 1,000.00	$ 30,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 150,000.00
24	700	LF	8" Paved Highway Crossing (Bore)	$ 500.00	$ -	$ 175,000.00	$ 350,000.00
25	750	LF	12" Paved County Road Crossing (Bore)	$ 200.00	$ 150,000.00	$ 150,000.00	$ 150,000.00
26	160	LF	8" Paved County Road Crossing (Bore)	$ 150.00	$ -	$ -	$ 24,000.00
27	250	LF	4" Paved County Road Crossing (Bore)	$ 100.00	$ -	$ 19,000.00	$ 25,000.00
28	1,800	LF	1" Paved County Road Crossing (Bore)	$ 50.00	$ -	$ 54,000.00	$ 90,000.00
29	300	LF	12" Gravel County Road Crossing	$ 100.00	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00
30	200	LF	8" Gravel County Road Crossing	$ 75.00	$ -	$ 6,000.00	$ 15,000.00
31	360	LF	4" Gravel County Road Crossing	$ 50.00	$ -	$ 15,000.00	$ 18,000.00
32	2,060	LF	1" Gravel County Road Crossing	$ 40.00	$ -	$ 66,400.00	$ 82,400.00
33	120	LF	12" Paved Driveway Crossing	$ 100.00	$ 12,000.00	$ 12,000.00	$ 12,000.00
34	100	LF	8" Paved Driveway Crossing	$ 80.00	$ -	$ -	$ 8,000.00
35	150	LF	6" Paved Driveway Crossing	$ 60.00	$ -	$ 9,000.00	$ 9,000.00
36	800	LF	12" Gravel Driveway Crossing	$ 80.00	$ 64,000.00	$ 64,000.00	$ 64,000.00
37	660	LF	8" Gravel Driveway Crossing	$ 60.00	$ -	$ 8,400.00	$ 39,600.00
38	180	LF	4" Gravel Driveway Crossing	$ 40.00	$ 4,800.00	$ 4,000.00	$ 7,200.00
39	1,200	LF	12" Creek Crossing (Bore)	$ 400.00	$ 480,000.00	$ 480,000.00	$ 480,000.00
40	1,200	LF	8" Creek Crossing (Bore)	$ 350.00	$ -	$ -	$ 420,000.00
41	200	LF	4" Creek Crossing (Bore)	$ 300.00	$ -	$ 60,000.00	$ 60,000.00
42	720	LF	Concrete Encasement	$ 200.00	$ 24,000.00	$ 94,000.00	$ 144,000.00
43	92,000	LF	Bedding Material	$ 2.00	$ 62,800.00	$ 120,000.00	$ 184,000.00
44	20,000	LF	Yard Restoration	$ 3.00	$ 23,550.00	$ 45,000.00	$ 60,000.00
45	40,000	LF	Pasture Restoration	$ 2.00	$ 47,100.00	$ 90,000.00	$ 80,000.00
46	7,500	CY	Rock Excavation	$ 100.00	$ 250,000.00	$ 500,000.00	$ 750,000.00
47	1	LS	Erosion Control and BMP	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00
48	1	LS	OSHA's Standard for Trenches Safety	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00
			Sub-Total Construction Costs		$ 4,836,970.00	$ 7,108,240.00	$ 9,653,395.00
			Contingency (10%)		$ 483,697	$ 710,824	$ 965,340
			Engineering Design (8.0%)		$ 386,958	$ 568,659	$ 772,272
			Construction Observation (4.0%)		$ 193,479	$ 284,330	$ 386,136
			Preliminary Engineering Report		$ 45,000	$ 45,000	$ 45,000
			Environmental Report		$ 45,000	$ 45,000	$ 45,000
			Cultural Resources		$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
			Administration		$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
			Easement Document Preparation & Acquisition		$ 50,000	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
			Permitting		$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
			ENGINEER'S PRELIMINARY OPINION OF PROBABLE COST		**$ 6,076,103.40**	**$ 8,847,052.80**	**$ 11,952,141.90**

Benton County ARP Projects Water/Stormwater



Benton County

Benton County Stormwater Projects

1. **Stream Restoration and Bank Stabilization**
   4 Project Sites (Covered in following slides)
   Cost Est. = $692,500

2. **Inventory, Assessment and Mapping of Stormwater Infrastructure**
   Cost Est. = $600,000

3. **Street and Drainage Improvements to Prevent Washout into Lake and Streams**
   Beaver Drive and Hickory Lane
   Cost Est. = $350,000

Columbia Hollow Creek Bank Restoration & Stabilization – W. Mountain Rd Bridge

Bank Restoration and stabilization on Columbia Hollow Creek at W. Mountain Road
Estimated Cost: $325,000

Osage Creek Bank Stabilization & Stream Restoration – Logan Cave Road

Stream bank restoration and stabilization on Osage Creek at the Logan Cave Bridge
Estimated Cost: $325,000

Limekiln Creek Bank Stabilization – Limekiln Rd (East)

Bank Restoration and stabilization on Limekiln Creek along Limekiln Road
Awarded USDA-NRCS EWP Grant (75%FED/25%COUNTY)
Total Estimated Cost: $122,500
ARP Funds Request (25%): $30,625

Stream Bank Stabilization – NE A Street Bridge Crossing

Stream bank stabilization at the NE A Street Bridge
Awarded USDA-NRCS EWP Grant (75%FED/25%COUNTY)
Total Estimated Cost: $47,500
ARP Funds Request (25%): $11,875

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Benton County Water Authority 4
Contact Name: Steve Lewis
Contact Email: Support@rwmss.com
Telephone #: 479-877-9364

1. Name of Project:

BCWA No. 4 Water System Improvements

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

BCWA 4: $ 4,053,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure

4. Brief Project Description:

Benton County Water Authority No. 4 (BCWA4) requires improvements to their water system to continue to provide safe, reliable water service to the existing customer base and to allow for future growth. BCWA4 has been in operation for 20 years and has experienced significant growth over the years. At the time of construction there were 80 households served through 2" – 4" diameter water mains. The area now serves approximately 250 households, 2 Chicken Farms and 1 agricultural farm and has had challenges with maintaining sufficient water service to households during periods of high water usage, especially in the summer months and due to the influx of working from home (COVID Impact).

The project summary is as follows:

1) Upgrade all water lines smaller than 6" to mitigate water pressure issues and accommodate increase water demand.
2) Replace outdated meter setters that do not comply with current EPA backflow** requirements.
3) Install leak detection vaults to provide a method to identify and find leaks more quickly. This will allow BCWA4 to repair leaks, conserve water, and avoid costly water loss.

***Water distribution systems are designed with the intention of the water flowing in a certain direction – from the distribution system to the consumer. However, hydraulic conditions within the system may deviate from the "normal" conditions, causing the water to flow in the opposite direction. Therefore, it is possible and common for the water to flow in the opposite direction in unprotected systems. This is called backflow. When this happens the water system can become contaminated with pollutants that could be harmful to water users.*

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

ESI is the engineering firm of record and has reviewed and provided a recommendation for the type of work required to better service BCWA4 customers for current and future water usage demands. ESI has the current system specifications for BCWA4 and can very quickly update the plans for submission and review to the Arkansas Department of Health. ESI will also provide the contractors to perform the work and will provide oversight for the project to ensure all appropriate regulations are followed.

This project can be "shovel ready" in very short period of time. Once funding approval is awarded, BCWA4 can begin working with ESI to draw up and submit the required documents to the Arkansas Department of Health. BCWA4 already has existing easements for the work areas and can complete this project within the 2024 – 2026 timeframe.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The service area of Benton County Water Authority No. 4 is located in rural Benton County, east of Lowell near Beaver Lake. The area has experienced significant growth since it was initially established 20 years ago. The COVID pandemic has shown the importance of basic needs such as a clean and reliable source of water. Over the past two years, many residents throughout Benton County have found themselves working from home while also homeschooling children after outbreaks and isolation requirements. As this area has grown, water service to this area has been stressed during periods of high usage. These improvements would ensure that BCWA4 can continue to supply water to current and future customers.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need and cite the source of the data.

Because BCWA4 operates as a rural water authority, needed upgrades can only be funded through the availability of loans and grants or from revenue from water sales. The availability of grants to Benton County have become difficult to acquire due to median household income levels being higher than other counties in Arkansas. Additionally, BCWA4 does not have the same benefits as a city utility as they are not located within city limits and therefore cannot leverage tax funds for system improvements. The current debt load of the water system is $1,000 / customer. Taking on additional loans will only further

burden these customers, as stipulations for loans require increasing the minimum monthly fees by as much as 110%.

Benton County Water Authority No. 4 is therefore limited to using revenue from water sales as the only viable method to fund system improvements. BCWA4 is a small water system, with 250 customers, making it difficult to accumulate sufficient funding to accommodate the needed system improvements.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

There are approximately 250 households, 2 Chicken Farms and 1 agricultural farm within the BCWA4 service area. 20 years ago, when the system was installed, there were approximately 80 customers. Usage over that time has correlated with the increase in customers. The area continues to grow at a rate of 5% annually which will continue to exacerbate the need for larger diameter water main. The MHI of the area is estimated to be $48,000/year.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

These improvements will provide a safe and reliable source of water, especially during periods of high water demand. Allowing for greater pipe diameter will ensure sufficient water flow and mitigate water pressure issues; while replacing outdated meter setters will ensure the safety of the water to residents served in this area. Additionally, the installation of the leak detection vaults will allow BCWA4 to better manage unaccounted for water by helping identify areas where leaks may be occurring.

The performance measurements that can be tracked and reported include:

- Increasing water pipe diameters allow for greater water flow and improved water pressures. A simple hydrant flow test during high peak usage would show the improvement of water pressure. A baseline measurement can be taken prior to the line upgrades, then again following the upgrade.
- Water quality and safety is the utmost priority for BCWA4. Replacing the outdated setters is a proactive, preventative response to ensure contaminants are not inadvertently introduced into the water system. While there is no baseline to measure the water quality through the replacement of these setters, we can monitor and report on the progress of getting these setters replaced. The primary goal is to ensure the water is safe for our customers to consume and to validate that safety, BCWA4 collects and sends water samples each month to the Arkansas Department of Health for testing.

- The primary purpose of the leak detection vaults is to help reduce the amount of water that is unaccounted for, particularly from leaks. This is not only a water conservation effort, but also reduces any financial impact due to water leaks. BCWA4 staff can track the changes in the percentage of unaccounted water. This would be a measurement of the difference between water sold vs water purchased. General guidelines suggest that a system's percent of unaccounted water should be 15% or less.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Monthly progress meetings will be held to verify that the project is constructed on time and in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. Progress reports and pay requests will be provided to Benton County and Benton County Water Authority No. 4 for review and approval. This oversite will ensure that funds are distributed and accounted for per all federal guidelines. Construction observation will be provided throughout construction of the project to verify that the project is built in accordance with the plans and specifications. Materials installed will be reported and accounted for on a weekly basis. Liquidated damages will be assessed if the project falls behind schedule. Additionally, the work will be guaranteed for one year after construction is completed to correct any malfunctions that are discovered.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

Clean and reliable water is not a resource that should only be afforded to those who live within city limits. These improvements will provide a reliable source of water to those residents in rural Benton County.

Having access to water also ensures that the fire departments who service these areas have access to water to fill pumper trucks in the event of a catastrophic fire. Having a reliable water source closer to the areas they serve will allow pumper trucks to refill more quickly to protect life and property.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

1.) **What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;**
2.) **What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?**
3.) **Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project**

An engineer will be obtained to oversee the design and approval of plans and specifications for the project and keep the project on track to be certain of a timely completion. The engineer will also facilitate the bidding process and manage construction through final completion of the project.

The construction contract will be awarded to a contractor licensed in the state of Arkansas that demonstrates the ability to perform the work. The contractor will be responsible for 100% of the construction and will be awarded a contract on a low bid basis. The prime contractor awarded the project may obtain a subcontractor to perform specialized work such as bores and water taps.

Benton County Water Authority No. 4 will be a key and critical party to Benton County on this project. The association will assist in overseeing construction and will operate and maintain the water main upon completion of the project. Construction funds will be monitored and disbursed by Benton County Water Authority No. 4 with reports provided to Benton County on ongoing progress.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Benton County Water Authority No. 4 purchases water from Rogers Water Utilities and has been in operation for 20 years. BCWA4 has staff who oversees billing, payments, operations & maintenance. Benton County Water Authority No. 4 operates under the umbrella of Benton County RDA and provides quarterly reports to the board. Funds generated from water sales will be used to maintain the water system after the project has been completed. The water system was initially installed with the use of federal funds providing the water authority with the experience to manage its oversite, and the organization remains in solid financial standing.

14. Budget

A detailed budget is attached with this questionnaire listing construction costs for each project area, engineering design, inspection and miscellaneous costs. Preliminary reports, engineering and easement acquisition are typically required on federally funded projects. Construction costs were calculated based on bid tabulations from recent projects constructed. Operating costs will be funded through water revenue.

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

This project will not be an ongoing project. Once construction has been completed, operation and maintenance will be funded through water revenue collected from individual customers. The

infrastructure to provide maintenance is currently in place to provide these services. Benton County Water Authority No. 4 has staff that is on hand to maintain the system and make emergency repairs when needed. This project will provide access to clean and reliable water that, once installed in the ground, will be in use for many years to come.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes. We can also provide monthly reports on the progress of construction and detail how all funds are spent for the duration of the contract.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

The Authority has applied for funding from other resources, but the response received only offered a loan option with a stipulation to raise water rates as much as 110% per month. There remains no guidance or direction from the state ARPA money steering committee that was directed for water infrastructure and there is no timeline yet provided for the recently passed infrastructure bill. This organization operates under the umbrella of the Benton County RDA. This is a true, county served organization whose purpose is to provide these resources to residents residing in Benton County.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Benton County Water Authority No. 4**
Project Name:	**BCWA No. 4 Water System Improvements**
Amount Requested:	**$4,200,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$5,000,000	Pending	Amount requested for water system improvements.
Total	$5,000,000		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Upgrade all existing water mains to 6"	$ 2,637,000.00		$ 2,637,000.00	Capital	The initial construction was adequate to serve the customer base at the time. But now that the customer base has tripled, this upgrade will mitigate water pressure issues, accommodate existing customer water usage, and future growth.
Replace 250 meter setters	$ 250,000.00		$ 250,000.00	Capital	Replace ex
Construct Leak Detection Vaults	$ 300,000.00		$ 300,000.00	Capital	Vaults to detect leaks will be installed at various locations to montior and detect leaks on branch lines throughout the service area. This will allow for enhanced leak detection.
Contingencies	$ 318,700.00		$ 318,700.00	Capital	Typically 10% of the construction costs of the project, would vary based on the amount of funding received. The reflected amount is contingency for all improvements
Engineering	$ 254,960.00		$ 254,960.00	Capital	Typically 8% of the construction costs of the project, would vary based on the amount of funding received. The reflected amount is for all improvements
Inspection	$ 127,480.00		$ 127,480.00	Capital	Typically 4% of the construction costs of the project, would vary based on the amount of funding received. The reflected amount is for all improvements
Miscellaneous Fees (Easements, Permitting, Environmental)	$ 165,000.00		$ 165,000.00	Capital	These fees would cover any required preliminary engineering report, environmental reports, easement acquistions, condemnations, legal and permit approvals from ADEQ and ADH,
			$ -		
Total Funding	$ 4,053,140.00		$ 4,053,140.00		

$ 8,106,280.00

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Benton County Water Authority 5
Contact Name: Steve Lewis
Contact Email: Support@rwmss.com
Telephone #: 479-877-9364

1. Name of Project:

BCWA No. 5 Water System Improvements

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

BCWA 5: $ 3,337,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure

4. Brief Project Description:

Benton County Water Authority No. 5 requires improvements to their water system to continue to provide safe, reliable water service to the existing customer base and to allow for future growth.

The project summary is as follows:

1) Extend the water line along Railroad Cut Rd to provide water to Benton County residents who are currently unserved and to allow for future growth. There is approximately 1,100 acres immediately adjacent to the proposed water line, with approximately 3 to 4 times additional acreage adjoining the adjacent parcels.
2) Install leak detection vaults to provide a method to identify and find leaks more quickly. This will allow BCWA5 to repair leaks, conserve water, and avoid costly water loss.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

ESI is the engineering firm of record and has reviewed and provided a recommendation for the type of work required to better serve BCWA5 customers for current and future water usage demands.

Upon approval of the funding, BCWA5 will work to collect the required easements and the design process will begin for the water line extension. BCWA5 will work with ESI to identify the areas where

any preliminary engineering reports and environmental reports will be required. Plans and specifications would be provided to the Arkansas Department of Health and Benton County for review and approval. The project would be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder and an aggressive construction time would be defined.

The anticipated project time would be 12 – 18 months to complete preliminary work and construction of the project. Upon completion of the project, the water main will be owned and operated by Benton County Water Authority No.5.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The service area of Benton County Water Authority No.5 is located in rural Benton County, east of the Highway 12 Bridge and bordering Hobbs State Park. The area has experienced significant growth since it was initially established 16 years ago. The COVID pandemic has shown the importance of basic needs such as a clean and reliable source of water. Over the past two years, many residents throughout Benton County have found themselves working from home while also homeschooling children after outbreaks and isolation requirements. In recent times, residents throughout this area are reporting failures in their wells, such as lack of water supply or cyanide contamination. These improvements would ensure that BCWA5 can continue to supply water to current and future customers.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need and cite the source of the data.

Benton County Water Authority No. 5 operates as a rural water authority and its system is spread out over a large area and serves 700 households. There are several areas within the service area where Benton County residents must rely on transporting water or use private wells as their only source of water. A project was just completed connecting Rambo Riviera to BCWA No. 5 because the community well had become contaminated with Cyanide. There are concerns that other wells may also be at risk of the same contamination. If other individual wells that receive water from this aquifer also begin showing traces of cyanide, the water authority does not have the financial resources to provide water line extension without grant assistance.

There are several areas that remain unserved by a rural water source. One area where water is needed is along Railroad Cut Road. This area continues to experience strong growth and requests for water service to be provided have become a regular occurrence. There are currently over 50 homes located along Railroad Cut Road and the several county roads that extend toward the lake.

Additional improvements needed for the area include the installation of meter vaults installed on branch lines for improved leak detection throughout the system. Leaks in the area are difficult to locate due to the karst topography and the geographical size of the system. When leaks are unable to be located, water loss adds financial burdens to the operation of the system. Lost revenue due to leaks that cannot be detected remain a financial burden on the water authority.

The needed upgrades can only be funded through the availability of loans and grants or from revenue from water sales. The availability of grants to Benton County have become difficult to acquire due to median household income levels being higher than other counties in Arkansas. Additionally, BCWA5 does not have the same benefits as a city utility as they are not located within city limits and therefore cannot leverage tax funds for system improvements. The current debt load of the water system is $6,000 / customer. Taking on additional loans will only further burden these customers, as stipulations for loans require increasing the minimum monthly fees by as much as 110%.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

There are approximately 700 households, Hobbs State Parks, Resorts, Churches and other commercial property within the service area that are provided water from BCWA5. This service area continues to experience strong growth and there are several areas that are currently without water service. These residents are either on wells or are hauling water. One primary area where Benton County residents are underserved is Railroad Cut Road. There are approximately 1,100 acres adjacent to this section of Railroad Cut Road that would benefit from water service and offers a tremendous opportunity for growth and improved fire protection. The authority continues to get calls and requests for water service along this road.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

The proposed project would provide water to more residents of Benton County while also providing water conservation. The installation of the leak detection vaults will allow BCWA5 to better manage unaccounted water by helping identify areas where leaks may be occurring.

The performance measures that will be tracked include:

- Extending water service along Railroad Cut Road can be tracked and progress reported as the line is being installed.
- BCWA5 can determine the performance impact of installing this water line through the number of new customer connections.

- The primary purpose of the leak detection vaults is to help reduce the amount of water that is unaccounted for, particularly from leaks. This is not only a water conservation effort, but also reduces any financial impact due to water leaks. BCWA5 staff can track the changes in the percent of unaccounted for water. This would be a measurement of the difference between water sold vs water purchased. General guidelines suggest that a system's percent of unaccounted water should be 15% or less.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Monthly progress meetings will be held to verify that the project is constructed on time and in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. Progress reports and pay requests will be provided to Benton County and Benton County Water Authority No. 5 for review and approval. This oversite will ensure that funds are distributed and accounted for per all federal guidelines. Construction observation will be provided throughout construction of the project to verify that the project is built in accordance with the plans and specifications. Materials installed will be reported and accounted for on a weekly basis. Liquidated damages will be assessed if the project falls behind schedule. Additionally, the work will be guaranteed for one year after construction is completed to correct any malfunctions that are discovered.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

Clean and reliable water is not a resource that should only be afforded to those who live within city limits. These improvements will provide a reliable source of water to those residents in rural Benton County.

Having access to water also ensures that the fire departments who service these areas have access to water to fill pumper trucks in the event of a catastrophic fire. Having a reliable water source closer to the areas they serve will allow pumper trucks to refill more quickly to protect life and property.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
3.) Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

An engineer will be obtained to oversee the design and approval of plans and specifications for the project and keep the project on track to be certain of a timely completion. The engineer will also facilitate the bidding process and manage construction through final completion of the project.

The construction contract will be awarded to a contractor licensed in the state of Arkansas that demonstrates the ability to perform the work. The contractor will be responsible for 100% of the construction and will be awarded a contract on a low bid basis. The prime contractor awarded the project may obtain a subcontractor to perform specialized work such as bores and water taps.

Benton County Water Authority No. 5 will be a key and critical party to Benton County on the project. The association will assist in overseeing construction and will operate and maintain the water system upon completion of the project. Construction funds will be monitored and disbursed by Benton County Water Authority No. 5 with reports provided to Benton County on the progress.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Benton County Water Authority No. 5 purchases water from Madison County Water Facilities Board and has been in operation for 16 years. BCWA5 has maintenance and office staff who oversees billing, payments, operations & maintenance. Benton County Water Authority No. 5 operates under the umbrella of Benton County RDA and provides quarterly reports to the board. Funds generated from water sales will be used to maintain the water system after the project has been completed. The water system was initially installed with the use of federal funds providing the water authority with the experience to manage its oversite, and the organization remains in solid financial standing.

14. Budget

A detailed budget is attached with this questionnaire listing construction costs for each project area, engineering design, inspection, and miscellaneous costs. Preliminary reports, engineering and easement acquisition are typically required on federally funded projects. Construction costs were based on recently bid projects. Operation costs will be funded through water revenue.

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

This project will not be an ongoing project. Once construction has been completed, operation and maintenance will be funded through water revenue collected from individual customers. The infrastructure to provide maintenance is currently in place to provide these services. Benton County

Water Authority No. 5 maintains staff that is on hand to maintain the system and to make emergency repairs when needed. This project will provide access to clean and reliable water that, once installed in the ground, will be in use for many years to come.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes. We can also provide monthly reports on the progress of construction and detail how all funds are spent for the duration of the contract.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

Benton County Water Authority No. 5 has a large service area and is spread across the southeast part of Benton County at Hobbs State Park. There are several areas where water service is not provided. The area is seeing strong growth with future development being limited to locations with access to water. Benton County Water Authority No. 5 cannot afford to take on additional loans at this time. Funding applications have been submitted to ANRC and recently received notification that there are no grant funds available. The only option provided was a loan offer with a stipulation that would require BCWA5 to raise water rates 110% which would make a monthly water bill at 4,000 gallon/month total $161.00. There are many residents in this area that would struggle to pay a higher rate.

BCWA5 operates under the umbrella of the Benton County RDA. This is a true, county served organization whose purpose is to provide these resources to residents residing in Benton County.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Benton County Water Authority No. 5**
Project Name:	**BCWA No. 5 Water System Improvements**
Amount Requested:	**$5,351,900**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 5,151,900.00	Pending	Amount requested for water system improvements.
Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources	$ 200,000.00	Pending	Funds remaining from Rambo extension that finished under budget
Total	$5,351,900		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Railroad Cut Rd Water Line Extension	$ 2,150,000.00		$ 2,150,000.00	Capital	Construction cost for approximately 5 miles of water line extension
Construct Leak Detection Vaults	$ 450,000.00		$ 450,000.00	Capital	Vaults to detect leaks will be installed at various locations to montior and detect leaks on branch lines throughout the service area. This will allow for enhanced leak detection.
Contingencies	$ 260,000.00		$ 260,000.00	Capital	Typically 10% of the construction costs of the project, would vary based on the amount of funding received. The reflected amount is contingency for all improvements
Engineering	$ 208,000.00		$ 208,000.00	Capital	Typically 8% of the construction costs of the project, would vary based on the amount of funding received. The reflected amount is for all improvements
Inspection	$ 104,000.00		$ 104,000.00	Capital	Typically 4% of the construction costs of the project, would vary based on the amount of funding received. The reflected amount is for all improvements
Miscellaneous Fees (Easements, Permitting, Environmental)	$ 165,000.00		$ 165,000.00	Capital	These fees would cover any required preliminary engineering report, environmental reports, easement acquistions, condemnations, legal and permit approvals from ADEQ and ADH,
List expenses here			$ -		
Total Funding	$ 3,337,000.00		$ 3,337,000.00		

$ 2,600,000.00

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Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Boys & Girls Club of Benton County
Contact Name: Matt Taliaferro
Contact Email: mtaliaferro@bgcbentoncounty.org
Telephone #: (o) 479-273-7187 x111 or (c) 215-779-3346

1. Name of Project: Safe and Accessible Childcare for Low-Income Workers (Project Great Futures)

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $445,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category **(A)**

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

4. Brief Project Description:

Throughout our 30-year history, Boys & Girls Club of Benton County (BGCBC) has played a critical role in the Benton County community, providing a fun, safe atmosphere where thousands of youth have been given the opportunity and tools to pursue great futures. BGCBC currently operates five different locations across four communities in the county (Bentonville, Rogers, Bella Vista and Pea Ridge). We are committed to continue our mission of serving the youth who need us most, even during difficult times like what we are experiencing in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Safety of our staff and youth are our number one priority; we have taken tremendous strides to prevent the spread of the disease but with funding from Benton County, we can do even more. Funds will support BGCBC members of whom approximately 40% are from minority races or ethnicities; at least 50% qualify for free/reduced lunch; 33% live in single-parent households; and 43% reside in rural communities (per our 2019 annual report). Per the CDC and other data sources, we know that vulnerable youth among these populations are those most likely to have

experienced economic harm, health inequities, negative mental health outcomes and reduced learning opportunities. We are requesting funds to support the following initiatives:

Category A: Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19

1. **Capital Improvement: Upgrading ventilation systems and installing TRANE CleanEffects Air Cleaner (or equivalent). 7 AC units at Bentonville Club and 6 AC units at the Rogers Club.**

   Given the airborne nature of the COVID-19 disease, improving air circulation and filtration systems has been highly recommended for our facilities to help prevent further spread of the disease indoors. BGCBC has consulted with experts in the field to determine the types of air filtration upgrades needed, which includes the Trane CleanEffects Air Cleaner (or equivalent). Air Cleaner benefits include:

   - Removes up to 99.98% of airborne particles including those as small as .1 micron
   - Reduces the presence of mold spores, allergens, bacteria, viruses such as COVID-19, and some pollen

   Our organization has a 10-year relationship with Air Dynamics, a 5-star heating/cooling company out of Springdale, AR. They have inspected each of our ventilation units and have provided estimates on the upgrades that include the cost of the unit, the filtration system and installation. The ventilation units chosen for upgrades were based on 3 criteria: overall impact to air flow, age of the unit and the type of refrigerant. Air Dynamics would be responsible for procurement, installation and application for all required city/county permits and post installation inspections.

2. **Capital Improvement: Playground Improvements at our Rogers, Bentonville and Bella Vista locations. Improvements include installation of a shade canopy and/or safety (rubber) surfacing.**

   BGCBC has increasingly stressed outdoor play during the pandemic to limit the spread of the COVID-19 disease. Outdoor playtime not only cuts down on transmission but also allows for critical childhood development, allowing them to socially connect in a safe environment. To this end, we see the need to make the following improvements to the playground areas at our Rogers, Bentonville and Bella Vista Clubs as we continue to push for even more outside activities.

   - **Install a shade canopy (Rogers and Bella Vista locations):**
     a. Allows children to play outside longer without overheating & protects them from harmful UV rays

i. By shading the playground, children will be able to play outside for longer, allowing them to have more fun while staying active. Shade structures typically keep spaces 20 degrees cooler for children to play in; this includes the surfaces that children play on.

- **Install rubber surfacing (Rogers, Bella Vista and Bentonville locations):** By installing rubber surfacing on the playground, overall safety will improve as kids will be less likely to be injured when they fall. It is also very easy to keep clean.

If funded, we have chosen Burke Commercial Playground equipment, which is designed for schools and parks. We have contacted Davis Playgrounds, a Little Rock based Burke dealer who has provided the estimates and would handle installation, any required city/county permit applications and post safety inspections. These canopies and surfacing are designed to last and come with a 10 year warranty.

3. **Capital Expense: Purchasing SAMSUNG Galaxy Tablet A7 32 GB 10.4" Model # SM-T500NZABXAR (or equivalent) (25 tablets@ $220/each)**

BGCBC's commitment to keeping our staff and the young people we serve safe is always our number one priority. As such, we have continuously adapted Club policies and operations to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which remain consistent with recommendations by the CDC and Arkansas Department of Health. In an effort to minimize exposure to COVID-19 within our buildings and improve our contact tracing protocols, we have broken the kids up into cohorts which stay together throughout the entire afterschool period. We are requesting funding for the purchase of tablets which will be placed in each room which can track the movement of kids from room to room. That way, if any child is reported to have contracted COVID-19, we will have a more accurate method of determining who to quarantine.

5. Project Plan:

Ventilation Improvement Plan:

The following process will be used to upgrade our ventilation at both the Bentonville and Rogers locations if funding is approved:

Step 1: Contact Air Dynamics to receive an updated quote for each ventilation unit that is to be upgraded. The quote should be received no later than two weeks from the initial request.
Step 2: Approve the quote
Step 3: Have Air Dynamics order the appropriate equipment and provide an estimated time of delivery and installation.
Step 4: Have Air Dynamics apply for all required city/county permits
Step 5: Air Dynamics to install the upgrades once the permits are issued. Timing of installation will depend on availability of parts and delivery timing.
Step 6: Once installation is complete, Air Dynamics will contact the city/county to conduct required post installation inspections.

Playground Improvement Plan:

Step 1: Contact Davis Playgrounds to receive an updated quote for each playground that is to be upgraded. The quote should be received no later than two weeks from the initial request.
Step 2: Approve the quote
Step 3: Have Davis Playgrounds order the appropriate equipment and provide an estimated time of delivery and installation.
Step 4: Have Davis Playgrounds apply for all required city/county permits
Step 5: Davis Playgrounds to install the upgrades once the permits are issued. Timing of installation will depend on availability of parts and delivery timing.
Step 6: Once installation is complete, Davis Playgrounds will contact the city/county to conduct required post installation inspections.

Tablets purchase/implementation plan: If funded, we would purchase these tablets from Walmart or Amazon and immediately begin using once delivered.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Bentonville, Arkansas, named the 7th best place to live in America (2019, Money), ranked 4th most affordable place to live in the US (2019 U.S. News & World Report), and among the best cities for entrepreneurs & families (Livability.com) easily attracts businesses, families, and visitors nationwide. With 64% of the population born outside of Arkansas, Bentonville also is home to a diverse population. However, when looking more closely, there is a growing population of impoverished and single-parent families, a significant amount of racial disparity, and compacting community risk factors. These issues, widened by the COVID-19 pandemic and hitting historically disadvantaged students the hardest, has pushed more youth to cave to the pressures of drugs & alcohol, fail at school, and increase feelings of hopelessness. The Boys & Girls Club of Benton County has the ability to fill the gap between school and home, provide safe environments for youth to have fun, participate in life-changing programs, as well as form supportive relationships with peers and caring adults.

Mercy Hospital of Northwest Arkansas' most recent Community Health Survey indicated that access to mental health providers is the second highest health-related need within Benton County. Of those youth surveyed in Benton County, over 50% indicated that "they have been severely depressed in the last thirty days". In this same survey, over 50% of youth also indicated that "they feel worthless". The U.S. Surgeon General has declared an urgent need to address the nation's youth mental health crisis. Even before the pandemic, an alarming number of young people struggled with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide. The pandemic's negative impacts most heavily affected those who were vulnerable to begin with, such as youth of color and economically disadvantaged youth. The programs offered at the Boys & Girls Club can assure young people that they are not alone in dealing with challenges, provide additional emotional support, and ensure youth have a voice in their Club and community.

If we were awarded this grant, the funds for these capital improvements will not only increase the safety of the services we provide but will help address the mental health crisis exacerbated by the pandemic.

7. Statement of Need:

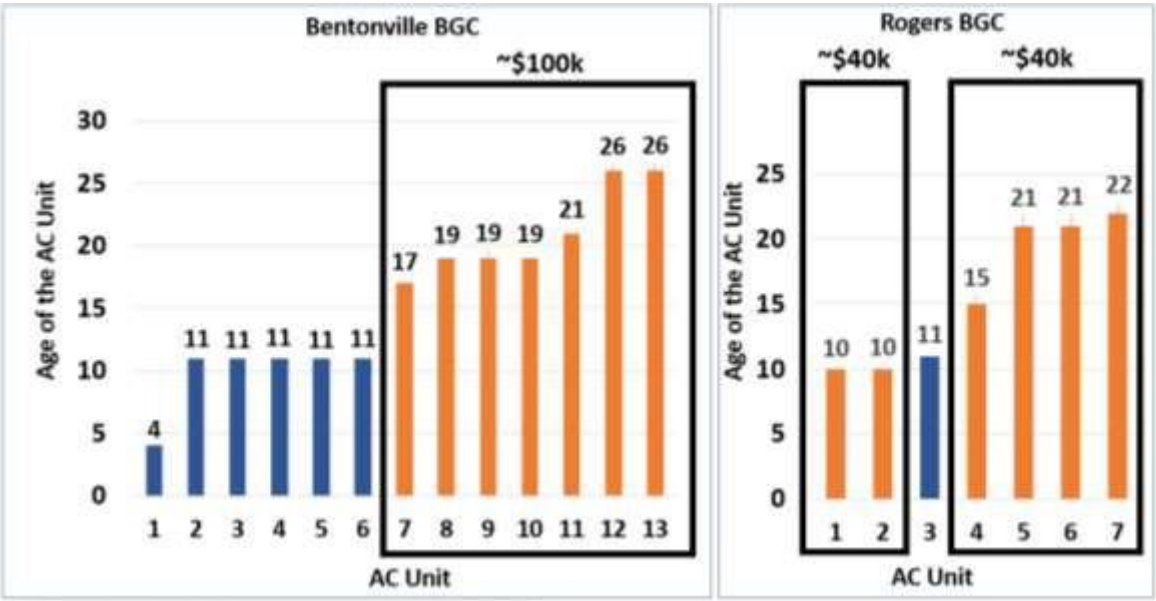
Safety of the youth that we serve here at the Boys & Girls Club of Benton County is our number one priority. In the face of the pandemic, the Club has completely overhauled every aspect of the way we operate including but not limited to:

- Limiting the capacity of youth in our units
- Limiting the number of youth in each group
- Mandatory use of face coverings and social distancing by both youth and staff
- Eliminating the use of water fountains other than to fill water bottles
- Installation of hand sanitizing stations throughout the facilities
- Daily sanitization of all common surfaces
- Elimination of outside visitors in our facilities including parents for pickup/drop off as well as volunteers

Our organization continues to evaluate and modify these policies and procedures based on data as well as expert advice from local school systems and other childcare organizations. In many cases, these changes in operations have either reduced our income or increased our operating cost but through fundraising and grants, we have been able to cover so far. However, even with all of our efforts to increase fundraising, we have been unable to raise enough funds to cover these much-needed capital improvements requested in this grant application. In 2021, our revenue was approximately $2.7 million of which only 17.5% was membership income (based on unaudited cash flow actuals through November 2021 and projections for December 2021). The other 82.5% came from individual donors, corporate sponsors and local, state and federal grants. This Benton County ARPA grant is critical to our ability to achieve the desired safety improvements and will significantly reduce the potential risk of the spread of COVID-19 within our organization.

Ventilation:
Specifically, as it relates to ventilation, we are in dire need of upgrades. As you will see in the orange-colored bars in Exhibit 1 below, 50% of our AC units at our Bentonville location are 17 years or older and contain R-22 refrigerant which is no longer produced. At our Rogers location 4 AC units are over 15 years old and 6 out of 7 contain R-22. All of these units are inefficient and do not contain the filtration systems adequate for COVID-19 prevention. We are not requesting upgrades to all of our units, just the ones that will significantly improve overall ventilation and are at the end of their useful life.

Exhibit 1:



Playgrounds:
As it relates to our capital improvements to our playgrounds, just like the ventilation systems, we have not been able to raise enough funds to cover. Our playgrounds serve a vital purpose in our mission but also provide an outdoor space for the kids to play where we know the risk of COVID-19 is much less. According to Dr. Walensky, the Director of the CDC, the spread of the disease is 20X less likely outdoors vs. indoors. Today our playgrounds are "adequate" but the kids often complain of heat due to the lack of shade and are prone to injury on the mulch which often gets washed away. Addition of the shade canopies and rubber safety floorings will make the playgrounds much more desirable for the kids to play on, will reduce the potential for injuries/sunburn and make the playgrounds more sustainable into the future. Below in Exhibits 2, 3 and 4, you will see pictures of our current playgrounds, the washed out mulch and the lack of shade.

Exhibit 2: Bentonville Playground

Exhibit 3: Rogers Playground

Exhibit 4: Bella Vista Playground

Tablets:
We currently operate 5 different sites across Benton County, each with its own configuration of program spaces: rooms, gyms, cafeterias and playgrounds. 25 tablets will be enough to adequately cover all the major program spaces and will enable us to track the movement of kids throughout each facility.

8. Population Served:

The target population of BGCBC has been and always will be NWA youth, especially those who need us most. That need stems from a variety of sources- income limitations, parent work schedules, single parent homes and kids who are unable to stay at home by themselves without an adult.

Our member base includes both males and females ages 6 to 18. Racial and ethnic demographics of our youth closely match that of the total area population. Geographically, our Clubs primarily serve Benton County youth.

Many of our youth come from non-traditional family environments. This can include single parent households, grandkids being raised by grandparents, homes with incarcerated parents and many other living situations. In fact, nearly **33%** of our Club members come from single parent households and many others live with grandparents due to parental inability to care for them. Additionally, approximately **43%** of our Club members reside in rural communities.

Club families are extremely financially diverse, with over **50%** of our youth qualifying for scholarships. Scholarships are given to families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The remainder of our youth come from families who may have the means to pay for other, more expensive after school and summer programs, but choose to come to the Boys & Girls Club because of our quality programming and enthusiastic staff.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

Each of the three proposed capital improvements (ventilation upgrades, playground upgrades and purchase of tablets) will substantially impact and improve the overall safety of the organization and help reduce the potential risk of spread of COVID-19. Specific measures for each request is as follows:

1. **Ventilation upgrades**: In addition to tracking and reporting the actual installation of the proposed ventilation units, we intend on tracking and reporting the following
   a. Improvement in air filtration quality for each unit we replace (pre and post)
   b. Improvements in air circulation efficiency provided by each unit

2. **Playground upgrades**: In addition to tracking and reporting the actual installation of the proposed playground structures, we intend on tracking and reporting the following
   a. Playground experience/satisfaction (pre and post)

3. **Tablet purchase:** We intend on tracking and reporting the purchase, delivery and usage of the tablets.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Our organization intends on getting a detailed timeline from both Air Dynamics and Davis Playgrounds subcontractors for the installation of the AC/filtration units as well as the shade canopies/rubber safety flooring. Additionally, each subcontractor will be responsible for obtaining all the required local city/county permits prior to work commencement and completion of post installation inspections.

For the results listed in #9 above, we intend on doing the following:

1. **AC Units:**
   a. Have Air Dynamics provide the pre-post filtration quality and air circulation efficiencies for each unit
   b. Have Air Dynamics provide all required permits and inspection results.
2. **Playground improvements:**
   a. Conduct pre-post satisfaction surveys from at least 70% of the kids who attend each location
   b. Have Davis Playgrounds provide all required permits and inspection results.
3. **Tablet purchase:**
   a. Provide proof of purchase from either Amazon or Walmart.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

The answer to this question inherently lies in our mission. The Boys & Girls Club of Benton County's mission is to "enable ALL youth, especially those who need us the most, to achieve their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens." Even before the pandemic began, the Club's mission has served to address the root causes of inequities in our society, filling a much-needed gap in after school childcare and education. The Club provides affordable access to a wide variety of educational and leadership-based programs and never turns anyone away based on economic, racial, ethnic or social status. In 2021, the Boys & Girls Club of Benton County awarded over $150,000 in membership scholarships to the struggling families who simply could not afford another alternative. At its core, the Club is a safe place for ALL young children to come learn, play and grow. Since the pandemic began, with the exception of April and May of 2020, the Club has stayed open, continuing our mission -- ensuring that we're there for the many struggling parents who needed a place for their children so they could work and provide for their family. Our organization has always and will continue to step into the gap and help encourage more equitable recovery for kids who need us most.

As previously mentioned, safety is our number one priority and this effort will go a long way to ensuring that we can provide the safest after school environment possible for the ALL the children in our community.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

We have identified two primary subcontractors for the work outlined in this proposal.

Ventilation upgrades:

- Name of the subcontractor: Air Dynamics
- Website: https://www.air-dynamics.co/

- Owner and operator: Steve Paxton
- E-mail: steve@air-dynamics.co
- Address: 4065 McRay Ave, Springdale, AR 72762
- Products and services: Procurement and installation of the upgraded ventilation/filtration systems
- Percentage of the overall scope of this project:
    - 100% of the ventilation upgrade portion of the project
    - 40% of the overall project

Playground upgrades:

- Name of the subcontractor: Davis Playgrounds
- Website: https://www.davisplaygrounds.com/
- Primary contact: Jenifer Rodgers
- E-mail: jen@davisplaygrounds.com
- Address: 104 Orchid Drive, Maumelle, AR 727113
- Products and services: Procurement and installation of playground equipment
- Percentage of the overall scope of the this project:
    - 100% of the playground upgrade portion of this project
    - 55% of the overall project

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

The Boys & Girls Club of Benton County has been serving local NWA youth with afterschool and summer programming for over 30 years. As it relates to managing federal funds, we have extensive experience and are currently managing three federal-funded grants:

- USDA Special Nutrition Program Summer and After School Programs (SFSP and CACFP)
- US Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- OJJDP (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) Program

We have been recipients of federal grants for several years and are well-versed with reporting requirements. We are committed to upholding all reporting requirements and have full-time staff members dedicated to the management and success of this program.

Regarding the management of the proposed project, we employ a full-time, dedicated and experienced maintenance supervisor who will oversee the day-to-day operations and management of the subcontractors. He was previously the maintenance supervisor at Ozark Mountain Poultry and was responsible for overseeing ventilation and facility operations so he is more than qualified to oversee this project.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

See attached spreadsheet

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire.

N/A

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes

17. Special Considerations

From all of us here at the Club, thank you for your consideration of this request.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Boys & Girls Club of Benton County**
Project Name:	**Safe & Accessible Childcare for Low-Income Workers (Project Great Futures)**
Amount Requested:	**$445,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 445,000.00	Pending	All proposed costs are one time from the Benton County Recovery funds
Walmart Foundation	$ 30,000.00	Confirmed	
List other sources here			
Total	$ 475,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Bentonville AC Unit 1: Model number: 10acc060230/5804h05365	$ 13,265.00		$ 13,265.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Bentonville AC Unit 2: Model number: Ysc120a3rma0ve/2351013521	$ 12,546.00		$ 12,546.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Bentonville AC Unit 3: Model number: Ysc036a3rla/235101238	$ 21,187.00		$ 21,187.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Bentonville AC Unit 4: Model number: 2tta0048a3000/3063t5n3f	$ 12,626.00		$ 12,626.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Bentonville AC Unit 5: Model number: 10acb06011p/5801e27995	$ 13,265.00		$ 13,265.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Bentonville AC Unit 6: Model number: 10acb603p/5895g16021	$ 13,265.00		$ 13,265.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Bentonville AC Unit 7: Model number: 10acb0603p/5895g16022	$ 13,265.00		$ 13,265.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Rogers AC Unit 1: Model number: Ysc120f3ema040000/124610967I	$ 21,187.00		$ 21,187.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Rogers AC Unit 2: Model number: Ysc120f3ema04000/124610985I	$ 21,187.00		$ 21,187.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Rogers AC Unit 3: Model number: 2a7b3042a1000/71421j53f	$ 12,782.00		$ 12,782.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Rogers AC Unit 4: Model number: tca048aka1/I012089696	$ 12,626.00		$ 12,626.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Rogers AC Unit 5: Model Number: tca048aka1/I012917273	$ 12,626.00		$ 12,626.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Rogers AC Unit 6: tca024aka1/I003318859	$ 12,302.00		$ 12,302.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Air Dynamics on 12/23/2021
Rogers Playground canopy	$ 14,528.00		$ 14,528.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Rogers Playground poured rubber surfacing	$ 24,400.00		$ 24,400.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Rogers Playground landscaping timbers	$ 1,985.00		$ 1,985.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Rogers Playground Rock foundation (90 tons)	$ 1,837.00		$ 1,837.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Rogers Playground installation	$ 24,296.00		$ 24,296.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Bentonville Playground poured rubber surfacing	$ 75,316.00		$ 75,316.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Bentonville Playground landscaping timbers	$ 3,309.00		$ 3,309.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Bentonville Playground Rock foundation (90 tons)	$ 3,822.00		$ 3,822.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Bentonville Playground installation	$ 38,208.00		$ 38,208.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Bella Vista Playground canopy	$ 10,638.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 25,638.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022. Walmart Foundation funded. Need this grant to complete.

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Bella Vistal Playground poured rubber surfacing	$ 18,056.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 33,056.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022. Walmart Foundation partially funded. Need this grant to complete.
Bella Vista Playground landscaping timbers	$ 2,806.00	$ -	$ 2,806.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Bella Vista Playground Rock foundation (90 tons)	$ 2,518.00		$ 2,518.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Bella Vista Playground installation	$ 25,652.00		$ 25,652.00	Capital	Estimate obtained from Davis Playgrounds on 1/5/2022
Samsung tablet purchase	$ 5,500.00		$ 5,500.00	Capital	25 tablets at $220 each from Amazon.
			$ -		
Total	**$ 445,000.00**	**$ 30,000.00**	**$ 475,000.00**		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Cave Springs Fire Department
Contact Name: Gary Jordan
Contact Email: gary.jordan@cavespringsar.gov

Telephone #: 479-531-5775

1. Name of Project:

Purchase of a Cascade and Containment System

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$39,190

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Cave Springs Fire Department is applying for $39,190 to replace the current cascade system that was manufactured in 1994 and does not have the **Containment Fill Station**.

5. Project Plan:

The Cascade System will be purchased as soon as funds are available. The current system poses a risk of injury if a cylinder were to explode during the filling process.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Cave Springs Fire Department is a volunteer fire department. The department's funds were depleted in an effort to serve the community during the trials of covid. Due to the extra expenses we are unable to purchase the Cascade Containment System that the department is needing. This system provides clean filtered air in a safe environment.

7. Statement of Need:

- Cave Springs Fire Department is applying for $39,190 to replace the current cascade system that was manufactured in 1994 and does not have the Containment Fill Station. The Fill Station is designed to contain the debris if a cylinder were to burst during the filling process. We are asking for the basic system that allows you to fill 2 air tanks at a time with clean air.

8. Population Served:

This project will provide safe, clean air for the entire fire department that services the Cave Springs town and surrounding areas across all demographics. Cave Springs also provides mutual aid to the small departments in the surrounding areas including Centerton, and Highfull.

9. Results

The Cascade Containment System is a one-time purchase. The only trackable data would be the number of air cylinders we are able to fill with safe, clean air and allow the department to serve the community safely.

10. Evaluation

N/A

11. Equity Impact

If we receive funds to purchase the Cascade and Containment System, our department will be able to start to rebuild funds for other needs.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

N/A

13. Capacity

Cave Springs Fire Chief will oversee purchasing and organizing the installation of the Cascade and Containment System and providing verification to the needed persons.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

The Cascade System is a one-time purchase and will not need additional funds to continue the benefit to the community.

16. Reporting:

Cave Springs department can provide proof of purchase and installation of the Cascade System.

17. Special Considerations

Cave Springs is one of the fastest growing cities in Benton County. The Volunteer Fire Department and the City of Cave Springs are working together to provide the best services possible for the growing community. As a volunteer department we are forced to look outside the normal means to obtain the funds needed for equipment to keep up with the growth of the community.

Cave Springs Fire Department
Chief Gary Jordon

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Cave Springs Fire Department is applying for $39,190 to replace the current cascade system that was manufactured in 1994 and does not have the **Containment Fill Station**. We are asking for the basic system that allows you to fill 2 air tanks at a time with clean air.

CFS5.5®-2S

- **Containment Fill Stations are designed to contain the debris, if a cylinder were to burst during refilling**.
- Allows you to fill 2 cylinders at a time
- Tested to the standards of NFPA 1989 and NFPA 1901

Casco INDUSTRIES, INC.

21941 I-30 SUITE 6 BRYANT, AR 72022

SERVING ARKANSAS

SOLD TO:	CAVE SPRINGS VFD		SHIP TO:	
ATTN:			ATTN:	ANTHONY WRIGHT
PHONE:			PHONE:	479-531-4998
EMAIL:			EMAIL:	anthonywright152@gmail.com

CREDIT CARD:		**DIST**	**CUST PO NUMBER**		**SALES REP**	**SALES REP REF #**
NAME/EXP DATE					140	
NUMBER/CODE/ZIP			**TERMS**	**FREIGHT**	**DATE**	**FORM TYPE**
TRANSACTION ID#			30	ADD	2/14/2022	**QUOTE**

ITEM	**LOC**	**DESCRIPTION**		**QTY**	**SHIPPED**	**PRICE**	**AMOUNT**
1		BAU-LEGACY-13-E1		1		$ 20,850.00	$ 20,850.00
		BAUER LEGACY COMPRESSOR 4 STAGE 6000 PSI	$ -			$ -	$ -
			$ -			$ -	$ -
			$ -			$ -	$ -
2		BAU-CFS5.5-2S		1		$ 9,495.00	$ 9,495.00
		DUAL POSITION FILL STATION	$ -			$ -	$ -
			$ -			$ -	$ -
3		SCBAS-SSS-460-B					
		FOUR BOTTLE 6000 PSI CASCADE WITH RACK		1		$ 6,595.00	$ 6,595.00
		W/SCBAS-96-001-10FT HOSE AND 96-004 COUPLINGS	$ -			$ -	$ -
		TO ATTACH CASCADE TO FILL STATION					$ -
			$ -				
4		CAS-INSTALL	$ -	1		$ 450.00	$ 450.00
			$ -			$ -	$ -
			$ -			$ -	$ -
			$ -			$ -	$ -

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BELOW	**DIST TOTAL: $ 39,187.00**	Subtotal	$ 37,390.00
	ADD	Tax	$ -
		Freight	$ 1,800.00
		TOTAL	$ 39,190.00

Quote is good for 30 days. Please review our Return and Payment Policies at www.cascoindustries.com/policies

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Centerton Utilities
Contact Name: Frank Holzkamper
Contact Email: frank@centertonutilities.com
Telephone #: 479-795-0222

1. Name of Project:

Water Extensions to Loop Water Mains North & West of Centerton

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$4,924,440.00

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

C. Infrastructure: Provides water

4. Brief Project Description:

This project for Centerton Utilities would extend water main in Benton County to the west and to the north of the City of Centerton. There are approximately 8 areas that have been identified where water main can be extended and connected to improve the flow and availability of water for those residents living in Benton County. The areas around Centerton have experienced a tremendous amount of growth and upgrades to the water system are needed so that these areas can provide a safe and reliable source of water. The areas identified consist of extending and connecting water main to prevent the stagnation of water where it is unable to circulate properly due to dead end lines. These serve residents of Benton County and are not located within incorporated city limits. A brief summary of each areas is as follows and ranked by priority:

1. <u>Miller Church Road, McMillan Road and Short Road:</u>
   An 8-inch water main would connect to an existing 3-inch water main north of the Bella Vista Bypass and run south approximately 20,000 linear feet to connect to another existing 3-inch water main. It will also connect an existing 3-inch water main along Punkin Hollow Road to create another loop in the system. This extension will include creek and highway crossings and will

provide service to approximately 22 new users. This area is north of Centerton and south of Bella Vista where larger growth is occurring.

2. Highway 279 and Noah Road:

   An 8-inch water main would connect two existing 8-inch mains by running east from the first connection and then south along Noah Road at its intersection with Arkansas Highway 279. The extension would be approximately 3,700 linear feet and would provide service to 2 new users.

3. Highway 102 and Rebel Road:
   An 8-inch water main would connect to an existing 4-inch water main along Rebel Road and run south approximately 2,300 linear feet to connect it to an existing 8-inch along Arkansas Highway 102 and create a loop.

4. Wildwood Way:
   Approximately 2,800 linear feet of 6-inch water main would connect two existing 6-inch water mains by running along Wildwood Way from Mt. Olive Road to Spring Valley Road. This extension would provide service to 2 new users.

5. Tanyard Hollow Road:

   Approximately 4,400 linear feet of 3-inch water main would connect to an existing 2-inch water main and run south along Tanyard Hollow Road and connect to an existing 4-inch water main to create a loop. There is 1 customer that could be added with this improvement.

6. Private Drive – Between Miller Church Road & Punkin Hollow Road:

   Approximately 2,100 linear feet of 8-inch water main would connect existing 2-inch and 4-inch water mains to create a loop and improve the flow of water.

7. Galyean Stables Road:

   Approximately 3,200 linear feet of 3-inch water main would run along Galyean Stables Road and connect two existing 2-inch water mains to create a loop.

8. Talamore Boulevard:

   Approximately 1,500 linear feet of 8-inch water main would extend south from an existing 6-inch along Talamore Boulevard and connect it to an existing 8-inch water main located south of Arkansas Highway 72. This extension will include a highway crossing.

5. Project Plan:

Project funds would be administered through Centerton Utilities to manage oversite and distribution of the construction funds. Upon approval of the funding, plans would be immediately prepared to extend water main to areas of Benton County located to the north and west of Centerton. Upon approval of the plans and specifications by the health department and Centerton Utilities, the project would be advertised for bids and awarded to the lowest qualified bidder. Construction would begin once the project has been awarded with construction observation performed by a representative of the design engineer. Projects could be awarded as one or separately so that construction could occur concurrently. After construction is complete, the water main will be owned and operated by the Centerton Utilities. Permanent maintenance will be funded with revenue collected from water sales. The project will take 12 – 18 months to design and construct if all areas are funded.

6. Link to COVID-19:

As covid outbreaks continue and remote work increases, residents in rural Benton County will increasingly be needed to work and school from home due to isolation guidelines if they were to contract Covid. Having a clean and reliable water source is critical and a basic need everyone should be able to access. In these areas where there is no water service, residents must have wells or haul water. These wells often contain sulfur and contaminants such as e-coli. Even recently, damaged pumps for a well can become difficult to repair due to mechanical equipment being unavailable. These timely delays would leave these county residents without water. Because there is not currently a public water source to these areas, residents have no other options for water.

7. Statement of Need:

The rate of growth in this area of Benton County will continue and require larger diameter pipe and more water to be made available to meet the demand. Centerton Utilities must delegate the majority of there resources to the growth within the City of Centerton and does not have additional resources available to fund these rural county areas. Many of the water main upgrades within the city occur because of private development. That private development is not occurring to the same degree in Benton County, but it is continuing to see more individuals move to the county where the smaller diameter water needs to be upgraded. Residents of Benton County therefore must pay the full cost to extend water service to their homes.

8. Population Served:

This project has the possibility to provide water for up to 26 Benton County residents on the Miller Road extension. The remaining extensions will increase the capacity and quality of water that will help to prevent stagnation in dead end lines by looping the existing water main. Centerton Utilities consists of the area served inside the city limits and a rural system that extends to the north and west for several miles. These improvements would benefit the more than 1,200 customers served on the rural part of the system.

9. Results

The proposed project will increase the availability of clean water to more households in Benton County and improve the water flow in the existing system. These improvements will provide a safe and reliable source of water that is not at risk to becoming contaminated or malfunctioning. Centerton Utilities has a full-time water and sewer department that has the capability to operate and maintain the water main that will extend and connect existing water main after the water main is put into operation. Once installed Centerton Utilities will own and operate the water main. Performance measures that can be tracked and reported include:

- Number of new customers connected to the water system and increased pressures and flows where loops are made.
- Monthly samples are collected each month to verify the quality of the water within the system.
- Progress meetings will be held throughout the project to verify that construction is completed on time.

10. Evaluation

Monthly progress meetings will be held to verify that the project is constructed on time and in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. Progress reports and pay requests will be provided to Benton County for review and approval. Construction observation will be provided throughout construction of the project to verify that the project is built in accordance with plans and specifications. Liquidated damages will be assessed if the project falls behind schedule. Additionally, the work will be guaranteed for one year after construction is completed to correct any malfunctions that are discovered.

11. Equity Impact

Clean and reliable water is not a resource that should only be afforded by those that live within city limits. These improvements will provide the area with a reliable source of water for these residents in Benton County that are near in-service water mains but lack the means to have it extended to their homes. The inequity of not having access to this water will continue to leave these residents at more of a disadvantage than their rural neighbors that may live just a mile away

from a water source. New customers will no longer have to maintain wells or haul water. Existing customers will have an improved system.

12. Project Partners:

An engineer will be obtained to oversee the design and approval of plans and specifications for the project and keep the project on track to be certain of a timely completion. The engineer will also facilitate the bidding process and manage construction through final completion of the project.

The construction contract will be awarded to a contractor licensed in the state of Arkansas that demonstrates the ability to perform the work. The contractor will be responsible for 100% of the construction and will be awarded a contract on a low bid basis. The prime contractor awarded the project may obtain a subcontractor to perform specialized work such as bores and water taps.

Centerton Utilities will be a key and critical party to Benton County on the project. The city will assist in overseeing construction and will operate and maintain the water main upon completion of the project. Construction funds will be monitored and disbursed by Centerton Utilities with reports provided to Benton County on the progress.

13. Capacity

Centerton Utilities is well established and has a full-time maintenance and office staff that manages billing, payments, and operations & maintenance. The water used is purchased from BWRPWA and is pumped to Centerton and stored. Funds generated from water usage in the system will be used to maintain the installed water main after the completion of the project. Centerton Utilities taken on several projects that has extended service to Benton County to bring water to these county residents.

14. Budget

A detailed budget is attached with this questionnaire listing construction costs for each project area, engineering design, inspection, and miscellaneous costs. Preliminary reports, engineering and easement acquisition are typically required on federally funded projects. Construction costs were based on recently bid projects. Operation costs will be funded through water revenue.

15. Continuity of Services:

This project will not be an ongoing project. The water main will be permanently installed to provide water to residents of Benton County. Once construction has been completed, operation

and maintenance will be funded through water revenue collected from individual customers using the water. Centerton Utilities will take full ownership of the installed water main.

16. Reporting:

Monthly reports will be provided on the progress of construction and will detail how all funds are spent for the duration of the contract.

17. Special Considerations

Centerton Utilities would like to improve the quality of life in Benton County where residents are served inside of the water service area of Centerton Utilities. Extending water service and making improvements that will benefit the more than 1,200 rural residents requires a partner such as Benton County so that additional loan is not needed. A large loan would require the water rates be increased to cover the costs of those improvements and would negatively affect everyone served in Benton County. These improvements would have a permanent and lasting impact for the next 60 years.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Centerton Utilities**
Project Name:	**Water Extensions to Loop Water Mains North & West of Centerton**
Amount Requested:	

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 4,924,440.00	Pending	Total project cost to extend and improve water service to Benton County residents to the north and west of Centerton
Total	$ 4,924,440.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Miller Church, McMillan and Short	$ 2,300,000.00		$ 2,300,000.00	Capital	Extenstion to serve a growing area with possibly 22 new customers
Highway 279 and Noah Road	$ 350,000.00		$ 350,000.00	Capital	Closes loop and could add 2 customers
Highway 102 and Rebel Road	$ 240,000.00		$ 240,000.00	Capital	Closes loop and improves water quality
Wildwood Way	$ 210,000.00		$ 210,000.00	Capital	Closes loop and could add 2 customers
Tanyard Hollow Road	$ 151,000.00		$ 151,000.00	Capital	Closes loop and improves water quality
Private Drive between Miller Church and Punkin Hollow	$ 205,500.00		$ 205,500.00	Capital	Closes loop and improves water quality
Galyean Stables	$ 130,000.00		$ 130,000.00	Capital	Closes loop and improves water quality
Talamore Blvd	$ 265,500.00		$ 265,500.00	Capital	Closes loop and improves water quality
Contingency	$ 385,200.00		$ 385,200.00	Capital	10% of project construction cost
Preliminary Engineering Report	$ 45,000.00		$ 45,000.00	Capital	Required under federal guidelines
Environmental Report	$ 40,000.00		$ 40,000.00	Capital	Required under federal guidelines
Cultural Resources Survey	$ 60,000.00		$ 60,000.00	Capital	Required under federal guidelines
Engineering Design	$ 308,160.00		$ 308,160.00	Capital	8% of project construction cost
Construction Observation	$ 154,080.00		$ 154,080.00	Capital	4% of project construction cost
Easements Acquisition	$ 50,000.00		$ 50,000.00	Capital	Acquisition of easement to install and maintain water main
Legal / Bond Counsel	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00	Capital	
Permitting	$ 10,000.00		$ 10,000.00	Capital	Department of health and ADEQ review fees
Total			$ 4,924,440.00		
List expenses here			$ -		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County
Contact Name: Meaghan Ellenburg
Contact Email: meaghan@cacbentonco.com
Telephone #: 618-806-9894 (C)

1. **Name of Project:** CAC of Benton County Services

2. **Amount of Funds Requested:** $300,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

****D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County serves our community by providing comprehensive services to child abuse victims and their families. Our services of advocacy, forensic interviews, trauma counseling, and sexual assault medical examinations each support the mission of empowering children to find their voice and the vision of eliminating child abuse. The priority of the CAC is victims of child abuse. Services are available to all children under age 18 and their non-offending family members when suspected abuse has been reported to the Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline.

Through this funding opportunity, the CAC is requesting funding of $300,000 over 2 years for seven essential direct service staff positions and necessary operating support to maintain the processes of both our main center in Little Flock and satellite center in Gentry. The proposed programs are essential to maintaining and growing staff and services to live out our mission and providing the absolute best services for children and families experiencing abuse.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

The proposed project includes tasks and activities that are outlined in the CAC's policies, procedures, and strategic plan. The board of directors and leadership team outline the activities needed to oversee personnel, security, and facility maintenance to prioritize the needs of our clients and agency partners. Below are committed activities -- weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annually -- that will allow us to implement the proposed project over a two-year period and empower children to find their voice.

- **Weekly or Biweekly:**
  - Staff meeting for all team members led by the executive director.
  - Component meetings with each separate direct service team: Mental Health, Advocacy, Forensic Interviewing.
  - One-on-one meetings with direct supervisor for all staff members.
  - Multi-disciplinary team case review meetings with staff and agency partners.
- **Monthly:**
  - Board of directors meets with leadership team.
  - Strategic planning committee meetings to maintain vision and direction.
  - Grant committee meetings to ensure funding requirements are met.
- **Quarterly:**
  - Forensic interview and advocacy peer review sessions.
  - Grant coordinator submits required quarterly reporting.
  - Organization subcommittee meetings: finance, personnel, fund development, strategic planning, and marketing.
- **Annually:**
  - Grant coordinator submits all annual data and statistics for impact report and annual reporting requirements.
  - Annual performance reviews for all staff members.
  - Reflection and planning for the following year.
- **Other:**
  - Ongoing training for all direct service providers.
  - Supervision and mentorship for all direct service staff, both internal and external.
  - Court responsibilities such as testifying, family support during court, and hearings.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Despite the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the CAC has seen about the same number of clients and families throughout, with only 50 less children seen for initial services in 2021 than 2020. Unfortunately, child abuse and maltreatment does not stop during a pandemic; in fact, research says that this type of worldwide stressor makes child abuse more common. In a USA Today article, "children are more at risk for abuse and neglect amid coronavirus pandemic, experts say" (March 21,

2020). It was identified that because children were not in school and daycare, child abuse was not being reported since mandated reporters did not have contact with children. "Teachers, administrators, school counselors and other educational professionals report one in every five child-mistreatment claims in the nation, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Other major sources include law enforcement and social workers." It was also suspected that more child abuse occurred because children were isolated with their abusers. As the current public health emergency continues to affect the children and families we serve at the Children's Advocacy Center, there is an even greater need for consistent and excellent trauma-informed services for Benton County.

These trends did not only occur around the United States and internationally, but they were also experienced specifically in Benton County and at our organization. In the past two years, we saw a decrease in acute, emergency cases and an increase in delayed disclosures. We know that 56% of children we served at the CAC last year were abused by a family member they lived with and an additional 41% of children's offenders would have access to the child during the pandemic. Conversely, almost all mandated reporters work in settings that were much less accessible such as schools, churches, after school programs, sports, and activities. Because of children residing with their offender and not having the opportunity to safely disclose in a virtual environment during the pandemic, abuse was not reported to the child abuse hotline or law enforcement as quickly as before. The use of this funding for additional staff and operational expenses would improve better quality care, increase the ability of staff to visit children at home through technology, as well as increase education efforts in the community to increase awareness of how the pandemic impacts child abuse victims.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need and cite the source of the data.

Although we would like to believe that child abuse does not occur, especially in the community where we live and call home, the reality is that one in four girls and one in six boys will be a victim of sexual abuse before the age of 18. Nearly 70 percent of all reported sexual assaults involve children under the age of 18. Only 10 percent of victims and survivors find the courage to report child abuse, due to stigma, trauma, fear, shame, misplaced loyalty, and distrust associated with disclosing. Nine out of 10 children will not report abuse - only one in 10 will tell. This is for many reasons, especially since almost all child abuse offenders are people the child knows, loves, and trusts. According to rainn.org, 93 percent of child abuse offenders are known by the victim rather than a stranger. In 2021 at the CAC, 97 percent of the alleged offenders were known by the child while only 3 percent of offenders were strangers to the child. While these statistics can seem grim, the Children's Advocacy Center model increases the likelihood that child abuse victims will report abuse and receive the trauma-informed services they desperately need. Through education and prevention efforts with community members, students, organizations, and partner agencies we can increase behavioral community action in Benton County to combat child abuse. Through our services, CAC helps abused children find their voice by providing a safe place to receive team-based comprehensive, coordinated services from dedicated professional interviewers, advocates, counselors, and nurses in a child-centric atmosphere.

For the services of a CAC to run smoothly and effectively, it is essential to have all direct service teams fully staffed. When the forensic interviewing, mental health, advocacy, and medical

teams have the correct number of staff to meet the demands of the CAC caseload, all clients can be served with excellence in a trauma-informed and timely manner. Additionally, it is important to have bilingual staff available in each of these four direct services so clients whose primary language is Spanish can be served in the language they feel most comfortable speaking. This reduces the language barrier and decreases the opportunity for misinformation and misunderstandings throughout the healing process. When the CAC is understaffed, team members working between a main center and satellite location are forced to take higher caseloads and travel between centers more often to ensure that no child goes unserved. This is not sustainable over time as it increases burnout and compassion fatigue. This funding will allow the children seen for direct services to benefit from a fully staffed, healthy team due to a manageable caseload where their time and energy is spent directly working with families. Over the last few years, the CAC has had to propose and approve new positions to grow our team with the increasing number of child abuse victims benefitting from CAC services. Because of the addition of these positions, the CAC's budget has had to grow each year to support the development of our direct service teams and creates the need for additional funding sources.

Furthermore, there is a continual need for operational and facility support such as property management, security systems, utilities, and forensic interviewing equipment across both of our centers. Without these day-to-day expenses, our team is unable to serve the children and families of Benton County. The CAC's services are needed 24/7, 365 days a year, so operations and facilities are something that cannot be overlooked.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

In 2021 between two centers, the CAC of Benton County has provided initial services and advocacy support for 929 children, conducted 856 forensic interviews, and performed 125 forensic medical exams. Our mental health component of trauma-informed counselors has had 2,473 sessions with children and their non-offending family members. The CAC's education component also facilitated 75 educational trainings for 6,335 people. Our services are provided at no charge to families as we seek to provide compassionate, efficient, and comprehensive services to every family who arrives at our Center.

Services are available to all children under the age of 18 and their non-offending family members when suspected abuse has been reported to the Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline. Last year, 97 percent of the children who received initial services resided in Benton County. If a client is older than 18 and has developmental or cognitive disabilities of a younger child, or if the trauma impact is so significant that this environment would be better suited for them, then we would also see those clients as requested. Child maltreatment knows no socio-economic background or ethnicity boundary and thus negatively impacts children and families across all cultures and communities. Of the 929 children served for initial services in 2021, 65% were female and 35% were male; Ethnicity: Asian 2%; American Indian 1%; African American 3%; Caucasian 68%; Hispanic 16%: and Biracial 10%; Ages: 0-6 22%; 7-12 44%; 13-18 34%; Household Income Level: Under $20,000 – 23%; $20,000-$40,000 – 20%; $40,000-$60,000 – 12%; Above $60,000 – 5%; Declined Response – 40%.

The percentage of Hispanic clients served in 2021 increased by 7% since 2020, and we expect this percentage to continue increasing, especially with the official opening of the satellite center in Western Benton County on November 2, 2020. During the last month of the year, the CAC was able to serve a Spanish-speaking family offering services in Spanish with every component, interviewing,

medical, advocacy and counseling. The CAC currently employs four bilingual staff members to provide services for non-English speaking clients. We also provided services to children with various special needs including, but not limited to: Autism, hearing and vision impaired, selective mutism, developmentally and/or cognitively delayed, ADD/ADHD, bipolar, OCD, and wheelchair bound. Over two-thirds of the families we see are living below the poverty level and have many needs that CAC advocates assist with from helping to apply for assistance, assistance in finding housing or shelter, applying for protection orders, and supporting families with donations of clothing, food, and much more.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

Performance Measures:

1. Advocates will provide direct advocacy services to all clients which will include a Needs Assessment, Crisis Intervention, and providing information about the criminal justice process, trauma, and available resources.
    - **a. Baseline:**
        - i. In 2021, CAC advocates provided initial services to 929 child abuse victims and their families.
    - **b. Goals:**
        - i. The advocacy team will provide initial services for 900-1,000 child abuse victims each year, depending on the number of referrals received from agency partners, both during office hours and on call after hours.
        - ii. Advocates will track all advocacy services and notes in the Collaborate database.
        - iii. Bilingual Advocate will provide a minimum of 50 direct services in Spanish to child abuse victims and their non-offending family members.

2. Forensic Interviewers conduct legally sound and developmentally appropriate forensic interviews with children under the age of eighteen.
    - **a. Baseline:**
        - i. In 2021, CAC forensic interviewers conducted 856 interviews with child abuse victims referred for services.
    - **b. Goals:**
        - i. Forensic Interviewers will conduct all interviews scheduled at the CAC, both during office hours and on call after hours.
        - ii. Interviewers will track notes and data in the Collaborate database.
        - iii. Forensic Interviewers will respond to all subpoenas they are issued and testify as fact and/or expert witnesses depending on the subpoena.
        - iv. Forensic interviewers will participate in ongoing training, supervision, and peer review commitments each year to continue refining their skillsets.

3. Property manager will ensure safety and efficiency of facilities at both centers – Little Flock and Gentry.
    a. **Baseline:**
        i. The property manager is a new part-time position for the CAC to better maintain our facilities.
    b. **Goals:**
        i. Property manager will meet with Director of Operations biweekly to maintain communication and create a priority list for each center's needs.
        ii. Property manager will oversee all maintenance at both centers.
        iii. Property manager will collaborate with the Development Coordinator to assist with volunteer group opportunities.
        iv. Property manager will maintain and improve the facilities of both centers which allows the CAC to put our clients first, every time.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

The CAC is committed to data collection and reporting for the purpose of maintaining accountability through our services. This data is collected and distributed to staff, leadership, board members, the community, and in general reporting commitments to funders. Each measurable outcome from both the forensic interviewing position and counseling position will be documented so that the proposed positions meet the standards set for them. This includes but is not limited to forensic interview numbers, counseling session numbers, assessment of services, and ongoing professional development for all staff members.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

Every client served at the CAC of Benton County is provided the same access to services at no cost. This funding would continue to ensure that we have the staff and operations to support each and every child and caregiver that walks through the doors of both of our centers. As an independent 501-C3 nonprofit organization, this funding is crucial to make sure that no child experiencing abuse or maltreatment slips through the cracks by supporting the growth of our staff and our increasing demands in the community. There are measures and efforts in place to continue to identify and fill gaps that exist in our county's response to child abuse, as we know there is always more to be done. The funding will also allow our Director of Partner Services to work more closely with our multi-disciplinary team to problem solve for gaps in the community as the direct service teams is staffed enough to serve children and families efficiently and effectively.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

We do not plan on using any subcontractors for the scope of our work. All work will be completed and overseen by Children's Advocacy of Benton County staff throughout the duration of the project.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Since the CAC opened its doors, we have provided services to over 12,900 child abuse victims and their family members. The Center opened January 10, 2000 with a full-time child advocate and part-time director. The Center has experienced phenomenal support from Benton County agencies and now has a staff of 21. During the 20 years, the center has grown from 876 square feet to 10,000.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County has worked hard to create a leadership structure that supports staff in a trauma exposed environment with excellence. The board of directors maintains healthy oversight on business operations, our Executive Director, and the strategic vision of the CAC. Our Executive Director oversees a team of five directors, each with distinct expertise and skills. Those directors oversee various parts of the organization. The five directors are: Director of Partner Services, Director of Operations, Director of Finance and Administration, Director of Education, and Director of Development. Combined, these leaders have over 55 years of experience at the Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County and adhere to the mission, vision, and values of the organization. In addition, the board of directors is made up of 11 individuals who are passionate about the mission and vision of the CAC and come with expertise in finance, business, fundraising, healthcare, and leadership development. The entire board of directors meets with CAC Leadership once each month, and there are various subcommittee meetings that take place throughout the year that include finance, personnel, fund development, strategic planning, and marketing.

The CAC has been managing the support of various federal funds since its inception and has a detailed process to ensure that all funding is recorded, overseen, and administered appropriately. Data is prepared and shared internally and externally on time and with detail. The CAC is grateful for all funding we receive from various entities, and our team is thorough in its management of those funds to make the most of every dollar so that clients are served with excellence.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

The detailed budget spreadsheet is attached.

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

The CAC has developed an organizational structure to support the growing staff to meet the needs of the Benton County community. The Executive Director provides weekly updates to the board, in addition to monthly meetings to report on program successes and needs. The Director of Partner Services oversees the Coordinator of each component to ensure proper staffing and programming support to best serve child abuse victims and their families. CAC team members possess and utilize diverse strengths in their areas of expertise that best serve each client. The CAC Leadership team has worked to develop a trauma-informed culture to retain talented staff. The Executive Director oversees the Director of Finance and the Director of Development, who collaboratively manage grant funds for their designated purposes. The finance committee receives a detailed report with every income and expense transaction at monthly finance committee meetings.

Federal funds have provided a way to expand and supplement programming needs. However, the CAC acknowledges said funds as temporary. The Development team works diligently to grow community partnerships and seek additional funding opportunities. The CAC actively pursues additional funding sources to assist with operating expenses and programming needs in addition to maintaining cash reserves and investments for sustainability.

Foundation grants and new funding opportunities are applied for regularly. Furthermore, the CAC has financial stability through continued partnerships with corporate and individual sponsorships of three signature events and with individual stakeholders who continue to provide financial support.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes, the CAC is well prepared to report quarterly on how funds were utilized. The Director of Finance oversees the budget and financial reporting on an ongoing basis, and the Grants Coordinator at the CAC also serves as a data specialist and has time devoted to monthly and quarterly reporting. There are multiple locations that CAC staff tracks specific data to support reporting capabilities. Our direct service teams must track all provided services in a statewide database called Collaborate, and the advocacy team also collects separate data in the AR Best database. The Grants Coordinator and Director of Finance work together monthly, quarterly, and annually to report to various internal and external parties as well, so reporting quarterly for ARP funding would be added to that responsibility.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County (CAC) opened January 2000 to serve as an innovative way to address the child abuse epidemic in the community of Benton County. Over the years, the CAC has been faced with many challenges that have required the organization to pivot and be creative to continue to meet the needs of child abuse victims and their families, no matter what. The pandemic has absolutely been one of these challenges and while the CAC has continued to diligently provide services, additional funding is needed to expand those services. The families served at the CAC are not only experiencing the health crisis like the rest of the world; they are also experiencing the tragedy of child abuse.

As an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance, the CAC follows the standard for intervention thus helping to prevent long-term effects of trauma in child abuse victims and their families. One of these standards is collaborating with a multi-disciplinary team that ensures all children are afforded an opportunity for support and healing – because the mission and vision are simply too large for any one agency or entity to tackle by themselves. The Benton County Multidisciplinary team is made up of 17 law enforcement agencies, Department of Human Services, Arkansas State Police Crimes Against Children Division, the Benton County Prosecutor's Office, Benton County Juvenile Probation Office and more. This team works together collaboratively to respond to cases of child abuse and maltreatment. Through two locations in Benton County, we serve children and families exactly where they live. Therefore, collaborative partnerships are critical in building a sustainable method of reaching our most vulnerable populations.

The significant impact of childhood sexual abuse is unquestionable. This impact, however, speaks not only to the individual child victim of the crime, but also to the community. There is no longer a question of whether child sexual abuse is a criminal justice problem, a social services problem, a mental health problem or a community problem, for its power encompasses the territory of each. The question must now lie in the resolve of all professionals and citizens to overcome skepticism with acknowledgement, disbelief with understanding, indifference, and reluctance to intervene with an unswayable intolerance of the victimization of all children. It is our desire to continue identifying needs and being part of the solution to serving more children and empowering adults to further protect them.

By building awareness, community support, and funding necessary to sustain the efforts of the CAC, an opportunity is created for the community to band together to empower children and eliminate child abuse in a way that has not been possible until now. The CAC will always provide a safe and nurturing environment for children and families faced with abuse and neglect by helping victims become children again.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County**
Project Name:	**Child Abuse Response**
Amount Requested:	**300,000.00**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 300,000.00	Pending	
Year 1			
Voca grant	$ 17,337.00	Confirmed	
Arkansas Commission Grant	$ 17,996.00	Confirmed	
Voca grant	$ 1,500.00	Confirmed	Utilities - satellite internet
UAMS	$ 2,525.00	Confirmed	Utilities - Little Flock internet
TANF	$ 2,241.00	Confirmed	Utilities - satellite electric
TANF	$ 10,350.34	Confirmed	Irecord Maintenance Agreement
Voca grant	$ 17,597.00	Confirmed	
Year 2			
Voca grant	$ 17,337.00	Confirmed	
Voca grant	$ 1,500.00	Confirmed	Utilities - satellite internet
Voca grant	$ 17,597.00	Confirmed	
Total	$ 405,980.34		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
YEAR 1					
Bilingual Advocate	$ 23,033.00	$ 17,996.00	$ 41,029.00	Operating	Arkansas Commission Grant
Advocate	$ 17,337.00	$ 17,337.00	$ 34,674.00	Operating	VOCA funds 50% of salary
Forensic Interviewer	$ 13,812.00	$ -	$ 13,812.00	Operating	remaining salary from contributions and fundrasing
Bilingual Forensic Interviewer	$ 18,446.00		$ 18,446.00	Operating	remaining salary from contributions and fundrasing
Mental Health Coordinator	$ 24,558.00	$ -	$ 24,558.00	Operating	remaining salary from contributions and fundrasing
Advocate	$ 17,597.00	$ 17,597.00	$ 35,194.00	Operating	VOCA funds 50% of salary
Property Manager	$ 10,000.00	$ -	$ 10,000.00	Operating	Ensures safety and efficiency of facilities
FICA	$ 9,545.89	$ -	$ 9,545.89	Operating	total salary request 124,783 x .0765
Security	$ 1,200.00	$ -	$ 1,200.00	Operating	Monitoring of both centers for safety of team and clients
Utilities	$ 7,829.11	$ 6,266.00	$ 14,095.11	Operating	Little Flock electric, water, trash service, telephone
Irecord Maintenance Agreement	$ 6,642.00	$ 10,350.34	$ 16,992.34	Operating	maintenace and IT support for forensic interviewing recordings
YEAR 2					
Bilingual Advocate	$ 23,033.00	$ -	$ 23,033.00	Operating	remaining salary from contributions and fundrasing
Advocate	$ 17,337.00	$ 17,337.00	$ 34,674.00	Operating	VOCA funds 50% of salary
Forensic Interviewer	$ 13,812.00		$ 13,812.00	Operating	remaining salary from contributions and fundrasing
Bilingual Forensic Interviewer	$ 18,446.00		$ 18,446.00	Operating	remaining salary from contributions and fundrasing
Mental Health Coordinator	$ 24,558.00		$ 24,558.00	Operating	remaining salary from contributions and fundrasing
Advocate	$ 17,597.00	$ 17,597.00	$ 35,194.00	Operating	VOCA funds 50% of salary
Property Manager	$ 10,000.00		$ 10,000.00	Operating	Ensures safety and efficiency of facilities
FICA	$ 9,545.89		$ 9,545.89	Operating	total salary request 124,783 x .0765
Security	$ 1,200.00		$ 1,200.00	Operating	Monitoring of both centers for safety of team and clients
Utilities	$ 7,829.11	$ 1,500.00	$ 9,329.11	Operating	Little Flock electric, water, trash service, telephone
Irecord Maintenance Agreement	$ 6,642.00		$ 6,642.00	Operating	maintenace and IT support for forensic interviewing recordings
			$ -		
	$ 300,000.00	$ 105,980.34	$ 405,980.34		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: City of Decatur
Contact Name: Mayor Bob Tharp
Contact Email: bobtharp@decaturarkansas.us
Telephone #: 479-752-3912

1. Name of Project:

Decatur West Water Extensions

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$ 3,000,000.00

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure

4. Brief Project Description:

Description and Design Criteria:

The water extensions would connect to the existing water mains that serve the rural areas to the west of the City of Decatur. The project would extend service to areas where a public water source is not available and there have been complaints regarding contaminated wells. The proposed water extensions are divided into four areas with estimated cost for the improvements totaling **$3,000,000**. The estimated construction cost of each area is as follows:

- Carlton Rd to W. Mountain Extension - $720,000
- Mt. Zion Road & Shady Black Oak Extension - $653,000
- W. Mountain Road to Limekiln Road Extension - $510,000
- Falling Springs Road Extension - $465,000

Carlton Rd. and W. Mountain Road South Extension:

This area will connect Hwy 102 to Carlton Drive with approximately 9,200 linear feet of proposed six (6”) inch water main. The proposed six (6”) inch water main will connect to the existing water main and extend where there are approximately 16 residents that would benefit from the extension. This area will also contain one (1) pressure reducing station.

Mt. Zion Road and Shady Black Oak Way Extension:

This area will connect to the existing six (6") inch water main along Arkansas Highway 102. A proposed six (6") inch water main will extend north approximately 6,000 linear feet along Mt. Zion Road and approximately 2,800 linear feet of four (4") inch water main will extend west along Shady Black Oak Way Road. There are approximately 13 residents and poultry houses that will benefit from the water extension where wells are contaminated.

W. Mountain Road to Limekiln Road:

This area will connect the existing four (4") inch water main on W. Mountain Rd. and the existing two (2") inch water main on Limekiln Road. This area will consist of approximately 6,000 linear feet of four (4") inch water main and will serve approximately 5 residents.

Falling Springs Road Extension:

This area sill connect to the existing six (6") inch water main where Carlton Dr. meets Falling Springs Rd. The proposed six (6") inch water main will follow Falling Springs Road approximately 7,000 linear feet to the south. This extension will serve approximately 2 residents and a future fire substation.

5. Project Plan:

Project funds would be administered through the City of Decatur to manage oversite and distribution of the construction funds. Upon approval of the funding, plans would be immediately prepared to extend water main to areas of Benton County located outside of Decatur. Upon approval of the plans and specifications by the health department, Decatur and Benton County, the project would be advertised for bids and awarded to the lowest qualified bidder. Construction would begin once the project has been awarded with construction observation performed by a representative of the design engineer. After construction is complete, the water main will be owned and operated by the Decatur Water Utilities Department. Permanent maintenance will be funded with funds collected from water sales. The project will take 12 – 18 months to design and construct if all areas are funded.

6. Link to COVID-19:

As covid outbreaks continue, residents in rural Benton County will have to work and school from home due to isolation guidelines after testing positive. Having a reliable water source is critical. In these areas where there is no water service, residents must have wells or haul water. Due to the unavailability of mechanical equipment experienced through supply chain shortages, repair of well pumps could take longer to repair. These timely delays would leave these county residents without water. Because there is not currently a public water source to these areas, residents have no other options for water. Several wells have been tested and have come back with results showing excessive amounts of bacteria.

7. Statement of Need:

The City of Decatur has applied to several funding agencies for assistance but has been unable to secure grant funds that would allow Decatur to afford the projects without having to supplement with excessive loans. Decatur is currently unable to take on additional loans on top of the existing loans in place without charging a significant increase to water rates of everyone served within the water system. Testing of individual wells had been performed in some of these areas showing that the water contains contaminants such as E Coli. Shallow groundwater resources may also be insufficient during the dry periods of the year. The primary goal of this project is to provide a safe, reliable source of water to the residents of this area.

8. Population Served:

There are approximately 40 households within the areas where water is needed. These areas are outside of Decatur in the rural areas of Benton County. The project area is west of Decatur near Hwy 102. Several of these residents without water reside along Carlton DR, W Mountain Rd and Mt Zion Rd. Decatur currently offers water to approximately 685 customers inside the city and 250 customers outside of the city

9. Results

The proposed project will increase the availability of clean water to more households in Benton County. These improvements will provide a safe and reliable source of water that is not at risk to becoming contaminated or malfunctioning. With a well pump is out of service and no one or parts are available to repair, the residents could be without water for several days. The City of Decatur has a water and sewer department that has the ability to operate and maintain the new service areas after the water main is put into operation. Performance measures that can be tracked and reported include:

- Number of new customers connected to the water system.
- Monthly samples are collected each month to verify the quality of the water within the system.
- Progress meetings will be held throughout the project to verify that construction is completed on time.

10. Evaluation

Monthly progress meetings will be held to verify that the project is constructed on time and in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and on time. Progress reports and pay requests will be provided to Benton County for review and approval. Construction observation will be provided throughout construction of the project to verify that the project is built in accordance. Liquidated damages will be assessed if the project falls behind schedule. Additionally, the work will be guaranteed for one year after construction is completed to correct any malfunctions that are discovered.

11. Equity Impact

These improvements will provide the area with a reliable source of water for these households in Benton County outside of Decatur's city limits. The inequities of not having access to a clean and reliable source of water like those those living within several Benton County cities will continue to be disadvantaged. Water is an essential need and for those working and learning remotely from their home. The importance of having access to these critical resources is necessary. These improvements will provide that more people have access to water now and as more people move out of cities and into the rural areas of Benton County and provide a need that equally benefits everyone whether they haul water or have a well.

12. Project Partners:

An engineer will be obtained to oversee the design and approval of plans and specifications for the project and keep the project on track to be certain of a timely completion. The engineer will also facilitate the bidding process and manage construction through final completion of the project.

The construction contract will be awarded to a contractor licensed in the state of Arkansas that demonstrates the ability to perform the work. The contractor will be responsible for 100% of the construction and will be awarded a contract on a low bid basis. The prime contractor awarded the project may obtain a subcontractor to perform specialized work such as bores and water taps.

The City of Decatur will be a key and critical party to Benton County on the project. The city will assist in overseeing construction and will operate and maintain the water main upon completion of the project. Construction funds will be monitored and disbursed by the City of Decatur with reports provided to Benton County.

13. Capacity

Decatur has a full-time water and sewer department that has the ability to operate and maintain these new areas where the water main is to be extended. Funds generated from water usage will be used to cover any increase to the operations and maintenance of the system. The Decatur water department will be staffed to make any necessary repairs that would cause a disruption of water service.

Decatur receives the majority of their water from three wells and additionally from the Benton/Washington Regional Public Water Authority through a metering station located east of the city limits of Decatur. The wells are known as No. 2, No. 3, and No. 5 and produce between 8 million gallons to 12 million gallons per month each. Benton/Washington Regional Public Water Authority is used as an additional source of water and provides an average of 25 million gallons of water per month.

Decatur utilizes three ground storage takes with capacities of 1-million gallons, 0.5-million gallons and 0.2-million gallons. Decatur also uses a 50,000-gallon stand pipe. The 1-million gallon ground storage tank, 0.5-million gallon ground storage tank and stand pipe occupy a site at the end of Terry Street near the Decatur High School. The 0.2-million gallon ground storage tank is located near the intersection of Browning Road and Spike Owens Road in the southwest quadrant of the City.

14. Budget

A detailed budget is attached with this questionnaire listing construction costs for each project area, design and inspection fees, preliminary engineering and miscellaneous costs. Preliminary reports, engineering and easement acquisition are required on federally funded projects. Construction costs were calculated based on bid tabulations from recent projects constructed. Operating costs will be funded through water revenue.

15. Continuity of Services:

This project will not be an ongoing project. This project will have water main permanently installed to provide water service to the residents needing water. Once construction has been completed, operation and maintenance will be funded through water revenue collected from individual customers using the water. The City of Decatur will take full ownership of the installed water main.

16. Reporting:

Monthly reports will be provided on the progress of construction and will detail how all funds are spent for the duration of the contract.

17. Special Considerations

Without outside assistance, projects like this to extend water service are difficult to fund without a significant amount of loan. Because Decatur cannot afford a significant amount of loan, this grant funding is critical in providing water to these unserved areas. Due to the high median household income, grant funding is difficult to acquire in Benton County. The financial assistance on this project would provide a long term and permanent source of water for these residents of Benton County.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**City of Decatur**
Project Name:	**Decatur West Water Extensions**
Amount Requested:	**$3,000,000.00**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$3,000,000.00	Pending	Decatur has applied for grant funding several times and has been unsuccessful in receiving grants due to the high median household incomes in Benton County.
List other sources here			
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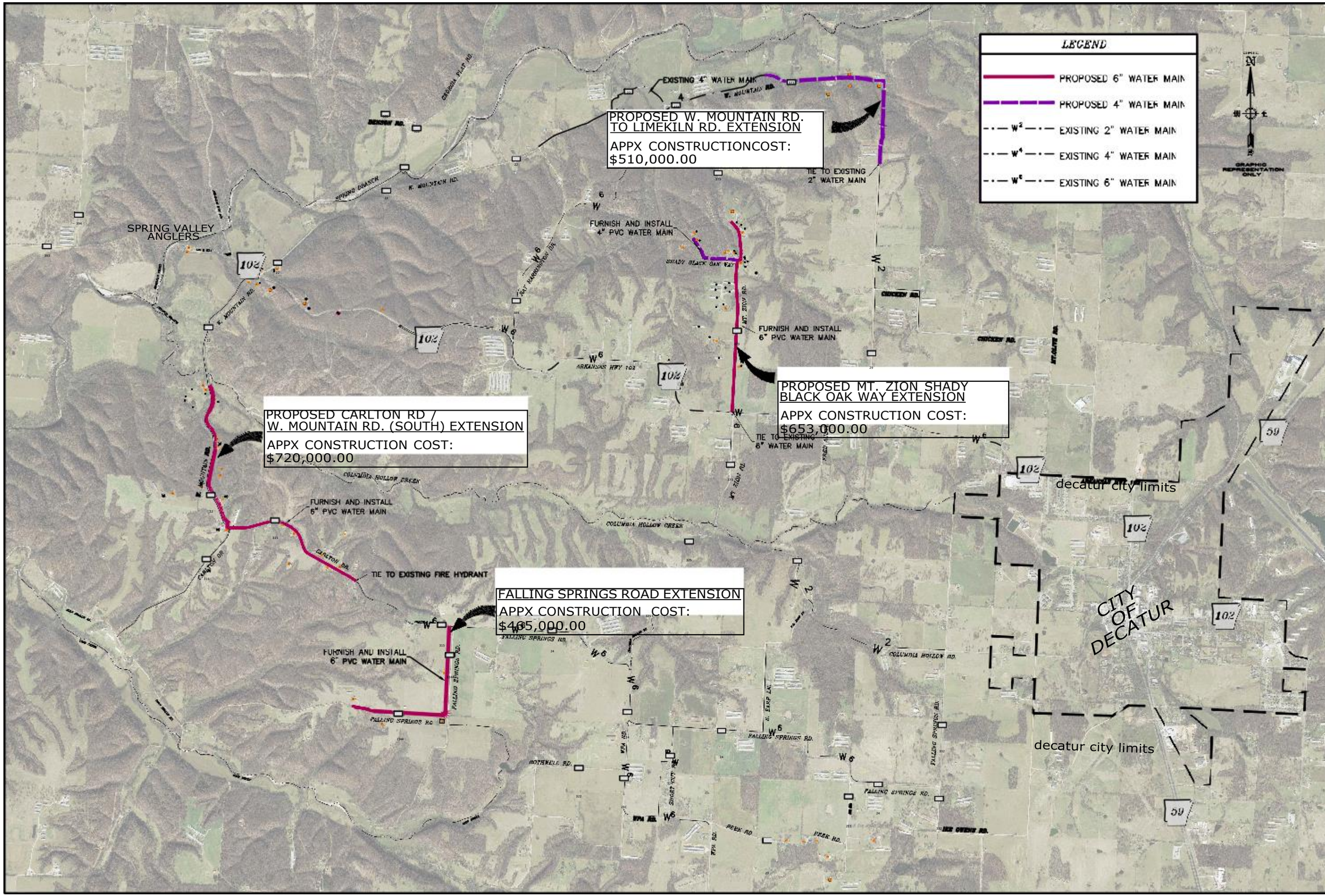
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
Total	$ 3,000,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Carlton Rd to W. Mountain Ext	$ 720,000.00		$ 720,000.00	Capital	Water Extension to serve approximately 16 homes
Mt. Zion & Shady Black Oak Ext	$ 653,000.00		$ 653,000.00	Capital	Extension of water service to serve approximately 13 homes
W. Mtn Extension to Limekiln	$ 510,000.00		$ 510,000.00	Capital	Extension of water service to serve approximately 6 homes
Falling Springs Road Extension	$ 465,000.00		$ 465,000.00	Capital	Extension of water service to serve Approximately 5 homes
Contingency	$ 191,500.00		$ 191,500.00	Capital	10% of project construction cost
Preliminary Engineering Report	$ 45,000.00		$ 45,000.00	Capital	Required under federal guidelines
Environmental Report	$ 40,000.00		$ 40,000.00	Capital	Required under federal guidelines
Cultural Resources Survey	$ 30,000.00		$ 30,000.00	Capital	Required under federal guidelines
Engineering Design	$ 153,200.00		$ 153,200.00	Capital	8% of project construction cost
Construction Observation	$ 76,600.00		$ 76,600.00	Capital	4% of project construction cost
Easements	$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	Capital	Acquisition of easement to install and maintain water main
Legal / Bond Counsel	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00	Capital	
Interest During Construction	$ 15,000.00		$ 15,000.00	Capital	
Permitting	$ 10,000.00		$ 10,000.00	Capital	Department of health and ADEQ review fees
List expenses here			$ -		
List expenses here			$ -		



ENGINEERING SERVICES INC.
1207 SOUTH OLD MISSOURI RD.
SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS 72764

PRELIMINARY LAYOUT MAP
DECATUR WEST WATER MAIN EXTENSIONS
BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION

SCALE: 1"=2500'
DATE: Feb 11, 2022
W.O. # 16803

01

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: City of Garfield
Contact Name: Mayor Gary Blackburn
Contact Email: GarfieldMayor@outlook.com
Telephone #: 479-330-0009

1. Name of Project:

Garfield Miscellaneous Water Extensions

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

Garfield: $ 3,000,000.00

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

4. Brief Project Description:

Description and Design Criteria:

The proposed project would consist of the installation of water main to rural areas of Benton County outside of the City of Garfield. These residents of Benton County do not have a reliable source of water and Garfield is able to provide this service. Along with the water extensions, Garfield would like to request assistance from the steering committee on the construction of a new water storage tank that would increase the capacity of the system to provide safe and reliable water to the rural areas of Benton County near Garfield and the City of Garfield.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

Project funds would be administered through the City of Garfield for oversite and distribution of the construction funds. Upon approval of the funding, plans would be immediately prepared by an engineer to extend water main to areas of Benton County located outside of Garfield. Upon approval of the plans and specifications by the health department, Decatur, and Benton County, the project would be advertised for bids and awarded to the lowest qualified bidder. Construction would begin once the project has been awarded. Construction observation would be performed by a representative of the design engineer. After construction is complete, the water main will be owned, operated and managed by the Garfield water

department. Permanent maintenance will be funded through water revenue collected from the existing and new customers. The project will take 12 – 18 months to design and construct.

6. Link to COVID-19:

As covid outbreaks continue and residents in rural Benton County are required to work and school from home due to isolation guidelines, having a reliable water source is crucial. These areas where there is no water service, these residents must have wells or haul water. Due to the unavailability of mechanical equipment, timely repair of well pumps could take longer times to repair. Because there is not public water source to these areas, residents have no other options for water.

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

7. Statement of Need:

Grant funds are difficult to acquire in Benton County due to higher incomes in the larger cities. However, the rural areas of Benton County still lack necessities such as safe and reliable water delivered to peoples homes. Without grant funding, a significant amount of loan is the only type of funding that is available. The City of Garfield is not able to take on additional loans at this time.

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

8. Population Served:

There are approximately 38 households within the areas where water service is needed. These areas are outside of Garfield in the rural areas of Benton County. Based on the 2020 census, Garfield has a population of 593. The population for Garfield in the 2010 census was 502. The median household income for the township is $51,288 based on the 2020 Census.

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

9. Results

The proposed project will increase the availability of water to more households in Benton County and increase the amount of water that can be provided by constructing a new storage tank. These improvements will provide a safe and reliable source of water that is not at risk to becoming contaminated or malfunctioning. The City of Garfield has a water department that will be able to operate and maintain the new service areas after the water main is put into operation. Performance measures that can be tracked and reported include:

- Number of new customers
- Sanitary surveys are performed every year so that the water is known to be of good quality
- Construction meetings will be held to monitor progress of the project and keep the project on track.

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

10. Evaluation

Monthly progress meetings will be held to verify that the project is constructed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. Progress reports and pay requests will be provided to Benton County for review and approval. On site inspection will be maintained throughout construction of the project to verify that the project is built in accordance. Liquidated damages can be assessed if the project falls behind schedule and the work shall be guaranteed for one year after construction is completed.

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

11. Equity Impact

These improvements will provide the area with a reliable source of water for these households that are outside of Garfield's city limits in Benton County. Water is an essential need and for those working and learning remotely from their home understands the importance of having these critical resources. This is a need that equally benefits everyone whether they haul water or have a well.

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

12. Project Partners:

An engineer will be obtained to oversee the design and approval of plans and specifications for the project. The engineer will also supervise the bidding process and manage construction through final completion of the project.

The construction contract will be awarded to a contractor licensed in the state of Arkansas that demonstrates the ability to perform the work. The contractor will perform 100% of the construction. The contract will be awarded on a low bid basis. The prime contractor awarded the project may obtain a subcontractor to perform specialized tasks.

The City of Garfield will be a key partner critical to the project. The city will assist in overseeing construction and will operate and maintain the water main upon completion of the project.

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

13. Capacity

Garfield has a full-time water utilities department that will be able to operate and maintain the new areas where the water main is to be installed. Funds generated from water usage will be used to cover the increased O & M. The Garfield water department is staffed to make any necessary repairs that would cause a disruption of water service.

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

This project will not be an ongoing project and will be one that is permanent. Once construction has been completed, operation and maintenance will be funded through water revenue collected from individual users. The infrastructure to provide maintenance is currently in place to provide these services.

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

16. Reporting:

Monthly reports will be provided on the progress of construction and how all funds are spent for the duration of the contract.

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

17. Special Considerations

Without outside assistance, projects like this to extend water service are difficult to fund without a significant amount of loan. Because Garfield cannot afford a significant amount of loan, this grant funding is critical in providing water to these unserved areas.

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**City of Garfield**
Project Name:	**Miscellaneous Water Extensions and Standpipe**
Amount Requested:	**$3,000,000.00**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 2,882,000.00	Pending	
City of Garfield	$ 118,000.00	Confirmed	Funds would be applied to the cost of the water storage tank
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
Total	$ 3,000,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Hyden Rd / Hwy 127 Extension	$ 719,780.00		$ 719,780.00	Capital	Construction Cost
Markey Lane Extension	$ 233,770.00		$ 233,770.00	Capital	Construction Cost
Alvin Seamster Rd Extension	$ 287,750.00		$ 287,750.00	Capital	Construction Cost
Dennis Mitchell Rd Extension	$ 297,520.00		$ 297,520.00	Capital	Construction Cost
Standpipe and Water Extension	$ 740,980.00		$ 740,980.00	Capital	Construction Cost
Contingency	$ 230,000.00		$ 230,000.00	Capital	Fee to equal 10% of actual project cost
Preliminary Engineering Report	$ 45,000.00		$ 45,000.00	Capital	Agency required report
Environmental Report	$ 40,000.00		$ 40,000.00	Capital	Agency required report
Cultural Resources Survey	$ 30,000.00		$ 30,000.00	Capital	Required where undisturbed ground may be affected
Geotechnical Engineering	$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	Capital	Would be required with standpipe
Engineering Design	$ 184,000.00		$ 184,000.00	Capital	Fee to equal 8% of actual project cost
Construction Observation	$ 91,200.00		$ 91,200.00	Capital	Fee to equal 4% of actual project cost
Easements	$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	Capital	Acquisition of Right of Way to install water main and construct tank
Legal / Bond Counsel	$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	Capital	Legal fees for contract execution
Interest During Construction	$ 15,000.00		$ 15,000.00	Capital	
Permitting	$ 10,000.00		$ 10,000.00	Capital	Health Department, ADEQ, Nationwide
Total			$ 3,000,000.00		

COMMUNITIESUnlimited

Water Rate Analysis and Recommendations
City of Garfield, Arkansas

Overview

The City of Garfield provides public drinking water service to approximately 270 customers within the city and the Sugar Creek area in Benton County, Arkansas. The city purchases treated water from the Benton Washington Regional Public Water Authority. The City requested a rate study to address planned increases in the cost of purchased water as well as comply with Arkansas Act 605.

The rate analysis was conducted by Communities Unlimited, Inc. at the request of the City of Garfield and was funded through a contract with the Arkansas System of Health for financial and managerial improvementservices.

The rate analysis examined financial statements, billing and usage records from 2018, 2019, and 2020 as well as projected revenues and expense for 2021. The analysis was based on the ability of the water system to meet anticipated expenses related to:

1. Operations and maintenance
2. Debt service
3. Required reserves
4. Depreciation'
5. Future capital expenses
6. Annual audit or agreed upon procedures and compilation reports
7. Other expenses as necessary.

The analysis follows the standards set forth in the American Water Works Association's Principles of Water Rates, Fees, & Charges (Ml, 6th Edition).

Financial Requirements for Sustainability

Public water systems are required to maintain user rates adequate to: 1) meet current debt service obligations; 2) provide an adequate capital repair and replacement reserve; and 3) provide for the efficient operation and maintenance of the system. Specific requirements are often included in the system's bond ordinances, letters of conditions, or loan agreements.

When expenses outpace revenues, the system invariably suffers: maintenance is deferred, reserves are depleted, and service quality is diminished. In order to insure that revenues are adequate to meet anticipated needs, user rates should be periodically reviewed and adjustments made.

Over a period of time expenses will change: salaries, utilities, insurance, postage, chemicals, supplies, fuel, repairs, and maintenance all represent costs which are likely to increase from year to year. Revenue from user rates may or may not keep up with increases in expenses. Two measures typically used to determine the adequacy of system revenues are the operating and debt coverage ratios.

Operating and Coverage Ratios: The operating ratio is a comparison of system expenses and revenues. The ratio is calculated by dividing total revenues by total expenses. The recommended operating ratio is between 1.05 and 1.10. The debt coverage ratio is an indicator of ability to repay debt. Subtracting non-debt expenses from annual income and dividing revenue available for debt service by the annual debt service expense provides the ratio. Adequate coverage ratios should range from 1.10 to 1.25.

Operating and Coverage Ratios for the Garfield water system are described in the financial analysis.

Capital Repair/ Replacement Funding: In order for the water system to continue providing quality service to its customers, it is necessary from time to time to add, repair, or replace equipment, construct new lines, etc. The United States Environmental Protection Agency recommends that each water system develop a long-range plan to identify items that will require additional funding over the next five to ten years. In addition to the long range plan an asset management plan, listing the useful life of short-term assets, replacement cost, and a schedule of maintenance and/or replacement be developed.

Anticipated repair and replacement needs should be re-evaluated each year during the budget process. Reserve funds (i.e., depreciation & emergency reserves) need to be established and funded each year. The AWWA recommends water and sewer systems fund a capital repair/ replacement fund at a level equivalent to 2% of original capital cost. This represents full depreciation over fifty years.

Public water systems typically fund a lesser amount, with between 4-6% of operating revenue placed into a funded depreciation account for capital repair and replacement. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission requires funding of a depreciation account at 5% of revenues.

The water system funds a depreciation reserve at 3% ofrevenues. As of December 31, 2020, the City reported $19,373 in depreciation savings.

Operating Reserves: Public water systems require operating reserves in order to cash flow normal operations and maintenance expense. Operating reserves are the unrestricted cash and savings availa ble as the working capital necessary to meet routine and ongoing expenditures. The American Water Works (AWWA) standard is that 118th of the systems' annual operating expenses be available as operating reserves.

Operating Reserves for the Garfield water system are described in the financial analysis.

Rate Structures

Rate structures fall into four different classifications:

1. Flat Fee Rate
2. Single Block Rate or Uniform Rate
3. Decreasing Block Rate
4. Increasing Block Rate

1. Flat Fee Rate: All customers pay the same amount each month regardless of quantity of service used. This is used in unmetered systems.

Example: Each customer will be charged a flat rate of $20.00 per month.

Advantages: Eliminates the cost of installing and reading meters.

Disadvantages: Everyone pays too much or too little for what they use. Promotes high consumption. A flat fee rate is not recommended.

2. ~~Single Block or Uniform Rate.~~ Customers are charged a constant price per gallon regardless of the amount of service used. Often coupled with a minimum charge for having service available.

Example: $15.00 minimum service availability charge (optional) plus $5.00 per 1000 gallons used.

Advantages: Easy to administer; may encourage conservation. Cost to the customer is in direct proportion to amount used.

Disadvantages: Could discourage high users and industries.

3. Decreasing Block Rate: The price of service declines as the amount used increases. Each succeeding consumption block is cheaper. This structure is based on the assumption that costs decline as cpnsumption increases.

Example: $15.00 minimum for the first 1,000 gallons and:

$6.50 per 1,000 for the next 4,000 gallons
$5.00 per 1,000 for the next 5,000 gallons
$3.00 per 1,000 for all usage over 10,000

Advantages: Attractive to agricultural and industrial users.

Disadvantages: May reach a point of diminishing returns. High consumption increases the need for larger treatment facilities.

4. Increasing Block Rate: The price of service increases as the amount used increases. Each succeeding consumption block is more expensive. Structure based on the assumption that rates should promote conservation.

Example: $15.00 minimum for the frrst 1,000 gallons and:

$5.00 per 1,000 for the next 4,000 gallons
$6.00 per 1,000 for the next 5,000 gallons
$7.00 per 1,000 for all usage over 10,000

Advantages: Promotes conservation, especially important in areas with limited water supplies or high treatment costs. Less use means less demand for water service and smaller, less expensive treatment, distribution, and storage facilities.

Disadvantages: Higher costs for high usage may discourage industry from locating within the system's service area.

The City of Garfield uses a single or uniform block rate for water service. A minimum monthly charge is assessed which includes a 1,000 gallon service allotment. All usage over 1,000 gallons is charged at a single block rate. Customers outside the Garfield city limits are charged rates 4.5% higher for the minimum and 10% higher for usage than customers inside the city. Residential and commercial customers are charged the same rates. Rates are reviewed annually.

Usage and Loss

Usage and loss is a comparison of water purchased or produced and water sold and are considere d a measure of operatio nal efficiency. Water used in operations whether by cleaning out lines or fire use are not counted as water loss but as unaccounted for water. A water loss of I0-15% is considered acceptable. System water usage and loss reports for 2018- 2020 are described in the followingchart:

Water Usage and Loss					
Year	Gallons Purchased	Gallons Sold	Loss %	Active Meters	Average Use m,r Month
2018	18,385,000	13,069,500	28.0%,	262	4,165
2019	22,924,000	13,141,990	38.5%	270	4,047
2020	18,266,000	14,744,600	11.3%	292	4,206

The city has recently completed a meter replacement and upgrade program which has resulted in signific ant decreases in the percentage of water loss. Based on water purchases, the reduction ofloss from 38.5% to 11.3% saved the water system approximately $16,000 for the year 2020.

Financial Analysis

Analysis of the financial sustainability of a water system requires a determination of the revenue requirements of the system. This analys is considers revenues required to meet debt service obligations (both principal and interest), anticipated operating expenses, as well as the funding of necessary reserves and capital improvement projects. Depreciation is not included in the analysis as it does not require cash expenditure but is an indicator of potential system capital reserve requirements.

Debt Service

The City has a 2003 loan through the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. The loan funded distribution line extensions to the Sugar Creek area outside the city limits. The ANRC loan is scheduled to be fully repaid in 2030. The following chart reflects the water system's current debt repayment obligations:

Debt Service Obligations					
Lender	Date	Interest	Annual Payment	Borrowed	Balance
ANRC	2015	3.25%	$ 37;1.22	$ 439,142	$ 288,446

The interest rate on the original 2003 loan was reduced from 5.4% to 3.25% in 2015. Semi-annual payments were reduced from $20,099 to $18,611 with no change in the term of the original loan. The last payment on the ANRC loan is scheduled for June 1, 2030

Revenues & Expenses

Analysis of the revenue requirem ents for the water system was based on the water fund's 2019, 2020, and September 30th, 2021 reported revenues and expenses. In addition, full debt service payments and a capital reserve funded at 5% of revenues were included in the calculations. Depreciation does not require a cash expenditure and is not includedin the calcu lation. The following chart describes water system revenues a.,d expenses for, 2020, and projected for 2021:

REVENUE	Revenues & Elm!,nse 2020	9/30/2021	2021 Projected
Interest Income	$ 348	$ 147	$ 195
Other Fees & Charges	$ 9,310	$ 3,250	$ 4,325
Other Income	$ 0	$ 4,147	$ 5,530
Trash only	$ 9,166	$ 6,388	$ 8,518
Water Sales	$ 181,936	$ 162,727	$ 216,970
Water Sales - Sugar Creek	$ 83,558	$ 66,577	$ 88,769
Total Operating Revenue	"$ 284,318	"$ 243,236	$ 324,306
EXPENSE			
Debt Service	$ 37,222	$ 28,416	$ 37,222
O rating Elm!,nse			
Labor	$ 49,979	$ 32,046	$ 48,668
Benefits	$ 4,706	$ -	$ 5,386
Fue V Gas	$ 1,021	$ 1,459	$ 2,000
Repair/ Maintenance	$ 655	$ 212	$ 1,500
Supplies	$ 4,524	$ 3,092	$ 4,122
Utilities	$ 4,659	$ 2,931	$ 3,908
ProfessionaV Audit	$ 2,820	$ -	$ 1,500
Water Purchase- Pump I	$ 36,473	$ 8,475	$ 12,000
Water Purchase-Sugar Creek	$ 10,462	$ 30,015	$ 41,000
Other Expense	$ 158,933	$ 87,582	$ 128,967
Subtotal Operating	$ 274,231	$ 165,812	$ 249,05
Ca12ital Elm!,nse/ Reserve			
Deprecition @ 5% Revenue	$ 4,837	$ 5,616	$ 16,215.32
Total Expense:	$ 316,290	$ 199,845	$ 302,488
Net [ncome (loss)	$ (31,972)	$ 43,392	$ 21,818

The water system experienced a net loss in 2020 but is anticipated to generate a small net income in 2021. The system experienced significant leaks and repairs in 2020 which contributed to higher expenditures and the net loss.

Operating Reserve

As described previously, water systems require an operating reserve which can also be described as working capital necessary to meet routine and ongoing expense requirements. Receipts for water sales typically arrive about six weeks after the water system has already expended funds for personnel,

maintenance and repairs, other operations, utilities and billing services;

The American Water Works (AV./WA) standard is that I/8th of the systems' annual operating expenses be available as operating reserves.

Based on annual expenses for 2018-2020, the water system should maintain at least $38,500 in unrestricted cash and savings. The system exceeded the operating reserve requirements for 2018 and 2019 but fell short in 2020, primarily due to the increased expense of system repairs paid from system unrestricted cash and savings.:

O rating Reserve			
Accounts	2018	2019	2020
Unrestricted Funds	$ 38,999	$ 43,110	$ 13,470
Restricted Funds	$ 67!952	$ 54,059	$ 20,525
Total all accounts:	$ 106,951	$ 97,169	$ 33,995
TotalAnnual Expense:	$ 308,992	$ 234,182	$ 316,290
Recommended operating reserve:	$ 38,624	$ 29;2.73	$ 39,536
Over(under) recommended reserve:	$ 375	$ 13,837	$ (26,066)

Projected Revenues and Expense

The rate analysis projects revenue and expenditures over a five-year period. This analysis provides the City with information needed to respond to anticipated changes in debt service, operating expense, and capital needs over a period of time.

For the five-year period, 2021 through 2025, operating expenses are projected to increase at 2% (the average increase in the consumer price index), no new debt service is anticipated, and capital reserves were calculated at 5% of revenue. Revenues are based on 2021 water rates with a stable customer base.

The five-year projection of water fund revenues and expenses is reflected in the following chart:

Projected Revenue and Ex12ense					
	2021	2022	2@	2024	2025
Total Revenue	$ 324,306	$ 324,306	$ 324,306	$ 324,306	$ 324,306
Debt Service	$ 37,222	$ 37).22	$ 37,222	$ 37).22	$ 37;2.22
Purchased Water	$ 53,000	$ 54,100	$ 55,723	$ 57,395	$ 59,117
Other Operating	$ 196,051	$ 199,972	$ 203,971	$ 208,051	$ 212,212
Capital Expense/ Resv.	$ 16 15	$ 16,215	$ 16 15	$ 16 15	$ 16 15
Total Expense	"$ 302488	$ 307,509	$ 313,131	$ 318,883	$ 324,765
Net Income (loss)	$ 21,818	$ 16,797	$ 11,175	$ 5,424	$ 459}

The water system is anticipated to operate with a declining net income through 2024 but to experience a net loss for year 2025.

Financial Sustainability

Public financing agencies measure financial sustainability through a number of calculations:

Current Ratio is a measure of liquidity. The greater the liquidity, the easier it is to respond to short term needs for fmancial resources. The current ratio identifies the assets that are available on a short-term basis as a ratio. As the ratio increases, liquidity increases. How calculated: current assets current liabilities. At a minimum, the current ratio should equal to 1.5 - 2.0.

Debt Service Coverage Ratio is the ratio of cash available for debt servicing ofl oan interest, principal and debt service reserve. It is a benchmark used in the measurement of a system's ability to produce enough cash to cover its debt payments. The higher this ratio is, the easier it is to obtaina loan. The phrase is also used in commerc ial banking and may be expressed as a minimum ratio that is acceptable to a lender; it

may be a loan condition or covenant. Breaching a debt coverage covenant can, in some circumstances, be an act of default. How calculated: total revenue - operations expense--;- Total Debt Service. Target ratio: 1.1 - 1.25

Affordability Rate measures the ability of utility customers to pay utility bill based on household income. As the ratio increases, a greater percentage of disposable income must be used for utility services and the ability of customers to pay for service tends to decrease. Normally, the current affordability rate should not exceed the maximum th resho ld for affordability established by the regulatory agency. The threshold may be exceeded when there is evidence of strong public support for meeting the full cost of providing the service. How calculated: Average monthly water cost x 12 months--;- service area median household income (MRI). Target rate: 1.5% - 2%

Debt Service oe'r User measures the annual debt cost per customer. As debt service is typically recovered in the base rate, debt service per customer reflects the debt service that should be included in calculating fixed costs to be included in the min imum bill or base rate. How calculated: Total annual debt service--;- Total number of connections.

Operating Ratio is a measure of efficiency, indicating ability to cover expenses with available revenues. How calcula ted: total revenues--;- tota l ex penses (including debt service and capital reserves.). At a minimum, the operating ratio should be equal to 1.0-1.1.

The Garfield water system currently meets or exceeds the current, debt coverage, and operating target ratios. Water rates are also well within affordability guidelines, and debt service per user is covered in the minimum bill. The following chart describessustainability calculations for the Garfield water system:

Financial Sustainability Measures

Measure	2019	2020	2021 Projected
Current Ratio:			
Target Ratio l.5-2.1	3.26	2.56	2.56
Debt Coverage Rat:o:			
Target Ratio 1.1-1.25	0.98	0.27	2.02
Affordabilitr Rate (Ml-II}:			
Target Ratio 1.5%-2.0	1.50%,	1.50%,	1.50%
Debt SeQ'.ice J;!er User:	$ 135.35	136.85	$ 137.86
O rating Ratio			
Target Ratio 1.1-1.25	0.94	0.90	1.07

Revenue Requirements

Analysis of revenue sufficiency considers criteria generally accepted by the AWWA for assessing financial viability:

1. Meet all debt service requirements.
2. Maintain an adequate operating reserve of 1/8 of expenses.
3. Fund a capital reserve/replacement account at a minimum of 5% of revenue.
4. Maintain an operating ratio of 1.05 or greater.

Projected debt service, operating, c2.pita l, and reserve requirements are based on the City's reported revenue and expense projections for 2021 through 2025 and include anticipated debt service, operating,

target ratios:

and capital reserve obligations. The following chart illustrate additional revenues needed to meet the

	Additional Revenue Reguired to meet Target Ratios				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1.00 Operating Ratio:	$ (21,818)	$ (16,797)	$ (11,175)	$ (5,424)	$ 459
1.05 Operating Ratio:	**$ {5,694)**	**$ (1,422)**	**$ 4,482**	**$ 10,520**	**$ 16,697**
1.25 Debt Coverage:	$ {34,312)	$ (29,291)	$ (23,668)	$ {17,917)	$ (12,034)

The water system generates sufficient revenue to meet the 1.05 operating ratio through 2022. Beginning in 2023, it is anticipated that the system will require additional $4,500 - $16,700 per year in order to maintain a 1.05 operating ratio.

Findings and Recommendations

1. Debt service: The water system has one loan with the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and is projected to maintain a 2.00 debt coverage ratio for 2021. **Recommendation: The water system maintain a debt coverage ratio of 1.10 or greater.**

2. Operating Reserve: The water system maintained sufficient operating reserves (l/,u8 of annual operating expense) for 2018 and 2019 but unrestricted cash and savings dropped by 69% due to leak repairs of over $40,000. **Recommendation: The water system maintain $40,000 in unrestricted** cash and savings.

3. Capital Imorovement Plan: The city has developed a capital improvement plan addressing meter replacement, storage tank maintenance, and repair and upgrading of distribution lines. The City adopted a ½ ce nt sales tax for funding of planning improvements. The sales tax generates approximate ly $25,000 per year. The sales tax is considered revenues restricted to capital improvements and was not included in the projected revenue requirements. **Recommendation: The water sy&t e m update its CIP m:mally with projected funding from the city sales tax and** depnecfation :reserves.

4. Depreciation reserve: The city funds a depreciation reserve at 3% of system revenues. As of the end of 2020 the fund reported a balance of $19,373. During 2020 the city spent from the depreciation accoun t $60,000 for the purch2.s and installation of radio-read meters. **Recommendation: The** d!ep,ed2ti0Ril :res:erve **be funded at 5% of system revenues as is currently recommended by the** Ark2!.ns2s Natural Resources Commission.

5. Operatin g Exnense: The City has been advised that the Benton Washingtol\ Regional PWA intends to increase !he cost of purchase d water by 15% in January 2022 and by 3% for each of the next five years. These increases have been included in the projected expense calculations. Purchased water accounts fo:- 21.3% of the syste,ns operating expense. Other operating expenditures are anticipated to increase by 2% per year, the average increase in the consumer price index. **Recommendatio n: The** dty Srt;t .::se r rr-::.ties su fficient to operate at a 1.05 operating ratio.

6. Budget and Rate Reviews: It is anticipated that the water system will continue experience increasing operating expense. It is also anticipated that the custome r base will remain stable but not increase at the sam e rate as expenditur es. R ecom mendatio n: The City review water rates each year as part of t e lmdget process. An mmual review wil! allow the water system to keep up with increased costs while avoiding the need for less frequent but larger increases.

7. Water Rates: Current water rates are sufficient for 2021 and 2022. **Recommended: Water rates be increased by 2% each year from 2023 through 2025. Incremental increase may be required beyond 2025 dependingon projected system revenues and operating expenditures.**

The following chart illustrate current and recommended water rates:

Current Water Rates	Inside Cit)'.	Outside Cit)'.
First 1,000 gallons	$ 18.00	$ 24.04 (minimum)
All Over 1,000 gallons	$ 13.75	$ 15.13 /1000gals.
Cost for 4,000 gallons:	$ 59.25	$ 69.43

Recommended Water Rates (2023)	InsideCit)'.	Outside Cit)'.
First 1,000 gallons	$ 18.36	$ 19.18 (minimum)
All Over 1,000 gallons	$ **14.03**	$ 15.43 **/1000** gals.
Cost for 4,000 gallons:	$ 60.44	$ 65.47

The minimum charge would increase by $.36 per month for customers inside the city, and $0.38 for customers outside the city. The average water charge for customers using 4,000 gallons would be $1.19 inside the city and $1.28 outside the city

Affordability

Public financing agencies utilize an affordability index to measure the ability of customers to pay for water service. The index is based on the percentage of Median Household Income (Mlll) needed to pay the monthly water charge of atypical residential customer using 4,000 gallons. Residentialrates within 1.5% to 2.0% of MHI are considered affordable. Current water rates are 1.20% of MRI. Recommended rates would increase slightly to 1.22% of MI-II, well within the affordability guidelines.

Affordability Index				
City of Garfield Median Household Income: $59,375 (2015-19Cmerican Community Survey, US Census)				
Current rates				
Monthly charge	Inside Cit)'.		Outside Cit)'.	
for 4,000 gallons:	$	59.25	$	64.19
Afforability Rate:		1.20%		1.30%
Recommended Rate (2023)				
Monthly charge	Inside Cit)'.		Outside Cit)'.	
for 4,000 gallons:	$	65.47	$	64.19
Afforability Rate:		1.22%		1.32%

A rate comparison of water charges for public water systems in Benton County and neighboringcounties of Carroll, Madison, and Washington. Water rates for 4,000 gallons ranked Garfield as 12th of the 22 systems su rveyed. Statewide, Garfield water rates ranked in the 50th percentile of water systems statewide.

The survey was conducted in 2020 by the Natural Resources Division, Arkansas Department of Agriculture which surveyed 862 public water systems in the state. A chart is included on page 20 of the worksheets.

Summary

The City of Garfield continues to provide essential public water services at a very affordable cost to its customers. The proposed rate recommendations offer reasonable approaches to generating needed revenues. The recommendations offered will meet the City's responsibility to maintain user rates adequate to meet debt service obligations, provide for the efficient operation and maintenance of the system and provide for adequate system reserves.

The attached worksheets include water and sewer debt service, financial reports, analysis of current and projected water revenue and expense requirements, and the rate analysis and recommendations.

Thank you for this opportunity to assist the City of Garfield. If you have questions concerning this report please don't hesitate to contact us.

1 1o:1 tr--

Senior Environmental
Management Consultant

Rural Community Assistance Program
Communities Unlimited, Inc.

Attachments

1/31/2022 l 1:37:57AM

System Totals Report

Garfield Water Department

Depreciation 5%

$765.49

Water Pumped This Month	**1,042,000 Gallons**
Water Sold This Month	**919,500 Gallons**
Water Loss	**122,500 Gallons**
Water Loss(%)	**11.76 %**

Qualified By: All Accounts

	Amount($)	**# Of Accounts**
Total Water	15,309.8, 5 -b	274
Total Safe Water Act	108.80	272
Total Garbage	7,003.39	269
Total Late Charge	366.82	40
Total Adjustments	288.15	13
Total Sales Tax	1,859.06	304
Total BWRPWA assessment	408.00	272
Total Current Charges	**25,344.07**	**307**
Amount Past Due 1-30 Days	182.77	4
Amount Past Due 31-60 Days	525.57	3
Amount Past Due Over 60 Days	752.63	11
Amount Of Overpayments/Prepayments	-3,989.22	87
Total Receivables	**22,815.82**	319
Total Receipts On Account	26,709.29	292
Net Change in Deposit s	-2 15.89	8
Amount of All Deposits	38,838.23	312
Amount of All Deposit 2	100.00	I
Turned Off Accounts (Amount Owed)	921.77	105
Collection Accounts (Amount Owed)	805.14	177
Number Of Unread (Turned On) Meters		
Average Usage For Active Meters	3,035	303
Average Water Charge For Active Meters	55.88	274

Usage Groups Gallons	**# Of Accounts**	**Usage Gallons**	**% Of Usage**	**% Of Sales**
Over 50,000	0	0	0.00	0.00
40,001-5 0,000	0	0	0.00	0.00
30,001-40,000	0	0	0.00	0.00
20,001-30 ,000	2	44,300	4.82	4.32
I0, 00 1-20,000	3	36,700	3.99	3.55
8,001-10,000	9	79,700	8.67	7.74
6,001-8 ,00 0	21	146,70 0	15.95	14.62
4,001-6 ,00 0	51	247,300	26.90	25.39
2,001-4 ,000	95	284,800	30.97	30.20
1-2,000	76	80,000	8.70	12.14
Zero Usage	46	0	0.00	1.56
Tota l Meters	303	919,500	100.00	99.52

Arkansas Department of Health

Public Water Supply Sanitary Survey

Name of System G a rfi=•e=l=d-'W...:.,;;:.at_e""rw.;,;. or_ks=- PW 0847

County Benton

Date of Survey November 9, 2021

Survey By Raymond Thompson, P.E., and Carissa Ansel

Title Engineer Supervisor and Environmental Specialist

Public Water Supply Sanitary Survey **Arkansas Department of Health**

Name of System: Garfield Waterworks PWS # 047
Address: 14655 South Wimpy Jones Rd
Manager: Garry Wright License #: I0072DI Telephone #: 479-866-9052
Alternate Telephone #: 479-330-0009 Cell #:479-359-3652 Fax #: Email Address: water@garfield-arkansas.us
Treatment Plant Supervisor: License #: Telephone #:

Distribution System Supervisor: Garry Wright License #: I0072DI Telephone #: 479-866-9052
Number of Licensed Employees: I # of Treatment Licenses: I # of Distribution Licenses: I
Mayor/Chairman/President/Other: Gary Blackburn (1-1) Telephone #: 479-936-6812
Address: 14655 South Wimpy Jones Rd (W) Telephone #: 479-330-0009

# of Services: 1ZL % Metered: 100 Total Pop. Served: 680 Retail Pop.Served: 680 Consecutive Pop.Served: 0
Domestic: 237 # Commercial: 35 # Wholesale: 0 # Industrial: 0 # Irrigation: 0
Engineering District: I County Name: Benton County Code #: 04
Plumbing Inspector: Garry Wright License #: PI03485

Plant Name & ID	Type of Plant	Construction Date	# of Sources	Type(s) of Source
Master Meter-I 047201	Master Meter	2003	I	Surface Purchase
Master Meter-2 04730I	Master Meter	2008	I	Surface Purchase

Maximum System Capacity: **0.26** **MGD (All Plants)**

Total System Storage: **0.14** **MGD** **Useable System Storage:** **0.036** MGD

Production Figures								
System Segment / Plant Name & ID	Capacity (MGD)	Limiting Factor	Code	Maximum Demand (MGD)	Maximum Demand %Cap.	Average Demand (MCD)	Average Demand %Cap.	Population Served
Master Meter-I 047201	0.13	Master Meter	09	0.083	63.8%	0.0441	33.9%	
Master Meter-2 047301	0.13	Master Meter	09	0.064	49.2%	0.0119	9.2%	
Primary System	0.26	Master Meter	09	0.147	56.5%	0.056	21.5%	680
Consecutive Systems		PWS ID #	Status					
					%		%	
					%		%	
					%		%	
Industrial Demand	480.7 GPO							
Unaccounted-for Water	31.7%							

(Status: P- Primary, E- Emergency, I- Intermittent, O- Other)

D Estimated Calculated

Identify Significant Deficiencies:

Give brief evaluation of system condition and operation: Garfield Waterworks is a purchase system from Benton-Washington Regional PWA. The system is in overall good shape with highly motivated and effective staff. The current system management has made many strong leadership improvements that has brought the condition of the system into model compliance. MM-1 04720I is referred to as "Sugar Creek" and MM-2 047301 is referred to as "Blueberry" by system.

Public Water Supply Sanitary Survey **Arkansas Department of Health**

Name of System: Garfield Waterworks PWS # 047

System Operations & Management

Identify the management structure of water system.

[81 Mayor/Council D Board of Directors D Commission D Other_____

MEMBERSNAME	TITLE
Gary Black bum	Mayor
Christal Allen	Recorder/Treasurer/Water Clerk
Barry Kitterman	Council Person
Jim Teese link	CounciJ Person
Aaron Poteat	Council Person
Jon Rambo	Council Person
Gary Wright	Water System Operator
Timothy D. Artt	Water System Operator

Yes No

[81 ☐ I. Is a current (i.e. less than IO years old) Long-Range Plan/Master Plan on file with ADH?
[81 Long Range Plan (Date I1/05/20? I) D Master Plan (Date- - - - - -

[81 2. A written emergency plan is on file at the water system.
[81 ☐ 3. The emergency plan is up to date and contains the proper names, numbers, etc.

• [81 ☐ **4. Management provides the necessary budget, personnel, security measures, maintenance or repair parts to meet regulatory requirements and provide for the production of an adequate quantity of safe drinking water.**
[81 **Adequate budget** [81 **Sufficient / Qualified staff** D **Adequate / Sufficient parts inventory**
D **Other**_____

[81 ☐ 5. Have all major modifications (since previous survey) been approved by ADH?

[81 ☐ 6. Are the systems records being maintained according with regulatory requirements?
[81 Maintenance and repair records [81 System maps [81 Operating reports

[81 ☐ 7. Is the maximum demand less than 80 percent of capacity (i.e. source, plant, pumping)? If no, discuss corrective actions.

[81 ☐ 8. If the system has greater than 15% unaccounted for water, are corrective actions being taken? Discuss corrective actions. (0 N/A) System fixed 2 leaks early November 2021 and expects that to save approximately I0.000 gpd.

[81 ☐ 9. Has the system been free of any violations since the last survey?
[8:JTCR [81 MRDL [81 IOC [81 VOC [81 SOC [81 Radio-chemicals
[81 THM (0 N/A) [81 HAAS (0 N/A) 0 Bromate ([81 N/A) ☐ Chlorite ([81 N/A)
D Combined filter turbidity ([81 N/A) D Plant Effluent Disinfectant Residual ([81 N/A)
D CT D Enhanced Coagulation - TOC removal ([81 N/A) D Other _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

[81 0 10. Is system's Disinfection By-Product levels less than 80% of the MCL and not trending upward significantly since the last survey? [81 TTHM [81 HAAS O Bromate ([81 N/A) 0 Chlorite ([81 N/A)

Il. What is the required license grade level for this system? Treatment 0 Distribution '____ _

[81 0 12. Does system have a completed source water assessment?

[81 0 13. Is source water assessment report on file and accessible to the public?

Comments: System fixed 2 leaks in early November 2021 and expects the fixes to save approximately I0.000 gpd.

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name:
Contact Name:
Contact Email:
Telephone #:

1. Name of Project:

City of Gravette Equipment Request

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

Ambulance 230,080.00
Backhoe 97,345.93
Communications Devices 82,075.57

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

4. Brief Project Description:

The Ambulance is to help us efficiently cover a 50 plus square mile area. We service this area and are in need of an upgraded ambulance. The backhoe is to meet emergency repairs when a breakage occurs in a water line. Our current backhoe is over 20 years old an incapable of achieving it's goals. The last item our radios for our police and fire departments so that they may stay in contact with each other and the county in the event of emergencies. All of these items help to mitigate the Covid 19 issue by allowing us to either respond to emergencies and/or help in the prevention of health related issues. There is nothing more important than clean water for drinking and cleaning and the ability to respond to emergencies efficiently in a time of health related crisis.

5. Project Plan:

All of these items are on order and will arrive withing the next month

6. Link to COVID-19:

The harm is to the General Public, if we can't do the work necessary to provide clean water and timely and effective responses to pandemic or emergency situations then we are not taking care of the basic need of the people that we serve

7. Statement of Need:

The need that this project will address is the basic human desire to know that the government that they support is doing everything possible to meet their basic needs, pray that we never forget why we are in this business.

8. Population Served:

The City of Gravette and the surrounding area (50 plus square miles) that is served by the City and it's various departments.

9. Results

Better support for the health and well being of the citizenry.

10. Evaluation

Response times to emergencies both medical and water related.

11. Equity Impact

It will provide the citizenry of their basic needs/expectations of clean water and emergency response.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

1) The ambulance will be purchased from Pinnacle Emergency Vehicles
2) The backhoe will be purchased from Caterpillar
3) The Communications Equipment has being purchased through Smith 2-way

13. Capacity

We are an efficiently run city of approximately 3700, we have in the past and continue to service an area of 50 plus square miles (Fire Department), the accounting organization is well equipped to track the movement and use of these funds. We have tracked federal grant funds in the past as well as numerous state grants and bond funds. We receive an audit for with "No Findings" on our last audit from Arkansas Legislative Audit.

14. Budget

Ambulance: 230,080.00
Backhoe: 67,345.93

Radios: 82,075.57

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

16. Reporting:

If Granted funding we will be able to report as often as needed for the edification of the project.

17. Special Considerations

Gravette is a growing community and where we believe the next growth boom in Benton County will take place. We are doing all we can, but as anyone in government know the expenses related to growth come long before the revenue, we could certainly use your help.

I realize that you be hesitant because we are going to make these purchases no matter what the outcome of this request might be, I am saying that we could sure use the help so that we may use funds earmarked for these items in other areas of need.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**City of Gravette**
Project Name:	**Equipment Purchases**
Amount Requested:	**409,501.50**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 409,501.50	P	
Total	$ 409,501.50		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Ambulance	$ 230,080.00	$ -	$ 230,080.00	Capital	
Backhoe	$ 97,345.93		$ 97,345.93	Capital	
Radios/communications	$ 82,075.57		$ 82,075.57	Capital	

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: **City of Rogers**
Contact Name: **Fran Free**
Food & Wellness Programs Coordinator
City of Rogers, Arkansas
Contact Email: ffree@rogersar.gov
Telephone #: **(479)799-4990**

1. Name of Project:

Support for Rogers Local Food Market

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$25,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

This project could potentially meet the criteria of two ARP concern categories:

- Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19, *and*
- Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic: *Rogers population living below poverty level, rural/ag population, persons of Hispanic, Asian, and Pacific Islander ethnicity, and the food insecure.*

4. Brief Project Description:

The City has invested in infrastructure intended to serve as the forever home of the farmers market, *Frisco Plaza,* which opened the Plaza to the Market in spring of 2021. Unfortunately, market sales did not meet expectations in 2021; market visits and number of participating vendors were down, largely due to effects from COVID-19. The City had to act.

The City advertised, vetted, and contracted with a new entity to professionally grow the Market.

These ARP funds will serve to kickstart the revamping of the Market, due to lack of effective programming and unavoidable effects of the pandemic.

Funding sought for this project will be used to host stakeholder informational meetings; support market growers with farm management, production planning, business, and safety trainings; support market vendors with retail strategy trainings; produce bi-lingual outreach materials; and support the wellness component of two culturally appropriate market events.

The Market will seek input and partnerships with State and County agencies, private businesses, and non-profit organizations to ensure a well-rounded training program and effective outreach to underserved communities in the Rogers area.

5. Project Plan:

Throughout the 2022 market season, the City will:

- pay for marketing and advertising, to include 20,000 bi-lingual mailers to Rogers zip codes and other printed materials in support of the Market,
- pay for professional trainings for vendors, especially produce growers, *and*
- monetarily support two culturally appropriate events at the Market with a wellness component.

6. Link to COVID-19:

During the pandemic not only did Benton County residents see shortages of groceries in the stores, but Benton County farming families also saw a sharp drop in market opportunities for their crops. They were sitting on harvests without a way to process and distribute them. Simultaneously, farmers' markets in the region decreased capacity limits to allow social distancing for shoppers, and some markets closed completely to the public.

The break in our food system became blatantly apparent during the public health emergency of 2020 and 2021, and the effects are strong today. Many regional farming families have closed shop, unable to continue supporting both their ag operations and their land mortgages. The step forward is to find, train, and successfully integrate local produce and protein growers into local markets, while supporting these growers with services.

This is a good time to include farmer representation that matches regional demographics. Individuals of all backgrounds lost employment; among the hardest hit are those of Hispanic/Latino and non-White origin. Professional trainings, funded by these ARP funds, will help to address this void.

And increase in number of farmers means an increase in volume of locally grown foods, which could lead to a decrease in food insecurity for Benton County residents.

7. Statement of Need:

According to Feeding America, roughly 14% of residents in Northwest Arkansas are food insecure, defined by the USDA as lacking "access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. The Market is currently in the approval process with three food assistance programs, which will turn one dollar into three, for those qualifying shoppers who seek fresh nourishment.

Small to mid-size farming operations are needed to support the growing number of mouths to feed in Northwest Arkansas. We are experiencing a decline in producers. With local land prices and global agricultural inputs on the rise, farmers must get it right from the beginning. Too often, as is the possibility with any new business, one jumps in feet-first without knowing the financial nuisances. By partnering with area agencies, we will provide ag planning, financial, and retail sales tools to new (and established) growers.

8. Population Served:

According to the 2020 United States Census, there are 69,908 people living in Rogers. Of those, 33.44% identify as Hispanic or Latino, 2.75% as Asian, and 1.45% as Pacific Islander. Another interesting note from the Census is 26% of the families living in Rogers speak a non-English language at home for those five years and older.

This project intends to serve three populations, which are distinct, but often cross boundaries:

- the 14% of residents in Northwest Arkansas are experiencing food insecurity,
- burgeoning non-White population, looking for a place of cultural home, *and*
- agricultural producers, seeking a new venture or outlet for their products.

9. Results

To track effectiveness of 20,000 bi-lingual mailers going to Rogers households, a survey will be used on two market days to ask shoppers where they heard about the market and how many times they have visited since learning about it. An interpreter will be available on those days.

To track results of the professional retail trainings, we will be utilizing baseline data of vendor sales from the previous three market years. Monthly gross sales receipts will be compared to that baseline at the end of the 2022 & 2023 market years. A survey will be used with the vendors to learn how many minutes shoppers stayed at their booth and gauge confidence in their sales skills. The goal is to increase gross sales receipts by 200% per vendor per year, and to increase median time spent at each booth by 50%.

To track results of grower trainings, we will again be using baseline data. One indicator is the number of growers registered with the Market, previous years vs. 2022 and 2023. And the second indicator will compare financial statements of those vendors already established with the market and willing to share numbers.

To track the results of supporting two culturally appropriate events at the Market, the wellness component will be analyzed by how many individuals participate in health screenings.

10. Evaluation

A copy of the mailer to Rogers households and receipt from USPS will be retained for reporting purposes. Surveys will be written professionally and administered in an unbiased manner. All data and documents will be housed in the office of Arts and Culture, in City Hall. Results will be shared with key partners as needed to monitor and adjust for top effectiveness.

11. Equity Impact

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately hit citizens of color, lower economic status, and those living in rural areas. Disadvantaged groups are less likely to have a primary care provider or regular access to health care. By supporting the Rogers Local Food Market, the City is trying to reach exactly those residents. We aim to give these individuals a location to triple their food buying power with fresh nutritious foods, while supporting farmers in their immediate area, farmers that look like them and grow the food that they know how to prepare. This support is the first step in a long-term solution of a local food system that is self-supported and community oriented.

12. Project Partners:

Non-funded key partners critical to the project include:

- Local Food Strategies, LLC
- University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service
- University of Arkansas, Center for Arkansas Farms and Food
- ATTRA (Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas)
- NCAT (National Center for Appropriate Technology)
- USDA, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
- UAMS, DYD (Double Your Dollars Program)
- ArCOP (Arkansas Center for Obesity Prevention), Double Up Food Bucks Program
- The Food
- Ozark Regional Transit
- CACHE (Creative Arkansas Community Hub & Exchange)
- Area churches and hunger relief organizations

13. Capacity

The City of Rogers, the most populous municipality in Benton County, has a long history of partnership with Benton County, sharing in duties and goals of providing services to our shared citizens. These funds will be administered through the Community Development Department, specifically, the Arts & Culture Division, which currently administers two grants and an appropriated annual budget.

14. Budget

100% of these funds will go directly to the project. For a detailed accounting of the project budget, please see **Attachment 1. Support for Rogers Local Food Market - Project Budget.**

15. Continuity of Services:

These ARP funds will be used to inform the community that the Rogers Local Food Market has "plenty" to offer shoppers of diverse economic and cultural backgrounds. These funds will have a large part in actually establishing that "plenty," via growing the vendor base and programming. Once Market receipts and visits are increased, the Market will support itself.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, The City of Rogers will report quarterly on how funds were utilized. If reporting requirements needed to be more frequent, we could do that as well.

17. Special Considerations

We understand that you do not have enough funds to fully cover each project proposal that has been submitted to you for these ARP funds. We have trimmed this project budget considerably and believe it to be at a scale that can be easily executed this year with benefits returning for many years. Thank you for considering our project among your long list of proposals.

Attachment 1. Support for Rogers Local Food Market - Project Budget

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**City of Rogers**
Project Name:	**Support for Rogers Local Foods Market**
Amount Requested:	**$25,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 25,000.00	Pending	
Total	$ 25,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Ag Trainings	$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00	Operating	
Retail Trainings	$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00	Operating	
Mailers	$ 10,000.00		$ 10,000.00	Operating	
Surveys	$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00	Operating	
Wellness Events	$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00	Operating	
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Creative Arkansas Community Hub & Exchange, Inc. (CACHE)
Contact Name: Meghan Dale
Contact Email: meghan@cachecreate.org
Telephone #: 203.379.7443

1. Name of Project:

Music & Artistic Sector Recovery

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$185,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Established in 2019, Creative Arkansas Community Hub & Exchange (CACHE) is the first arts service organization in the NWA region, focused on connecting, supporting and developing our full arts ecosystem – nonprofit arts organizations of all types and sizes, artists and creatives, and for-profit creative industries (i.e., music venues). Globally, the creative sector, artists, and venues have been exceptionally hard hit by the pandemic. As the only organization dedicated to the service and support of this sector, our ability to respond to COVID-19 and serve the most fundamental and basic needs of our substantial and layered arts and creative community has been and remains critical. CACHE is seeking support of two existing initiatives to rebuild and bolster the local creative sector.

First, CACHE seeks ongoing support for our Director of Creative & Music Ecosystems to connect, advise, and support the development of the Northwest Arkansas music industry. In 2019, CACHE partnered with Sound Diplomacy and the Walton Family Foundation to release the NWA Music Ecosystem Strategy and Action Plan, after 2+ years of convening and aligning the full music ecosystem of the region, on the very day, it turned out, the global pandemic closed down Northwest Arkansas. In response, CACHE's Director of Creative & Music Ecosystems established NWA as a pilot city of the Re-Open Every Venue Safely campaign (REVS), a cohort that supports music venues and musicians and addresses the impact music has had on the creative economy – namely restaurants, hotels and retail industries. With Northwest Arkansas as a national member of the pilot cohort, CACHE continues to bring local infrastructure, best practice discussion and advocacy efforts to provide much needed relief to independent venues impacted by the shutdown. ARP funding would provide ongoing support to this work – creating more opportunities for venue owners and musicians to convene around national best practices, and create work plans and protocols, which would speed the recovery of the tourism, travel and hospitality sectors. Funding would also directly support CACHE to convene and connect a cohort of music nonprofits in Bentonville, to develop music talent across the region, and to facilitate collaborations between places that want to book music and our burgeoning music scene. Supporting the quantity, quality, and impact of Bentonville and Northwest Arkansas musicians, music businesses and venues, and music non-profits greatly accelerates the quality of life and community cohesion, talent attraction and retention, economic and workforce development, in-state and out-of-state tourism, and overall reputation and global reach of our region.

Second, CACHE seeks ARD funding to directly support artists to make new creative products in a shared, collaborative work space hub at CACHE Studios in Bentonville as a part of an artist residency program. Artists are key contributors to vibrant communities and thriving economies. The March 2021 CACHE Canvas study of the arts and culture ecosystem in Northwest Arkansas found that our region has a critical mass of artists and creatives – in fact, we have more professional artists per capital in the region than many other places in the United States, yet our artists are incredibly under-resourced, under-supported, and lacking ability and space to make and sell creative products. To note, more than 70% of local artists have a total annual income of less than $20,000. Additionally, for more than 70% of our artists, only 25% of their annual income comes from the sale or commissioning of their artistic work. As a region, we have been more focused on importing creative products from outside the region.

Artist residencies are especially impactful because they provide artists with time and space to take creative risks, expand artistically, learn the business of art, and build relationships/community with their peers and colleagues. CACHE Studios Visual Artist Residency Program, once fully established, will facilitate artists, researchers, curators, and other creatives, providing a break from their usual surroundings and obligations. The program will enable residents to have time and space for reflection, focusing on their research, developing new ideas, experimentation, and to produce new art works. By meeting fellow artists, curators, learning new skills, and spending time in a new location, this residency will broaden cultural awareness, ignite multi-layered exchange, and let participants become immersed into another setting. The artist residency program would provide $2,500 stipends to 20 artist residents for a 6-month residency (prorated) to cover costs of creative

production. All residencies are offered at no cost to participants. CACHE intends to focus on supporting low-to-moderate income artists who have faced disproportionate challenges in sustaining their practices due to COVID-19. ARP funding would also support the salary of the CACHE Studios Manager who would oversee the facility and develop opportunities for artist residency exchange. The CACHE Studios Manager would also plan open houses, showcases of local artist talents, and events for the community to engage with artists and their work. CACHE Studio's ideal geographic positioning, across from the to-be-built Walmart headquarters, with the world-renowned Momentary and 8th Street Market as neighbors, will help transform the neighborhood and become an anchor of the Arts & Market District, creating new opportunities for tourism that will help the sector recover and connect to audiences, building a long-term marketplace.

5. Project Plan:

CACHE is well-positioned to and strategically focused on driving sorely needed connectivity, convening, networking and organizational development within the music landscape. Through support of this key staff position, CACHE will

(1) Convene a cohort of 12 music organizations critical to the Northwest Arkansas music field, to ensure we develop consistent activity and support growth in advance of the tourism conference in 2024. CACHE will work with each nonprofit to determine what it will take for each to fully partner and participate in this work. Fifty percent of the 12 will be based in Bentonville (i.e., House of Songs, City Sessions, KOBV, Ra-Ve Cultural Foundation) and the remaining 50% will be regional entities that add disciplinary and demographic diversity to the funding pool (i.e., Fayetteville Roots, Music Moves, NWA Jazz Society, TASC, KUAF). We will focus on nonprofits that are producing/programming entities and those that are focused on popular music forms. We will implement a rotating model for these convenings. The first month (April 2022) we will offer a collaborative workshop, the second month will be formal social networking time, and the third month will focus on a national or Heartland-based leader bringing topics for learning, repeating this format four times throughout the year. Each participating organization must choose at least 2 people to attend to ensure continuity of relationships and information in case of staffing transitions. The cohort will also be offered the opportunity to engage in the Year of Learning in 2022, developed by CACHE in partnership with local and national experts and focused on core competencies for nonprofit organizations including fundraising strategy, grant writing, DEIA, board and leadership development, financial sustainability, communications and storytelling, and online content creation.

(2) Expand the Northwest Arkansas REVS coalition, continuing to provide best practice support and national connectivity to local music venue operators.

(3) Continue to offer professional and artist development programs to scout and develop local music talent. One such program, Groundwaves, focused on incubating and accelerating local hip hop artists, will begin in May 2022 and continue for one week per month over six months, providing open mic time, mentorship from a nationally significant hip hop artist, and access to songwriting and recording support.

(4) Continue to connect and book music talent for events and online showcases put on by local municipalities, downtown organizations, parks, and institutions like the Momentary in Bentonville. CACHE estimates it will facilitate and directly book music talent for at least 20

events in 2022, connecting music artists with paying gigs, and building a marketplace and audience for their creative work.

The CACHE Studios Visual Artist Residency Program will begin with substantial outreach to ensure all communities are engaged and at the table. Utilizing our list of more than 900 Northwest Arkansas creatives and the trust and relationships we have built over the past 2 years in partnership with our creative communities, our CACHE Studios Manager will lead an expansive outreach effort alongside experienced and deeply connected teammates beginning in March 2022, and release an open application with clear guidelines. Artists will apply to receive (1) $2500 in financial support (2) unlimited work space for 6 months, available at any time of day and (3) mentorship and a range of professional development opportunities.

A panel of community leaders will review applications and select program participants. Panelists will be experts in at least one artistic discipline, possess an understanding of the creative communities of Northwest Arkansas, and be representative of a variety of communities, experiences, and backgrounds. The panel will identify inspiring local and regional artists who exemplify diversity across every definition of that word - living across the region's geography, working in different creative disciplines, and identifying with different demographics and communities. 20 artists will be selected for either a 6-month artist residencies (June– December, 2022) allowing artists an opportunity to establish real relationships which can be maintained into the future.

6. Link to COVID-19:

As we've all witnessed, COVID-19 has consistently interrupted our ability to gather together, cancelling festivals, performances, shows, concerts, and film screenings. Artists across NWA depend on booking these events to earn income, and organizations and venues depend on hosting these events for the same. Beyond income, festivals and events provide necessary networking opportunities for creatives that ultimately lead to new and diverse income streams. Artists were not prepared to shift into a virtual platform, often not having the knowledge, skillset, or access to equipment to successfully transfer their content online. And then had to find new ways to market their material to an audience that was increasingly burnt out on online streaming. It has been incredibly challenging accessing emergency relief funds for this specific sector, as there hasn't been a history of evaluating and supporting artists. Yet, arts and culture are essential for attracting and retaining talent, building the economy and create a healthy, thriving marketplace.

ARD funding would address the significant loss of income that artists across NWA have faced due to the pandemic by providing funding for music nonprofits and visual artists to continue to create, make and produce their work and convene areas of learning with national, regional and local thought leaders to continue to build the capacity of artists in these sectors. Our music program would directly impact 12 local nonprofits with funding, networking, and education, and our visual artist residency would provide $2500 stipends to 20 local visual artists.

7. Statement of Need:

Results from the CACHE Canvas survey, the first comprehensive study of the arts and culture ecosystem in Northwest Arkansas, were collected in late 2020, and early 2021 – in the middle of the global pandemic. Responses found that 73% of NWA's creative entrepreneurs and artists received $0-20k in estimated annual income related to their creative work, and the majority of arts and culture nonprofit organizations were working on less than a $400,000 budget. The NWA creative ecosystem needs increased access points to funding, and systems and programs to work alongside creatives to build a sustainable, regenerative, and predictable future.

The Sound Diplomacy study mentioned earlier developed an economic impact analysis of the music sector in the region, concluding it produces a $389 million economic output and is responsible for 3,972 jobs in the region.

Additionally, the Heartland Forward NWA Economic Recovery and Strategy Report recommended that "Northwest Arkansas must double down on its already significant investments in arts and culture, which are essential for attracting and retaining talent and building the future economy...The region should build platforms that support and enhance the opportunities for local and regionally sourced culture."

8. Population Served:

In our survey of the arts and culture ecosystem, we found that of the 354 respondents, 34% of those who selected music as a discipline and 56% of those who selected visual arts as a discipline, also identified as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). Across survey respondents of all disciplines, 31% identified as LGBTQ+.

With a mission to empower a more inspiring, inclusive, and equitable Northwest Arkansas, CACHE commits to focusing our energy on emerging, underrepresented, and underinvested voices. Selections for both the music cohort and the visual arts residency will be done with equity at the forefront.

9. Results

Beyond providing much needed income relief to organizations and creatives, these projects will also have clear performance measures including:

Music performance measures:

- A pre and post cohort survey to addresses and evaluate the knowledge gained through cohort convenings and educational opportunities, as well as the impact it had on community served.
- Numbers of artists served through Groundwaves 2022.
- Number of venues participating in REVS and number of meetings with national partners in 2022.
- Number of events supported with CACHE-recommended music talent in 2022.

Visual arts performance measures:

- End-of-program survey results to evaluate the impact of space + money + professional development on the cohort of artists.
- A curated exhibition of work by residency artists will be showcased and open to the public, highlighting the growth and direction in which each artist has taken with their time while in residence. Documentation of this exhibition will be provided. All resident artists will participate.
- Residents will be asked to produce a 12”x12” artwork that will become part of a lending library to organizations, businesses, institutions throughout Bentonville. Upon completion of the loan, the artwork will be sold to help benefit the residency program and the next generation of cohorts.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

For the music program, CACHE will require a midterm and final grant report that asks local music organizations to share track and report the amount of opportunities they created for NWA artists and the amount of funding support they in turn were able to pay local artists through their programming.

For the artist residency, artists will be required to complete a form that outlines their goals for professional development upon acceptance into the residency program. The CACHE Studios Manager will use this document to complete frequent in-person (or Zoom as needed) check-in’s with artists to provide mentorship and continuing education opportunities throughout the duration of their residency. A final check in will be documented to assess how far they’ve come and record their accomplishments during the residency.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

As mentioned earlier, the arts and culture sector is frequently overlooked in the distribution of federal funding despite contributing significantly to economic impact of a region. Music and visual arts provide a draw for tourism, boosting income for hotels, restaurants, and other local retailers. By supporting music and visual artists with funding and the educational opportunities to build their capacity, CACHE helps to continue to grow the cultural vibrancy of the region, in a sector that has faced unparalleled hardship due to COVID-19. Additionally, as outlined in the Population Served section, many artists in Northwest Arkansas identify as BIPOC and members of the LGBTQ+

communities but are not earning a living wage from their work. CACHE believes that artists are the key to a thriving, innovative marketplace + a self-sufficient, sustainable ecosystem, and will continue to focus on supporting underrepresented and underinvested creatives.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

CACHE will bring in outside thought leaders to support the Year of Learning educational opportunities that music and visual artists within the cohorts will be able to attend. In addition, CACHE will contract with internationally acclaimed independent hip-hop legend Murs to lead the Groundwaves program, and collaborate with other national music entities to build energy between national thought leaders and local musicians.

13. Capacity

Creative Arkansas Community Hub & Exchange (CACHE) works with creatives, communities and organizations to empower a more inspiring, inclusive and equitable Northwest Arkansas. Having designed, implemented, and/or assisted 32 distinct large-scale programs and initiatives since March 2020 -- from regranting to artist development, space operation to municipal cultural planning, event curation and production to pandemic relief -- CACHE is a proven partner to dive more specifically into developing the region's music and visual arts ecosystems. Additionally, CACHE has distributed $2.1M in grants and contracts to nonprofits and artists since March 2020.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

CACHE is currently working to secure additional funding through the Walton Family Foundation, Walton Personal Philanthropy Group, Tyson Family Foundation, Walmart Foundation and many individual funders to cover the program costs for pilot music and artist residency programs. Upon completion of the pilot program (2 years), the programs will be evaluated based on the above-mentioned metrics and adapted as needed to meet the evolving needs of the NWA artistic community.

16. Reporting:

Yes, CACHE would be able to provide reports and budgets outlining how the funding was used, in the format that Benton County requests.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Creative Arkansas Community Hub & Exchange, Inc. (CACHE)**
Project Name:	**Music + Artistic Sector Recovery**
Amount Requested:	**$185,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 185,000.00	Pending	
WPPG Music Ecosystems Grant	$ 2,300,000.00	Pending	
CACHE Studios Visual Artist Residency	$ 120,000.00	Pending	
Groundwaves Support, Tyson Family Foundation	$ 36,000.00	Pending	
Total	$ 2,641,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
CACHE Director of Music Salary	$ 15,000.00	$ 139,000.00	$ 154,000.00	Operating Expense	
CACHE Studio Manager Salary	$ 60,000.00	$ -	$ 60,000.00	Operating Expense	
CACHE Studios Artist Stipends	$ 110,000.00	$ -	$ 110,000.00	Operating Expense	
Music Cohort Regranting Funds	$ -	$ 1,400,000.00	$ 1,400,000.00	Operating Expense	
Music Cohort Programming	$ -	$ 552,000.00	$ 552,000.00	Operating Expense	
Music Cohort Admin & Staff	$ -	$ 348,000.00	$ 348,000.00	Operating Expense	
Groundwaves - MURS		$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	Operating Expense	
Groundwaves - Programming		$ 22,000.00	$ 22,000.00		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Dawn Hill Townhouse and Condominium Property Owners Association, Inc.
Contact Name: Jonathan Barnett / Ron Homeyer
Contact Email: jonathandalebarnett@gmail.com / ron@civilengineeringss.com
Telephone #: (479) 524-1343 / (479) 524-9956

1. Name of Project:

Dawn Hill Sewer Improvements

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$1,980,000.00

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

C. **Infrastructure**: Provides water, **sewer**, or broadband infrastructure,

4. Brief Project Description:

The Dawn Hill Country Club was developed originally in the Mid 1960's along Flint Creek in west Benton County north of Siloam Springs and south of Gentry. The fact that this development was built in the county, the entire development uses individual sewer disposal systems or septic systems. Over the years, as new residential homes were constructed in the Dawn Hill Country Club subdivision, many of the lots did not have sufficient land to support a septic leach field, so the septic leach fields were extended onto the golf course land. Not all the leach field extensions onto the golf course land secured a recorded easement.

The Dawn Hill Townhouse and Condominium Property Owners Association, Inc. are currently under an enforcement action by ADEQ for their individual sewer disposal system. The enforcement by ADEQ is related to the lack of a required permit from ADEQ. At this time, no obvious leaks or overflows have been observed on a routine basis. Occasional problems have been observed but are quickly resolved through maintenance.

Since Dawn Hill Country Club is located adjacent to Flint Creek the more environmentally friendly means to upgrade the sewer disposal in this floodplain is to install a municipal wastewater collection system to replace the existing individual sewer disposal system. The City of Siloam Springs Board of

Directors have approved a resolution supporting this project and agreeing to accept the dedication and maintenance of the proposed municipal wastewater collection system upon its completion.

5. Project Plan:

PHASE 1 – Design and Right of Way Acquisition – Minimum six (6) months; maximum nine (9) months

Upon approval, the project administration and design services will begin. A survey will be performed to provide the necessary information to determine the best placement for the wastewater collection lines and lift station. The survey will also be used to collect information about the existing property owners. The existing property owners will be contacted to determine their willingness to provide utility easements for the project. At that point, the location of the existing structures within the limits of the proposed collection system, as well as the location of the existing property lines, will be used to layout the most efficient collection system for the project. After the collection system layout is finalized, the acquisition of the necessary utility easements will commence.

PHASE 2 – Construction – Minimum six (6) month; maximum twelve (12) months

Once the utility easements are acquired and the construction plans are approved by the City of Siloam Springs and the Arkansas Health Department, a contractor will be selected from the bids procured. Construction will begin as soon as the contractor is selected. Once the construction is complete, the project will be dedicated to the City of Siloam Springs for operation and maintenance in perpetuity.

6. Link to COVID-19:

The Flint Creek drainage basin is an area that contains not only Dawn Hill County Club, but also the City of Siloam Springs City Lake recreation area. The City Lake Recreation area includes walking/bike trails, outdoor birdwatch observation decks, disk golf, fishing, and general outdoor activities. The water quality of Flint Creek directly impacts the City Lake recreation area. Dawn Hill Country Club is directly upstream from the City Lake recreation area, so any septic system seepage, spills or overflows will drain directly to Flint Creek and continue downstream to the City Lake recreation area.

7. Statement of Need:

The Arkansas regulations for individual sewer disposal systems requires a minimum of 1/3-acre tract or lot size. Benton County regulations for individual sewer disposal systems requires a minimum of 1.0-acre tract or lot size. Most of the lots in Dawn Hill Subdivision are less than 1/3 acres in size and therefore are not in compliance with either the Arkansas minimum regulations or the Benton County minimum regulations.

8. Population Served:

The owners and occupants of the Condominiums and Townhomes consist of a substantial number of individuals on fixed incomes. Most of the others that are not on fixed incomes are at or below the County Median Annual Income of $66,362.

9. Results

The goal of this project is to migrate all the existing business and residential properties in the Dawn Hill Country Club area from individual sewer disposal (septic) systems to a municipal wastewater collection system. The Flint Creek drainage basin will be significantly improved by the abandonment of the existing septic systems. The risk of inoperative, or intermittently malfunctioning septic systems that pollute the Flint Creek basin will be eliminated.

This project will consist of five (5) main activities. The first is the overall project management, including the coordination between the Dawn Hill Country Club property owners, the Design Team, the construction contractor, and the City of Siloam Springs. Second is the design of the wastewater collection system. Third is the acquisition of utility easements for the installation of wastewater collection system. Fourth is the construction of the wastewater collection system. Fifth is the dedication of the wastewater collection system to the City of Siloam Springs.

10. Evaluation

The progress of the project will be documented through the preparation of weekly progress reports. In addition, a monthly summary of financial activities will be prepared as well. During the construction of the project, daily inspections will be performed and documented by the Engineer of Record. In addition, during construction the City of Siloam Springs will provide inspections as well to confirm the construction complies with the City's Water and Wastewater standard specifications since they will accept the wastewater collection system upon its completion.

11. Equity Impact

This project will assist many low to moderate income residents by providing a reliable and environmentally safe means for disposing of their wastewater from the residences. It will also help clean up the Flint Creek drainage basin. That will improve and enhance safety and quality of the City of Siloam Springs City Lake Park facility.

12. Project Partners:

Engineering services will be provided by Civil Engineering, Inc. Their office is in Siloam Springs. Services provided by Civil Engineering, Inc. include project design, right of way easement development, contract bid services, construction administration, and inspection services. Competitive bids will be solicited, and the lowest responsible bidder will be awarded the contract. Following completion of the project construction the wastewater collection system will be dedicated to the City of Siloam Springs for ownership, operation, and maintenance. I have attached the City of Siloam Springs Resolution 22-?? which expresses their support for the project and their intention to accept the improvements upon the project's completion.

13. Capacity

Civil Engineering, Inc. has experience with government funded projects and will have no issues managing this construction project. In addition, the Dawn Hill Townhouse and Condominium Property Owners Association, Inc. president, Mr. Jonathan Barnett has many years of experience as the owner of his own construction and development company as well as his many years' service on various Boards and Commissions, including the NW Arkansas Regional Airport Board, and past service as a member of the Arkansas Highway Commission.

14. Budget

See that attached budget.

15. Continuity of Services:

This project is a capital improvement project and will not have any ongoing program, operation, or maintenance activities since upon completion of project the City of Siloam Springs will take over the ownership and provide the operation and maintenance for the collection system.

16. Reporting:

The Dawn Hill Townhouse and Condominium Property Owners Association, Inc. and Civil Engineering, Inc. will provide the necessary quarterly reports.

17. Special Considerations

This project will provide a major upgrade to the Dawn Hill area that will enhance the Flint Creek basin, which includes the City of Siloam Springs City Lake Park. Most importantly though, it will provide a reliable and ecologically responsible wastewater collection and disposal system for the Dawn Hill Country Club townhomes and condominiums.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Dawn Hill Townhouse and Condominium Property Owners Association, Inc.**
Project Name:	**Dawn Hill Sewer Improvements**
Amount Requested:	**$1,980,000.00**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 1,980,000.00	Pending	
List other sources here			
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List other sources here			
Total	$ 1,980,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Sanitary Sewer Collection System Construction	$ 1,980,000.00	$ -	$ 1,980,000.00	Capital Expense	
List expenses here			$ -		
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ENGINEERS OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

PROJECT:	Dawn Hill Clubhouse, Townhomes, & Houses	**DATE:**	23-Feb-22
JOB NO:	2137	**PREPARED BY:**	RDH

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNITS	UNIT PRICE	EXTENSION	TOTAL
Sewer					
SDR-26 PVC Sewer Line - 8"	11,500	LF	$ 60.00	$ 690,000.00	
Standard 4' Dia. Concrete Manholes	48	EA	$ 4,000.00	$ 192,000.00	
Sanitary Sewer Lift Station	1	LS	$ 250,000.00	$ 250,000.00	
C-900 DR-18 PVC Force Main - 6"	5,550	LF	$ 40.00	$ 222,000.00	
Rock Excavation	300	CY	$ 300.00	$ 90,000.00	
SDR-26 PVC Sanitary Sewer Services - 4"	65	EA	$ 3,000.00	$ 195,000.00	
Topsoil, Seed and Straw	6.5	AC	$ 5,000.00	$ 32,500.00	
					$ 1,671,500.00
Bonds, Insurance, Testing	3	%			50,100.00
				Sewer Construction Total	1,721,600.00
Contingency	7	%			120,500.00
Engineering/Const Staking	8	%			137,700.00
				Sewer Total	$ 1,979,800.00
				Construction Total	$ 1,979,800.00

NO.	REVISIONS	BY	DATE
2			

CIVIL ENGINEERING INC

CIVIL ENGINEERING, INC.
P.O. Box 12,701 S Mt Olive, Siloam Springs, Arkansas 72761
(479)524-9956 Phone or (479)524-4747 Fax
E-MAIL: mail@civilengineeringss.com

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION
CIVIL ENGINEERING INC #716
ARKANSAS - ENGINEER

STATE OF ARKANSAS
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
02/23/22
No. 7731
RONALD HOMEYER

This document was originally issued and sealed by Ronald Homeyer. P.E.773on February 23, 2022

OVERALL EXHIBIT FOR
DAWN HILL COUNTRY CLUB
SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

SANITARY SEWER EXHIBIT

DRAWN BY	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	SHEET NO.
JTM	ROH	ROH	
JOB NUMBER	DATE	SCALE: 1" = 300'	
2137	FEBRUARY 2022		1 OF 1

RESOLUTION NO. 04-22

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REQUEST OF THE DAWN HILL TOWNHOUSE AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION FOR SANITARY SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING, AND AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF SAID INFRASTRUCTURE BY THE CITY ONCE COMPLETED

WHEREAS , Dawn Hill is a Benton County subdivision developed in the 1960's and 1970's and includes both single-family dwelling units and townhouse and condominium (duplex) dwelling units, and originally included a public golf course; and

WHEREAS, all single-family dwelling units are provided with sanitary waste disposal via septic tanks; however, the former golf course club house, the townhomes, and condominiums are provided sanitary waste disposal by a community septic tank system, which has failed and is out of compliance with Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality requirements; and

WHEREAS, Benton County is scheduled to receive approximately $54 million dollars from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA.) Eligible uses for these funds include water and wastewater infrastructure investments; and

WHEREAS, the Dawn Hill Townhouse and Condominium Property Owners Association, Inc., has submitted a request to Benton County for approximately $2.95 million for purposes of constructing a sanitary sewer collection system for the existing multi-family and single-family dwelling units and commercial structures for the purposes of improving the waterquality in Flint Creek; and

WHEREAS, Flint Creek flows into City Lake, which is a public park owned by the City of Siloam Springs and improving the water quality of Flint Creek will improve the water quality of City Lake; and

WHEREAS, the intent of this proposal is to have this new sanitary sewer collection system tie into the City of Siloam Springs' sanitary sewer collection system, and have the City process the waste at its Wastewater Treatment Plant;

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the City of Siloam Springs:

1) That the City supports the application by the Dawn Hill Townhouse and Condominium Property Owners Association and requests that the Benton County ARPA Committee fund the request.

2) Subject to said funding being approved, and approval of the system by the City Engineer, the Board authorizes the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Dawn Hill Townhouse and Condominium Property Owners Association for dedication of the necessary easements and sanita ry sewer infrastructure once construction is complete. The City Administrator or his designee is authorized to take such actions, including any terms of use and the signing of documents , as reasonably necessary to accomplish the public purpose set forth herein.

DONE AND RESOLVED this 18u, day of January 2022.

ATTEST:

Renea Ellis, City Clerk, CAMC/CMC

(SEAL)

APPROVED:

Judy Nation, Mayor

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Dinners for Veterans
Contact Name: Rocky Dunlap
Contact Email: rockydunlap@live.com, jerod.bradshaw@gmail.com
Telephone #: (479) 387-5841

1. Name of Project:

Helping Our Heroes

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$25,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

D Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

4. Brief Project Description:

We prepare food baskets for veterans and their families to ensure there is adequate food for the members of their households, but also put together various fundraising events to fund the work we carry out. In addition to food baskets, Dinners for Veterans also hosts clothing drives such as our annual "Keeping Veterans Warm" program that collects and purchases warm clothing for the winter months. US veterans make up a significant portion of the nation's homeless population, and often face housing insecurity even when not battling homelessness. We seek to ensure that no military family

need ever worry about not having basic needs met through food, monetary, and in kind donations from our local community,

We hold annual holiday meal drives for our veterans to provide an entire holiday meal veterans can prepare with their families and not worry about having to choose between utilities and adequate nutrition. This event takes place yearly and is provided for by donations from local businesses, monetary donations, and volunteers within the local community.

Dinners for Veterans also assists veterans with monetary support for rent, utilities, vehicle repairs, medical treatment, and school supplies for school-aged children.

5. Project Plan:

If awarded any funds, all grant funding will be used to rebuild depleted funds and provide direct service to veterans in northwest Arkansas. Funds will be used to purchase food, clothing, and household supplies, and providing financial assistance for expenses facing our veterans

Dinners for Veterans is operated by volunteers, and none of our team receives financial compensation. Every cent received by Dinners for Veterans goes directly to serving our veterans and their families and providing any form of assistance possible to ensure those who served our country will not be left alone to face the struggles of daily life.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Covid-19 has negatively affected many people in the country, but the veterans in our local area have been impacted worse than many, as they have suffered through layoffs in employment and a lack of open employment opportunities since northwest Arkansas began experiencing closures of places of employments. Monetary donations have been down this year compared to pre-pandemic levels, and the need for service has increased.

7. Statement of Need:

It has been difficult for many of our veterans to find adequate employment, and many who have found employment have lost it due to Covid-related closures. Veterans are also a population dealing with both physical and mental injuries, and also experience a high rate of suicide.

8. Population Served:

Dinners for Veterans serves United States Military veterans in the local geographic area with basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. We work to eliminate hunger and homelessness for the men and women who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces and their families.

9. Results

Dinners for Veterans is a 501(c)(3) that has been in operation for over 5 years. Since its inception, Dinners for Veterans has served well over 700 veterans and their families in northwest Arkansas. Services we offer include bill pay assistance, food assistance, clothing assistance, in kind services, (such as veteran networking opportunities), assistance with vehicle and household maintenance, and assistance in any other area possible.

10. Evaluation

Financial records of all expenditures are maintained, as well as number of clients served. These records are examined and discussed during regular board meetings, as well as to any outside stakeholders requesting information on how donations are being distributed.

11. Equity Impact

Our veterans often struggle with unseen injuries directly related to their service. Some of their experiences has led to PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, hearing loss, being on constant alert, difficulty adjusting to life after deployment, and many other battles. They often fall through the cracks within our social support systems due to an unwillingness or inability to reach out for help, especially to people who do not understand the struggles associated with service in the armed forces. Dinners for Veterans understands these issues better than many other agencies because our board of directors, leadership, and volunteers are veterans of the family members of veterans.

12. Project Partners:

Dinners for Veterans is 100% owned and operated by volunteers, therefore no subcontractors will be involved in carrying out any activities.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

14. Budget

100% of funds will be used to directly serve veterans and their families in need. The funds will be used to purchase food, pay utilities, fund repairs, and alleviate homelessness. Financial records of all expenses will be documented and available upon request.

15. Continuity of Services:

Dinners for Veterans relies 100% on volunteer, monetary, and in-kind donations to operate. Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, fewer donations have been received. This money is desperately needed to carry out operations, while we work diligently to replenish donations. With little extra, we have had to put in extra effort to try to serve our veterans, and unfortunately, have not been able to serve everyone. This funding will allow us to build up donations to assist our veterans in the future.

16. Reporting:

Dinners for Veterans works diligently to maintain financial records for direct use in tax filing, self-monitoring, and reporting to stakeholders. If awarded funding, the same attention to detail will be put into practice and records would be readily available upon request.

17. Special Considerations

Our veterans often struggle with unseen injuries directly related to their service. Some of their experiences has led to PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, hearing loss, being on constant alert, difficulty adjusting to life after deployment, and many other battles. They often fall through the cracks within our social support systems due to an unwillingness or inability to reach out for help, especially to people who do not understand the struggles associated with service in the armed forces.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Dinners for Veterans**
Project Name:	
Amount Requested:	**$25.000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 25.000,00	Pending	
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Total	$ 25.000,00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
List expenses here			$ 25.000,00	Operating Expense	
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Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Excellerate Foundation
Contact Name: Justin Fletcher, Vice President / Programs
Contact Email: justin.fletcher@excelleratefoundation.com
Telephone #: 479-799-0131

1. Name of Project: Upskill NWA

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $2,246,791

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. **Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,**

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. **(← Also does this)**

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

Upskill NWA is a new organization that will move lower-income wage earners to higher wage, high demand jobs through additional education and certification. Excellerate Foundation is incubating the organization internally, offering day-to-day guidance and support to its staff and operations.

Upskill NWA provides assistance with tuition and all academic fees, as well as connects participants to additional wraparound services that will allow regular class attendance. It also provides Career Navigators that work with each participant to develop "life skills to better their chances of success in the workplace and at home.

Upskill NWA is initially focusing on the healthcare industry due to the high degree of need and the ability to mobilize into that field quickly. However, additional sectors will be added in coming years, with likely candidates including information technology, manufacturing, and the trades.

Working in tandem with key educational institutions and the major health care systems in the region, Upskill NWA facilitates the training of participants (between one and four years depending on the career chosen) and subsequent hiring with local partner employers. Graduates sign on to work at least two years with partner employers, ensuring that the local health care industry gets the talented workforce that it so desperately needs, while raising the household earnings of participants to at least 80% of the Area Median Income or at least $15,000 above what they were making prior to entering the program.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

The project begins in January 2022, and funding from Benton County would be distributed in equal amounts annually for the first five years for the program (with all ARPA money expended by the federal due date of December 31, 2026). The program, initially focused on health care, would be structured as follows:

- Provide lower-income households with the resources they need to train for high demand, living wage jobs:

Based on a proven model that has been successful in Texas for decades, Upskill NWA will provide assistance with tuition and all academic needs and fees, as well as connecting participants to or providing for additional wraparound services (e.g. rental assistance, child care, transportation, etc.) that will allow the participants to attend classes regularly. It will also provide Career Navigators that will mentor, motivate, and work with each participant to develop “life skills” (e.g. time management, teamwork, financial literacy, credit counseling) to better their chances of success.

- Jump start the growth of the local labor force for the region’s most vibrant industries:

Partner employers will place Upskill NWA graduates in the jobs they've trained for within three months of graduation. Graduates commit to taking an appropriate job offered by any of the partner employers and to stay in that position for at least two years, ensuring that the region gets the trained, skilled workforce that it so desperately needs.

- Expand educators' capacity to address the most vital gaps in the local workforce:

The partner educational institutions are committed to working together to not only spur the capital investment needed to significantly increase the amount of medical training facilities available at multiple campuses, but also to collaborate on ways to work together more closely,

leverage each other's resources, and provide as many of these training opportunities as possible to lower-income families from across the region.

- Enlist cross-sector support though public/private partnerships to ensure the strengthening of Healthcare Infrastructure in Northwest Arkansas:

By engaging the for profit and nonprofit healthcare employers, building collaboration between educational institutions, and unifying support among philanthropic, state, and local government stakeholders, Northwest Arkansas has a unique opportunity to transform the health, wellbeing, and prosperity of its people for generations to come.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Lower-income families have borne much of the economic brunt of COVID-19's impact. This has included job loss, layoffs, reduced hours, lost income due to illness, and unexpected medical expenses for uninsured or underinsured family members.

That is why, in its guidance, the U.S. Department of the Treasury specifically identified job training for those who have been most affected by the pandemic as one of the primary uses of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds that were allocated to Benton County. Preparing these people for new, lucrative, high demand careers, initially in the health care industry, is what is most needed to provide financial security for them and their families.

Additionally, the health care sector has struggled greatly with the strain placed upon it by the pandemic. The CEOs of the major health systems in our region have unanimously said that COVID-19 took an existing workforce gap in the paramedical professions—approximately 1,000 empty positions—and made it much worse. Due to this shortage and the increased demand caused by the pandemic, short-term employees have been imported from outside the region with salaries two to three times the normal rate. Creating a new workforce pipeline to fill this gap with local residents—those who have roots and families here—will greatly affect the availability, quality, and consistency of health care in Northwest Arkansas for every man, woman, and child.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

- Many local families do not have the income necessary to support living in Northwest Arkansas:

Census data reveal that 67% of jobs in Northwest Arkansas pay $50,000 or less, which represents roughly 150,000 people whose lower-wage jobs do not provide the income necessary to support living in a region where affordable housing, health care, or child care is harder to come by. As a result, these families are usually one unexpected event away from spiraling into crisis.

- Many good paying jobs exist, but our people lack the skills necessary to perform them:

Job opportunities increased by almost 11% in Northwest Arkansas between 2015 and 2020. In healthcare—one of the highest demand and best paying industries—there is currently a gap for 1,000 skilled positions like nurses, technicians, EMTs, and more. That is due in large part to the fact that two-thirds of the local workforce have less than a bachelor's degree and lack the financial resources, coaching, career navigation, and mentoring required to take these higher wage jobs.

- Educational institutions lack the capacity to train this untapped workforce:

Despite this huge demand in healthcare—which has grown even larger in the wake of COVID-19—educational institutions are not able to provide enough trained workers to the fill the gap. In fact, those institutions that focus on the students most likely to stay and work in Northwest Arkansas are near or at full capacity. For example, there are as many as 400 Registered Nurse positions that go unfilled each year due to lack of space in training programs. There are even high demand healthcare jobs that have no local training programs at all.

- Healthcare transformation will be stymied without sufficient support roles:

Healthcare transformation, as led by the Northwest Arkansas Council, will be a primary driver of wellbeing and prosperity for our region moving forward. But increasing the number of general practitioners and specialists will not have the desired impact unless an even greater number of paramedical roles are filled to support those physicians. While hospitals have struggled greatly with a lack of paramedical staffers during the pandemic, it has brought many smaller practices to their knees, some to the point of closure.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

Upskill NWA specifically targets lower-income households in Northwest Arkansas that make approximately $20,000 to $60,000 per year. However, any Benton County dollars received for this project would only be used for Benton County residents. The number of Benton County residents that fall into this category re approximately 96,000. Participants must be able to be a student and work in the United States, must not have previously earned an Associate’s Degree or higher (in most cases), and must be accepted by and in good financial standing with the Upskill NWA financial partners.

Due to the unprecedented nature of the pandemic, Upskill NWA will also target those who have been economically impacted by COVID-19, since lower-income families have been some of the hardest hit

by its financial ramifications. This is evidenced by Benton County residents' usage of Emergency Rental Assistance dollars, which, up to this writing, comprises 2,500 households receiving more than $14M.

Furthermore, recruitment will prioritize the BIPOC community, households with children, veterans, and the geographically marginalized (i.e. those who have less access to the amenities along the I-49 corridor).

Upskill NWA projects serving 1,000 Northwest Arkansas residents by the end of the five-year period. Though final numbers will be based on various factors, it is projected that approximately 340 Benton County residents will be among that number.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

This collaborative, regional effort will bring significant increases in income to lower-income families, improved medical services to all residents, and exponential economic impacts to the region as a whole over time:

WORKFORCE EXPANSION

- At least 75% of participants who have graduated will have been placed with a partner employer within three months of graduation.
- For participants placed with a partner employer, at least 75% will have remained (or will be on track to have remained) with that employer for at least two years.

EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

- At least 60% of participants will have persisted in the program (i.e. graduate or be on track to graduate with the targeted degree or credential).

INCOME ADVANCEMENT

- For participants placed with a partner employer, at least 75% will have either their annual household income increase to at least 80% AMI (approximately $60,000) or their annual individual income will increase by at least $15,000.

COMMUNITY RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- The community will see a social and financial return on investment, such as increased tax revenues from gainfully employed participants.
- Based on the data collected from the health care employers and current applicants to Upskill NWA, we project that Benton County participants will see a $20M increase in income alone over the first five years after graduating from the program (i.e. a 8:1 return for Benton County's $2.2M investment).

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

- The upskilling organization will be able to secure funding to cover operating costs of supporting participants on an ongoing basis based on the metrics outlined above.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Upskill NWA will leverage all of the core competencies of Excellerate's Hark division (see Capacity), including the technology platform into which Excellerate has already invested more than $1M. By making enhancements to existing technology rather than licensing and training in a less capable, less modifiable third-party product, Upskill NWA has been able to get up to speed in less time while being positioned to be more effective over the long term due to the ongoing ability to revise or add features as needed.

Current capabilities:

- Ability for users to make referrals from comprehensive community resource map
- Ability to make case notes
- Ability to make custom form templates
- Custom reporting and dashboards
- Easy to use electronic signature
- Ability to trigger payment processes
- Client Portal
- Upskilling Queue
- Upskilling application
- Addition of FERPA consent
- Form templates
- Ability to track income over time
- Ability to track GPA and Program information and dates

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

The recruitment eligibility and prioritization protocols described above were created with equity in mind. The entire project is focused on the lower-income band, which comprises hard working families who do not earn enough to provide economic stability for their loved ones. This band is often forgotten and neglected in regional efforts to assist those in need.

Due to its over indexing in the lower-income band, the BIPOC community is targeted for 50% participation in the program annually. Veterans and the geographically marginalized also skew higher in this band and are also prioritized.

Most importantly, there is a focus on families with children, so that the rising prospects of the household can go beyond the current generation into the next. Studies on the Texas-based inspiration

for this project show that 70% of the children of program participants attended college, as opposed to 45% of the children of peers who were not in the program. This "two generational" impact is one of the key pieces of achieving lasting systemic change for families in need.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

While there are no subcontractors for this project, Excellerate has partnered with three of the key medical training institutions in the region—Northwest Technical institute, Northwest Arkansas Community College, and UAMS—and five of the major health systems—Northwest Health, Mercy Health, Washington Regional Medical Center, Arkansas Children's Northwest, and MANA. The Upskill NWA steering team comprises the CEOs from these employers and the Presidents of the educational institutions, while the working team consists of several key staff members from all these entities. Agreements are in place to ensure that all parties are committed to doing their part of the upskilling process.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Excellerate has a team with a unique mix of experience across business, philanthropy, and social services.

Jeff Webster (President/CEO) and Susan Upchurch (CFO) have decades of experience in Fortune 50 companies, with Webster also having launched several successful start-up companies across the nation.

Excellerate Foundation has been working to make Northwest Arkansas a better place for all its residents for nearly 25 years. It continues to identify and address the major challenges facing the region. It has invested more than $115M in Benton, Washington, and Madison County in that time and intends to bring its financial and organizational resources to bear to ensure the success of this project.

Excellerate previously launched its Hark division in 2017, which was originally intended to spin off into a separate 501(c)(3) organization before it was brought into the Foundation in 2019. It was Hark's invaluable, ground level insights into the social service needs of Northwest Arkansas that led to its merger. Hark has helped thousands of Northwest Arkansas residents connect to vital community resources and services in those moments "when life happens". Hark builds its clients detailed,

customized, and confidential resource plans based on its comprehensive, constantly-updated resource map of the region. Hark then follows up to ensure that clients are able to actually connect to the resources they need. And all of Hark's services are free to the individuals and families it serves.

Excellerate's Hark division gives the project a huge boost since the social service support network that is vital for career navigators to access on behalf of participants is already in place, as opposed to having to be built over the span of years as the other Project QUEST/Capital IDEA organization have had to do.

Finally, Excellerate has had almost a year of experience managing Benton County's distribution of $35M in federal funding through the Emergency Rental Assistance program (ERA1 and ERA2). Excellerate has worked with Benton County staff directly and repeatedly to ensure all federal funds have been properly used, tracked, and reported upon. We have complete confidence that we would be able to do the same for the $2.2M in FRF dollars should they be awarded to us.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

Please see attached.

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

With the projected 8:1 rate of return to Benton County noted above, we believe Benton County, as well as the other local government partners, will see the ongoing benefit to their communities, not only in terms of GDP and increased tax revenue, but also to the strengthening of the healthcare infrastructure, which currently has significant gaps as the region's population ages. Employers, too, will be motivated to continue due to the vital pipeline of skilled workers who will actually stay in the region, rather than relocating to other markets. The data collected during the first five years of the program will be comprehensive enough for the County to determine whether the benefits of Upskill NWA warrant continued support through general operating funds.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes. Please see previous comments under Capacity.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Proposed Project Budget

Organization Name:	**Excellerate Foundation**
Project Name:	**Upskil NWA**
Amount Requested:	**$2,246,791)**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$2,246,791)	Pending	Over five years; expected return on investment is 8:1
Washington County	$2,925,203)	Confirmed	Grant agreement sent
City of Springdale	$2,884,779)	Confirmed	Grant agreement sent
City of Fayetteville	$742,223)	Pending	Discussions with City Council members underway
City of Rogers	$485,275)	Pending	Discussions with City Council members underway
City of Bentonville	$287,731)	Pending	Discussions with City Council members underway
Healthcare employers	($ 4,936,956.00)	Confirmed	Draft contracts under review
Philanthropy	($ 5,000,000.00)	Pending	Decisions by Q1 2022
State of Arkansas	($ 2,000,000.00)	Pending	September 2022 distribution
Excellerate Foundation	($ 6,500,000.00)	Confirmed	Board approved
Walton Family Foundation	($ 1,500,000.00)	Confirmed	Board approved
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
Total	($ 29,508,958.00)		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Administration Costs	($ -)	($ 2,817,970.76)	($ 2,817,970.76)	Operating	Upskill staff payroll, marketing, office operations
Direct Educational Program Expenses	($ 1,685,093.25)	($ 6,896,908.61)	($ 8,582,001.86)	Operating	Tuition, Books, School Supplies, School Related Fees
Indirect Program Expenses - Wrap Around support	($ 561,691.75)	($ 847,293.63)	($ 1,408,985.38)	Operating	Transportation, childcare, etc.
NWTI Building		($ 10,000,000.00)	($ 10,000,000.00)	Capital	
NWACC Expansion		($ 5,000,000.00)	($ 5,000,000.00)	Capital	
Clinical Rotation Supervison (employers)		($ 1,700,000.00)	($ 1,700,000.00)	Operating	
List expenses here					
List expenses here					
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Friends of the Gravette Public Library
Contact Name: Carole Robel
Contact Email: Firethornefarm@me.com
Telephone #: 479-685-4321

1. Name of Project: Gravette Public Library Hotspot Lending

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $2400

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

The Gravette Public School District catchment area includes a large portion of Northwestern Benton County. The Gravette Public Library serves this area and is a vital resource for internet connection to facilitate student virtual learning as well as work from home in light of an ineffective and spotty broadband infrastructure. Affordability is also an issue where services are available; 49% of Gravette Public School students are eligible for subsidized school lunches. The hotspots are continually checked out and a waiting list always present.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

In June 2022, the contract for hot spot Wi-Fi connections for the 10 hotspots owned by the Gravette Public Library is up for renewal. Programs offered by the library, such as this one, are provided by the Friends of the Gravette Public Library (FOGPL) fundraising, by grants, and by donations. The City of Gravette does not fund programs. There is currently a functioning process for providing Hotspots through a checkout and this will be continued. To address the high usage issue, we will obtain another 10 devices in June.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The pandemic created connectivity hardships for students, home workers, and the general public due to the poor internet coverage in the area. Additionally, the social distancing required severely strained the space resources at the library. This funding will further alleviate the need for patrons to use the library for connectivity. Work from home and distance learning are realities of both the pandemic and the modern world.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

People need strong connectivity for work, school, and daily functioning. The Gravette Public School District is very rural and is not well served by any internet provider. Satellite providers are unaffordable for many people and the service is often too slow.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

Gravette Public School District is the service area.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

As for all library programs, usage is monitored and reported monthly. The goal is to provide greater availability and eliminate the waiting list.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.
Contract requirements are well controlled by the library director. The hotspot service renews in June.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?
In the absence of an infrastructure project to address the inequities in internet connectivity, local efforts to ameliorate the pressures on the physical library space and need for home Wi-Fi must be employed. People need relief from the worry about losing education time for their children and performing well with work at home.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project
Our vendor partners supply the devices and the service. The original devices were obtained through a grant from Best Buy. The FOGPL is the fundraising arm of the library regarding program funding; we are the sponsors of this request.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.
The Gravette Public Library is a department of the City of Gravette AR. The director and staff follow the fiscal and operational guidelines required by all authorizing entities.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)
The funds requested are for service for one year for 20 hotspots.

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire?
Continued funding will be provided by the FOGPL, grants, and donations. A resumption of our major annual fundraising will ensure adequate funding. The event has not taken place since 2019 and, in spite of several smaller fundraisers that could meet pandemic requirements, funding is well below previous levels this year.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized? Yes.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.
The Gravette Public Library took many actions to alleviate stress in the community regarding connectivity. Internal Wi-Fi was enhanced to reach the parking area to accommodate students and workers in their cars for social distancing and to allow after-hours connectivity. Space constraints made life difficult in meeting distancing requirements. Having greater capability to serve patrons in their homes is a good start.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Friends of the Gravette Public Library**
Project Name:	**Gravette Public Library Hotspot Lending**
Amount Requested:	**$2,400**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 2,400.00	Pending	
Total	$ 2,400.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Hot Spot Wi-Fi Connections	$ 2,400.00		$ 2,400.00	Operating	

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Hope Cancer Resources
Contact Name: Gay Prescott, Vice President of Development
Contact Email: gay.prescott@hopecancerresources.org
Telephone #: 479-361-5847

1. Name of Project:

Patient Transportation Program

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$63,802

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

4. Brief Project Description:

This proposal mitigates the economic impact of Covid-19 to the Hope Cancer Resources' Patient Transportation Program, specifically transporting Benton County residents, for the period of March 3, 2021 through October 15, 2021, in support for vulnerable populations (Benton County cancer patients) to access medical or public health services. The proposal also includes costs to respond to the Covid-19 public health emergency for prevention or mitigation tactics to enable social distancing, and enhanced cleaning efforts for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and added sanitation measures utilized in transporting Benton County patients.

Finally, it facilitates replacement of one of three vans with over 200,000 miles, in our fleet of seven total vehicles, since Covid-19 protocols limit transportation to only one person at a time since March, 2020, through the foreseeable future to enhance Hope Cancer Resources' capacity to address our public health response.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

Hope Cancer Resources' support services help bridge the gap between sophisticated medical care and practical everyday needs of individual cancer patients and their families. Our licensed oncology social workers assess newly diagnosed patients at Highlands Oncology in Fayetteville, Springdale, and Rogers. Hope Cancer Resources has a memorandum of understanding with Highlands Oncology which allows our staff to provide comprehensive cancer support after diagnosis and throughout the continuum of care.

Patients receive an initial assessment by our social workers to determine each individual's needs. Resources are then provided according to need – transportation; Spanish interpretation through an interpreter who is available to attend all medical appointments related to a patient's diagnosis; individual and family counseling; support groups for adults and children; and financial assistance. Patients who meet our qualifications can receive assistance with prescriptions, living expenses (mortgage/rent, utilities, car payments, etc.), cancer-related dental care, and travel expenses, including gas cards. Our financial assistance provides up to $800 for living expenses annually.

Should a patient need assistance with transportation, we are able to address the need immediately. We also provide support to patients who receive treatment at the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville and to patients who only receive surgery and are not a patient of Highlands Oncology. Currently, we operate our patient transportation program with seven agency-owned vehicles. Our staff is diligent in keeping our vehicles in excellent condition, following all recommended maintenance. We use the guidelines of the Arkansas Transit Association, which includes daily safety checks and cleaning so that patients always have clean and comfortable transportation to and from their appointments. We are aware that patients' immune systems are more susceptible to illness, so our vans are cleaned daily.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Cancer patients were considered in a very high-risk category from the first report from the CDC. Patients have a lower immune system due to their disease as well as their treatment of their disease.

Hope Cancer Resources increased our safety protocols and have continued to transport only one patient at a time to protect each patient as much as possible.

Our Patient Transportation Program provides for patients who live within a 60-mile radius of the cancer treatment centers in Rogers and Fayetteville. A 60-mile radius from Rogers includes all residents of Benton County.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

In an article titled, *"Working Towards a World Without Financial Barriers for Cancer Patients and Families,"* it states that, "over 73 percent of cancer patients experience some form of cancer-related financial toxicity every year, leading to financial insecurity, bankruptcy, poorer adherence to cancer treatment and, ultimately, a lower chance of survival. Cancer-related financial toxicity encompasses the full spectrum of financial hardships faced by patients and caregivers and occurs when out-of-pocket costs (e.g. travel, hotels, deductibles) are high relative to income, and when income is lost as treatment requires reduced work hours. Families report difficulty understanding how to anticipate out-of-pocket spending while managing inconsistent monthly expenses and income during this unexpected time in their lives. As a result, they make dangerous decisions that may lead to bankruptcy or poor health outcomes."

According to reports by *SCI Solutions and the American Hospital Association*, 30 percent of all patients skip doctor appointments, and a key reason, especially for the elderly, is trouble getting to them. When it comes to cancer, those missed appointments can have a real impact on patient's outcome.

Hope Cancer Resources seeks to address the need for patients to have access to quality cancer treatment through our transportation program. A patient's feeling of independence is vital. For many patients, maintaining independence by driving to and from appointments or riding with loved ones without imposing financial burdens, is crucial to their quality of life. When finances become a burden for a patient to get to their treatment, we provide gas cards to help ease some of the burden. For patients who have discontinued driving due to their diagnosis and/or treatment or patients who have no means of transportation, we provide a ride to and from medical appointments related to their cancer diagnosis through our agency-owned vehicles.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

We provide services for any person with any cancer diagnosis living or being treated in Northwest Arkansas. All of our services are provided at no cost. About 1/3 of the patients we transport state they would not have their treatment without the help from Hope Cancer Resources simply due to the fact they could not get to treatment or the added challenges of getting to treatment. In 2021, 353 patients were provided transportation to their treatment. Of these, 42% -- 150 patients – were from Benton County.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

Hope Cancer Resources provides comprehensive cancer support to cancer patients and their families in Northwest Arkansas during diagnosis, treatment, and throughout the continuum of care. Access to

care continues to be a significant barrier for many patients undergoing treatment. To address this need, Hope cancer Resources provides transportation utilizing our seven agency-owned vehicles and financial assistance in the form of gas cards. Our transportation program is a lifeline for patients who are physically unable to drive themselves to treatment or do not have the necessary resources.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

All new patients are assessed with a distress assessment tool adapted from a publication of the American Cancer Society and National Comprehensive Cancer Network at their first appointment at the oncology clinic. Questions include information about transportation needs, housing, needing help at home, financial concerns, prescription affordability, access to government assistance programs, counseling for the patient and family, and concerns about how the diagnosis may affect children in the home. Patients are also asked if they have an advanced medical directive in place. The assessment includes a distress “thermometer” which the patient can use as a graphic description of their level of distress. To further improve our transportation program, we receive input from patients who have utilized this program through a mailed survey. The information helps us evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of our programs as well as the personnel involved to help provide access to care for each individual.

We utilize monthly tracking and reporting to measure program participation. Through our established systems, we can track numbers of patients assessed and the number of patients utilizing our transportation program. We can also track the number of patients who are receiving financial assistance for gas cards. Additionally, we can create reports that track numbers of participants by age, ethnicity, gender, cancer diagnosis, and city.

We review all programs monthly and track all activity related to our patients. We examine and report demographic data and types of diagnosis. Our staff uses a data program that tracks patients served through our transportation program, the number of trips, miles and the value of the transportation provided. In addition to our grant reporting, our Board of Directors receives a monthly report summarizing these results.

All of Hope Cancer Resources’ programs are tracked and reviewed monthly through a report prepared from our proprietary database so that we have the information to prepare 6 and 12-month grant reports as required. Our monthly program reports contain our full scope of patient services activities, including patients’ assessed, financial assistance provided, as well as details of each of our programs including types of activities provided through the transportation program. We also track types of emotional support services, including supportive sessions, counseling and support groups, as well as Spanish medical interpretation sessions. Our board of directors will review and evaluate programs throughout the year. Staff members are trained to collect and evaluate data and departments coordinate to ensure that information is collected and reported in a timely fashion.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention states that "Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to "attain his or her full health potential". Health disparities or inequities, are types of unfair health difference closely linked with social, economic or environmental disadvantages that adversely affect groups of people. The programs of Hope Cancer Resources were created to help bridge the gap between sophisticated medical treatment and every day needs. We do not discriminate based on race, social economic standing, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, nationality, disability, mental illness, gender, gender identity, religion or cancer diagnosis.

We provide services for any person with any cancer diagnosis living or being treated in Northwest Arkansas.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

There are no partners in our patient transportation program.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Our patient support services personnel includes eleven licensed oncology social workers, five who have Master's degrees (LCSW or LMSW), under the leadership of our Vice President of Patient Services, who is also a social worker. Hope Cancer Resources has a director of social work services, a Clinical Director, an on-call social worker, a Clinic Support Coordinator, a transportation coordinator, and two certified tobacco treatment specialists. All of our patient services personnel are dedicated to providing comprehensive support services to cancer patients and caregivers in our region. We have a medical Spanish interpreter and a social worker who is bi-lingual. Hope Cancer Resources transportation team has eleven drivers and a supervisor who works with patients and their treatment for scheduling. We have provided patients transportation to their treatment since 1985 to help ensure access to their personal cancer care as prescribed by their oncologist.

Our social workers are part of the comprehensive treatment team with offices in Highlands Oncology clinics. They are licensed with the State of Arkansas and certified by the Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board. Services are provided directly to patients with no cost.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

It is our sincere hope that in the not so distant future, Covid-19 will be a reduced threat to the safety and well-being of the highly-vulnerable cancer patients that we serve, and that we will be permitted to again transport more than one individual at a time. All of our fundraising activities continue in a steadfast effort to deliver comprehensive support services to cancer patients and their families across Northwest Arkansas on an on-going basis as we have been doing since 2009.

Hope Cancer Resources' Foundation provides financial support for the organization's administrative, communications and development expenses every year, and the Foundation Board has committed to provide for the programs when not covered by our community fundraising. We consistently seek corporate and individual gifts, and write for grants, all of which are vital to sustaining Hope Cancer Resources' programs.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes. Hope Cancer Resources utilizes a proprietary database and extensive documentation to efficiently ascertain if patients' needs are met and to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs and personnel. The database allows us to create monthly reports that detail all activities and these could be tabulated on a quarterly basis, as well.

17. Special Considerations

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Hope Cancer Resources**
Project Name:	**Patient Transportation Program**
Amount Requested:	**$63,802**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	63,80		
Total	$ -		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
List expenses here	KN95 Masks for Patients		$ 3,435.00	Operating	
List expenses here	KN95 Masks for Drivers		$ 1,680.00	Operating	
List expenses here	Gloves for Drivers		$ 57.00	Operating	
List expenses here	Van Sanitization		$ 88.00	Operating	
List expenses here	Fuel for Vans		$ 13,952.00	Operating	Transporting Benton County Patients 3.3.21 - 10.15.21
List expenses here	Gas Cards for Patients		$ 4,590.00	Operating	For patients we did not transport who had a financial need.
List expenses here	Replacement Vehicle		$ 40,000.00	Capital	Program Expense for Patient Transportation Program

Benton County American Rescue Plan
Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Humane Society for Animals, Inc.
Contact Name: Clay Morgan, Director, and Ellen Leonard, Treasurer
Contact Email: c440morgan@yahoo.com , labdip@hotmail.com
Telephone #:(479)636-3703, Office, (479)531-7761, Clay Cell, (479)619-6939 Ellen Cell

1. Name of Project:

Lifesaving Initiative for Homeless Benton Co. Pets

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$25,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your

D.

4. Brief Project Description:

The Lifesaving Initiative of Homeless Benton Co. Pets provides for the care of the increased numbers of homeless adoptable pets in Benton Co. entering the Humane Society for Animals shelter due to Covid-19 by transporting a portion of these animals to shelters in other areas of the country where the unwanted pet population is not a problem. To do this, we plan to repurpose our old shelter into a transport hub. This project also encompasses increased costs to care for these animals as well.

5. Project Plan:

We plan to repurpose our old facility into a transportation hub to better control the larger numbers of homeless adoptable pets that are not being adopted at the Humane Society for Animals without resorting to euthanasia. The animals will be housed at the old structure temporarily until we can find a shelter in another part of the country to receive some of our overflow population. The American Rescue Plan will help fund our efforts to decrease the numbers of Benton County's homeless pets and provide them with positive live outcome. We have already started implementing this project and wish this to be an ongoing long-term lifesaving program.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Covid 19 has had a profound impact on the unwanted pet rescue industry. Initially everyone wanted a pet for companionship during lockdown, but once their lifestyle began to return to normal, the pet was no longer wanted resulting in large numbers of animals being relinquished to shelters or abandoned. Many animals found their way to shelters due to the death of their person from Covid 19. We had 52 dogs brought to us from Covid deaths. Our adoption rates currently are at less than half of what they were at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. During this pandemic, donations were reduced. Our charity could no longer host offsite fundraisers or adoption events as we had in past years due to Covid restrictions. In the meantime, supply chains were affected causing the price of medication to soar. Our vet bills increased substantially. Once again, our offsite adoption events have been suspended due to the latest surge in new Covid cases.

7. Statement of Need:

The immediate need that this project addresses is to reduce the need for the euthanasian of healthy adoptable pets due to lack of space at our municipal shelters. The numbers of these healthy adoptable pets remaining in shelters in Arkansas and surrounding states have increased due to Covid and low adoption numbers. Shelters in other areas of the United States do not have as large of a homeless pet population due to strict spay/ neuter laws. These shelters have the room and are willing to take more homeless pets if there is a way to get the pets to them. We need hire 2 part time employees to care for the additional animals and transport them.

The data sourced demonstrating the need for this service is our own data regarding the usage of our Transportation hub over the past year to resolve our own overcrowding problem. We transported 154 of our own overcrowded pets this year. They went to Newport Richey, FL., Pekin, IL., Herculaneum, MO., Stillwater, MN., Plainfield, IL., St. Joliet, IL., Rochester, MN., and Charlotte, MI. The number of receiving partners willing to help, and the smiles on the faces of their new families show the need for the Lifesaving Initiative for Homeless Pets in Benton Co.

8. Population Served:

The population served is the healthy, homeless, and unwanted pets of Benton Co. that would be euthanized due to lack of space in the Humane Society for Animals. Arkansas remains a state with large numbers of unwanted pets. If we were able to transport 154 in this first year of trying this experiment from our shelter, we should be able to increase these numbers in years to come.

9. Results:

The proposed impact is to get to the point where healthy, unwanted, adoptable pets are no longer euthanized due to lack of space at the Humane Society for Animals. We will measure our success in the project by comparing the percentage of adoptions from the total intake each month comparing this number the same month the previous year. We will maintain a percentage of live outcome with our animals by keeping track of the number of healthy adoptable pets that we euthanized compared to last year. The final measure would be to keep track of the homeless pats that are transported to other areas of the country. and compare the euthanized rate with the transported rate to determine if any of those could have been saved. We will publish all results on Shelter Animals Count national database.

10. Evaluation:

Each animal that enters our facility receives a basic information page from Benton County Animal Control officers. This information is entered into an Excel based computer program. The health of the animal is evaluated by a veterinarian who sterilizes the animal and oversees the immunization shots. Once this is completed the health information is added to the same computer program. When an animal is adopted, the dates of adoption as well as information about the adopter are submitted on an adoption form which is entered into the computer program. When an animal is transported to another facility, the animal receives a health certificate from a vet and transportation forms. These are entered into the computer program as well. Original documents are maintained in a file. These figures are entered monthly into the national data database called Shelter Animals Count. This site compares our numbers with the beginning and ending inventory amounts on file for accuracy. All computer records are backed up weekly.

11. Equity Impact:

While we cannot predict whether a pet will stay adopted once placed, we can focus our efforts on keeping them out of shelters, reducing reproductive numbers, and helping healthy adoptable animals find homes in overcrowded shelters. We sterilize every pet that enters the Humane Society for Animals before it can be taken to its new home eliminating new unwanted animals from being born. We have offered spay/ neuter vouchers and free shots to pet parents who have found it difficult to provide care for their animals. We are working with local pet food suppliers to offer free dog and cat food to those in need. This year alone, we have given out 25,000 pounds of dog food.

12. Project Partners:

Since we do not have any subcontractors involved in this project, we have been using local volunteers to organize the details of the dates, numbers, and receiving shelters for the transports. Even the van drivers are currently volunteers. Cheryl Lucious and Ellen Leonard are non-funded key volunteers critical to this project.

13. Capacity:

Director, Clay Morgan, has been employed by the Humane Society for Animals for more

than 25 years. He is highly to oversee the care and maintenance of these animals. Clay Morgan is also a vet tech capable of monitoring medical conditions or applying first aid. Treasurer, Ellen Leonard, has a background as a State Auditor and knows the importance of accurate and timely reporting of monies.

14. Budget:

See Attached.

15. Continuity of Services:

We are looking into grants from various sources. Most require a reporting history with several years of data to show our plan can produce the desired impact. We will have such data once we get this American Rescue Plan grant such that we can implement the Lifesaving Initiative for Homeless Benton County Pets during the next few years.

16. Reporting:

Treasurer, Ellen Leonard, will report how those funds were used each quarter.

17. Special Considerations:

As Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "Animals are our friends unconditionally, they give us everything without asking for anything, but above all we must keep in mind that they are living beings, that we must love, that we must take care of and above all that they must be respected."

Mahatma Gandhi said "The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." The Lifesaving Initiative for Homeless Benton County Pets saves the lives of some of the most deserving and appreciative members of our community. Won't you please consider our request and save more lives?

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Humane Society for Animals, Inc.**
Project Name:	**Lifesaving Initiative for Homeless Benton Co. Pets**
Amount Requested:	**$25,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 25,000.00	Pending	
Various Donors	$ 9,005.00	Pending	Asking for donations to cover these espenses
Total	$ 34,005.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Part Time Employee	$ 14,950.00	$ -	$ 14,950.00	Operating	inventory due to slow adoption rates.
Part Time Employee	$ 7,800.00		$ 7,800.00	Operating	An additional Part time Employee to work with Transport Hub responsibilities to organize and manage transports
75 Spay / Neuter Vouchers	$ 2,250.00		$ 2,250.00	Operating	Spay/ Neuter vouchers to give to citizens struggling to afford animal care.
28 Fiberglass Sheets		$ 879.00	$ 879.00	Capital	Panels between kennels for privacy at old facility (Transport Hub)
Whirlpool Washer		$ 798.00	$ 798.00	Operating	Washer for soiled blankets in old facility (Transport Hub)
Whirlpool Dryer		$ 748.00	$ 748.00	Operating	Dryer for old facility (Transport Hub)
Exterior Signs		$ 321.00	$ 321.00	Capital	Signage for Transport Hub
Increased Utilities		$ 1,440.00	$ 1,440.00	Operating	Utilites at the Transport Hub for 8 days monthly totaling 72 days
Transport hub phone		$ 584.00	$ 584.00	Operating	Cell phone at the Transport hub at $47 month
Puppy pads		$ 1,185.00	$ 1,185.00	Operating	Pads to line kennels during transport 96 boxes @$7.97 each
Foil and Paper Food Trays		$ 842.00	$ 842.00	Operating	Disposable trays for food and water on transports 101@ $24.37
Paper Grocery bags		$ 765.00	$ 765.00	Operating	Paper bags are folded for disposable litter pans on transports
Trash Bags		$ 207.00	$ 207.00	Operating	i bax trash bags monthly @ $17.29 each
Payroll Services		$ 600.00	$ 600.00	Operating	Additional payroll (CPA) services for the additional employees
Liability Insurance		$ 516.00	$ 516.00	Operaring	Additonal Liability Insurance for operating Transport Hub
Workman's Comp Insurance		$ 120.00	$ 120.00	Operating	Additional Workmans Comp Insurance for Additional Employees
	$ 25,000.00	$ 9,005.00	$ 34,005.00		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP)
Contact Name: Leif Kindberg
Contact Email: director@irwp.org
Telephone #: 4794225676

1. Name of Project:

Illinois River Recreation and Tourism Promotion Program

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$460,210

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

This project proposes to assist Benton County to respond to increased demand for river recreation opportunities, speeding the recovery of the tourism, travel and hospitality sectors hard-hit by COVID-19. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Arkansans spent more time and money on river recreation than ever before. In 2020, The Buffalo River saw record-setting tourism revenue of more than $76 million (NPS, July 2021). Just across the state line in Cherokee County Oklahoma, recreation on the Illinois River generated an estimated $12 million (Muskogee Phoenix, 2010). In contrast, Benton County saw no such economic boost from recreation on the Illinois River in during the COVID-19 pandemic. With only two public access sites and very little public awareness, paddlers and anglers tended to travel out of the County to float, fish, and camp. The few public access sites on the Illinois River in Western Benton County were over-burdened and under-staffed during the pandemic, leading to problems with trash, parking, enforcement, and destruction of streamside vegetation.

With more than 40 miles of year-round, floatable streams in the Illinois River Watershed, Benton County has significant potential for a **MORE** profitable river tourism industry and vibrant river recreation culture. This project proposes to encourage entrepreneurial investment in Benton County by promoting awareness of recreational business opportunities on the Illinois River and its tributaries, performing market research, developing branding and advertising materials, implementing a 24-month advertising campaign, and fostering a family-oriented, conservation-minded river recreation culture in Benton County.

Additionally, this project proposes to increase public access to the Illinois River and its tributaries by facilitating a community-driven planning process to construct or improve a public river access at one of several stream crossings on roads maintained by Benton County in the Illinois River Watershed.

IRWP is a 501(c)3 registered nonprofit in Benton County which has a long commitment to improving water quality through public education, outreach and implementation of conservation and restoration practices. This potentially transformational project to the Illinois River tourism industry in Benton County will support existing small businesses and new small businesses to retain and attract more tourism dollars in the County and communities along the Illinois River.

5. Project Plan:

TASK 1: Build Landowner Relationships
IRWP will hire a program manager to be the face of the project—doing public outreach, education, hosting river trash cleanups, and engaging landowners in private land matters/interface with the public.

- Identify and create a landowner working group to address private landowner concerns up and down the river related to access, trespassing, trash, illegal activity, and other concerns.
- Host educational events for landowners on the Illinois River and Osage Creek in Benton County to learn how they can improve economic opportunities on their properties through increasing recreation opportunities.

TASK 2: Build a River Brand
Hire a marketing firm to build a consistent, recognizable brand that promotes the Illinois River in Benton County, Arkansas. This firm would coordinate/facilitate the growth of river recreation business opportunities in the Illinois River Watershed in collaboration with existing organizations such as the newly formed Greenhouse Outdoor Recreation Program located in Bentonville. Tasks would include:

- Assess brand perceptions, build brand identity, and market the Illinois River
- Develop and implement a tourism promotion plan with a 24 month campaign
- Design and install river name signage in collaboration with Benton County and ARDOT at all crossings of the Illinois River and Osage Creek in Benton County.
- Design and make available to local businesses Illinois River branding and merchandising materials to raise awareness of the river, promote recreation, and create a recognizable Illinois River brand.
- Improve signage at public access points (Chamber Springs) in collaboration with AGFC and Kayak Park (City of Siloam Springs) that discusses safety, trash, boater responsibility, and river etiquette as it pertains to private land.
- Assess effectiveness of promotion campaign and support priority setting for future recreation promotion.

TASK 3: Identification and Improvements to One Public Access Point
This task is focused on identifying, through a public input process, the creation or improvement of one public access point on Osage Creek or the Illinois River in Benton County. Identification of this site would rely heavily on consultations with County staff, elected officials, and local landowners. This task would facilitate the community-driven planning process to design a public access point that improves site accessibility, minimizes county maintenance costs, and increases public safety. Potential access sites include, but are not limited to, Logan Cave Road Bridge, Snavely Road Bridge, or Colonel Myers Road Bridge.

Tentative Project Work Plan

Below is the tentative workplan for this project. The workplan will be adjusted based on final contract requirements from Benton County.

Task	Subtask Number	Description	Start Date	Completion Date
1	**1.1**	Recruit project steering committee made of up representatives from IRWP Board of Directors, Osage Creek and Illinois River landowners in Benton County, and others	Aug 1, 2022	Aug 31, 2022
	1.2	Develop plan for landowner meetings, clean ups, and promotional river floats	Sep 1, 2022	Dec 31, 2022
	1.3	Host 3 town hall-style landowner meetings for streamside landowners, soliciting input, listening to concerns, and creating action plans.	Oct 1, 2022	May 31, 2023
	1.4	Host 3 Benton County Trash Clean-ups on the Osage and Illinois River in Benton County	Jan 1, 2023	Dec 31, 2024
	1.5	Host 3 Educational Trips on the Illinois River or Osage Creek targeting potential outdoor recreation business owners in Benton County	Jan 1, 2023	Dec 31, 2024
	1.6	In coordination with AGFC, draft guidelines of BMPs for river outfitters and campsite owners on the Arkansas side of the Illinois River Watershed	Jan 1, 2023	Dec 31, 2024
2	**2.1**	Form promotion subcommittee from Subtask 1.1 to guide creation of an Illinois River brand and oversee promotion program. Members to likely include Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce, U of A Outdoor Recreating Program, landowners along the river, and IRWP board members.	July 1, 2022	July 31, 2022
	2.2	Draft goals, priorities and RFP for selecting firm to implement branding and promotion plan, including merchandising of Illinois River apparel	Nov 1, 2022	Nov 30, 2022

		and design and installation of signage at public access sites and stream crossings.		
	2.3	Select firm to implement 24 month branding and promotion plan and assist with implementation.	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2024
	2.4	Develop and make publicly available to the business community a selection of Illinois River branded designs that can be freely replicated by local business partners.	March 1, 2023	Dec, 31, 2024
	2.5	Host 2 workshops in coordination with U of A and/or Greenhouse Outdoor Recreation Program to educate prospective entrepreneurs about recreation business opportunities on Illinois River and Osage Creek in Benton County	Jun 1, 2023	Sep 1, 2024
3	**3.1**	Form river access subcommittee from Subtask 1.1 to advise on engagement and addressing landowner concerns, support public comment inputs process on public access, and implement river access improvements. Members to likely include Benton County Roads Department, Osage Creek landowners, and IRWP board members	June 1, 2022	June 30, 2022
	3.2	Hire Program Manager	July 1, 2022	July 31, 2022
	3.3	Meet with neighboring landowners, as part of Subtask 1.3, to envision and coordinate public access goals with Benton County Roads Department	October 1, 2022	May 31, 2023
	3.4	Draft RFP for design, permitting, construction of streambank restoration and public access at Logan Cave Rd and Colonel Myers Rd	December 1, 2022	March 31, 2023
	3.5	Review proposals and select design/construction firm with Steering Committee	April 1, 2023	April 30, 2023
	3.6	Ensure design, permitting, and construction of streambank restoration and public access sites proceeds according to agreement	Feb 1, 2023	December 31, 2024

6. Link to COVID-19:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Arkansans spent more time and money on outdoor recreation activities than ever before. In 2020, The Buffalo River saw record-setting tourism revenue of more than $76 million (NPS, July 2021). Just across the state line in Cherokee County Oklahoma, recreation on the Illinois River generated an estimated $12 million (Muskogee Phoenix, 2010). In contrast, the Illinois River in Benton County generated no such economic boost during the COVID-19 pandemic. With only two public access

sites and very little public awareness, paddlers and anglers tended to travel out of the County to float and fish. The few public access sites on the Illinois River in Benton County were over-burdened and under-staffed during the pandemic, leading to problems with trash, parking, enforcement, and destruction of streamside vegetation. This project proposes to aid Benton County's response to the increased demand for outdoor recreation, speeding the recovery of the tourism, travel and hospitality sectors hardest-hit by COVID19. Secondly, this project proposes to replace lost public sector revenue and protect County infrastructure by remediating erosion at a County Bridge and reducing sedimentation into Osage Creek and the Illinois River. Finally, this project proposes to encourage entrepreneurial investment in Benton County by promoting awareness of recreational business opportunities on the Illinois River and its tributaries, performing market research, developing branding and advertising materials, implementing a 24-month advertising campaign, and fostering a family-oriented, conservation-minded river recreation culture in Benton County.

7. Statement of Need:

Nationwide, rural communities are benefiting economically and ecologically from improved access to water trails. Northwest Arkansas has over 40 miles of year-round, floatable streams in the Illinois River Watershed. At least 35 miles of those streams are in Benton County. With few access sites, and very little public awareness, Benton County is missing out on a potential economic boost from increased recreation on the Illinois River in Arkansas. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the few public access sites in the Illinois River Watershed in Benton County were over-burdened and under-staffed, leading to problems with trash, parking, enforcement, and destruction of streamside vegetation. Improvements to access sites and tourism revenue would spread out the pressure on public access.

Regional & National Case Studies:

- Buffalo River, Arkansas
  - Length of Water Trail: 125 miles
  - Estimated Annual Economic Impact: $76 million (2020)
  - Estimated Economic Impact per river Mile: $60,800
  - Source: National Park Service
- Illinois River, Oklahoma
  - Length of Water Trail: 74 miles
  - Estimated Annual Economic Impact: $12 million (Cherokee County)
  - Estimated Economic Impact per River Mile: $162,000
  - Source: Muskogee Phoenix, 2012
- Spring River, Arkansas
  - Length of Water Trail: 47 miles
  - Estimated Annual Economic Impact: $48 million (Sharp County)
  - Source: Talk Business & Politics, 2014
- Huron River Water Trail in Southeast Michigan
  - Length of Water Trail- 104 miles
  - Estimated Annual Economic Impact: $50 million
  - Annual Economic Impact Per River Mile: $480,769
  - Source: Huron River Water Trail: Economic Impact Analysis, 2013

A 2020 study funded by the Illinois River Watershed Partnership suggests that the explosive population growth in Northwest Arkansas and accompanying increase in stormwater runoff is leading to widespread streambank erosion throughout the watershed, causing the disappearance of approximately 20 acres of land annually on the Arkansas side, and contributing to over 54% of the Phosphorus loading in the watershed. Additionally, increased stormwater runoff means more frequent and severe flooding, loss of property, damage to infrastructure, and degradation of instream habitat for the sport fish that attract anglers and tourists to both Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Broad public support is necessary for the successful implementation of the management activities, stormwater ordinances, and development strategies needed to reduce erosion and protect water quality in rapidly urbanizing watershed. Without widespread awareness of and affection for the Illinois River and the economic benefits it can generate, it will be very difficult to build sufficient public support necessary to meet regional conservation goals and standards set by the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission and Oklahoma Scenic Rivers. This project will engage community stakeholders along the Illinois River in sustainability developing recreation opportunities that benefit the public and private businesses in Benton County which have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. Population Served:

Populations served by this project will include both rural and urban residents and landowners in Benton County, as well as other local visitors, and out-of-state tourists. The COVID-19 pandemic showed that the demand for river recreation cuts across all demographics. A 2015 Study by the Coleman Company, Inc and the Outdoor Foundation indicated that 68% of canoers and 61% of kayakers earn less than $100,000 annually. Of that same population, 53% of canoers and 46% of kayakers earn less than $75,000 annually. The study also indicated that river recreation is almost equally split across genders. Paddle sport participation also tends to be fairly evenly distributed across the age spectrum, with the largest percentage of paddlers (34%) falling into the 24-44 year-old age group. According to the most recent US Census Data, the median age for residents of Benton County is 35, the age group most likely to participate in river recreation and paddle sports. Improving river access for beginner and experienced paddlers, as well as for families who simply want a safe, enjoyable summer swimming hole can improve both quality of life and economic opportunities for a broad range of Benton County residents.

9. Results

This project will have both direct and indirect impacts that improve recreation access, safety, community engagement, and support for the public and private businesses negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Direct impacts from this project will include:

- Directly engage 100 landowners and potential river recreation entrepreneurs on the benefits and opportunities associated with increased tourism on streams in the Illinois River Watershed in Benton County, as evidenced by meeting sign-in sheets and visit logs. Baseline is zero.
- Improved Illinois River brand awareness as measured by public survey, google analytics, and purchase of Illinois River branded apparel and materials. Baseline is low brand awareness.
- Constructing or improving at least one high priority public access site for carry-in watercraft to streams in the Illinois River Watershed in Benton County. Baseline is three public access sites in

the Illinois River Watershed in Benton County: Snavely Rd Bridge, Chambers Springs Access, and Siloam Springs Kayak Park.

10. Evaluation

IRWP will develop a results monitoring and evaluation plan that 1) identifies the data to be collected, 2) the approach to analysis and reporting on this data, and 3) presents quality assurance measures that can be used to effectively and accurately report on contract requirements and outcomes. Our data collection and analysis will focus on the three performance measures described in the results section. Building on the contract and project plan, IRWP will develop a 24 month workplan with milestones and deliverables identified. The IRWP Executive Director and steering committee will review the progress against the contract and workplan to ensure timely progress against all goals, objectives, milestones, and deliverables. Surveys will be conducted by the IRWP Program Manager using established methods to ensure the accuracy of data reported to Benton County. We will track budget expenditure at the budget line item level, reporting at the level required by Benton County. Project partners will be able to submit data using Google forms set up for this intended purpose. Some data such as public awareness of the river and its recreation opportunities will be measured through surveys and Google analytics. IRWP will assess economic impact (indirect and direct) including value of Illinois River branded merchandise sold locally as per available receipts. The IRWP Executive Director, Mr. Leif Kindberg has developed and implemented data quality assurance programs for federal contracts with annual budgets of $10 million and is well versed in all aspects of program monitoring for projects of similar size and scope. Quarterly and other reports will be prepared and submitted to the County as requested.

11. Equity Impact

As the headwaters of the Illinois River Watershed continue to urbanize, it is rural landowners in downstream areas who are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of urbanization—increased flooding, streambank erosion, and reduced water quality. Being further removed from the economic centers of regional growth, they also tend to experience fewer of the positive impacts of urbanization. This project is intended to incentivize equitable, sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by reducing negative ecological and economic impacts of urbanization on rural Benton County residents, and ensuring that opportunities for sustainable economic growth extend to all parts of the county.

Additionally, by providing clean, safe public places for Benton County residents to play, swim, and float, we ensure that residents of all income levels have access to affordable, quality outdoor recreation opportunities close to home.

12. Project Partners:

This project will engage one local subcontractor to develop a marketing and promotion program for the river and a second subcontractor for the purpose of implementing restoration and streambank stabilization and construction work as required. Approximately 77% of this project will be performed by subcontractors.

Non-funded key partners critical to this project will include: Osage Creek and Illinois River landowners in Benton County, Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce, U of A Outdoor Recreation Promotion Program, Greenhouse Outdoor Recreation Program, Arkansas Department of Tourism, Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation, Arkansas Department of Transportation, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and Benton County Roads Department.

13. Capacity

The Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP) was formed in December 2005 as a 501c3 non-profit organization located in Benton County that represents six stakeholder groups: agriculture, business, conservation, construction, government, and the technical/research/education fields. The mission of the Illinois River Watershed Partnership is to improve the integrity of the Illinois River Watershed through public education, outreach, and implementation of conservation and restoration practices throughout the watershed. This project will contribute to public education and community outreach, water quality monitoring, and implementation of conservation and restoration practices by helping address low awareness, inequities, and access to the Illinois River in Benton County. IRWP has a track record of effectively implementing projects of similar size and complexity. IRWP will have primary responsibility for coordinating all activities associated with this project including ensuring that project tasks are met according to the workplan schedule. This project will build on our existing partnerships with Benton County Roads, private outfitters, state agencies, and landowners in the watershed.

14. Budget

See budget.

15. Continuity of Services:

IRWP has initiated conversations with Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC), local chambers of commerce, outfitters, and landowners that will support sustainable growth in recreation brand awareness, promotion, construction of public access points, and long-term maintenance and enforcement of regulations around recreation in the watershed. As an Illinois River Watershed-focused organization, IRWP is committed to supporting this initiative moving forward in collaboration with local partners and state agencies. There is no expectation that significant ongoing investment by Benton County or other parties will be needed.

16. Reporting:

Yes, IRWP currently implements multiple federal, state and foundation grants which require quarterly reports. IRWP has established monitoring and reporting systems that enable data quality assurance.

17. Special Considerations

In Oklahoma, the Illinois River supports a $12 million/year tourism industry. With 74 miles of river from the state line to Lake Tenkiller, the Illinois River generates over $162,000 per mile, per year for the state of Oklahoma. The Illinois River in Arkansas has the potential for just as much, if not more, economic impact. However, as our region continues to urbanize, and as our pastures and forests convert to housing subdivisions, we also have to potential to cause significant negative impact, both economically and ecologically on communities and economies in both Arkansas *and* Oklahoma. Recent erosion studies funded by IRWP indicate that if we do not take robust and concerted action to curb urban stormwater runoff, our negative impacts to the river economy and ecology will almost certainly accelerate as we approach 1 million residents in the next 20 years.

This proposed request for Benton County ARPA funding is one piece of a larger, transformative effort on the part of organizations such as IRWP, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Department of Tourism, Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation, Arkansas Department of Transportation, Benton County Roads Department, Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce, and others to generate broad public affection for the Illinois River and its tributaries. This project complements current efforts by fostering a vibrant river recreation economy with a strong conservation ethic that will support the initiative, policies, and growth strategies, and land-management practices needed to protect and improve water quality in the Illinois River Watershed in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Illinois River Watershed Partnership**
Project Name:	**Illinois River Recreation and Tourism Promotion Program**
Amount Requested:	**$460,210**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 460,210.00	Pending	To be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds
IRWP Riparian Restoration Program	$ 334,650.00	Confirmed	Confirmed so long as access site selected meet established program guidelines
Total	$ 794,860.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Hire Program Manager	$ 82,500.00	$ 27,500.00	$ 110,000.00	Operating	Full time staff position, 24 months, $55,000 annually, 25% funded by IRWP
Fringe Benefits	$ 21,450.00	$ 7,150.00	$ 28,600.00	Operating	Full time staff position, 24 months, fringe rate of 26%, 25% funded by IRWP
Marketing Firm (subcontract)	$ 85,000.00		$ 85,000.00	Capital	Subcontract to marketing firm
Landowner and public events lunches	$ 3,300.00		$ 3,300.00	Operating	Average of 25 people per event, $12/person, 11 events (3 town hall-style landowner meetings, 3 Benton County Trash Clean-ups, 3 Educational Trips on the Illinois River or Osage Creek, 2 workshops in coordination with U of A and/or Greenhouse Outdoor Recreation Program)
Design and install signage and bridge crossings	$ 17,960.00		$ 17,960.00	Capital	$5,000 in design costs; 48 signs @ $270/sign.
Design public access facilities at one site to be identified.	$250,000	$300,000	$ 550,000.00	Capital	IRWP will match Benton County Recovery funds with stream restoration programming so long as final site meets program requirements

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Kendrick Fincher Hydration for Life
Contact Name: Rachel Cox
Contact Email: Rachel@kendrickfincher.org
Telephone #: 479.721.3598

1. Name of Project:

Providing Critical Health Education on Hydration/Heat Safety to Youth, Marginalized Communities, and Workforce Safety

2. Amount of Funds Requested: **$587,000.00**

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

Kendrick Fincher Hydration for Life is entering its 26th year in providing hydration education and resources to help all ages with heat illness prevention, wellness, and improved health. Kendrick

Fincher Hydration for Life is the only nonprofit organization in Benton County to address heat prevention and illness within our communities. We currently partner with only 83 of 1,333 schools in Arkansas, and we are asking for funding to help increase access for more Arkansans to learn about this critical health component. This grant will allow us to serve all of Benton county schools, and broaden our reach statewide and allow us to provide services into workforce/labor environments as we add more curriculum and education facilitators to advance our adult and senior programming.

We do this by providing reusable water bottles, educational curriculum, cooling tubs, cool huts, hydration resources and classes into school districts, senior centers and Area Agencies on Aging, community fairs, nonprofits, industrial workplaces with high heat risk, and supporting activities.

It is also crucial for our organization to be able to add curriculum and literature that we can provide and/or send home in other languages besides English to some of our area's marginalized communities. When students have parents who are non-primary English speakers this grant will allow us to expand our programming to add additional opportunities for marketing and diversity inclusion translated materials and bi-lingual educators for Spanish and Marshallese communities.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

Kendrick Fincher Hydration for Life has set curriculum established and great partnerships with over 83 area schools, nonprofits, senior centers, etc. and currently has an Outreach Director and Chief Executive Officer who operate the programming.

With this grant, our organization will be able to hire two additional educators who are bilingual, and offer a partnership intern program with Exercise Science/Health Undergraduate/Graduate level students who will provide another 4-5 para-educators throughout the state. We will be evaluating which school districts and communities are considered rural low income/Title I as our starting point and begin translating our curriculum. Educators will be assigned regions and specific schools, senior centers, and community organizations that they will facilitate hydration education and distribute hydration resources (water bottles, cooling tubs, posters, curriculum, etc).

The timeframe for this project will begin as soon as funding is received. Funding is expected to provide two years of expansion support and allow us to expand our services to multiple districts and counties throughout the state.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Many Arkansans were/are continually impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and faced with health and economic hardship. We will be working with marginalized communities, rural schools, and Title 1 areas to help them understand the importance of proper hydration as some may face deficiency in having stable access to cooled environments (electric shutoffs, working in hot factories, not knowing how to properly hydrate while wearing masks at school/work and overheating), and while so many water fountains have been closed in most schools and public places that without having access to a free reusable water bottle people may be going all day without hydrating and kids who do not have water bottles are just out of luck.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

Dehydration can complicate and increase the likelihood of additional severity of COVID-19 and other illnesses. Our programming is the only program designed to go in to these schools and facilities and teach heat prevention and proper hydration which is an all year round critical health care need.

“For children and adults, it is important to monitor for dehydration caused by COVID-19 before the illness becomes extreme. Starting oral rehydration within 24 hours of symptom onset can be lifesaving,” says William Greenough, M.D., infectious disease expert and professor emeritus of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

“Hydration and nutrition play an important role in your body’s response to and recovery from the COVID-19 virus and are an essential part of your medical treatment.” – American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

“To address urgent need for strategies to limit mortality from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), this review describes experimental, clinical and epidemiological evidence that suggests that chronic sub-optimal hydration in the weeks before infection might increase risk of COVID-19 mortality in multiple ways. Sub-optimal hydration is associated with key risk factors for COVID-19 mortality, including older age, male sex, race-ethnicity and chronic disease. Chronic hypertonicity, total body water deficit and/or hypovolemia cause multiple intracellular and/or physiologic adaptations that preferentially retain body water and favor positive total body water balance when challenged by infection.” – Jodi Stookey, National Institute of Health, NCBI.gov

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

The primary demographic served would be students attending K-12 schools with a primary focus on rural low income, Title 1, and marginalized communities and then other school expansion through all of Benton county and wider districts.

The secondary demographics served would be senior centers distributing information through the local partnerships with the Areas on Aging and other senior activity centers and to partner with a number of local industrial/manufacturer workplaces who serve in high heat index job functions to ensure they have proper hydration education and resources.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

- Number of educational classes conducted (schools/districts/students)
- Number of reusable water bottles distributed to individuals identified as high need/marginalized
- Number of heat illness related medical/emergency visits to Benton county hospitals/EMS (annual totals year over year)

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Pre-test / Post-test of all school demographics served
Inventory data collection of all supply tracking
Annual surveys of educators on student retention rate

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

This is a large part of our grant needs as we work to increase on equitable offerings to the community and ensure we are serving those who need us most. Part of the funds received will go to help translate our materials and hire bilingual Educators.

We have found that the school districts that are in rural low income areas usually do not have air conditioned gymnasiums, they do not have extra funds to purchase water bottles for their students who come without water bottles, they often do not have cooling tubs for athletes at sporting events even though AAA requires it because they do not have funding for these needs.

The same rings true for many of the small businesses/manufacturers (ie. Roofing companies) who were hit hard economically during COVID and were not given proper hydration coolers etc. and are most at risk for heat illness/injury.

Also, many senior activity centers are nonprofits themselves who do not have extra funds for water bottles for their clients, so we want to be sure that all of these places have adequate education and supplies.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

1) Purchase of water bottles, brochures, posters, cooling tubs
2) They do not perform any direct service these are just supplies needed for the program.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Kendrick Fincher Hydration for Life is a 501c3 going into its 26th year in providing hydration education, preventing heat illnesses, and assisting those of all ages in improving their health and wellbeing. We do this solely through community giving, and our major programming takes places in distributing water bottles, educational classes, and curriculum in over 80+ schools, in industrial workplaces of high heat risk, and

throughout senior living centers and activities. We have established long term relationships with the school districts, Arkansas Children's Hospital, UAMS, and health care providers who are our community experts.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

Most of our funding took a huge hit when COVID-19 happened because of our events and individuals who gave were economically impacted themselves. Likewise, our services were needed more than ever because water fountains were closed down and so all sorts of schools and organizations reached out for more and more help than what we could financially ever dream of covering. We strongly believe that this one time gift will help with two solid years of expansion and growth and allow us the time to re-establish our events and donor base as the economy rebounds from the effects of the pandemic. We also just hired our new CEO, Rachel Cox, who has a background in diversified fundraising as our Founder of twenty five years is able to now retire and we hope to have an opportunity to build out a larger budget with the help of this grant we will have adequate time to build sustainable revenue sources.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Kendrick Fincher Hydration for Life**
Project Name:	**Providing Critical Health Education on Hydration/Heat Safety to Youth, Marginalized Communities, and Workforce Safety**
Amount Requested:	**587000 - two year period of coverage**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 587,000.00	pending	
Annual budget from events, sponsors, individuals	$ 185,750.00	pending	annual buget approximate
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
Total	$ 772,750.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Water bottles	$ 78,705.00	$ 22,340.00	$ 101,045.00	operating	
Cooling tubs	$ 13,700.00	$ 2,240.00	$ 15,940.00	operating	
Education curriculum	$ 23,100.00	$ 3,250.00	$ 26,350.00	operating	
Educators - 2 FT	$ 144,500.00		$ 144,500.00	operating	
Outreach Director - 1 FT	$ 49,400.00	$ 22,400.00	$ 71,800.00	operating	
Translation services	$ 3,200.00		$ 3,200.00	operating	
Transportation costs schools/orgs	$ 15,670.00	$ 1,840.00	$ 17,510.00	operating	
Office supplies	$ 14,275.00	$ 2,450.00	$ 16,725.00	operating	
Postage	$ 12,870.00	$ 2,600.00	$ 15,470.00	operating	
Printing	$ 3,415.00	$ 1,200.00	$ 4,615.00	operating	
Cooling huts	$ 2,580.00	$ 750.00	$ 3,330.00	operating	
Tents	$ 4,500.00	$ 1,450.00	$ 5,950.00	operating	
Technology/subscriptions	$ 4,925.00	$ 1,870.00	$ 6,795.00	operating	
Office space/utilities	$ 15,000.00	$ 9,870.00	$ 24,870.00	operating	
Program support associate	$ 34,310.00	$ 11,200.00	$ 45,510.00	operating	
Marketing	$ 12,450.00	$ 4,490.00	$ 16,940.00	operating	
Equipment/Equipment maintenance	$ 4,780.00	$ 1,200.00	$ 5,980.00	operating	
Internship program	$ 26,100.00	$ 2,500.00	$ 28,600.00	operating	
Insurance	$ 6,840.00	$ 3,250.00	$ 10,090.00	operating	
Conferences/Seminars	$ 12,985.00	$ 850.00	$ 13,835.00	operating	
Training/Development	$ 9,450.00		$ 9,450.00	operating	

Volunteer recruitment cultivation/background checks	$ 1,970.00		$ 1,970.00	operating	
Community outeach/fairs/booths	$ 13,875.00		$ 13,875.00	operating	
Chief Executive Officer	$ 78,400.00	$ 90,000.00	$ 168,400.00	operating	
TOTALS	$ 587,000.00	$ 185,750.00	$ 772,750.00	operating	

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Legal Aid of Arkansas, Inc.
Contact Name: Lee Richardson
Contact Email: lrichardson@arlegalaid.org
Telephone #: (870) 972-9224 ext. 6305

1. Name of Project: Benton County Eviction Mitigation and Fair Housing Project

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $228,662.00

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Legal Aid will use American Rescue Plan funding to open and maintain a field office in Benton County. The new office will house a staff attorney and paralegal. These advocates will help ease the housing insecurity brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing direct legal representation to Benton County residents who are facing eviction or foreclosure. The new office will also house

existing staff with Legal Aid's Fair Housing Project who will provide community education to Benton County residents, community organizations, and landlords regarding housing discrimination. The Fair Housing Project's staff will also provide direct legal representation to Benton County residents who have been subject to housing discrimination, especially those in marginalized communities that have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

If funding is awarded, Legal Aid will open and maintain a field office in Benton County at the Center for Non-Profits in Rogers. The office will house a staff attorney and paralegal who will focus on helping Benton County residents experiencing housing insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will include helping those facing eviction, foreclosure, and loss of federal housing subsidies. It will also include guiding eligible residents to local, state, and federal rent and mortgage relief programs. In addition, the Benton County field office will house staff with Legal Aid's Fair Housing Project who will work to ensure all residents of Benton County have equal access to housing through enforcement of federal civil rights laws.

The project will be managed by Legal Aid's Fair Housing Project director, and the Benton County staff will be supported by Legal Aid's Housing workgroup, which currently includes eight experienced attorneys based throughout Arkansas.

Legal Aid proposes to undertake the activities in this proposal over 24 months. Within 45 days of receiving notice of an award, Legal Aid will acquire office space in Benton County and hire the staff outlined in this proposal. Legal Aid expects to have the Benton County field office open within 60

days of award notification. At that point, Legal Aid will be able to begin using the field office to meet with clients and conduct other business.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The link between COVID-19 and housing insecurity is pervasive and well documented. (*Housing Insecurity and the COVID-19 Pandemic*, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, March 2021). The pandemic has caused many families to lose income, which has made it impossible to pay their rent or mortgage. On August 26, 2021, the federal moratorium on evictions ended, which has further jeopardized the ability of many to keep their homes. This has led to an increase in both formal and informal (extrajudicial or "self-help") evictions. Although a lot of attention has been given to evictions, mortgage foreclosures will also become an issue in the coming months. While some foreclosure relief programs have been extended, others have expired. *U.S Dept. of Housing & Urban Development*, July 30, 2021[1]. In any case, many homeowners and tenants need legal assistance to learn about relief programs and to make successful applications to those programs. Additionally, the pandemic has created an environment conducive to discriminatory housing practices such as unreasonable denials of accommodations for the disabled (including those directly affected by COVID-19) and unequal access to rental relief programs by ethnic minorities.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

[1] https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_21_118

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased housing insecurity across Arkansas including in Benton County, especially for renters. Approximately 33% (or nearly 87,000 residents) of Benton County residents are renters. (*Daniel Bernstein, Madeline Youngren, Sarah Abdelhadi, Ranya Ahmed. Civil Court Data Initiative*, Legal Services Corporation, 2021). Approximately 32% of renters are considered rent-burdened (they spend 30% or more of their income on rent). *American Community Survey*, 2019[2]. Since the CDC's eviction moratorium was declared unconstitutional on August 26, 2021, there have been 141 eviction lawsuits filed in Benton County. (*Civil Court Data Initiative,* 2021). This amount undoubtedly undersells the number of tenants that have been forcibly displaced since many tenants vacate after receiving an eviction notice but before the filing of a formal eviction lawsuit. (*Arkansas Eviction Report*, Arkansans for Stronger Communities, December 2020). When evictions are filed in court, only a small number of tenants are represented by an attorney. *Arkansas Eviction Report* at p. 11. Traditionally, landlords have been represented by attorneys at a rate of 6 to 1 as compared to the number of tenants who have been represented by counsel, and studies have shown that having an attorney in an eviction case increases a family's chance of avoiding homelessness by over 70%. *Eviction Defense Collaborative.*[3] Legal Aid's internal case data shows that, under current funding, our organization was able to provide full representation (an attorney to go to court) in 21 housing-related cases during 2021. This is despite receiving 168 applications for legal services in housing-related cases. With dedicated resources focused on Benton County, Legal Aid will be able to better meet the demand for legal services in the county. This is discussed further in Section 9.

In addition to tenant representation, there is a need for fair housing services in Benton County. Municipalities in Benton County have identified the need for an increase in fair housing services. For

[2] https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs
[3] https://evictiondefense.org/services/right-to-counsel/

example, in the City of Rogers' Assessment of Fair Housing, the City concluded that there was a "lack of private fair housing outreach and enforcement" and that "the general public may not be fully informed of their rights and obligations." *(Assessment of Fair Housing*, City of Rogers, Arkansas, March 29, 2017). A survey of Rogers residents completed as part of the city's Assessment of Fair Housing found the following: "of the Rogers residents who responded to the survey as part of the community participation process, most (53 percent) say they do not know how to file a housing complaint, and many (44 percent) say they do not know who to talk to if they believe they have been discriminated against while looking for housing. Of the 174 residents who responded, half say they do not trust that a housing complaint would be addressed if they were to file one." *Assessment of Fair Housing* at p. 96.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

The project will serve Benton County residents who are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines and who are otherwise eligible for legal services under applicable Legal Services Corporation regulations[4]. According to the 2019 American Community Survey, 73,964 Benton County residents are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

[4] Legal Aid of Arkansas receives funding from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). Legal Aid complies with the LSC Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2996 et seq., regulations, 45 C.F.R. Part 1600, et seq., appropriations riders and all other applicable law. See, Pub. L. 104-134 (1996).

In 2021, Legal Aid assisted 168 residents of Benton County with housing related legal issues. Of those, Legal Aid provided extended representation (an attorney to go to court) in 21 cases. The rest of the applicants were given legal advice and/or benefited from brief services from one of our advocates such as being provided with individualized legal documents or being assisted with negotiations with a landlord. If this funding request is awarded, we project that we will be able to increase our total number of Benton County clients by at least 50% per year and our number of Benton County clients accepted for full representation by at least 75% per year.

In addition to accepting more cases, this award will allow Legal Aid to substantially increase the amount of housing related education and outreach to Benton County residents and organizations. In the past 24 months, Legal Aid has conducted 12 fair housing related community outreach events that were available to residents of Benton County. These were largely virtual presentations that were made available to residents of many counties. Only two of these educational events focused on Benton County. Having fair housing staff located in the county will make a substantial difference in this regard. If funding is awarded, Legal Aid staff estimates that they will be able to conduct at least 10 community education events per year within Benton County. These would include providing fair housing training to local landlords, tenant groups, public housing authorities, municipalities, homeless and domestic violence shelters, and healthcare providers.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Legal Aid uses its case management system, Legal Server, as the primary tool for collection and analysis of case and outcome related data. Legal Server is an industry leading, web-based system that is secure and accessible from any location with internet access. This software allows Legal Aid to

meticulously track case data by using specific problem codes and sub-problem codes to track each type of case. Legal Server also allows Legal Aid to track case outcomes as well as outreach events.

Using Legal Server, Legal Aid will capture data on individual client cases and outreach/education events. Clients in extended service cases will complete an extensive satisfaction survey at the conclusion of their case to engage the quality and effectiveness of services. When a case is closed, the primary advocate will complete a case closing memo reflecting outcomes to included level of case closure. This may be negotiated settlement without litigation, negotiated settlement with litigation, administrative hearing, uncontested court decision, contested court decision, appeal, advice, limited services, or other. Legal Aid will record specific outcomes for each case on closing. Monetary amounts avoided or recovered for individual clients are also recorded on case closing.

All case handlers are required to complete an Open Case Review every 60 days and submit the review to the managing attorney. This regular vetting of cases and work activities assures any systemic issues with measurement and accountability are identified quickly and corrected.

The managing attorney holds weekly work group meetings where project related issues are discussed and vetted. This provides a venue for continuous evaluation of project activities and adjustment for mission advancement, as necessary. This will assure that waypoints and goals are achieved and modified as indicated by the most current data and community need.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

This project will help with an equitable COVID-19 recovery in two ways. First, the project will help ensure that Benton County residents who are members of minority and low-income communities

are better able to access and retain safe and affordable housing. This will be accomplished through dedicated work on issues such as eviction defense, foreclosure defense, helping residents gain access to rent relief programs, subsidized housing advocacy, and enforcement of housing discrimination laws. Providing low-income residents with an attorney helps address the economic inequities systemic to our legal system by leveling the playing field between those who can afford quality representation and those who cannot. Having an attorney directly correlates to more favorable legal outcomes particularly in cases related to housing such as eviction and foreclosure.

In addition, having Legal Aid's fair housing staff in Benton County will help ensure that members of marginalized communities have equal access to housing. This will be accomplished by educating the public on housing discrimination laws and by enforcing housing discrimination laws through direct client representation.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

Legal Aid does not plan to use subcontractors to complete this project.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Legal Aid is one of two non-profit, public interest law firms operating in Arkansas. It was established in 1967 to serve the civil legal needs of low-income Arkansans. The organization has over

50 years of experience working with underprivileged and segregated communities. Legal Aid provides outreach, legal education, and direct representation to clients throughout Arkansas. The firm has offices located in Springdale, Little Rock (two offices), Rogers (administrative only), Harrison, Newport, Jonesboro, West Memphis, and Helena. Legal Aid's goal is to provide holistic legal services to Arkansans in need. Areas of assistance include helping victims of domestic violence, securing public benefits, enforcing consumer protection laws, and fighting for safe and inclusive housing. Legal Aid is governed by a 21-member board of directors made up of private attorneys, members of the client population appointed by community partners, and representatives of Arkansas's two law schools.

Legal Aid currently employs eight attorneys that specialize in housing law. Those attorneys provide representation to clients that have issues including eviction, mortgage foreclosure, real property disputes, federally subsidized housing, and housing discrimination. In 2020, Legal Aid conducted 1,183 housing related intakes, provided advice or limited services to 970 clients, and provided extended representation to over 100 clients.

Legal Aid has decades of experience in managing and monitoring federal grants. In 2020, Legal Aid expended over $2.7 million in federal grants from seven different sources. The majority of this came from the Legal Services Corporation, but funding was also received from HUD ($318,176), VOCA ($279,463), Title III funds ($52,200), and IRS LITC ($64,000). All grants have been managed without incident and with program goals being met or exceeded.

Legal Aid currently operates with an annual budget exceeding $3.5 million, the majority of which comes from federal grants. Legal Aid's Executive Director and Fiscal Officer have combined experience of more than two decades of grant administration. The Executive Director has over fifteen years of service in his position. Legal Aid is subject to an annual A-133 audit and has received an

unqualified audit letter for each year the past decade. The annual budget has increased by over 100% in the last ten years under current management, with income plus reserves topping $3 million for the first time ever each of the past four years, and carryover amounts equaling a minimum of two months operating expenses. Legal Aid has an operating reserve policy to facilitate billable grants and financial stability.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

The proposed budget is attached.

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

Legal Aid anticipates maintaining its field office in Benton County after the 24-month project period using funding from the Legal Services Corporation and HUD. Legal Aid will also seek to develop additional funding during the project period.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes. Legal Aid will provide quarterly reports as requested.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Legal Aid of Arkansas, Inc.**
Project Name:	**Benton County Eviction Mitigatoin and Fair Housing Project**
Amount Requested:	**$228,662**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 228,662.00	Pending	This proposal
Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation	$ 29,894.70	Confirmed	Bank of America Mortgage Foreclosure Settlement Funds
Department of Housing and Urban Development	$ 24,425.86	Confirmed	Fair Housing Grant
Legal Services Corporation	$ 49,188.43	Confirmed	General Legal Aid grant
Total	$ 332,170.99		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Cory Crawford, Staff Attorney	$ 107,800.00	$ 46,200.00	$ 154,000.00	Operating	Attorney providing direct services to low-income clients
TBD, Navigator/Intake Paralegal	$ 73,337.00	$ 8,153.00	$ 81,490.00	Operating	Assist low-income clients in finding housing resources, perform intake on clients who need attorney assistance, support attorney.
Kori Lancaster, Testing Coordinator	$ -	$ 8,367.60	$ 8,367.60	Operating	Coordinate Fair Housing testing and other fair housing services in Benton County, estimated 10% FTE
Fair Housing Attorney	$ -	$ 12,800.00	$ 12,800.00	Operating	Fair Housing attorney services in Benton County, estimated 10% FTE
Finge Benefits @ 24.6%	$ 21,281.95	$ 18,578.07	$ 39,860.02	Operating	Finge Benefits for staff in project positions.
Office space for Fair Housing Field Office, four private spaces	$ 5,456.00	$ -	$ 5,456.00	Operating	400 sq feet at $13.64 annually. Includes utilities and common use areas.
		Total	$ 332,170.99		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Marshallese Educational Initiative (MEI)
Contact Name: April L. Brown, PhD
Contact Email: albrown@mei.ngo
Telephone #: 479-422-3284 (cell)

1. Name of Project:

Marshallese Academic Center

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$70,500 (Project Total for 2022-2023 is $295,500; we are asking City of Springdale and Washington County to contribute funds as well) 18 months, June 2022-December 2023

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

Category D: Disproportionately Impacted Communities

4. Brief Project Description:

The Marshallese Educational Initiative (MEI) requests funds to address educational disparities exacerbated by COVID-19 through enrichment and afterschool programs for Marshallese youth whose community has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. MEI staff will operate a Marshallese Academic Center whose programs will increase retention and educational attainment of Marshallese students in grades 11-12 and in higher education, better students' mental health and wellbeing, supplement, strengthen, and expand existing afterschool and in-school programs in Benton and Washington County Schools as well as provide extensive professional development opportunities for teachers, and expand and strengthen Marshallese family support networks to better support student success.

Identified as one of the key social determinants of health for any community, low educational attainment is a clear impediment to economic stability. While it is important to address immediate needs given the economic impact of the pandemic, providing culturally appropriate educational support and resources from a Marshallese staffed and directed organization will result in long term change by helping create a pathway for Marshallese to lift themselves out of poverty and thus reduce their vulnerabilities to economic shocks such as those brought on by the pandemic.

5. Project Plan:

MEI has been assisting Marshallese high school students with applying for federal financial aid assistance (FAFSA) and enrollment in college since our founding in 2013. We have also worked periodically with various teachers/schools on afterschool and in-school cultural and leadership projects, including facilitating Marshallese college student mentors at a local middle school. Given our expertise–our staff and leadership include public school liaisons, college students, and professors), we believe that a Marshallese Academic Center that provides comprehensive programming and resources for students and their families and provides support for local teachers will have a major impact on Marshallese student success and thus provide a long-term solution, the consequences of such will improve the overall quality of life and economic stability of Marshallese residents.

- Marshallese Youth Academy for select students with enrichment activities that are culturally appropriate and strengthen community ties
- Mentorship and technology support for Marshallese students in higher education
- Marshallese parenting classes to help caregivers know how to better support students
- Afterschool programming on select K-12 campuses
- Professional development opportunities and curriculum assistance for teachers

A **Marshallese Youth Academy** (MYA) will be available for select Marshallese high school students (grades 10-12) in the two-county area of Benton and Washington County. Students will work closely with Marshallese college students in a peer-to-peer format. Both will participate in leadership programming and cultural enrichment. The Academic Center will offer programming that attends to Whole Health Institute practices, including close attention to students' mental health and well-being. Both MYA and college students will have the opportunity to intern or job shadow at local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to acquire a greater appreciation for community service and become familiar with county and city operations so that they may be more civically engaged. Academic Center staff along with college student mentors will help prep MYA students for college. Students will take on-campus tours and receive assistance in applying for financial aid and scholarships to local colleges and universities, and information about certificate programs at NWTI and NWACC.

Cultural enrichment programming will be offered with all Academic Center programs. Marshallese youth and adults often lament the loss of language skills as more and more youth who were either born in the U.S. or migrated at a young age are not fluent in the Marshallese language and subsequently are increasing distant from traditional Marshallese culture. Academic Center programming will include an immersive language experience and *bwebwenato* (talk story) sessions with Marshallese elders to build conversational skills and increase cultural knowledge. The Academic Center will also provide history and culture instruction to MYA and College students to help Marshallese youth feel more grounded in their traditional culture and thus more centered in their adopted one. This will help foster a sense of belonging among Marshallese youth and contribute to a healthier and more stable emotional well-being. Finally, the Center will serve as a support hub for Marshallese college students who lack access to **technology** by providing a computer lab and internet access. While colleges and technical schools provide internet access on campus, Marshallese students often struggle with transportation to campus, and frequently do not own computers or laptops. Academic Center staff will work with students enrolling in higher education to submit timely applications for financial aid. Marshallese students usually qualify for Pell grants (only U.S. citizens qualify for federally subsidized student loans), which often cover tuition, books, and some

expenses, which can be used to purchase a laptop, for example. The Center will provide some funding for qualified students who need additional assistance with internet and technology costs.

Marshallese **parenting (caregiver) classes** are an essential aspect of the Marshallese Academic Center and are necessary to ensure long-term student success. While Marshallese enrollment numbers have increased in college over the past decade, the numbers remain static and retainment rates remain exceptionally low. This is due, in part, to Marshallese adults in the home who themselves possess low academic attainment levels and thus do not know how to help their children be successful in high school and college. Marshallese who reside in the outer islands, for example, may have only had access to education through the 8th grade and those same facilities often provided concurrent instruction to several grades. Parenting classes will provide information, specifically about needs of students in higher education, and will help shift expectations. Family members will also have access to English literacy classes, financial and computer literacy classes, and information about other skills training programs that provide expanded employment opportunities.

Existing **afterschool programming** in K-12 schools will be enhanced and expanded. Many individual teachers and some schools periodically offer in-school or afterschool programming for Marshallese students, while others have expressed interest in wanting to do so. Academic Center staff will work closely with schools to provide culturally-specific art and music activities, provide guest speakers and connect students with Marshallese and other Islander role models, community leaders, and offer tutoring assistance by MEI staff, volunteers, and Marshallese college student mentors. These activities will address expressed needs by teachers and principals to amplify and expand the outstanding work done by local teachers.

Finally, the Academic Center will provide **professional development** opportunities for local K-12 teachers and staff. MEI has been teaching a Marshallese culture and history class specifically geared toward educators since 2016. The class was offered on a fee basis, however, and has not been offered since the pandemic began. Funding will allow this instruction to resume and expand, including working with curriculum designers in the schools and with experts in the field to help design lesson plans and curriculum that teachers could utilize in the classroom. Professional development classes would be offered at no cost to the school and offered on a regular basis.

Proposed Timeline:

Spring 2022 – Hire a program director and assistant to develop and oversee programming beginning summer 2022; select up to 8 Marshallese college students to serve as mentors; launch Marshallese Youth Academy pilot (up to 20 Juniors and Seniors from the 2 county area) and begin cultural enrichment programming with those students; Youth Academy students will meet for three hours once/week over 12 weeks; transportation provided; commence parenting program with Youth Academy students' families in March – once/week for 4 weeks; assess programming and make changes as necessary for next semester

Fall 2022– welcome a new cohort of Youth Academy students to join existing Seniors (max 25 students); select up to 8 Marshallese college students as mentors to assist with after school programming; begin working with up to three schools to enhance afterschool (and in-school) programming, including Rogers Heritage High School; expand parenting program to include students' families engaged in afterschool programs; assess programming for continual improvement, identify best practices

Spring and Fall 2023—expand afterschool programming to four schools in the two-county area; continue with semester Youth Academy and Parenting classes; continue with college student mentorship programming; solicit outside funds to extend the Marshallese Academic Center Programming for the next three years.

6. Link to COVID-19:

During the early months of the coronavirus pandemic, Marshallese community members in Arkansas were hit especially hard. During the month of June, 2020, Marshallese made up nearly 40% of all deaths due to COVID-19 in NWA, and in early July, 2020, the number of Marshallese who had tested positive stood at just under 600 residents (Ark. Dept. of Health and Marshallese COVID-19 Task Force, 2020). Marshallese are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 for a number of reasons: underlying health conditions (diabetes, cancer), employment in high-risk occupations (poultry industry workers were designated as essential workers), and multigenerational household living arrangements that made quarantine impossible. The impact of the coronavirus has also taken an economic toll on the community. The majority of Marshallese live below the poverty line and paycheck to paycheck. Because most live in multigenerational household environments, when a worker or family member tested positive or were exposed to COVID-19, all were quarantined together and often quarantine periods occurred consecutively due to multiple and ongoing exposures. This often resulted in lost pay over several weeks. To date, our organization has assisted hundreds of Marshallese families in NWA with utility, housing and funeral assistance, and the need is ongoing.

ARPA funding will help our organization directly address low educational attainment among Marshallese community members, which is a clear impediment to economic stability and one of the social determinants of health. Providing culturally appropriate educational support and resources from a Marshallese staffed and directed organization will result in long term change by helping create a pathway for Marshallese to lift themselves out of poverty and thus reduce their vulnerabilities to economic shocks such as those brought on by the pandemic.

7. Statement of Need:

Within the Marshallese community, youth have specifically been affected by the pandemic. Many had limited internet access at home, and thus lost valuable learning opportunities. Early on teachers reported not being able to remain in contact with Marshallese families and that a lack of communication and Marshallese access to technology limited engagement and thus negatively affected the learning environment (Collet and Berman, 2021). While Chromebooks were made available to some students in certain districts, communication issues many prevented Marshallese families from knowing to pick up Chromebooks when remote learning was implemented, for example.

Even before the pandemic, educational attainment rates among Marshallese were among the lowest among Asian American and Pacific Islanders nationwide and fell well below all other ethnic groups locally. There have been gains of late: the high school graduation rate for Marshallese students in the Springdale School District stood at 46% in 2011, but has increased to 74% in 2019 (Springdale School District ESL, 2015, 2021). Gains have also been made in enrollment figures within higher education as well: approximately 40 Marshallese students are currently enrolled at NorthWest Arkansas Community College

and the University of Arkansas combined, as opposed to less than 10 students in 2014 (NWACC, 2014-2019). Still, enrollment figures in higher education have remained relatively static since 2016, and are low given the size of the population in NWA. Just as significantly, retention rates remain low semester to semester.

Recently, high school teachers have shared that their Marshallese students struggle with attendance, grades, school participation and imagining plans for the future–all of which are issues that have been exacerbated due to the pandemic (Brener email correspondence, Rogers Heritage, 2021). However, closer ties between the schools and Marshallese community organizations during the pandemic actually helped offset some of its negative consequences. Teachers have noted that "frequent communication and collaboration with community organizations" during the first year of the pandemic helped increase their understanding of Marshallese culture and Marshallese students, which ultimately strengthened community connections (Collet and Berman, 16).

Vicki S. Collet & Elise Berman (2021): "It will change traditional school in a very positive way": Educators' perspectives of the Marshallese experience during spring 2020 remote learning, *Review of Education, Pedagogy, and Cultural Studies*.

NWACC Institutional Research

8. Population Served:

Marshallese residents in Benton and Washington Counties will be served by the project. Exact population figures are elusive; Marshallese population figures are generally believed to be undercounted by the U.S. Census. MEI estimates that 12,000 Marshallese reside in Benton and Washington Counties. There are more than 3,100 Marshallese students enrolled in the Springdale School District (SSD), and currently 326 Marshallese students enrolled in the Rogers School District (Rogers ESOL), for example.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences estimated in 2018 that between 10,000-14,000 Marshallese reside in Northwest Arkansas. According to the 2020 Census, "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone" population estimates stand at 0.7% of the population in Benton County and 2.8% of the population of Washington County. NHPI are estimated to make up 7% of the population in the city of Springdale, 1.2% in Rogers, and 0.1% of the population in Bentonville.

According to the 2010 Census, over 75% of Marshallese families in Northwest Arkansas are considered low-income and 52% live in poverty.

9. Results

By Fall 2023, increase enrollment of Marshallese students at NWACC and the University of Arkansas by 20% as compared to Fall 2021 figures
By Spring 2023, increase retention rates of Marshallese students at NWACC and the University of Arkansas by 30% from the Fall 2022 semester as compared to retention rates of students from Fall 2021-Spring 2022
Increase enrollment in Marshallese parenting classes from 10 to 20 families from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023

10. Evaluation

Data for enrollment and retention rates for students will be shared by colleges. Rates for Academic Center enrollment will be kept by Center staff.

11. Equity Impact

Given the impact that the pandemic has had on the Marshallese community, it is even more clear that systemic inequalities exist in health (few have insurance and, until recently, lacked access to Medicaid and ARKids), in employment (majority of workers (poultry) deemed essential workers), and in education (lacked access to technology and in-home schoolwork help (due to language barriers, educational level of the caregiver).

Identified as one of the key social determinants of health for any community, low educational attainment is a clear impediment to economic stability. MEI's experience with housing and utility assistance has demonstrated that the utilization of Marshallese-serving organizations is crucial to reaching Marshallese community members given the various barriers (language, technology) and comfort level of clients who prefer to work with a fellow Marshallese. Providing culturally appropriate educational support and resources from a Marshallese staffed and directed organization will result in long term change by helping create a pathway for Marshallese to lift themselves out of poverty and thus reduce their vulnerabilities to economic shocks such as those brought on by the pandemic.

12. Project Partners:

MEI will not employ subcontractor organizations.

13. Capacity

MEI is uniquely qualified to provide programing for the Marshallese Academic Center. MEI's current director has worked with the Springdale School District as a Marshallese liaison for a decade and continues to work one day/week at Monitor Elementary. MEI's incoming board president, Chris Jacob, is currently employed with the Rogers School District in the ESOL department; he has previous work experience in Student Services at NWACC, and in admissions at the UA and College of the Marshall Islands. MEI was cofounded by college educators and currently has an NWACC professor on its board. Two Marshallese staff members overseeing the pilot youth academy this spring are college students and lead the Marshallese College Student Association.

Since 2017 MEI has received and administered grants totaling more than $500,000 from the Office of Insular Affairs / U.S. Department of Interior (2017-2022) and over $100,000 in awards from the STOP Violence Against Women Act grant through the Arkansas DFA / Department of Justice. In September 2020, MEI received CARES Act funding the state of Arkansas for educational outreach and to help offset funeral costs for Marshallese residents who died due to COVID-19. In November 2020 MEI began overseeing a $431,000 Emergency Solutions Grant Covid-19 (2020-2023) through Arkansas DHS / HUD, and administered a CDBG / Community Block grant from the City of Springdale / HUD for $75,000 primarily for utility assistance, 2020-2021. In October 2021, MEI was awarded a Victim's of Crime Act grant totaling $44,601 for 2021-2022.

14. Budget

Budget included. Total project costs: $295,500

Requests: Benton County - $70,500, City of Springdale - $150,000, Washington County - $75,000

15. Continuity of Services:

MEI has already begun reaching out to local funders about the Marshallese Academic Center plan for additional fund to continue Center operations beyond ARPA funds.

16. Reporting:

Yes, our organization will be able to report quarterly expenditures.

17. Special Considerations

MEI is also requesting funding from Washington County and the City of Springdale.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Marshallese Educational Initiative**
Project Name:	**Marshallese Academic Center**
Amount Requested:	**$295,500**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 70,500.00	Pending	Requesting $150,000 from City of Springdale, $75,000 from Washington Co
Total	$ 70,500.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Salary and Benefits (full time director)	$ 79,000.00		$ 79,000.00	Operating Expense	1 full time director with insurance benefits
Part time staff	$ 60,000.00		$ 60,000.00	Operating Expense	2 part-time staff
Stipends for college students, speakers	$ 18,600.00		$ 18,600.00	Operating Expense	for speakers, language instructors, elders to assist with culturally appropriate programming
Programming supplies	$ 22,000.00		$ 22,000.00	Operating Expense	
Tech assistance, equipment	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00	Operating Expense	technology assistance for MYA and college students; laptop computers and to offset at-home internet costs
Transportation	$ 18,800.00		$ 18,800.00	Operating Expense	Costs to transport students to/from Youth Academy each semester, field trips to college campuses, etc.
Facility Rental Costs	$ 32,500.00		$ 32,500.00	Operating Expense	
Communications (office phones, internet)	$ 4,600.00		$ 4,600.00	Operating Expense	
Utilities	$ 7,000.00		$ 7,000.00	Operating Expense	
Furniture, computers, classroom equipment	$ 15,000.00		$ 15,000.00	Operating Expense	
Admin	$ 18,000.00		$ 18,000.00	Operating Expense	

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Micah 6:8 Initiative

Contact Name: Donna Schillinger

Contact Email: themicah68group@gmail.com

Telephone #: 479.774.5699

1. Name of Project:

Day Shelter and Center for Productivity for Homeless Persons and Families in Benton County

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $925,000 for 3-year start-up phase

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

The proposed day shelter and center for productivity will fill a gap in the continuum of care of homeless services in Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding area, while mitigating COVID-19 among persons experiencing homelessness, and addressing economic harm for those persons whose homelessness is related to COVID-19.

Night shelters such as the Salvation Army play an important role in offering an alternative to sleeping in a car or on the street, but night shelters close during the day. A day shelter gives people experiencing homelessnes **a place to make progress during critical business hours on finding stable housing and work**.

In the continuum of care of homeless services, a day center is both a shelter and a support service that offers:

- a point of entry into a continuum of social services
- **essential shelter from inclement weather**
- improved health and safety for chronically homeless living in camps, vehicles or on the street
- a safe day space for those staying in night shelters that close during the day
- a co-working space to facilitate productivity in job and housing search.

Specifically, how does a day center address obstacles to work and housing? Visitors to the center can:

- get help with obtaining birth certificate, social security card and state ID
- use the center as an address and phone number for job applications
- access computers for online job search, completing applications, setting up Linkedin profile, free online skills building, and creating and uploading resumes
- study for and take GED test
- access showers, hygiene products and clean clothes for job search and interviews
- learn life skills and receive one-on-one mentoring on resume creation, dressing for success, workplace conduct, etc.
- get referrals to other specialized services such as Dress for Success, DHS for daycare vouchers, Goodwill, GED prep service, plus access to a Who's Hiring, Day Labor and Training Opportunities job board.

Micah 6:8 Initiative would take the lead on providing these services in conjunction with **other community partners** who bring their expertise to the center. We have pledges from these organizations to provide onsite services:

- **The Salvation Army**, if granted ARP funds through their proposal, will provide a full-time case manager that would **work in tandem with Salvation Army case workers in their night shelter and the Benton County Jail**. This represents an **unprecedented level of intervention for persons under case management in all three environments, which should reduce recidivism** among that subpopulation.
- **HARK** has pledged to provide access to and train our staff in using the 211 interactive community resources database which they house.
- **Burrell Health Center** has pledged an array of mental health services and therapies, including medication management, for persons with and without health insurance.
- **Servant's Heart Outreach** will provide onsite group therapies and life skills.
- **Community Clinic** has pledged to bring its mobile health clinic one-time monthly to our site. We can also provide telehealth services onsite for our clients connecting to Community Clinic.

- **Teen Action and Support Center** has pledged to receive emergency referrals for unaccompanied teens, taking charge of their emergency housing needs and on-going case care.

Additionally, the following **organizations have pledged to collaborate with Micah 6:8 Initiative in delivering day center services** in conjunction with their own programs:

- NWA Continuum of Care for finding transitional and permanent housing
- Samaritan Community Center for food, clothing and furnishings
- NWA Food Bank for reduced cost food
- Diva and Dude for mentoring and life skills
- Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks - Homeless Program Office for housing veterans
- Havenwood for housing single mothers.

Beyond these planned collaborations, our care coordinators would utilize HARK's 211 system for connecting our clients with community resources, according to the needs of each client.

For those facing a night in their car or on the street, making sure our guests have a safe place to stay will be our top priority. We would refer to these area services for night shelter: Salvation Army, Peace at Home Women's Shelter, New Beginnings, Restoring Hope NWA. Other homeless housing options in the area are transitional housing and require a lengthier application process. We would make referrals to transitional housing organizations, but they are not a solution for an immediate need. Exhausting other options, including some not mentioned here for special populations, we would provide up to two nights in a hotel for emergency shelter.

Based on the current levels of homelessness in NWA at present, as well as reports from Genesis House in Siloam Springs and 7 Hills in Fayetteville, we expect to serve 300 persons/family units per month, which we estimate would represent 2,500 unique individuals/families annually.

In summary, this proposal for a day center:

- Creates **a "one-stop shop" addressing homelessness** in Rogers/Bentonville which offers comprehensive services through interagency collaborations.
- **Mitigates effects of COVID-19 on a high-risk population** by providing an essential community health service for persons experiencing homelessness.
- **Fills a social services gap in our community**–no other organization is meeting this need in Rogers/Lowell/Bentonville and surrounding area.

5. Project Plan:

Location: TBD, but our top choices are the parsonage of Oakley Chapel, 200 block of S. Promenade Blvd, Rogers, or Grace United Methodist Church, 1801 S. Dixieland, Rogers

Hours of Operation: M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Human Resource: 3 professional staff, partner providers, volunteers

Micah 6:8 Staff: 3

- A full-time director, One full-time and one-part time guest services coordinator

Partner Providers on Site:

- Full-time Salvation Army Case Manager
- Once monthly Community Health Mobile Clinic Healthcare Provider
- Weekly Burrell behavioral health specialists for Life Skills and Individual Therapies
- Servant's Heart 2-3x weekly for group therapies and life skills
- Potential Embedded Providers (UAMS Community Health Worker, Americorps volunteer)

Volunteers:

- United Methodist Church members and other community volunteers
- UAMS, NWACC, U of A, JBU interns

Project Milestones

Month 1: Board of Directors secure lease on a facility and recruit director, develop program policies, site visit to The Next Step Day Room in Fort Smith

Month 2: Board of Directors make necessary adaptations to facility, onboard director, recruit and onboard volunteer coordinator (non-paid position)

Month 3: Board of Directors equip and furnish the facility. Director recruits other staff positions, develops operating procedures, and oversees volunteer recruitment

Month 4: Director onboards staff and volunteers. Board of Directors finalize policies and procedures, plan and implement media blitz and grand opening.

Month 5 to end of grant: Micah 6:8 delivers services as described, reports periodically to Benton County Quorum Court on finances and outcomes, and conducts development (grant writing, fundraising, donor recruitment) to build an operating reserve and revenue streams to replace ARP funds by the end of grant period.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

COVID-19 has impacted people who are homeless and at risk of becoming homeless in two ways.

Health Impact: According to the Congressional Research Service, "People experiencing homelessness are

at increased risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19 due to lack of ready access to sanitary facilities and the ability to frequently wash hands and change and launder their clothes."

Additionally, the National Alliance to End Homelessness reported, "Other factors that make the homeless especially susceptible to the coronavirus include food insecurity and lack of proper nutrition, insufficient rest, difficulty complying with social distancing guidelines, and limited access to running water needed for hand washing and hygiene."

A day shelter and center for homeless can prevent and mitigate COVID-19 by:

- **improving hygiene:** access to showers, hand washing, laundry
- **improving overall health:** access to **nutrition, hydration, protection from cold**
- **increasing access to healthcare: COVID symptom screening, telehealth, mobile clinic, testing and vaccinations** in collaboration with Community Health Clinic
- **improving community health**: supply masks, hand sanitizer, aid **contact tracing** by providing a phone number and mailing address for homeless persons.

Economic Impact: According to the Congressional Research Service, "Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have also been concerns that **the number of people experiencing homelessness could increase** … the **economic effects** of the COVID-19 pandemic **have been greater for low-income workers**, renters, and minority households."

Local indicators substantiate this statement. In managing the emergency rental response, HARK has received approx. **4,015 ERA requests for housing assistance**. Of those served through ERA funds, **80%** had extremely **low income** compared to the area median income, increasing **risk of homelessness**.

Bentonville schools also report a sharp rise in homeless students. In October 2021, there were **439 Homeless students in Bentonville ISD so far in just 3 months of the 21-22 school year**, compared to **416 for all of 2020-21** school year.

A day center for homeless (which includes persons within 14 days of eviction from home or hotel–see the McKinney-Vento Act in "Special Considerations" section below) addresses unmet basic needs through direct services, case management and referrals for shelter and housing, food, financial assistance (SNAP, disability, other welfare, unemployment), healthcare, Medicaid/Medicare/Insurance, job assistance, clothing assistance, etc.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

Currently there are more than 300 families/individuals on the named list of homeless persons in Northwest Arkansas, including 33 veterans. **According to the NWA Continuum of Care, on one day** (Jan. 28, 2021, we counted **42 adults in Benton County** who were homeless. Additionally, **Rogers ISD reported 180 homeless students** counted that day. This is called a "point-in-time census." And the expectation is

that it is reflective of every day of the year. So on any given day, there are about 220 persons experiencing homelessness in Benton County.

From January 1 through January 19, 2022, the NWA Continuum of Care paid for 29 people in the Rogers/Bentonville/Springdale area to stay in hotels for emergency shelter for an average of 2.6 nights per person. Annualizing these numbers, it is apparent that the need for immediate housing response to supplement night shelters is great. Our proposal seeks $50,000 annually to provide immediate-need nighttime shelter.

As if surviving the elements, managing without utilities and hygienic services were not bad enough, homelessness puts a person at much greater risk of being a victim of crime.

- Nationwide, **1 in 5 homeless youth** have been or will be a **victim of human trafficking**. (National Network for Youth)
- More than **one-third of persons** on the By-Name List have been attacked or **beaten up since becoming homeless**, according to NWA Continuum of Care.

According to a Walton Family Foundation 2019 report entitled "Our Housing Future:" "Across the region's four cities [Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers and Bentonville], eight out of 10 extremely and very low-income households pay more than 30 percent of their income toward housing. Of these households, about one in two pay more than 50 percent. When a household pays a large portion of their income on a home, it is more likely to miss rental or mortgage payments, face eviction or experience displacement."

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, in the Census Bureau's bimonthly survey on the effects of the pandemic, responses from August 18-30, 2021, which corresponded to the end of the eviction moratorium, nearly half of adult respondents reported they were "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to be evicted from their home within the next two months. About 14% of respondents were behind on their rent.

The organization reports, "Historically, eviction has not always been shown to have an immediate impact on a household's experience of homelessness. Of those who are evicted, some will find new housing quickly, and others will double up with family and friends before either securing permanent housing of their own or experiencing literal homelessness. Additionally, analysis of data from the Great Recession of 2007-2009 suggests that homelessness can be a lagging indicator of a crisis, growing far more slowly than unemployment and remaining elevated for far longer."

Given this assertion and the high numbers of economic distress of the very lowest income brackets reported by HARK, it is within reason to expect that the prevalence of homelessness will increase in the coming years as a result of the economic crisis we are experiencing right now.

Funding a day center for homeless and those within imminent risk of homelessness (14 or fewer days until eviction, for example),

- addresses a community gap felt before COVID,
- addresses the immediate needs as a result of the pandemic,
- positions our area to better respond to the economic fallout that seems likely, particularly given rising inflation,
- and prepares for increased numbers of persons experiencing homelessness that inevitably follows regional population growth.

8. Population Served:

The Day Shelter and Center for Productivity will serve homeless persons as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Some common scenarios that qualify are: Couch surfing families with children, persons living in housing without utilities, persons staying in hotels or motels and lacking another residence, persons sleeping in vehicles (does not include campers or RVs with access to utilities), persons living in tents, homeless shelters or persons living unsheltered (street, dumpsters, etc.) For a full definition of homeless, see "Special Considerations" section below.

The NWA Continuum of Care reported in October that the identified families and individuals currently homeless in Northwest Arkansas have the following demographic characteristics:

- 71% White, 8% Black, 5% Native American 2% Hispanic, 14% Other or did not specify race/ethnicity.
- 68% Individuals, 32% family units
- 55% Male, 43% Female, 2% Transgender
- 11% Previously served in the U.S. Military
- 25% Previously lived in foster care
- 65% Report that abuse or trauma caused their homelessness

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

Please note, we do not include an outcome measurement related to case management that would be provided by Salvation Army but located in our day center. That performance measure should be described as a part of their proposal. We are excited about the possibility of **partnering with Salvation Army** to support **case management that follows an individual across three environments of jail, day and night shelter.** Based on the impact that Benton County Drug Court has had, **we believe this unprecedented level of intervention should result in considerably lower recidivism** for those who remain under case management for at least several months.

Among persons who completed the Benton County Drug Court program, there was a 60% decrease in recidivism for felony charges within three years of program completion compared to other parolees. **Drug court participants had only 15 percent recidivism, compared to 40 percent for parolees not participating in drug court case management.** Additionally, Benton County Drug Court **reduced homelessness by 85 percent** for participants who came into their program without stable housing. With Division of Community Corrections collaboration, we have every expectation that, like Benton County Drug Court, **we can make a significant impact on homelessness and recidivism through good case management.** Please refer to the Salvation Army's proposal for the outcomes of the case management services that would be located in our day center.

Note: Since we will be a new program, we do not have internal baselines against which to compare our outcomes.

1. **Number of persons served.** Our goal is to **serve 2,500 individuals/families each year**, which is based on the averages served by Genesis House in Siloam Springs and 7 Hills in Fayetteville. NWA Continuum of Care reported in October 2021 that 32% of the by-name list of NWA homeless are family units, so we could estimate approximately one-third of the 2,500 served would also have children and/or spouses, possibly even doubling our estimate when counted by person, rather than family unit. Data on household size of family units served at 7 Hills and Genesis House is not reported.
2. **Effectiveness of meeting the core service needs our client presented.** When an individual/family arrives, they will take a brief pre-service assessment to identify the need that has brought them to the center. Our goal is to **meet the following needs 100% of the time: food, hydration, shelter from inclement weather, hygiene supplies, masks and clothing. Additionally, we expect to meet these needs 95% of the time within a minimum of a two-hour visit: shower, phone use, computer use, secure storage of belongings.**
3. **Effectively addressing referral needs our clients presented:** We will make service referrals to the satisfaction of our client 90% of the time to providers within the center as well as to other community resources outside the center that can meet their needs.
4. **Provide emergency shelter referral or voucher for 95% of persons** presenting with an urgent need and willingness for shelter. For those facing a night in their car or on the street, making sure they have a safe place to stay will be our top priority. In addition to our partnership with Teen Action and Support Center for unaccompanied minors, and referrals to Salvation Army night shelter, we will work with these community partners before using the emergency shelter funds for a hotel night stay:
    - Peace at Home Women's Shelter
    - Restoring Hope NWA
    - DHS for minors or persons with disabilities
    - Benton County Women's Shelter
    - Restoration Village for victims of domestic violence
    - Burrell Behavioral Health, Ozark Guidance for acute mental illness
    - Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks - Homeless Program Office for veterans
    - Care Patrol of NWA for Senior Citizens
    - NWA Continuum of Care
5. **Increase the job readiness** of 95% of eligible unemployed clients within a one-month period and a minimum of four, two-hour visits to the day center. "Eligible" refers to clients who have no mental health or physical health conditions that would preclude employment, and clients without active drug or alcohol addiction.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

In addition to tracking numbers served on a running spreadsheet of daily visits, we would design an intake assessment and exit survey to evaluate the key performance indicators (KPIs) listed above. The intake assessment will ask the client to select the reasons they are visiting the center that day (from a list of options as well as an "other" fill in the blank option) and collect demographic and other information pertinent to evaluating our KPIs. Prior to leaving, we will ask the client to complete a brief survey to KPIs.

Some clients may refuse to complete the exit survey. In these cases, staff will report results related to emergency shelter and meeting core service needs. However, since the "needs met through referral" KPI is measured from the customer's perspective, we can only report results for those who take the exit survey.

For the work readiness KPI, any of the following reported in the client's file during the evaluation period (one month and minimum of four visits) will be considered an increase: obtaining work documents (ID, birth certificate), developing a resume, completing job-related lifeskills training (dress for success, interviewing, workplace behavior, etc.).

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

The equity impact of the proposed day center is self-evident. The center serves people who meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless. The root causes of homeless can be grouped into two major categories: **mental health/substance abuse** and **economic or social trauma** (domestic violence). Of the identified homeless persons in NWA (the by-name list) as of October 2021, half the individuals/families fall into each of the two categories.

For persons experiencing homeless due to mental health/substance abuse, we offer the partner services of Burrell Center for a full array of services to both insured and uninsured. Medication management can also be offered through our partner Community Health. We can make referrals to other community resources (EagleCrest Recovery, True Self Recovery, Celebrate Recovery, etc.) for addiction treatment and support.

These reasons for homelessness are intractable and even when adequate treatment services are available, results vary greatly. A day center addresses this root cause of homelessness by ensuring persons are connected to the resources they need to succeed and holding them accountable for following up on treatment plans through case management services.

The **economic root cause** may be related to a disruption in work or in family stability, which leads to an eviction or need to flee one's home. Lack of affordable housing and low wages are other intractable reasons for economic homelessness.

Whether it's economic or social trauma, a day center can provide support (all of our core service plus referrals to community partners) to minimize this upheaval in an individual/family's life. When communities lack essential services like adequate emergency night shelter and day centers, homelessness takes longer to solve and can separate families and result in disabling trauma, especially for children.

COVID-19 has been the greatest economic disrupter of our generation and among those hardest hit were people with very low incomes pre-COVID. As stated earlier, the fall-out from rental evictions is likely to be felt for years to come. **The stories of many homeless in 2023, 2024 and beyond will have their genesis in the pandemic. It's vital that we take a long-term view of economic recovery as it relates to homelessness, and that we prepare our community response, as well as prepare for continued regional growth, by closing this service gap where a day shelter should be.**

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;

2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?

Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

Micah 6:8 will not hire any subcontractors with ARP funds. However, we may add a community health worker to our staff using UAMS grant dollars matched by our own general funds.

To reiterate, our key partners are:

- The Salvation Army to provide a case manager at the day center. The proposal to fund that position is also among the requests for ARP funds the Quorum Court is considering.
- HARK to train our staff in using the VI-SPDAT* to add persons to the NWA Continuum of Care by-name list of persons who are identified as homeless. They will also train and give our staff access to the 211 database that they use at the 211 call center, so our clients can get immediate referrals to needed services and resources.
- Teen Action and Support Center to take charge of emergency intervention, housing and case management of any unaccompanied teens.
- Community Health to provide a one-time monthly mobile health clinic plus on-site telehealth. We will provide the telehealth technology (computer with webcam and microphone) in a private room and Community Health will be the healthcare provider we connect to. They will see insured and uninsured patients.
- Burrell Center will provide mental health inpatient and outpatient medication management and therapies, regardless of insurance coverage. They will also send qualified behavioral health professionals to mentor persons with mental health issues in life skills.
- Servant's Heart to provide life skills classes and group therapy sessions.

*Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Prescreen Tool

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

The Micah 6:8 Initiative has been successfully providing services to housing-insecure persons since 2019: We **provide transitional housing, food programs and rental assistance** programs in collaboration with other local agencies. We have been a member of the NWA Continuum of Care since 2017.

We have a highly qualified board of directors, including **two former nonprofit executive directors (one of a homeless shelter)**, an attorney, former real estate and facility management leader for Walmart, school nurse, project manager, construction expertise and more.

Our organization grew out of a **collaboration of five local churches** and we enjoy strong support of those congregations, totalling approximately 2,200 members.

Genesis House in Siloam Springs, a day center in operation for more than 15 years, has agreed to provide their forms and policies for us to model/adapt. Further, with our strong social services partner in the proposal, The Salvation Army, we feel confident that any perspective, experience or resources we might lack can be accessed among our colleagues in NWA homeless and other social services, primarily among them, the following organizations which endorse our proposal:

- Havenwood
- Community Health Clinic
- Teen Action and Support Center
- Samaritan Community Center
- Justice Equality for Mental Illness
- NWA Continuum of Care
- The Salvation Army
- Servant's Heart Outreach
- Diva & Dude
- Burrell Behavioral Health
- Genesis House
- Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks - Homeless Program Office

- Bentonville Police Department
- Oakley Chapel United Methodist Church
- Central United Methodist Church Rogers
- First United Methodist Church Rogers

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire.

With ARP funds to start up, we can gather empirical data to use in applying for competitive federal and state grants. Additionally, we will apply to **become a United Way agency**. Unlike private foundation funding, these sources often take a year or more because of how grant cycles fall and a delay in distribution. It could take several years of applying for United Way to accept a new organization, depending on their obligations.

Here are **state and federal grant sources** we have identified for which our program would qualify:

- Community Development Block Grant
- HUD Emergency Shelter Grant
- DHS Emergency Solutions Grant

Additionally, we will begin to develop **an annual fundraiser** for revenue and community awareness for the day shelter. A fundraiser also serves to build a base of private donors.

We will work to make **private donations and fundraising approximately 50 percent of our revenue**, with the other half being government and **private foundation grants**. We just need time to collect outcomes data for grants, and to build up a donor base, which is why start-up funds are so integral.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized? YES

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

We provide the following definition of homelessness because of common misunderstandings about what qualifies. If you take time to read the below definition which we will adhere to, you will see that one must truly be in a desperate situation to be considered homeless for federal funding purposes.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act As amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 1 SEC. 103. [42 USC 11302]. GENERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL. (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this Act, the term "homeless", "homeless individual", and "homeless person" means—

(1) an individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, **and adequate** nighttime residence;

(2) an individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place **not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings**, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;

(3) an individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);

(4) an individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;

(5) an individual or family who— **(A)** will imminently lose their housing, including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, **as evidenced by— (i) a court order** resulting from an eviction action that notifies the individual or family that they must leave within 14 days; (ii) the individual or family having a primary nighttime residence that is a room in a hotel or motel and where they lack the resources necessary to reside there for more than 14 days; or (iii) credible evidence indicating that the owner or renter of the housing will not allow the individual or family to stay for more than 14 days, and any oral statement from an individual or family seeking homeless assistance that is found to be credible shall be considered credible evidence for purposes of this clause; **(B) has no subsequent residence identified**; **and (C) lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing**; and The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act As amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 2

(6) unaccompanied youth and homeless families with children and youth defined as homeless under other Federal statutes who-- (A) have experienced a long term period without living independently in permanent housing, (B) have experienced persistent instability as measured by frequent moves over such period, and (C) can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse, the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or multiple barriers to employment. (b) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OTHER DANGEROUS OR LIFE-THREATENING

CONDITIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Secretary shall consider to be homeless any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or lifethreatening conditions in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized, and who have no other residence and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Proposed Project Budget

Organization Name:	**Micah 6:8 Initiative**
Project Name:	**Day Shelter and Center for Productivity for People Experiencing Homelessness in Benton County**
Amount Requested:	**$925,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	($ 925,000.00)	Pending	All budget line items are for entire 3-year start-up period. All pending budget items are pledged pending QC participation
Oakley Chapel United Methodist Church	($ 30,000.00)	Pending	Use/insurance of passenger van
Burrell Center	($ 105,000.00)	Pending	Lifeskills instruction
Servant's Heart	($ 60,000.00)	Pending	Group therapies
The Salvation Army	($ 169,500.00)	Pending	FT Case Manager pledged pending QC funding of both proposals
Teen Action and Support Center	($ 45,000.00)	Pending	Teen intervention/case management
Community Clinic	($ 18,000.00)	Pending	Mobile healthcare clinic
Community volunteers	($ 68,000.00)	Pending	In-kind volunteer staffing
Various grants (Arkansas Methodist Foundation, Anderson Family Foundation)	($ 70,000.00)	Pending	These foundations currently fund Micah 6:8. We would apply funds to the day center with their permission.
UAMS	($ 70,000.00)	Pending	Community health worker, UAMS matching grant
Micah 6:8 General Fund, private donations	($ 90,000.00)	Confirmed	
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
Total	($ 1,650,500.00)		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Start-up expenses	($ 25,000.00)		($ 25,000.00)	Capital	Equipment, furnishing, site modifications
Client Services	($ 415,000.00)		($ 415,000.00)	Operating	3 fulltime staff plus payroll liabilities and benefits
Emergency Night Shelter	($ 150,000.00)		($ 150,000.00)	Operating	909 hotel room nights annually @ $55 a night
Supplies and Equipment	($ 75,000.00)		($ 75,000.00)	Operating	Food, hygiene and cleaning supplies, office supplies
Occupany	($ 180,000.00)		($ 180,000.00)	Operating	rental of approximately 2000 ft2, utilities and tennant maintenance
Admin/Fundraising	($ 80,000.00)	($ 10,000.00)	($ 90,000.00)	Operating	accounting and fundraising expense
Telephone/Internet		($ 45,000.00)	($ 45,000.00)	Operating	
Liability Insurances		($ 30,000.00)	($ 30,000.00)	Operating	
Misc (postage, web/domain, etc.)		($ 5,000.00)	($ 5,000.00)	Operating	
Transportation		($ 30,000.00)	($ 30,000.00)	Operating	in-kind from Oakley Chapel
Community Health Worker		($ 140,000.00)	($ 140,000.00)	Operating	Micah 6:8 match + UAMS grant for community health worker
In-kind contract services		($ 465,500.00)	($ 465,500.00)	Operating	in-kind personnel and volunteer staffing per income line items
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		

List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
List expenses here			($ -)		
Totals	($ 925,000.00)		($ 1,650,500.00)		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: **MY-T-BY-DESIGN Therapeutic Art Studio**
Contact Name: Lakisha Bradley
Contact Email: mytbydesign@gmail.com
Telephone #: 479-802-9585

1. Name of Project: Life Skills Through Therapeutic Art for Youth and Families

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $55K

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

For the past 4 years, MY-T-BY-DESIGN has partnered with the Benton County Juvenile Probation Office to provide Life Skills Through Art workshops for youth and families. MY-T-BY-DESIGN would like to continue this partnership but expand it's programing to provide integrated educational therapeutic art services to youth and families of historically marginalized communities residing within the Benton County community

impacted by the stress of the Covid-19 pandemic. Funds will be used for program and operational expenses for our workshop and mural project, provide jobs to local artists, give access to counseling at an affordable cost, offer a healthy meal during our workshop, and fund On-The-Job training experience for individuals in need of gaining workforce readiness transferrable skills to obtain their next job in a safe therapeutic environment.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

MY-T-BY-DESIGN mission is to help individuals SEE THEIR VALUE and KNOW THEIR WORTH. We provide therapeutic HEALING ART services that strengthen communities' mental health one paint stroke at a time thru alternative expressive art programs.

- **Benton County Life Skills Through Art Workshop**
  - **Project Timeline: Jan. 15 – December 17, 2022** *(Currently providing)*
  - MY-T-BY-DESIGN provides a Life Skills Through Art workshop to youth and families
    - Held every 3rd Sat. of the month at the Teen Action Support Center – Rogers
    - Attendees: Teens currently on probation and their parent/guardian
  - Workshop Objective: Establish a safe space for participants to artistically express their emotions, share stories, learn new skill sets, and reframe their mindsets to create positive change in their communities. Gain access to workforce development training for job development and affordable counseling services.
- **Benton County Juvenile Probation Office Mural Project**
  - **Project Timeline: June – August 2022**
  - Objective: Complete two mural projects within the Benton County Juvenile Detention Center. Participants will be youth and family. They will learn the process of creating a mural, work in a team environment, identify therapeutic outcomes from the experience, and build relationships. Community service credit will go towards youth probation hours. In addition, each participant will receive a $100 stipend to pay for fines/fees.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The purpose of this project is to improve the health and/or economic outcomes of marginalized residents within the Benton County community impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes mid to low-income families, families with members within the juvenile criminal justice system, Black/African American, and Latino/Hispanic communities.

7. Statement of Need:

"Health and mental health providers, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, are warning that US children and adolescents are facing a mental health state of emergency. Well before the COVID-19 pandemic, rates of many behavioral health conditions affecting children and youth had been escalating. In 2018, suicide was the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10–24. The proportion of all emergency department visits for kids related to mental health increased substantially in 2020. Use of services related to intentional self-harm, substance use disorders, and other mental health conditions also increased since the start of the pandemic. Too many youth—more than 48,000—remain confined in facilities away from home because of juvenile justice or criminal justice involvement. Urgent action is clearly required to help America's kids.

The pandemic has created additional financial stress, loss of loved ones, and educational and social disruptions for many children. For the more than 12 million US children who live in families with incomes below the poverty line, there are additional pressures that can reduce health and well-being, including homelessness and food insecurity. These forms of disadvantage have been directly tied to child brain development and mental health. Children who have experienced mental health challenges are more likely to experience mental illness, addiction, and other chronic medical conditions as adults, so these rates of illness are not just having impact today but are likely to reverberate through US society when these children are adults."

(Reference https://www.brookings.edu/blog/usc-brookings-schaeffer-on-health-policy/2021/12/22/the-kids-are-not-all-right-the-urgent-need-to-expand-effective-behavioral-health-services-for-children-and-youth/)

- **The purpose of the Life Skills Through Art program presented by MY-T-BY-DESIGN is to help address the mental health resource gap by utilizing art as a gateway to healing through the covid pandemic and creating transferrable skills for job opportunity.**
    - **Impact Since 2018**
    - Over 300 juvenile probation participants attended workshop
        - Decreased recidivism
        - Workshop Outcomes:

- Community Connection & Built relationships
- Increased Communication
- Leadership Development
- Improved Family Dynamics
- Job Skill Readiness
- 100% of youth participated in the mural projects have not returned back into the probation system.
- Reduced Depression

NOTE: In 2021, the parent/guardian now attends the workshop with their child currently on probation. This is intended to help build and restore the family relationship.
Funds are needed for this project in order to expand our program impact. By utilizing art as the gateway to healing, MY-T-BY-DESIGN would like to include feeding the participants with a healthy meal during our Life Skills Through Art workshop, giving exposure to different community leaders and artists within the area, and providing a more robust workforce readiness program. In addition, over the last 4 years we have been working on the murals within the Benton County Probation office, but funding has been limited due to budget constraints. However, we love what we do and that is why we continue to do the work. These funds will help us to obtain additional art supplies not only for the Life Skills Through Art workshop but also the mural projects. More importantly, artists can be paid for their services at an equitable level as other muralists within the area. In addition, funds will be used to cover operational expenses to support the program offerings.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

The purpose of this project is to improve the health and/or economic outcomes of marginalized residents within the Benton County community impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes mid to low-income families, families with members within the juvenile criminal justice system, Black/African American, and Latino/Hispanic communities.

- Demographic Characteristics of those served: Caucasian, Black/African American, Latino/Hispanic.
    - Youth ages 12 up to adulthood residents living within Benton County area Participants identified are referred by the Benton County Juvenile Probation Office.
    - Over 300 youth and families have participated in the program since 2018. NOTE: In 2021, the parent/guardian now attends the workshop with their child currently on probation. This is intended to help build and restore the family relationship.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

MY-T-BY-DESIGN Therapeutic Art Studio was given the great opportunity to serve youth on probation within the Benton County Juvenile Detention Center since 2018. Since then, we've served over 300 youth and families. Of those who have participated, we've had youth transition from our Life Skills Through Art workshops to our Mighty Kids Leadership Development and Workforce Prep program and graduate with a $500 stipend and jobs. Parents have shared feedback of how their families have become closer and/or this class has allowed them to take a moment to listen to each other more. Some participants also joined MY-T-BY-DESIGN in helping to facilitate workshops in the community i.e. University of Arkansas Women Graduate Students. A year after our workshops were launched, 85% of the youth who participated in our Life Skills Through Art workshop never returned back into the criminal justice system. Of the participants who have joined us in the mural project, none have returned back into the system.

Evidence suggests that some restorative justice programs when compared to traditional approaches can reduce future delinquent behavior. Our social restorative justice program in partnership with the Benton County Juvenile Detention Center seeks to repair relationships and end discord between youthful offenders and the communities they reside.

2022 Goals

- **Offer monthly Life Skills Through Art Workshop/Program (January – December 2022)**
  - Work towards healing what has been broken in the family system
  - Provide a variety of expressive art mediums focused on storytelling & healing.
  - Invite guest speakers (leaders within the community) for topic discussion and community resource connection.
  - Participants create artworks as a tool for healing and restoration. NOTE: Some artworks may be on display in the Benton County Probation Office to help bring awareness, hope, and/or education.
- **Continue to help Reduce Youth Recidivism within Benton County Juvenile Probation**
  - Offer artistic expression workshops and activities that disrupt times of criminal engagement in the community.
  - Offer a 6-week summer internship for up to 3 teens with MY-T-BY-DESIGN Therapeutic Art Studio.
- **Completion of two murals within the Benton County Probation Office by December 2022**
  - Areas of focus: Education Wall & Family Dynamics wall
  - Both parents and teens will be involved in the project

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

- Surveys will be conducted at the end of the workshops and mural projects.
- Monthly recaps are provided upon completion of the workshops. Recaps include:
  - Roster attendance
  - Workshop theme
  - Key Takeaways from participants
  - Pictures of artwork
- We will partner with the Benton County Probation office to collect additional data and feedback in regard to impact on participants from class.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

Art is one of the most powerful means for communication and coping we have at our disposal today. Through this program we will help marginalized youth and families connect, cope, and be well in the short and long-term effects of COVID-19. In addition, we hope to provide transferrable skill sets that empower youth and families to obtain future job opportunities through this creative outlet.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

- **Light House Solutions**
  - **Website https://www.lhsolutions.org**
  - Provide workforce readiness coaching throughout the program for participants.
  - Subcontractor will perform 10% of the work.
- **Second Helping NWA**
  - **Website https://secondhelpingnwa.com/**
  - Provide catered lunches for participants during the workshops.
  - Provide one workshop to educate about healthy food and culinary arts.
  - Subcontractor will perform 10% of the work.

- **Carsten Counseling, LLC**
  - **Website www.carstencounseling.com**
  - Offer $20 (1 hour) counseling sessions for 6 weeks to 20 individuals
  - Offer one group counseling session
  - Subcontractor will perform 5% of the work.
- **Benton County Juvenile Detention Center**
  - Benton County Probation Office – Drew Shover, Chief Probation Officer
  - Provide youth and family participants to attend the workshops for community service hours.
- **Teen Action Support Center – Rogers**
  - Offer space to facilitate monthly therapeutic art workshops.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

MY-T-BY-DESIGN mission is to help individuals SEE THEIR VALUE and KNOW THEIR WORTH. We provide therapeutic HEALING ART services that strengthen communities' mental health one paint stroke at a time thru alternative expressive art programs. Our core values include: INTEGRITY, QUALITY, UNITY, EMPATHY, and FAITH INSPIRED.

Prior to launching MY-T-BY-DESIGN in 2017, Lakisha Bradley (Owner/Founder) has over 20 years of retail experience with Walmart Stores, Inc. and Fred's Super Dollar Store. Since then, we've empowered over 10,000 youth and families across the state of Arkansas to connect, engage, and uplift their communities. We are known as being "Community Conscious and Action Oriented". People know what we provide quality work with love, respect, and compassion for others. We have a unique way of bringing diverse groups of people together from all walks of life to connect through art and the power of story.

We have the capacity to facilitate this program as we have proven results. If given a chance to receive this funding, it will enable us to continue to be a shining light of hope for others in the community and allows us to continue to do what we love and that's empower and heal hearts through art especially during these unprecedented times with COVID.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

See attached budget spreadsheet

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

For this program, we will continue to seek and apply for funding throughout to support future programming. Some services in regards to the lunch provided may not be available after the 2022 year due to possible future budget constraints.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized? YES

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

Website www.mytbydesign.com

Facebook https://www.instagram.com/mytbydesign/

Instagram https://www.instagram.com/mytbydesign/

Awards and Recognition

- 2020 Leading With Excellence Entrepreneurship Award (NWA Black History Month)
- 2020 SIPP Culture Community Mini Grant Recipient for (Trails of Love Holiday Giving Program)
- 2021 2021 MLK Unity Celebration "Envision Award" for outstanding community service
- 2021 Crystal Bridges Art Museum "CB to YOU" Mobile Art Tour Featured Artist

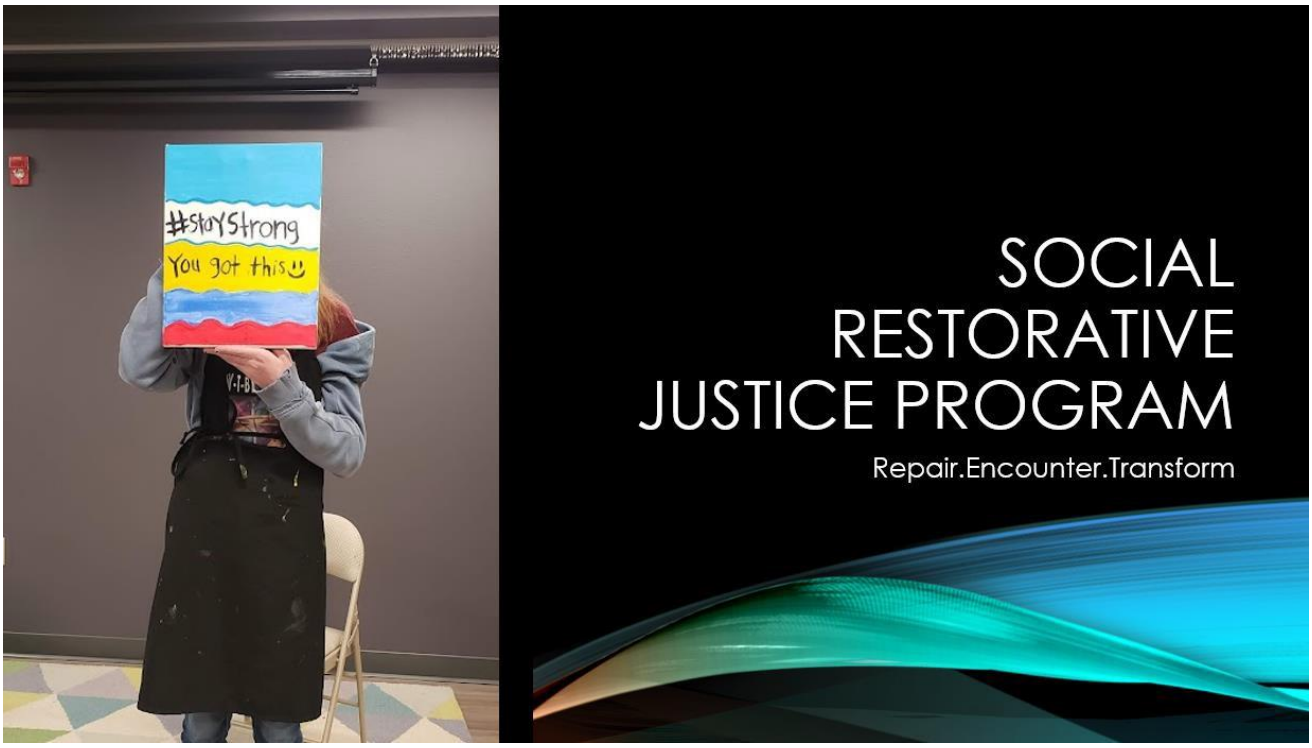
Media Links

- Arkansas Soul https://argotsoul.com/2021/09/art-the-highest-form-of-expression-h-e-art-soul-episode-8/
- https://www.5newsonline.com/article/news/community/community-projects-helping-teens-through-art/527-1fd00939-720d-4863-bdc8-a0485627e31c
- https://news.uark.edu/articles/58312/-painting-with-a-sober-twist-with-razorback-recovery
- https://crystalbridges.org/calendar/cb-to-you-mobile-art-lab-fayetteville-2/

- https://www.nwahomepage.com/lifestyle/good-day-nwa/good-day-nwa-creating-vision-boards/

Sample of workshops

BENTON COUNTY
JUVENILE DETENTION
CENTER MURALS


#StayStrong
You got this
SOCIAL
RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE PROGRAM
Repair.Encounter.Transform

Partnered with the Fayetteville Police Department, Muralist Olivia Trimble and Fayetteville Schools to restore vandalized murals in the city.

Lakisha Bradley Bio

Growing up in Lewisville, a small town in Southwest Arkansas, five miles from Stamps, where the well-known Maya Angelou lived as a young girl, Lakisha saw first-hand the impact of having limited access to spaces or outlets that help individuals and families address their mental health issues in a safe way. Unbeknownst to Lakisha, she never would have imagined that through her creativity and artistic skills her dad taught her would allow her to make the impact she is today in communities across the country.

Lakisha Bradley is a Social Practice Artist, Executive Director and Founder of MY-T-BY-DESIGN Therapeutic Art Studios located in Fayetteville and now Rogers, AR where the goal is that you leave with a smile. When you enter, you soon will discover this is not your average art studio. Within this space you have access to licensed

counselors and so much more. MY-T-BY-DESIGN's mission is to *help restore individuals and families lives by utilizing art as the gateway to holistic healing.* **We provide HEALING ART services that strengthen communities' mental health one paint stroke at a time through alternative expressive art programs.**

In 2016, Lakisha chose to take a leap of faith from Walmart Corporate after 16 years of service and walk in her life purpose serving her community in a special way. Through her unique workshops, Lakisha saw a spark of hope and light exude from the participants. Lakisha soon discovered that they were doing much more than just painting, by helping people start the journey SEEING THEIR VALUE and KNOWING THEIR WORTH through art - and thus, the mission of MY-T-BY-DESIGN began to take shape. With a wealth of experience in the retail industry, Lakisha infused the skills sets gained from Training and Development, HR, and Store Operations into her longtime passion of art, creativity, and people. Lakisha's blended background has given her a solid foundation to successfully operate her own business as well as, educate and mentor adults, children, and teens on the importance of having essential life skills all with art! She offers several programs that focus on empowering individuals and the community. These art programs include: Mighty Kids Leadership Development and Workforce prep for youth ages 8-16 teaching financial literacy, self-confidence, teamwork, and social engagement; Talent Mapping Through the Arts which provides teens in the juvenile detention centers and probation an outlet for self-expression to build self-worth and connectedness to career job readiness; Veterans Expressive Arts; Community Paint Night; and Senior Wellness serving assisted living facilities**. Lakisha and team work closely with local businesses and nonprofit organizations like Light House Solutions, The Air for Airiel Foundation, Second Helping NWA, Teen Action Support Center, Carsten Counseling and Six Twelve Coffeehouse and Bar to help create healthy change in the communities.** Since launching MY-T-BY-DESIGN Lakisha has sparked over 10,000 individuals to discover their SUPERGENIOUS potential through art.

Lakisha has been actively engaged in communities since 2011 with her sister Stacy, Founder of nonprofit Light House Solutions. Through their Back to School events, Trails of Love Holiday Giving, or Dream Big Experience teen program in partnership with the NWA LPGA Championship, every community connection is about creating a memorable experience that grows, develops, and moves the individual and community to the next level.

She is the 2021 MLK Unity Celebration “Envision Award” for outstanding community service from the City of Springdale, the 2020 recipient of the Leading with Excellence Entrepreneurship award for the Northwest Arkansas area and continues to serve her community. Lakisha holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from the Historical Black College University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; Masters of Arts in Human Resource Management from Webster University; and currently pursuing her license in Counseling with an emphasis in Play Therapy at John Brown University as a means to expand her reach in the community serving those in need through Art Therapy. She is a JBU Adjunct Professor teaching a Diversity Colloquium course to students, and the Coordinator for Minority Student Care with the JBU Office of Diversity. In addition, she is the Community Talent Outreach and Actress several commercials and movies for Actors Casting Agency as well as Board member for the Arts Live Theatre, Light House Solutions & Second Helping NWA, and President of the Fayetteville Mayor’s African American Advisory Council. As a mom, wife, and auntie, Lakisha loves spending valuable time and creating memories with family and friends. She believes that the one thing that is constantly moving is time, and it is up to us on how we embrace the ride that determines our life journey. **"We are all**

masterpieces in the making. It's in the power of our story (imperfections and all) that makes the masterpiece complete. You are mighty by design!”

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**MY-T-BY-DESIGN Therapeutic Art Studio**
Project Name:	**Life Skills Through Art Youth and Families Workshop (Effected by the Mental Stress from the Covid 19 Pandemic and currently on Probation)**
Amount Requested:	**$55,000.00**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 55,000.00	Pending	
Benton County Juvenile Detention Center (Probation Office Grant Funding)	$ 6,000.00	Confirmed	
Total	$ 61,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Supplies & Equipment	$ 6,000.00	$ 2,400.00	$ 7,400.00	Operating Expense	Includes art and office supplies for services. $2400 currently funded through Benton County Juvenile Detention Center - Probation Office from a grant provided.
Artists & Facilitator Fees	$ 9,000.00		$ 9,000.00	Operating Expense	
Program Facilitation & Management	$ 16,500.00	$ 3,600.00	$ 20,100.00	Operating Expense	
Internship	$ 5,400.00		$ 5,400.00	Operating Expense	6 week internship
Subcontractor Fee (LH Solutions)	$ 7,500.00		$ 7,500.00	Operating Expense	Workforce Development Training
Subcontractor Fee (Second Helping)	$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00	Operating Expense	Lunch Meals & Beverages provided during workshops
Subcontractor (Carsten Counseling)	$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00	Operating Expense	counseling sessions youth and families
Stipends	$ 1,000.00		$ 1,000.00	Operating Expense	Mural Project participants
Mileage & Gas	$ 600.00		$ 600.00	Operating Expense	
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ 61,000.00		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Northwest Arkansas Food Bank
Contact Name: Kent Eikenberry
Contact Email: Kent@nwafoodbank.org
Telephone #: Office: 479-419-5392 Cell: 479-640-0559

1. **Name of Project:** Food For Today. Hope For Tomorrow. Capital Campaign
2. **Amount of Funds Requested:** $3,540,000
3. **Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:**

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. **Brief Project Description:**

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

To meet the significant increase in need for hunger relief services brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and address future needs in the community, the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank (NWAFB) has embarked on a $25,000,000 capital campaign to increase capacity, introduce new programs and increase food distribution by more than 60% by 2025. NWAFB has focused on three strategies to meet these goals including the construction of a new facility supporting all food bank operations, investments in its distribution network and creation of new programs to better serve clients' needs, and the establishment of a $3,540,000 operational fund.

New Campus & Facility: NWAFB has acquired 15 acres of property located at the intersection of Pleasant Grove Road and Honeysuckle Street in Lowell, AR. The new 82,700 square-foot state-of-the-art Center for Hunger Relief will be the central distribution facility supporting all Food Bank operations and a hub for community engagement through an expanded warehouse and freezer/cooler capacity, a Volunteer Center, a Teaching Garden, a Partner Agency Training Center and a Teaching Kitchen.

Network Capacity and Program Growth: Building on feedback received from partner agencies and the community's needs, NWAFB will implement a major shift in food distribution through increased direct

delivery to clients via new program growth focused on improved and increased access to fresh and nutritious food and improved access to wrap around services with an emphasis on the client choice model. A Community Resource Center (Feed Rogers) will include NWAFB's first Food Bank-run pantry, computer lab and Benefit Bank to help clients access resources and benefits. New programs focused on fresh and culturally appropriate foods will include Food Bank Fresh (meal kits including all of the ingredients to create multiple nutritious meals), Mobile Farmer's Market (client choice model to select fresh produce) and My Pantry Express (mobile client choice pantry model). Investments in partner agencies will also be expanded to provide more opportunities to directly support and mentor these organizations to greater levels of operation.

Operational Fund: NWAFB will establish a $3,540,000 operational fund to ensure that the increase in operating expenses and program expenses is secured through at least the first five years after expansion. The operational fund will secure the financial future of the Food Bank and ensure that the new programs introduced through the capital campaign are available for all our hungry neighbors well into the future.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

Property for the Center for Hunger Relief was acquired in February 2021 with the capital campaign fundraising officially launching the following month. The quiet phase of the capital campaign is expected to extend into the summer of 2022 in order to prepare for a ceremonial groundbreaking and public announcement of the campaign before construction begins in August 2022.

Construction is expected to last for approximately 13-15 months, beginning in summer 2022 and complete by fall 2023. Full operations will begin in the new Center for Hunger Relief as soon as possible in early 2024.

New program development has already begun, with the launch of the first new program – a Community Resource Center known as Feed Rogers – in January 2022. A total of 9 additional new or expanded programs will be launched throughout 2022 and into early 2023. All are planned for an initial five-year pilot period for re-evaluation and adjustment, which will be measured annually, at a minimum, as part of the Feeding America Client Survey.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Northwest Arkansas region in unimaginable ways and pushed NWAFB's operations to respond to unprecedented levels of need for hunger relief. Although Northwest Arkansas already had 65,000 food-insecure individuals in 2019, that number increased to

100,000 in 2020 at the height of the pandemic. Due to the impacts of the pandemic, the Food Bank saw a 45% increase in the number of individuals served in 2020 (compared to 2019) as more individuals, families and seniors came to rely on the Food Bank and its partner agencies for nutritious food – many for the first time – resulting in 13.3 million meals distributed in that year alone.

The Food Bank continues to see large increases in need and anticipates this to continue due to the economic impact of the pandemic through 2022, if not longer. Current estimates from Feeding America published in October 2020 suggest food insecurity rates in Arkansas are expected to increase by more than 22% due to the COVID-19 pandemic (compared to 2018 food insecurity rates). The demands placed on the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank, its distribution model and its network capacity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are not only unsustainable but also underscore the urgent need for new and expanded facilities, network improvements and expanded program offerings as more individuals in need come to rely on the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank than ever before.

The Northwest Arkansas Food Bank's strategic plan, informed by lessons learned during the pandemic, directly mitigates the challenges facing our hungry neighbors brought on by the pandemic. As the leading provider of hunger relief services and programs in the Northwest Arkansas community, the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank is uniquely positioned to meet the need for these essential services that make Northwest Arkansas a healthier community in the wake of COVID-19. As a result of the strategic investments in the new facility and new and expanded programs, the Food Bank will not only be able to increase its network capacity to feed more people but will also be prepared to respond to future emergencies via multiple distribution strategies and a larger campus to accommodate increased distribution demands. The operational fund will directly support the increase in operating costs associated with each of these investments and ensure that Food Bank is prepared to respond to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic as well as future natural, health or other emergencies the Northwest Arkansas community faces.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need and cite the source of the data.

According to estimates released in September 2020 from the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC), Northwest Arkansas is home to more than 500,000 individuals, 65,000 (1 in 8) of whom are considered food-insecure. By 2045, analysts from NWARPC project the population in Northwest Arkansas will grow to 1,000,000, resulting in an estimated 145,000 individuals facing food insecurity. To meet this level of need, NWAFB would need to provide an estimated 20 million meals.

In response to the increase in demand for hunger relief services, NWAFB distributed 8.6 million meals in 2019 followed by an overwhelming need for 13.3 million meals in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, NWAFB was already operating at full capacity across all locations going into 2020. The current storage and operational capacity of the Food Bank can neither sustain this level of distribution nor does it allow for better stewardship of clients' cultural needs and geographic limitations. In order to fulfill its mission to nourish Northwest Arkansas communities by feeding hungry

people, the NWAFB must make significant capital improvements to increase food distribution and improve the quality and reach of the Food Bank's services.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

NWAFB serves food-insecure individuals, children and seniors facing hunger in Benton, Carroll, Madison and Washington Counties. In 2020, NWAFB directly assisted 85,113 clients. Nearly 36% of all clients served are children (ages 0-17) with another 21% over the age of 61. More than half of the clients (58%) are Caucasian, 26% are Hispanic, 5% are Marshallese and 4% are African American.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

The Northwest Arkansas Food Bank looks forward to measuring the following outcomes in order to evaluate the success of the capital campaign:

Increased Food Distribution: As a result of the increase in the Food Bank's capacity and the launch of new programs, NWAFB anticipates an increase in the number of meals distributed from 8.6 million meals in 2019 to at least 14 million meals by 2025.

Increased Nutritious Food Distribution: As a result of strategic investments in partner agencies, expanded cold storage capacity in the new facility and the creation of new programs strategically focused on the distribution of fresh foods, NWAFB anticipates an increase in the amount of nutritious food distributed from 57 percent in 2020 to 75 percent by 2025.

Improved Client Service/Expanded Programs: As a result of the introduction of new programs and services supported by increased capacity and improved efficiencies in the new Center for Hunger Relief, NWAFB anticipates improved quality of services for Food Bank clients. The Feeding America Client Survey will provide deeper insights into specific client populations and experience from these new programs and services and inform long-term strategy.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Evaluation of the overall project will be based on several factors, the first of which is completion of the construction of the new facility on time. Construction will begin in August 2022 and is expected to be completed by October 2023. NWAFB anticipates to be fully operational in the new facility by early 2024.

The project will also be evaluated on several benchmarks that have been established as a result of the increased capacity offered by the Center for Hunger Relief, including increased food distribution and percentage of nutritious food distributed. NWAFB uses CERES to track all food distribution across its network of partners and Oasis Insight Plus to track information on the clients served, including demographics.

Included in the capital campaign plan is an investment in Feeding America Client Survey. This new research tool will be implemented to measure the success of all Food Bank activities and evaluate new programs in the context of client outcomes. These regular surveys (conducted annually, at a minimum) will provide the opportunity to evaluate how effectively the new and existing programs offered by NWAFB are meeting the needs of clients and the Northwest Arkansas community, will provide deeper insights into specific client populations and experiences, and will help identify barriers and gaps in service for all programs.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

The Northwest Arkansas Food Bank recognizes that achieving and supporting an equitable environment is a continual process. NWAFB has always had a non-discrimination policy for clients and employees and is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all staff, clients, volunteers, partners and vendors. To that end, NWAFB was honored to be selected to participate in TRUE Northwest Arkansas, resulting in the development of the organization's overall DEI plan including goals and activities focused on four key areas (Culture & Values, Governance, Human Resources and Strategic Partnerships).

Additionally, the Food Bank Board of Directors adopted DEI bylaws in December 2019. Progress towards established DEI goals is evaluated on a quarterly basis by senior staff and a Board Member who is an HR leader. Through these efforts, NWAFB hopes to nurture a culture of inclusivity, identify and address knowledge gaps to improve institutional equity and impact, and approach board and staff recruitment, staff development and organizational governance with a DEI lens. In addition, NWAFB's efforts to address inequities throughout its distribution network will focus on identifying optimal partner organizations that are in alignment on DEI priorities and developing outreach plans to engage more diverse partners. An HR Generalist with experience in diversity work has been hired to oversee all DEI efforts and bring the Food Bank's DEI program into focus, including engaging with the University of Arkansas to study internal and partner perceptions of DEI at the Food Bank.

Improvement towards client-focused DEI goals include decreasing barriers for clients and tailoring culturally appropriate food selections through new or improved distribution methods and new program development. Progress will be evaluated through an ongoing analysis of client outcomes through regular client surveys about the foods and services they received.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

Harrison French & Associates has been retained as the project architect to complete the visioning and final plans for the Center for Hunger Relief and Nabholz Construction was selected as the general contractor through a competitive RFP process in 2020. They will be providing project oversight in full coordination with Kent Eikenberry, CEO, and Eddie Kordsmeier, Facilities Manager.

All new program implementation will be overseen by Casey Cowan, Director of Client Services, and Sabrina Thiede, Director of Programs. Ms. Cowan brings five years of food banking experience with an emphasis in client research and data collection. Under her direction, the NWAFB insights team serves as the statewide leader in implementing Oasis Insight Plus. Ms. Thiede brings ten years of experience in the charitable food network with a proven track record of implementing successful programs.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Founded in 1988, the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank serves as the region's largest hunger relief agency. As the leading provider of hunger relief services and programs in the community, the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank has taken great strides in recent years to better serve hungry Northwest Arkansans. In just one year (2018-2019), nutritious food distribution increased 35 percent with the launch of the Foods to Encourage initiative, which emphasizes the benefits of including fresh produce and lean protein in the Food Bank's inventories.

In striving to fully achieve its mission to nourish Northwest Arkansas communities by feeding hungry people, the Food Bank has developed a strategic plan to nourish, feed and lead the Northwest Arkansas community. A major component of this strategic plan is to expand capacity, introduce new programs and increase food distribution by more than 60 percent by 2025 through a capital campaign. NWAFB staff have been working diligently to ensure that the new facility and new programs included in the capital campaign plan are thoughtfully conceptualized, planned and executed. Collectively, they bring decades of experience across operations, distribution logistics, food procurement, program implementation, charitable food networking and project management and are placing the Food Bank in a strong position to achieve success against the stated goals and their long-term sustainability.

The Food Bank has received and managed public funds from the City of Springdale in 2021 for the purchase a 24-foot refrigerated box truck to help meet the increased need for food assistance among individuals facing food insecurity due to COVID-19. These funds were requested through the City of Springdale CARES Act CDBG funding.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire.

The primary purpose of the new operational fund is to ensure the increase in operating and program expenses is secured through the first five years after expansion. However, the Food Bank's staff and Board of Directors have already been taking steps to grow the fund development activities strategically and methodically through investments made to grow fundraising capacity in the future. Based on the outcomes from a development assessment led by Feeding America, the Food Bank has developed a plan to grow annual revenue to $5,000,000 by 2027, an 85 percent increase compared to $2,700,000 in 2019. Revenue growth will be accomplished through the addition of development staff who will focus on cultivating major gifts, foundation relations and annual fund management. A direct mail program is focusing on acquisition of new donors to help sustain increased needs.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

The Northwest Arkansas Food Bank respectfully requests Benton County's thoughtful consideration of the opportunity to establish the Food Bank's operational fund that will directly support the operational costs for the new Center for Hunger Relief and programs that support the Food Bank's strategic plan to nourish, feed and lead the Northwest Arkansas community in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Northwest Arkansas Food Bank**
Project Name:	**Food For Today. Hope For Tomorrow. Capital Campaign**
Amount Requested:	**$3,540,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$3,540,000	Pending	
Anonymous Foundation	$5,000,000	Confirmed	
Walmart	$3,806,866	Confirmed	
Individual Donors	$3,015,000	Confirmed	
Board Members	$116,010	Confirmed	
Committee Members	$20,500	Confirmed	
ESI	$70,000	Pending	
Individual Donors	$51,000	Pending	Employee Corporate Matching
Total	$ 15,619,376.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Operational Fund	$3,540,000		$ 3,540,000.00	Operating Expense	Operational Fund included in Capital Campaign budget
Center for Hunger Relief - Building Construction		$12,712,636	$ 12,712,636.00	Capital Expense	
Land		$115,000	$ 115,000.00	Capital Expense	
Site Work		$2,489,864	$ 2,489,864.00	Capital Expense	
Soft Costs		$707,500	$ 707,500.00	Capital Expense	
Contingencies & Miscellaneous		$675,000	$ 675,000.00	Capital Expense	
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment		$300,000	$ 300,000.00	Capital Expense	
Community Resource Center		$1,488,000	$ 1,488,000.00	Capital Expense	
Mobile Farmers Market		$1,000,000	$ 1,000,000.00	Capital Expense	
Food Bank Fresh Program		$274,500	$ 274,500.00	Capital Expense	
Partner Agency Training Center		$221,000	$ 221,000.00	Capital Expense	
Partner Agency Capacity		$550,000	$ 550,000.00	Capital Expense	
My Pantry Express		$157,500	$ 157,500.00	Capital Expense	
Feeding America Client Survey		$400,000	$ 400,000.00	Capital Expense	
Teaching Garden/Nutrition Program		$369,000	$ 369,000.00	Capital Expense	
		Total	$ 25,000,000.00		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Northwest Arkansas Land Trust
Contact Name: Marson Nance
Contact Email: mnance@nwalandtrust.org
Telephone #: (479) 966-4666

1. Name of Project: **Restoration of Flint Creek Headwaters Preserve to Maintain Water Quality and Sequester Stormwater in the Flint Creek Headwaters Subbasin**

2. Amount of Funds Requested: **$50,000**

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

This project will address "C" by improving riparian areas on Flint Creek and improving stormwater sequestration at Flint Creek Headwaters Preserve.

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Flint Creek Headwaters Preserve is an 80 acre publicly accessible nature preserve in Springtown, Arkansas owned and managed by Northwest Arkansas Land Trust (NWALT). NWALT has worked since 2016 to permanently protect and restore the preserve to native vegetation for water quality and wildlife

habitat. A cave on the property is home to a small population of Ozark Cavefish (*Amblyopsis rosae*), a federally threatened species. Approximately ½ mile of Flint Creek runs along the western boarder of the preserve which is in the Flint Creek Headwaters subbasin of the Illinois River Watershed. A USGS monitoring gauge is located on the creek just south of the Highway 12 bridge within the boundaries of the preserve. Flint Creek flows through the preserve in Springtown and then southwest into Gentry. This project looks to address both water quality and water quantity issues through the restoration of riparian forest and approximately 35 acres of poultry litter applied pasture to native grasses and wildflowers. Restoration and improvement of the riparian area and pasture will lead to a decrease in stormwater and nutrient runoff into Flint Creek, which will benefit the downstream reaches of the watershed.

5. Project Plan:

Though habitat restoration is a long-term process, with maximum benefits not seen for several years, funds secured for this project will cover activities through the first 3 years of restoration. This will be an adaptive restoration and management process with several key steps.

1. Remove the current hay lessee from the property to stop the application of poultry litter to the pasture.
2. Conduct a plant assessment to determine what species are currently on the site.
3. Create a long-term habitat restoration and management plan.
4. Mow and Treat the pasture with grass-specific herbicide to reduce the abundance of nonnative pasture grasses.
5. Implement prescribed fire to further reduce the abundance of exotic and nonnative vegetation and prepare a seed bed.
6. Sow the pasture in a mixture of native warm season prairie grasses and forbs (herbaceous vegetation).
7. Plant approximately 6 acres of native trees and shrubs to increase the current riparian buffer and create a feathered edge habitat.
8. Monitor the site annually to assess success of management actions.

6. Link to COVID-19:

With the rapid pace of development in Northwest Arkansas and Benton County in particular, appropriate stormwater infrastructure and management will become increasingly critical to preserving our quality of life in the region. Costs associated with stormwater infrastructure and management, flooding, and improving waterways which may become impaired in the future can be very high and impact municipal budgets, making less money available for other critical services. Through the implementation of best management practices including restoring natural areas and using natural processes to manage and sequester stormwater, more funds may be available to governments and municipalities to manage health and other crises when they occur.

7. Statement of Need:

Flint Creek Headwaters Preserve lies within the 14 square mile Flint Creek Headwaters subbasin of the Illinois River Watershed. Approximately 34% of rainfall in the subbasin is not intercepted and runs off into Flint Creek (USGS). A simple calculation using the runoff coefficient appropriate for the 35-acre pasture estimates 2 inches of rain in 24 hours (as observed on December 17, 2021) leads to approximately 20,854 gallons of runoff from the pasture per hour, which totaled approximately 500,000 total gallons of runoff during the December 17, 2021 rain event. During that event the creek rose approximately 2' to bankfull status and velocity increased from 5cfs to 300 cfs- a 5900% increase. If the field were planted in native grassland plants and woodland, we estimate we can reduce the pasture's runoff volume by 50%.

The extreme flooding that has been observed at Flint Creek and in nearby Gentry, most notably the Christmas Flood of 2015 and the flood of 2017 which saw more than 10 inches of rain and necessitated the total replacement of the bridge on Dawn Hill Road, as well as the April 2021 flood which saw waters rise to within inches of the bottom of the new bridge illustrate the need for urgent action to address county and local stormwater infrastructure (Eagle Observer). As towns such as Gentry in the Flint Creek Headwaters area continue to build out, protection and restoration of natural areas which provide areas for stormwater infiltration will be critical in mitigating the increased runoff from developing areas. The Clark University Land Change Modeler estimates that by 2050, developed acreage in the Springtown/Gentry area will increase by nearly 50%, which will lead to more runoff from impervious cover in the subbasin. Housing developments have already begun between the two towns.

Protection and restoration of headwater areas is critical to maintaining water quality and curtailing large velocities of water downstream. Most of the total stream length of rivers is in early order streams and headwaters (Lowe and Likens, 2005).

Though only a small piece of the puzzle, the restoration and enhancement of Flint Creek Headwaters Preserve and areas like it in the subbasin will become more and more important as development trends in the region are realized.

8. Population Served:

This project will directly serve more than 5,000 people in Gentry, Springtown, and the Flint Creek Headwaters subbasin. As of 2020, the population of Gentry, Arkansas is 33% minority (nonwhite), and the poverty rate is 16.7%.

9. Results

The overall goal of the project is to convert a 35- acre fertilized pasture to native tallgrass prairie and to increase the wooded riparian buffer along Flint Creek by approximately 6 acres. Using the aforementioned plant assessment as a baseline, NWALT will work to transition the pasture to native grasses and forbs typical of a tallgrass prairie habitat. Additionally, NWALT will plant a mixture of native trees, shrubs, and other woody

plants to increase the acreage of the current riparian woodland. Annual plant surveys will document the changes in plant community structure, native plant abundance, and decline of nonnative plant species.

10. Evaluation

Baseline data on plant species composition will be completed before implementing any management actions. Biologists will survey the project area and collect data on plant presence and abundance. Once baseline data is gathered, a comprehensive habitat restoration and management plan will be created by a staff biologist. Using that plan as a guide, a work schedule for management activities will be created. Photo stations at static waypoints will be created to visually document the change in plant community composition. Annual plant surveys will be conducted to monitor effects of restoration work.

11. Equity Impact

Flint Creek Headwaters Preserve is a publicly accessible nature preserve complete with a parking area and soft surface trails that is available for use year round. It offers residents of Benton County and greater Northwest Arkansas the opportunity for quiet walks through wildflowers and riparian woodland along the banks of Flint Creek. As we've witnessed throughout the pandemic, quiet, accessible natural areas provide much needed respite from the stresses and isolation brought on by social distancing, cancellation of public events, and increased time indoors. NWALT desires to further improve this property as a natural system to lessen impacts to downstream residents from floodwaters and nutrient pollution. The benefits of land conservation and habitat restoration extend to residents of all walks of life in Benton County.

12. Project Partners:

Worked funded through this opportunity will largely be conducted by NWALT staff. At times contractors such as Comprehensive Botanical Services will be called upon for more intense management activities such as drilling seed. It is anticipated that approximately 50% of the work done on this project will be conducted by contractors. Other partners may be called upon for technical assistance including Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Illinois River Watershed Partnership.

13. Capacity

Northwest Arkansas Land Trust has permanently protected over 5,700 acres of land in Northwest Arkansas, including nearly 1,000 acres in Benton County. NWALT owns and manages over 1,200 acres of lands in its service region for protection and enhancement of water quality, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources. NWALT has received financial contributions and grant assistance from a variety of entities including US Fish & Wildlife Service, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Walton Family Foundation, Bass Pro Shops, Arkansas Community Foundation, AARP, and many others. NWALT's board of directors includes bankers, attorneys, and natural resource professionals from around Northwest Arkansas. NWALT staff are career biologists and environmental scientists with expertise in habitat restoration and management, stormwater and limnology, geology, geography, and public access.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

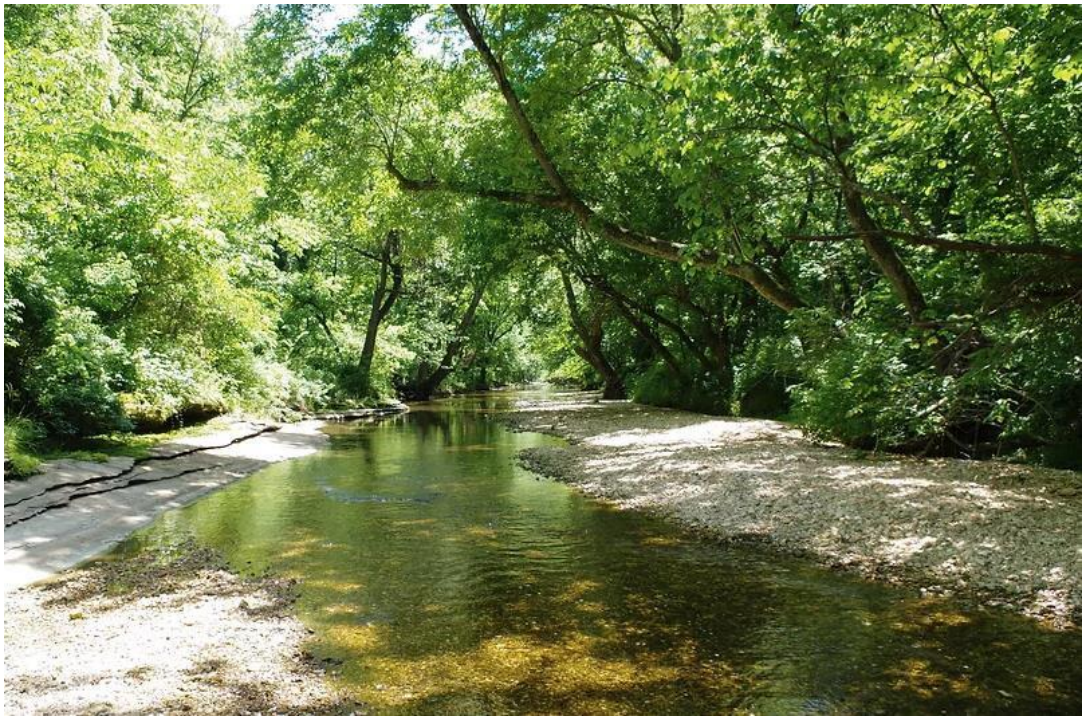
Habitat restoration and management is a long-term endeavor. Often, funding for initiation of a restoration project is the heaviest lift. Restoration activities can never be considered fully "complete." After initial restoration actions are conducted, focus shifts from restoration to long-term management. These activities include continued plant community assessments, control of nonnative species, and implementation of public access plans. NWALT is always seeking funding opportunities for ongoing management of its properties but maintains a property stewardship account to guarantee protection and stewardship of all the properties in its portfolio.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized? **Yes. NWALT regularly prepares grant reports of this frequency.**

17. Special Considerations

The mission of Northwest Arkansas Land Trust is to preserve and enhance the quality of life for all people in the region through the permanent protection and stewardship of land. NWALT is becoming a leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion in the region. 56% of staff and board are women. NWALT continues to seek out new opportunities to work with underserved members of our community through land conservation and stewardship.



Flint Creek Headwaters Preserve, Springtown, Arkansas

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Northwest Arkansas Land Trust**
Project Name:	**Restoration of Flint Creek Headwaters Preserve to Maintain Water Quality and Sequester Stormwater in the Flint Creek Headwaters Subbasin**
Amount Requested:	**$50,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 50,000.00	Pending	
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission	$ 5,000.00	Confirmed	
Private Individual Donor	$ 20,000.00	Confirmed	
Total	$ 75,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Herbicide Application		$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00	Capital	Contracted work paid by AGFC & Private Donor
Bareroot Trees & Installation		$ 4,200.00	$ 4,200.00	Capital	Contracted work paid by AGFC & Private Donor
Site Prep and Reseeding	$ 45,000.00	$ 7,500.00	$ 52,500.00	Capital	Includes mowing, prescribed fire, native seed, and seed drill use
Staff Time	$ 5,000.00	$ 11,300.00	$ 16,300.00	Operating	Overseeing project, plant surveys/community assessments,. Field work, project monitoring paid by Recovery Funds and Private Donor

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter
Contact Name: Amber Lacewell, Community Engagement and Education Director
Contact Email: alacewell@nwaws.org
Telephone #: (479) 246-0353

1. Name of Project: Safe Nights of Shelter During COVID-19

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $54,600

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Our funding proposal is for 350 safe nights of safe shelter. The Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter provides safe shelter and support services for adults and children fleeing domestic violence in Benton County. We operate a secure facility located in Rogers, in which we shelter more than 300 people (adults and children of all genders) every year. Annually, we provide more than 5,000 nights of safe shelter in Rogers (for example, housing 30 people for 30 days = 900 nights of safe shelter).

While we serve clients from all 4 Northwest Arkansas counties, most of our clients come from Benton County. Based on population data and the prevalence rates of domestic violence, there are currently **107,528 residents in Benton County who have or will struggle with violence** in their lives and homes—**more than a third of total people in the county** (NCADV, 2020 & US Census, 2020).

COVID-19 has caused a documented rise in domestic violence worldwide. In 2021, we provided 5,862 nights of safe shelter – **a 26% increase** compared to 4,660 in 2020. At the same time, starting in

October 2021, all domestic violence shelters in the state of Arkansas had **our annual Victims of Crime Act federal funding cut by a devastating 40%.** As the only domestic violence shelter in Benton County, we now need additional support to sustain the increase in need in our community being caused by the pandemic.

Our program works. In a typical year, more than 90% of our clients leave our shelter for a safe housing situation, independent of their abuser. Even during the pandemic, we are maintaining high levels of success in helping people into safe housing following shelter. In addition to emergency shelter, we accomplish this through one-on-one advocacy, counseling, and support services that help clients overcome obstacles and achieve long-term independence from their abusers. We help break the cycle of violence for the safety and health of our clients, their families, and our community.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

We provide 24-hour safe shelter in our secure facility in Rogers, which includes 16 client rooms and bathrooms as well as community kitchen, pantry, laundry room, computer lab, children's playroom, and therapy and advocacy space. We provide advocate staff for our clients 24/7, every day of the year to help our clients with case management and support services. We also provide on-site therapy and support groups as well as virtual therapy. We have implemented proper social distancing measures to protect clients and staff from the pandemic. We are also paying for client hotel stays where appropriate for clients who are quarantining, or to maintain social distancing in shelter. We would implement grant funds immediately to provide 350 nights of safe shelter. We provide more than 5,000 nights overall in a year. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly increased our costs in providing shelter that is safe from both domestic violence and the pandemic – at the same time that the pandemic is causing a rise in domestic violence and our federal funding has been drastically cut. We are in urgent need of funding support to continue or response to both the COVID-19 pandemic and domestic violence.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Our proposed project is designed for community violence prevention – a public health priority outlined in the guidelines for the American Rescue Plan funding. Based on population data and the prevalence rates of domestic violence, there are currently 107,528 residents in Benton County who have or will struggle with violence in their lives and homes--over a third of total people in the county (NCADV, 2020 & US Census, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a documented rise in domestic violence worldwide, as the economic downturn and medical issues are forcing families to be home together in stressful situations. Abusive people are taking this stress out on their families, including children who are virtual learning and are no longer in school – their normal safe place.

COVID-19 has forced the Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter to limit our shelter capacity to enable proper social distancing and keep clients safe from the pandemic. This means that we are not able to provide shelter to as many people in our shelter facility. While we are still sheltering as many clients in our shelter as we can, we are now also providing safe shelter in local hotels for some clients instead, and providing all of our services to these clients virtually. This gives these families a safe escape from violence and reduces the risk of the spread of COVID-19. While these hotel rooms allow us to continue providing safe shelter for those escaping violence in their homes, this extra expense puts an additional strain on our staff trying to address the varied needs of each client and their family.

Our reduced capacity has led to a **43% increase in the overall cost of housing clients over the past two years**, as we must accommodate social distancing and the increased cost of items and services such as PPE, sanitization to keep staff and shelter clients safe, hotel stays, and technology (smart phones) for clients in hotels so they can participate in support services virtually.

If a client tests positive or is exposed to COVID-19, that person and their family must quarantine in-shelter or hotel, and this presents its own set of challenges. We provide families with cleaning supplies, microwaveable meals, and all the other necessities they need to stay in their room. We are proud to say we have successfully mitigated COVID-spread in our shelter and have not had an outbreak among our shelter clients. However, these safety protocols require more work for our staff, less normalcy for our clients, and increased expenses for our shelter.

We are requesting $54,600 in American Rescue Plan funding for 350 safe nights of shelter. With the requested Rescue Plan funds, we will provide shelter and housing-related services for survivors of domestic abuse. We would use these funds for the cost of safe shelter, which includes facility rent, client hotel stays, the cost of staff advocacy and therapy, and supplies.

The pandemic has caused a documented rise in domestic violence worldwide, and we have seen an increased demand for our services. At the same time, we must try to limit the potential exposure of the disease in our shelter space by reducing our capacity. We are serving more people with less space, leading to increased expenses that are needed to keep everyone--clients, staff, volunteers, and those in our community--safe from both domestic violence and COVID-19.

At the same time, because of reduction in funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) on the federal level, **our federal funding has been cut by 40% - a cut of approximately $315,000 which represents 17% of our $1.8 million annual budget.** This has happened at the worst possible time and is threatening our ability to continue to meet the community need during the pandemic.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

For families experiencing domestic violence, home is the most dangerous place they can be. So the COVID-19 pandemic's effect of forcing people to remain in their homes has made dangerous situations much worse for our neighbors in Northwest Arkansas.

Based on population data and the prevalence rates of domestic violence, there are currently 107,528 residents in Benton County who have or will struggle with violence in their lives and homes--over a third of total people in the county (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2020 & US Census, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a documented rise in domestic violence worldwide, as the economic downturn and medical issues are forcing families to be home together in stressful situations. Abusive people are taking this stress out on their families even more than usual.

The United Nations is calling domestic violence the "Shadow Pandemic." UN Women cites the following ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has made life more dangerous for women and children (Publication: *The COVID-19 Shadow Pandemic*, 2020):

- Employees' work is more easily disrupted during confinement: it easier for an abuser to control all aspects of a survivor's movements, including their work, for example, by destroying work resources, or control access to a telephone or computer for online meetings.
- Tactics of control by an abuser include frequent interruptions of work, refusal to carry out child care, surveillance and physical violence, or preventing an employee from completing work tasks.
- It is harder to make a call to a friend or work colleague, or to contact a help line or to talk to a manager about accessing workplace supports.
- Health and safety is affected if a survivor is denied safety measures such as access to soap or hand sanitizers, or if she is prevented from shopping at the supermarket or pharmacy where it might be possible to alert someone for help.
- It is harder for managers to recognize the signs of domestic violence, particularly as appearing stressed or not responding to calls may be related to childcare or other problems during the lockdown.

The *American Journal of Emergency Medicine* estimates that domestic violence cases increased globally by 25-33 percent from 2019 to 2020 (Boserup et al, 2020). We are seeing survivors coming to us from situations in which their abusers have manipulated their lives in new and dire ways made possible by the pandemic.

Within our shelter, our clients share with us the ways in which their abusers have used the pandemic as an excuse to further isolate and harm them. A client came to us asking staff questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and informed us her abuser did not believe in the vaccine and told her and her children they were not allowed to be vaccinated. When the pandemic started, this client's abuser made her quit her job because she was pregnant and the abuser did not want her to be around anyone. The client also reported the abuser would constantly threaten to shut off the power, water, and electricity in their home, and told client he has the power to do that because he is the only one working after making her quit her job "because of the pandemic."

Another client shared that her abuser went everywhere while she was forced to stay at home with her children and by herself when the children went to school. After leaving and coming to the shelter, the client said her abuser used "the pandemic [as] as an excuse to keep me here like a prison, while he

went out without a mask and refused vaccination. As soon as our baby was born, he kept going out in large crowds and came home wanting to be near the baby, while he told me to stay at home and to make sure our kids do not get COVID, and if they did, it was my fault."

Another client came to us having quit their job as an elementary school teacher because of their abuser. The client told us they have poor health and were paranoid about the pandemic and very afraid to catch COVID. Their abuser told the client that he makes enough money to support a large family and insisted the client quit their job. According to the abuser, the client's job was too risky and he didn't want to get COVID. The client reports he then threatened them and told them to not leave the house and that he would do everything. The client stated they suspected that sometimes he didn't go to work because of how late he was coming home. Days later, the family tested positive for COVID. The abuser blamed the client because of their poor health and withheld medication from them.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

Our project will serve 300 adults and children of all genders and ages who are fleeing domestic violence in their homes. We will provide a hotline, safe shelter, advocacy, and support services to all clients served. We will provide therapy to clients wanting to participate in that service. Though we serve clients from Benton, Washington, Carroll, and Madison Counties, the majority of our clients come from Benton County. The majority of our adult clients are female, though we shelter male and nonbinary adults as well. We shelter children of all ages and genders.

We have a strong, organization-wide focus on serving all the communities to which our clients belong. Table 1 below shows the demographic breakdown of our clients by race. We serve most communities of color in greater numbers than their population density. Our staff represent the communities we serve, as Table 1 shows.

Table 1: Service Area, Client, and Staff Demographics

	NWAWS Service Area*	**Shelter Client Demographics****	**Shelter Staff Demographics****
Service Area Total Population / Clients (18+ years in age) / Staff	431,923	199	35 staff members
Racial/Ethnic Makeup			
Black or African American	2.73%	5.03%	7%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.74%	3.52%	11%
Asian	3.31%	1.51%	4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1.63%	3.02%	4%
White	87.9%	71.86%	56%

*U.S. Census, 2020
**Shelter records for adults sheltered, January – December 2020
***Staff survey, May 2021

Our personalized advocacy is tailored to the needs of each person we serve, and our advocates respond to the unique needs of people from underserved populations. For example, our facility is ADA accessible for those with physical disabilities, including an ADA accessible kitchen, bathroom, and client rooms. We help clients find medical equipment if needed, such as walkers or wheelchairs. For clients with limited hearing, we provide ASL translators.

Our team includes several Latinx advocates who can best respond to the cultural and community dynamics that our Latina clients experience in relation to domestic violence. We tailor our services to be inclusive to underserved populations such as non-English speaking populations. We have bilingual advocates who can communicate with clients in Spanish, and who translate for them with other community agencies or schools. We have an advocate on staff who is from the Marshallese community (fluent in Marshallese) and tailors services similarly to the needs of our Marshallese clients, including those who are non-English speaking. We also serve clients who speak other languages, such as Hindi, ASL, Madarin, and others. For these, we hire appropriate translators. We also have population specific advocate positions, such as an LGBTQ+ Advocate, who conducts population-specific services and outreach in the LGBTQ+ community.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

The proposed impact of the project will be safety of our clients from both COVID-19 and domestic violence. Our three performance measures will be:

-With the requested grant funds, we will provide 350 nights of safe shelter to people fleeing domestic violence in their homes.

-In total in 2022, we will provide 5,800 nights of safe shelter to 300 people.

-A minimum 75% of clients participating in safe shelter in 2022 will leave the shelter for a safe place, independent of their abusers.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

We track our service data in our software system called Apricot, which is designed specifically for domestic violence shelters. Our advocate and therapy staff enter data which our Program Director analyzes. We conduct annual staff training and careful monitoring of client data to ensure that records are accurate and complete. For all clients departing shelter, we issue client surveys which solicit feedback. Information on where clients go when they leave the shelter is recorded on these surveys

and also entered into Apricot by the clients' advocates. We track these outcomes for other federal funding and so we have detailed data collection and analysis processes in place.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affects people of color. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that discrimination, racism, limited health care access/use, "essential worker" status, crowded housing conditions, and education, income, and wealth gaps all make people of color at higher risk for contracting COVID-19 and having severe health consequences from the pandemic. According to the CDC, "COVID-19 data shows that Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian and Alaska Native persons in the United States experience higher rates of COVID-19-related hospitalization and death compared with non-Hispanic White populations." We have seen this inequity in Northwest Arkansas, where our Marshallese and Latinx neighbors are the largest population groups to have been disproportionately affected (CDC, 2020).

Several communities of color are also disproportionately affected by domestic violence. An astounding 84% of Native women experience domestic violence during their lifetime and are 3 times more likely to experience sexual violence than any other ethnic group (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2022). Due to systemic racism, racist policies, and racist social structures, both Black women and Black men experience domestic violence at disproportionately high rates (NCADV, 2022). While rates of domestic violence in the Latinx community are roughly the same as rates for White people, Latinx survivors face additional barriers to leaving an abusive partner – such as language barriers, immigration issues, and the strong focus of many Latinx cultures on family and religion.

This means that communities of color are in the worst possible situation – at the intersection of their heightened health risks for both the pandemic and domestic violence. For the Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter, a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery means addressing both the pandemic and abuse in people's homes for their health and safety.

The Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter provides just, equitable, and sustainable response in two ways: 1) reaching survivors in communities of color with services, and 2) providing culturally appropriate and accessible services to each community. As Table 1 on page 5 shows, we serve all of the following groups in numbers larger than their population density in our service area:

- Black/African American: 5.03% of our clients, compared to 2.73% of the NWA population
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 3.52% of our clients, compared to 1.74% of the NWA population
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 3.02% of our clients, compared to 1.63% of the NWA population

To provide culturally appropriate and accessible services, we ensure that our staff represents the communities we serve. 44% of our staff identify as people of color (May 2021 staff survey). These staff members guide our response to survivors in their own communities. We partner with culturally-specific community organizations, such as the Marshallese Educational Initiative and American Indian Center for Arkansas, to identify effective ways of promoting and delivering culturally appropriate services. Our staff receive regular training from these organizations and other resources regarding best practices for serving specific populations. Finally, we have population-specific programs, such as a Marshallese Advocate staff position, that conducts outreach and provides services to Marshallese survivors.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

We will not use any subcontractors for the proposed scope of work. While we partner with many social service agencies in Northwest Arkansas for client referrals, there are no key partners in providing safe shelter under the proposed project.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

The Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter has been providing safe shelter for survivors of violence in Benton County for 32 years. For several decades, we have been managing federal funding to provide services to help families escape violence for a safe home. This includes both the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA) funding. This project will be managed by Rachael Schmidt, our Programs Director, who has more than a decade of experience serving survivors at our organization. Rachael is adept at collecting and analyzing data as well as ensuring community-based client services. Nancy Gaden, our Finance & Accounting Manager, is a Certified Public Accountant in both Arkansas and Oklahoma with 30 years of accounting experience, including extensive experience in managing federal funds. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas and an MBA from Oklahoma State University.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

Please see the attached budget. Based on 2021 actual costs, our cost of providing 1 safe night of shelter to 1 person is $156. We are requesting funding for 350 nights of shelter. Funds will be used for rent for shelter space, hotel stays, staffing, and supplies. Costs vary per client depending on client needs – for instance, some clients seek more advocacy or therapy than others, or clients with specific dietary or health needs may need more supplies than others, etc. All funding will be spent within the 4 categories above but may be allocated differently depending on client need.

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

For more than 3 decades, we have been providing safe shelter to survivors of violence in Benton County. Our safe shelter program is funded through a variety of sources, including individual donations, corporate support, grants, and special event revenue. However, we are being challenged to raise more funds for this program for usual because of COVID-19 - at a time when the pandemic is causing a rise in domestic violence in Benton County. Recent federal funding cuts are also challenging our budget. Changes in federal legislation mean that these funds should be restored in 2023. However, we must raise more funds in the meantime to maintain services. We are seeking additional support from individuals and businesses, as well as American Rescue Plan funding, to help fill the gap during this critical time.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes. We are accustomed to managing federal funds and have thorough processes in place to track program outcomes, track restricted funding, and report on both of these to our grant funding partners.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

We believe that rising domestic violence due to COVID-19, the disproportionately affected communities we serve, recent funding cuts, and our track record of successful program outcomes make us an ideal partner in using American Rescue Plan funds to the best benefit of our community. If we may provide any additional information or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Amber Lacewell at the contact information listed above.

Thank you for considering our request.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter**
Project Name:	**Safe Nights of Shelter During COVID-19**
Amount Requested:	**$54,600.00**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 54,600.00	Pending	Request for 350 nights of safe shelter
List other sources here			
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Total	$ 54,600.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
350 nights of safe shelter x $156 per night. Cost includes rent, staffing, and supplies.	$ 54,600.00	$ -	$ 54,600.00	Operating	We are requesting funds to be used for providing nights of safe shelter. $156 cost per night is calculated based on actual 2021 costs during the pandemic, which we expect to be the same in 2022. We will use requested grant funds for rent for shelter space, hotel stays (for those quarantining or to maintain social distancing), staffing, and supplies necessary to provide safe nights of shelter. The allocation of grant funds between those 4 categories of expense will depend on client needs.
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Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Northwest Arkansas Industries for Education, DBA Business and Industry Training
Contact Name: Julie McAllaster

Contact Email: jmcallaster@busandind.com

Telephone #: 479-365-7341

1. Name of Project: Workforce Skills Gap Recovery Plan

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $450,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19

4. Brief Project Description:

- *Due to the Pandemic, the manufacturing industry had loss of skilled workers that furthered the skills gap. Difficulties incurred from COVID 19 resulted in many individuals in the Manufacturing Industry having restrictions that limited their ability to receive third party training.*
- *Our goal is to close the skills gap by providing support and training to current manufacturing employees and also by introducing new professionals to local manufacturers.*

5. Project Plan:

- *Students that are on our current waiting list will be given first priority on trainer availability with choices at two Benton County Training locations.*
- *Leverage local workforce experts and High Schools for potential candidates and current employees looking for new career opportunities. On Approval date, we immediately start awarding scholarships and begin the process of securing equipment (90-110 Days).*

6. Statement of Need:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

- *During Covid-19, manufacturing couldn't stop. Industry had to continue to operate, even with many people off of work for illness. Decreased workforce in addition to distancing limitations meant we were unable to train at all, or at full capacity.*
- *This training shortage has impaired the recovery of local manufacturing, as the industry can't resume full-scale operation or growth without a skilled workforce.*

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

Manufacturer Worker Skills Gap*

- *Retirement of baby boomers*
- *Skilled Labor Shortage Threatens Manufacturing's Full Recovery*
- *Before Pandemic, 38% of manufacturers faced this issue and today, it has increased to 54%*
- *84% of executives believe skills gap will impact their ability to meet customer demand*

Nearly 3.4 million Manufacturing jobs need filled over next decade.

- *2.7 million baby boomer retirements*
- *700K manufacturing jobs expected from economic expansion*
- *Skills gap to leave 2 million of those jobs unfilled, with potential economic impact of $2.5 trillion*

Developing Talent is essential:

- *64% External training*
- *72% involvement from local training facilities*

Booming Industries of Arkansas

Job Demand, Job Security, Competitive pay and Endless Growth await in these thriving sectors of Arkansas Economy

- *Arkansas has experienced a* ***growth of 4.1% in the employment of skilled trade workers***

Top Industries in Arkansas by Value Added to the Economy

- *#1 is Manufacturing across all industries**
- *12% of the Arkansas workforce is employed in Manufacturing. Arkansas is ranked 7th among 10 states for manufacturing by percentage of the workforce and it ranks third in the South.*

Arkansas ranked #2 as highest percentage of manufacturing employment in the South and third highest in the nation!

- ***AGRICULTURE/FOOD & BEVERAGE:***
    - *#1 Agriculture is Arkansas largest industry, adding around 16 billion to the state's economy each year+*
    - *The **poultry and egg industry** in Arkansas employs as many as **55,407** people across the state and generates an additional **114,433 jobs** in supplier and ancillary industries. In 2020, the industry was responsible for as much as **$40.4 billion** in total economic activity throughout the state creating or supporting as many as **169,840 jobs**.++*
- *In the past six years, there have been more than 80 economic development projects in the food and agribusiness manufacturing industry, creating more than **4,200 NEW JOBS** and more than **$2 BILLION** of proposed investments**

- *Arkansas Economic Development Commission. Nam.org ** Resource: weforum.org; Jobs Reset summit part of weforum.org; Job Market Monitor; flexwareinnovation.com; brookings.edu. +Arkansas Farm Bureau ++US Poultry & egg Association

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

- *All populations will be served with focus on Industry, High School Students, Unemployed and employed.*

- *This program is ideal for anyone that wants to learn this trade and wants to pursue employment in Industrial Maintenance. Industry Manufacturing employees want to advance or receive promotions. The training that we provide is offered to anyone. We do not discriminate and welcome any individual and/or companies to utilize our facility for their training needs. With having more trainers, it will allow us more opportunity to teach more individuals. The curriculum will be delivered as hands on training along with interactive multimedia. Will have interaction with instructors and students will have quizzes to pass and they will have to demonstrate hands on for their final test before moving on to the next lap/module of the training course. All Modules have a pre and post quiz that provides students the opportunity to retake the modules if they are having difficulty in certain areas.*

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

- *# of Courses completed and scores*
- *Length of time for completion of each course*
- *# of placements at Industry Organization or promotion*
- *Reporting of Wage (before and after)*

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

- *Our multi-media curriculum includes pre quizzes and post quizzes for our courses and is tracked and graded by in our reporting system. This information is shared with the instructors. Also, there are hand outs that is given to the students when testing out of the course that they have to perform with their hands on the actual trainers that they fully understand their learnings and can demonstrate that to the instructor.*

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

- *The additional equipment we will purchase with these funds will allow us to open our facilities to train more individuals and industry employees. This will help to narrow the skills gap, providing trained employees to industry where they need it the most, increase job opportunities to unemployed individuals and help industry employees to be qualified for higher paying jobs within that sector.*

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

- *No subcontractors will be used for this initiative.*

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

- *Business and Industry Training is a non-profit organization offering customized, hands-on short- term skill-based training to Industry Companies and Individuals for over 25 years. We have a board of directors made up of Industry, Community/Human Resource Managers, and financial leaders leads our organization.*
- *We have two locations that supports Industry demands that are located in Gentry and Springdale. The services we offer provide local manufacturing with a continuous supply of qualified workers. Although our current capacity was able to meet the industry demand for training, COVID-19 has created a higher demand than ever, as many experienced workers fell away from industry positions permanently. Our goal with this project is to permanently*

expand our capacity for industry, but also to open up opportunity through scholarships and training time for new students looking to enter the workforce.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

See Attached

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire.

- *Each year we receive donations from industry organizations that we use to purchase needed training equipment. The purchase of training equipment is a permanent investment in workforce quality. It permanently expands our capability to serve the industry demands.*

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

- *YES, we will be able to provide quarterly reporting.*

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

- *Thank you so much for the opportunity and the consideration of our organization for utilization of some of the Benton County American Rescue Plan funds. I have attached a few of the support letters that we have from some of our industry training customers. We appreciate it very much and we invite each of you to come tour our facilities. Thank you again!*

**See Attached Industry Support Letters

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Northwest Arkansas Industries for Education, Inc DBA Business and Industry Training**
Project Name:	**Training Assistance**
Amount Requested:	**450000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 450,000.00	Pending	
McKee Foods Equipment Donation Funds	$ 43,350.00	Pending	Funds received from Industry Company dependant if we receive equivalent funds of support for equipment needs
Total	$ 493,350.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Electrical Systems 1 Trainer (2)	$ 15,600.00		$ 15,600.00	Capital	
Motor Contols Trainer (2)	$ 84,162.00		$ 84,162.00	Capital	
Mechanical Drives Trainer (1)	$ 36,000.00		$ 36,000.00	Capital	
Process Control Trainer (1)	$ 34,759.00		$ 34,759.00	Capital	
Programmable Logic Controler (1)	$ 86,000.00		$ 86,000.00	Capital	
22 Scholarships (fully Trained)	$ 204,400.00		$ 204,400.00	Operating Expense	
Additional Wages	$ 31,600.00		$ 31,600.00	Operating Expense	Additional Instructor to support expanded training hours

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name:
Contact Name:
Contact Email:
Telephone #:

1. Name of Project:

Recruiting and Retention of New Professionals Through Immersive Tourism

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$104,530

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

These requested funds will serve as support in both the nonprofit sector, as OZ XP is a 501(c)(3) serving Benton County, while also supporting the reinvestment in tourism and travel

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

OZ XP, (dba Upper Left Experience) is a nonprofit dedicated to promoting tourism in Benton County while providing an adventure education experience for college students. Our organization utilizes the beauty and existing adventure infrastructure in our county to attract future young professionals to Benton County with adventure trips to the area. Mountain biking and outdoor experiences, combined with myriad

cultural opportunities in Benton County create an experience that recruits students to our region while providing these students and future young professionals an unforgettable learning adventure.

ARP funds would be used to cover funds lost over the previous 2 years due to missed funding opportunities and missed trips resulting from the pandemic. OZ XP will utilize these funds to cover costs associated with our hosted trips. These funds ensure students of all backgrounds have the opportunity to experience the area fully. Costs covered as part of the trips include accommodation, food, outdoor equipment, guiding services, insurance, and other associated costs. All funds will be reinvested into Benton County restaurants, businesses, and outdoor professionals.

By using ARP funds, OZ XP will be able to recruit more students and future young professionals to our region. Funds will be reinvested immediately into Benton County by employing outdoor professionals in the area, as well as investing in the local economy through getting student participants to restaurants, stores, and retail spaces in the county. These funds also serve as a long-term investment, as these students who experience our area will develop a strong sense of place and want to return as visitors and residents (discussed further in the statement of need section)

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

OZ XP works directly with Colleges and Universities from across the region and their outdoor education programs. This allows us to target those students who value adventure and mountain biking. By bringing these students to Benton County, we leverage the amazing infrastructure already in place and match it with their interests, leading to more connection to the region that leads to return tourism and residents who want to stay in the region.

Trips take place during partner schools' breaks: Spring Break, Fall Break, and Summer session. Multi-day trips combine riding trails with food and cultural experiences, along with service opportunities. Each trip is different and done in conjunction with the goals of each outdoor program. Requested funds will be implemented in 2022 and 2023 for trips. OZ XP currently has three partner schools scheduled to visit in 2022, with more partnerships in progress.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Economic harm resulting from the pandemic has directly affected OZ XP by delaying all scheduled trips for two years. Additionally, with the uncertainty of the pandemic, potential funding partners in industry and the community have understandably been unable to fund OZ XP activities for the prior two years. ARP funds will alleviate these missed opportunities and inject monies directly into the Benton County economy.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need and cite the source of the data.

OZ XP addresses needs on two fronts: first: the need to recruit and retain new and diverse talent to Benton County. Nationally, challenges face companies in recruiting talent, but also retaining talent. An astonishing 30% of new corporate hires will leave in under 90 days with their new companies, due to a lack of engagement. These same new hires are up to 12 times more likely to leave their company at any time due to poor onboarding and lack of engagement. (this research was conducted by an international human resources development company, GLINT in 2019)

OZ XP tempers these numbers by pre-onboarding students to the region. By developing a deep sense of place and culture of the area, students who become new professionals in Benton County are more likely to stay in our area and contribute to its vibrancy. (sense of place research conducted by Kudryastev, Stedman, and Krasny, 2012)

NWA and Benton county have benefitted from the immense investment in mountain biking and adventure infrastructure. However, it isn't being leveraged enough as a long-term resident recruitment tool. A study completed in 2018 by the Walton Family Foundation, only 27% of NWA residents considered the trail infrastructure as important in deciding where to live. By targeting those students who self-select as valuing adventure and mountain biking and bringing them to have a world-class adventure and cultural experience, we can ensure that figure increases.

On the other side of the equation is student learning and development through outdoor and adventure-based education. Students who participate in these types of experiences have all kinds of positive development, including higher self-esteem, better relationships, more social confidence, and even higher levels of learning habits. (Experiential and outdoor education research extends from Kolb in 1984, to our founder's own doctoral research, completed in 2019). Combining these positive outdoor experiences with the above sense of place ensures students maintain positive connection to our county and want to return.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

As stated above, the funds will serve the local economy, by injecting dollars directly into those places. No fewer than 15 local businesses will be frequented on every trip.

Participants (college students 18-24) will vary widely and come from from across the country. The funds used will ensure all students will be able to participate, regardless of financial status. This ensures OZ XP will be able to support students from across the demographic spectrum.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

50 students engaged in immersive visits by 2023

-95% of students engage in first-person storytelling about Upper Left and NWA through social and in-person channels

-95% of students increase connection to region

-75% of students increase likelihood to promote region to others as adventure and culture destination

-75% of students increase likelihood to return as visitors

-50% of students increase likelihood to return as job seekers and residents

Intermediate outcomes
-60% of students engage in actual promotion region to others as adventure and culture destination via social or in-person

-50% of students return as visitors or residents

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

-In-person surveys to address the above questions will be collected at the end of the respective trips

-Continued follow up surveys done via email and phone will be conducted to measure the stated intermediate outcomes.

-Continuing communication between OZ XP and students will ensure students are aware of job opportunities, internship opportunities, and entrepreneurial opportunities in the region.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

The no-cost trips to NWA serve students equitable by giving all the opportunity to visit our region and experience it fully.

The money reinvested in the local economy ensures workers in the tourism and service industries have continued customers to serve, and in the long-term, have more loyal customers in the future.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

NA, OZ XP will deliver all aspects, minus the food cooked at area restaurants!

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Founder and Executive Director Dr. Taylor Weichman has been an outdoor educator for 15+ years, and his doctoral research focused on adventure-based education and learning for college students. He is an avid cyclist and instructor who loves getting more people on the trails in Benton County, and ensuring they have a

rich experience. He also has experience in state and university-level education, working in project management and budgetary management as part of large-scale state projects.

Director Kenny Williams is an outdoor educator with 15+ years experience. His current focus is as Director of Pedal It Forward, a non-profit dedicated to getting more people in our region on bikes. He is a certified cycling instructor as well.

Director Kelsey Miller is a cycling instructor and cycling industry professional with 10+ year experience. She coaches cycling with Women of OZ, Little Bellas, and is a fervent supporter and cheerleader of Outdoor Education and cycling education.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

Attached

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

OZ XP continues to develop partnerships with community and industry partners. We continue to solicit funds to maintain our programs. Requested ARP funds matches 2 years of missed fundraising, allowing for 2 developmental years to continue seeking out and building further funding relationships.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

This non-profit is founded and directed by a military veteran.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**OZ XP (DBA UPPER LEFT EXPERIENCE)**
Project Name:	**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF NEW PROFESSIONALS THROUGH IMMERSIVE TOURISM**
Amount Requested:	**104,530**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 104,530.00	pending	
WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION	UNSPECIFIED	PENDING	
Total	$ 104,530.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
LODGING FOR PARTICIPANTS	$ 3,600.00	$ -	$ 3,600.00	OPERATING	LOCAL AIRBNBS
MEALS FOR PARTICIPANTS	$ 6,050.00		$ 6,050.00	OPERATING	55/DAY AT BENTON COUNTY RESTAURANTS
BIKE RENTALS FOR PARTICIPANTS	$ 11,000.00		$ 11,000.00	OPERATING	FROM LOCAL BIKE SHOPS
GROCERIES FOR OTHER MEALS	$ 500.00		$ 1,400.00	OPERATING	FOR COMMUNAL COOKING
PROFESSIONAL COACHES/GUIDES	$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00	OPERATING	100/HOUR FOR CERTIFIED COACHES
COLER PROGRAM EXPENSES	$ 200.00		$ 200.00	OPERATING	YOGA AND FACILITIES COSTS
PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO PROFESSIONAL	$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00	OPERATING	FOR FIRST PERSON STORYTELLING ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS: $1000/SESSION
CUSTOM JERSEY	$ 800.00		$ 800.00	OPERATING	
CUSTOM HEADBANDS	$ 250.00		$ 250.00	OPERATING	
CUSTOM WATER BOTTLES	$ 160.00		$ 160.00	OPERATING	
INSURANCE	$ 840.00		$ 840.00	OPERATING	
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM COSTS	$ 11,000.00		$ 11,000.00	OPERATING	FUNDS FOR SUMMER INTERNS, TO INCLUDE TRAINING AND PAY
WEB DESIGN	$ 1,265.00		$ 1,265.00	OPERATING	
DIRECTOR FUNDS	$ 5,200.00		$ 5,200.00	OPERATING	
STAFF TRAINING EXPENSE	$ 2,500.00		$ 2,500.00	OPERATING	BICP REHACKS, FIRST AID
List expenses here			$ -		
List expenses here			$ -		
List expenses here			$ -		
List expenses here			$ -		
List expenses here			$ -		
List expenses here			$ -		
List expenses here			$ -		
List expenses here			$ -		
List expenses here			$ -		
			$ 52,265.00 X 2 YEARS		$104,530.00

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Partners for Better Housing

Contact Name: Monique L. Pierre

Contact Email: monique@partnersforbetterhousing.org

Telephone #: (616) 401-4202

1. Name of Project:

Partners for Better Housing - Housing Stabilization Fund

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$1M (One Million)

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Economic Impacts - Housing Stabilization

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

Partners for Better Housing proposes to address access to homeownership by launching a Housing Stabilization Program. The program will address barriers to homeownership exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The PfBH Housing Stabilization Program will address the economic impact of Covid-19 by providing homebuyer training, gap financing and engaging developers to broaden for-sale housing options are attainable and affordable to households in Benton County.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including the time frame.

Phase I of the program will launch in 2022.

The timeline is as follows:

Phase I - Homebuyer Education and Down payment Assistance

1. Design Program Portal Materials and Prepare for Launch - April - September 2022
2. Begin accepting applications for down payment assistance - September 2022
3. Begin awarding DPA - November 2022

Phase II - Pay-It-Forward and Development Gap Financing

1. Fund Pay-It-Forward homebuyer program in Benton County - April 2022
2. Lender and Realtor orientation/training launch - September 2022 - May 2023

Phase III - Single Family Developer Engagement

3. Develop and Launch Developer Engagement Initiative - April 2022 - June 2023
4. Issue RFP for qualified Developers - July 2023
5. Select qualified projects for award of Gap Financing Program Funds - September 2023

Families can access the funds in three ways:

- Families working in Benton County can apply through Partners for down payment assistance through our workforce housing program. Partners will work with the homebuyer and local lenders to provide a gap financing sufficient to purchase a home.

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- Developers building homes in Benton County will enter into an agreement with Partners to reserve homes in their projects in exchange for an investment of gap financing from Partners. Gap financing will be available to income-qualified homebuyers earning less than the median income for Northwest Arkansas. The program fills the gap between the market rate price of the home and the home loan that the buyer can qualify for.
- Partners will strategically partner with developers to support for-sale homes in Benton County and use the ARP funds to support purchasers at or below 80% of area median income with a second mortgage through our Pay-It-Forward equity recycling program.

Partners has a dedicated Director of Community Outreach and Homeownership who works with applicants to complete all program requirements including homebuyer training, income certification and employment verification while providing ongoing support to ensure a successful launch into stable homeownership. In addition, Partners utilizes the software Homekeeper, which allows us to document and track the progress of all program participants. We are also poised to target underserved communities by translating our materials and homebuyer videos into Spanish and Marshallese.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The pandemic caused mills, producers and suppliers of construction materials to shut down. Lumber, for example, experienced over a 150% price increase in 2020 due to Covid-19. The result is an increase in the cost of an already limited housing supply. Home prices in Benton County have increased more than 15% in the last year, based on MLS data compiled by Philip Taldo at Weichert Realtors. Families in Northwest Arkansas were directly impacted by the crisis which resulted in further setbacks in their ability to purchase a home and live in the communities where they work. The high cost of construction materials coupled with a labor shortage, inflation, tariffs on soft lumber from Canada, and now increased interest rates from 3.22% to 3.45% as of January 13th, have resulted in hard working families in Benton County being priced out of homeownership.

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The most impacted segments of the population are employed modest-income households that have less access to resources to help them secure homeownership. Covid, brought the tenuous nature of their housing security into focus.

Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

Modest and moderate-income households are not able to acquire mortgages sufficient to purchase a home in Benton County. There is a demonstrable need for mortgage down payment assistance to acquire a mortgage. Households earning 80% or less of the area median income, who work in dominant industries in Northwest Arkansas need help securing mortgages that they can afford.

The Problem: A large number of stable households are relegated to less tenable rental housing instead of stable homeownership. This disparity happens for a number of reasons including availability of moderately priced homes, ability of lower waged workers to borrow enough to purchase a home and a matter of high demand in a tight market. The result is that more modest income households are denied at surprising rates; lenders denied 12.9% of White, 26% of African American, 19.4% of Asian Pacific Islanders and 16.4% of Hispanic mortgage applicants in Arkansas, according to a recently released analysis of federal data from the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act conducted by Zillow, and reported in Axios. What this data indicates is that there is a bridge needed to assist families interested in homeownership.

The Solution: PfBH works with lenders; educating them on the Shared Equity Homeownership Program and with the Arkansas Development Finance Authority to increase access to their mortgage products in Northwest Arkansas. We work to inform lenders about the benefits of the program so that they become champions through the underwriting process. We prepare purchasers for the rigors of homeownership through our homebuyer education program. Finally, we provide down payment assistance which is secured by a lien/deed restriction that is recaptured upon the sale or refinance of the home.

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The economic impact of being denied a mortgage or being qualified for a mortgage that is not sufficient to purchase a home in Benton County, is also inextricably linked to the increasing cost of housing. The 2021 NWA State of the Region report conducted by the University of Arkansas Center for Business and Economic Research at the Sam M. Walton College of Business, states, "in Benton County, the average (home) price was $311,333, 14.3% higher than a year ago (2020) and 42.4% higher than five years ago". The NWA region cannot ignore the fact that affordable housing must expand beyond basic rental housing for modest income families. Households earning anywhere from 80% to 120% ($62,942 - $94,413) of the Area Median Income (AMI) are being priced out of the county and unable to enjoy the quality of life available in Benton County.

Novogradac, a trusted source in housing policy, states, based on "CBO's (Congressional Budget Office) July estimate of CPI (Consumer Price Index), it appears that 2022 will be a rebound year for income limits. Currently Novogradac estimates that the national median income will increase by more than 5.75%. They go on in the report to prognosticate that Arkansas will see a rebound of 7.31%. Coupled with the record low unemployment rates (1.5% in Northwest Arkansas), housing prices will continue to rise.

The regional housing needs are not in dispute, but rental housing is not the only solution. The stabilization of households impacted by Covid-19 through the homeownership access fund must seek to assist them by putting them on par with households whose earnings and assets allow them to move quickly to purchase homes above listing price. Assisting modest income families to acquire homes in communities with great amenities improves the family stability, educational and health outcomes. Homeownership builds the tax base, stabilizes families and improves and enriches the quality of life of the entire community.

7. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

The population served are in two tranches; 1) households earning at or below 80% AMI (low moderate-income) and 2) households earning between 80% and 120% AMI (moderate income).

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8. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

The three performance measures of the program are as follows:

1. Number of households assisted with homebuyer training and preparation for ownership
2. Number of households successfully purchasing homes

9. Evaluation:

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

The software already purchased and in use by Partners for Better Housing called Homekeeper, is an effective tool that allows Partners for Better Housing to collect data necessary to income-qualify participants, gather required documentation for underwriting, and track homeowner stability after they acquire the home. The Director of Community Outreach and Homeownership provides ongoing supportive services for purchasers which can be tracked in the software. In addition, PfBH is developing a partnership with the University of Arkansas to provide evaluation of our homeownership program. That work is supported by a Walton Family Foundation grant.

10. Equity Impact:

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

The PfBH Housing Stabilization Fund will support the effort to help build towards a just, equitable and sustainable Covid-19 recovery in the following ways:

1. Expands access to homeownership for families in Benton County
2. Increase production of attainable homes
3. Provide homeownership classes translated into Spanish and Marshallese

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4. Conduct outreach and education among lending institutions and community groups to expand the knowledge of attainable homeownership solutions.

11. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;

2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?

Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

Currently PfBH will be delivering all services both directly and in partnership with qualified lenders, realtors and developers. No developers have been selected at this point, but our project activities and timeline delineate when they will be engaged in Phase III of the plan. In addition, we are working with local entities to further the agenda including leveraging funding from other jurisdictions to support this very important effort.

12. Capacity:

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Currently, PfBH has staff with over 50 years of experience developing housing with 30 years of administering federal, state and local funds designed to build housing and redevelop communities. ARP funds are federal funds that require an advanced level of understanding of the complex record keeping, environmental review, affirmative marketing and overall ethics and accountability in the regulations.

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The CEO of Partners for Better Housing is certified by the National Development Council (NDC) in Housing Development Finance and by Novogradac in Property Compliance, HOME Investment Partnership Certification in Regulations and Administration, and has worked in housing and community development for 24 years. Notably, she was the Community Development Manager for Kent County, located in West Michigan, during the last major economic disruption, and administered the full slate of recovery funds including American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP), and Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds.

The Director of Outreach and Homeownership's professional experience working within the public and private sector has equipped her to effectively develop talent, facilitate community initiatives and collaborations, and connect people to resources and opportunities that positively impact their lives. She has been actively involved in community engagement both with the City of Fayetteville and as the Director of the Richardson Community Center.

The Director of Real Estate Development has 30 years of experience and is an expert in development with both commercial and single-family residential experience. Her unique understanding of private development is grounded in having been an integral leader in her own family's development company.

13. Budget:

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

14. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

Partners for Better Housing will use the American Rescue Plan funds to leverage matching funds from both public and private foundations to continue developing attainable housing. Currently, PfBH has successfully leveraged Walton Family Foundation funds and an Arkansas Community Foundation impact investment to support the development of the Homes at Willow Bend development. Just as private developers work with banks and other funding sources to develop housing for a profit, PfBH will do the same. The profits raised will both support the organization and use these funds to gain momentum in our endeavors which will allow us to continue this good work.

In addition, all of the funds provided to homebuyers will be secured with a lien/deed restriction on the property which secures the ARP funds. A deed restriction ensures any ARP funds granted to home purchasers is recoverable upon the sale or refinance of the property. Funds will be perpetually recycled to support other homebuyers to purchase attainable housing. This is a self-perpetuating program that is replicable regionally.

15. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes. PfBH is committed to providing robust and timely reporting. The Homekeeper software utilized by PfBH has the built-in functionality to generate accurate reporting for program evaluation. In addition, PfBH is engaged with the University of Arkansas to support an evaluation.

16. Special Considerations:

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

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BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Partners for Better Housing (PfBH)**				
Project Name:	**Housing Stabilization Fund**				
Amount Requested:	**$1,000,000**				

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 1,000,000	Pending	
Total	$ 1,000,000		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Program Expenses					
Downpayment Assistance/Equity Investment	$ 674,000		$ 674,000	Capital	Direct Benefit to Homebuyers
Homebuyer Education	$ 100,000		$ 100,000	Operating	Training Expenses (Location, Resoures, Materials)
Lender Training Development	$ 20,000		$ 20,000	Operating	Training Expenses (Location, Resoures, Materials)
Evaluation, Reporting and Project Closeout	$ 89,400		$ 89,400	Operating	End of Program Expense
Sub-Total Program	**$ 883,400**		$ 883,400		88% of the grant funds will go directly to supporting the actual program activity.
Staffing					
CEO	$ 14,122	$ 141,215	$ 155,337	Operating	Dedicated Staff Time
Director of Real Estate & Development	$ 11,336	$ 113,364	$ 124,700	Operating	Dedicated Staff Time
Director of Community Outreach & Home Ownership	$ 15,285	$ 76,426	$ 91,711	Operating	PfBH DCOH will invest a substantial amount of time specifically in Benton County
Admin Support Professional	$ 4,620	$ 30,800	$ 35,420	Operating	Dedicated Staff Time
Project Manager - Development	$ 39,760	$ -	$ 39,760	Operating	Dedicated Staff Time
Accounting and Audit Manager	$ 1,950	$ 13,000	$ 14,950	Operating	Dedicated Staff Time
FICA	$ 2,867	$ 28,673	$ 31,540	Operating	Overhead Required by Law
Health Benefits	$ 2,809	$ 28,088	$ 30,897	Operating	Overhead Required by Law
Disability insurance	$ 375	$ 3,748	$ 4,123	Operating	Overhead Required by Law
Worker's compensation	$ 94	$ 937	$ 1,031	Operating	Overhead Required by Law
Retirement Benefits	$ 750	$ 7,496	$ 8,246	Operating	Overhead Required by Law
Professional Development	$ 2,196	$ 21,964	$ 24,160	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Staff Meetings	$ 15	$ 150	$ 165	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Equipment	$ 2,269	$ 22,695	$ 24,964	Operating	Equipment Expenses
Homekeeper Software	$ 900	$ 9,000	$ 9,900	Operating	This expense covers three years of program activity.
IOBY Matching Funds	$ 980	$ 9,800	$ 10,780	Operating	Program Contribution Overhead
Meetings Events	$ 1,441	$ 14,410	$ 15,851	Operating	Program Contribution Overhead
Memberships	$ 200	$ 2,000	$ 2,200	Operating	Program Contribution Overhead
Mileage	$ 50	$ 500	$ 550	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Pattern Zone Expense	$ 500	$ 5,000	$ 5,500	Operating	Program Contribution Overhead
Sub-Total Staffing	**$ 102,519**	**$ 529,265**	**$ 631,784**		
General Overhead					
Audit & Tax	$ 2,000	$ 20,000	$ 22,000	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Board Development	$ 158	$ 1,580	$ 1,738	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Board Meeting Expense	$ 577	$ 5,774	$ 6,351	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Computer Hardware	$ 1,125	$ 11,246	$ 12,371	Operating	General Conduct of Business
D&O Insurance	$ 174	$ 1,741	$ 1,915	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Donor Development	$ 588	$ 5,880	$ 6,468	Operating	General Conduct of Business
HR Consultant	$ 450	$ 4,498	$ 4,948	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Legal	$ 1,140	$ 11,400	$ 12,540	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Marketing Collateral Materials	$ 1,260	$ 12,600	$ 13,860	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Occupancy Insurance	$ 222	$ 2,217	$ 2,439	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Occupancy Maintenance	$ 160	$ 1,600	$ 1,760	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Occupancy Rent	$ 3,204	$ 32,039	$ 35,243	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Office expense	$ 200	$ 2,000	$ 2,200	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Social Media	$ 1,260	$ 12,600	$ 13,860	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Telephone	$ 303	$ 3,030	$ 3,333	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Website Updates	$ 1,260	$ 12,600	$ 13,860	Operating	General Conduct of Business
Sub-Total General Overhead	**$ 14,081**	**$ 140,806**	**$ 154,886**		
Grand Total	**$ 1,000,000**				

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Pedal It Forward NWA
Contact Name: Kenny Williams
Contact Email: kenny@pedalitforward.org
Telephone #: 214-240-7334

1. Name of Project:

Reaching 2000 bikes for those in need

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $25,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Pedal It Forward aims to scale our operations to put 2,000 bikes per year into the community.

5. Project Plan:

We have been preparing for this project for several years, and COVID set us back. We have two operational workshops in NWA that are poised for expansion of volunteer efforts and hours. We will begin by

doubling our volunteer shifts available in 2022, which will trigger the need to buy more parts, source more bike donations and drives, improve efficiency, and employ more person power to monitor the facilities.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Twofold: First, Bikes are a basic form of transportation for people who do not have the luxury of a personal vehicle. COVID has impacted carpoolers, bus riders, and other forms of economical transport. Access to a bike greatly increases the ability for people to get to where they need to go - work, an appointment, or simply to visit family. Secondly, a bike gets people outside, exercising, breathing fresh air. Pedal It Forward exists to ensure that this basic opportunity exists for all in NWA.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

Increasing infrastructure development focused on cycling in NWA is evident through community investment and the Walton Family Foundation's investment. 74 million alone has been invested in greenway and soft surface trails, with 137 million in economic impact being reported. (WaltonFamilyFoundation.org)
But with a poverty rate of 12.4% in 2019 (Center for Business & Economic Research at the University of Arkansas) this leaves 60,000+ residents without the disposable income to enjoy the cycling amenities that we are so proud of. We realize that 2,000 bikes a year is only a portion of the need, but we are committed to chipping away at the gap in bicycle access each and every year.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

Our recipients are children and adults in Northwest AR who cannot afford to purchase bicycles. Our population is identified by the 60+ nonprofits that we partner with. These organizations aid underserved populations across our region. Examples include the VA, Foster care, juvenile system, schools, churches, addiction recovery homes, boys and girls clubs, big brother/sisters, the teen action support center, homeless shelters, etc. We typically have a 60/40 split for children/adult recipients.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

1. Putting 2,000 bikes into the NWA community in 2022.
    a. Achievable through volunteer recruitment, additional open hours, training, tool improvements, and additional labor.
2. 50% increase in volunteer hours in 2022
    a. This will be possible through extended volunteer hours (Open hours)
3. Identify 5 new distribution partners

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Our bikes are all inventoried and their partner destinations are tracked. We will be able to report on YTD total production, YTD delivery to specific partners, and YTD volunteer hours.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

Our bikes are delivered to those who are in the most need in Northwest Arkansas. The investment in cycling infrastructure for both transport and recreation is apparent in our region, but the access to the mode of travel itself can be a hurdle that many cannot overcome. Our goal is to be the bridge for so many residents who live mere feet from our multi-million dollar cycling facilities yet cannot make use of them because they cannot afford a bike.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;

2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

N/A

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Since 2014 Pedal It Forward has been collecting, repairing, and distributing bicycles to those in need. We are grant-supported and familiar with the required reporting requirements. We routinely deliver 1000+ bikes per year to the community within our current operational threshold. Our desire is simply to scale up to hit the 2,000 bike goal. We now have two full time staff (shop manager and director), and are dialing in operations for more efficiency and production.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

We are actively seeking additional grant funding, corporate sponsors, and just last year hosted our first fundraising event. The addition of a full time shop manager has allowed the director to focus more on development and sustainable support. This funding will start a snowball that can be supported in the future. Once equipment, partners and volunteers are in place, the operational input required to sustain 2,000 bikes will be achievable without the need to reinvest each year.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

Our ambitious goal is to open a 3rd shop in 2023, Ideally in Washington county. In the coming years, our aim is to continue to spread the model across the region. We believe that our model is repeatable and sustainable, and should exist in every community!

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Pedal It Forward NWA**
Project Name:	**Reaching 2000 bikes for those in need**
Amount Requested:	**$25,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 25,000.00	pending	Necessary funding to reach 2k bikes in 2022
Total	$ 25,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Expense?**	**Notes**
Consumable bike parts	$ 4,800.00		$ 4,800.00	O	Brake pads, tubes, chains, tires, etc
Tools	$ 2,637.00		$ 2,637.00	C	few one-off specialized tools
Compressor purchase/Install	$ 1,990.00		$ 1,990.00	C	and efficiency
Fuel (bike pickup/delivery)	$ 850.00		$ 850.00	O	More bikes=more gas
Volunteer appreciation (shirts, hats)	$ 1,320.00		$ 1,300.00	O	dedicated volunteers
Additional Part-time shop manager	$ 13,423.00		$ 13,423.00	C	pick ups, bike maintenance, and other duties

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Restoration Village
Contact Name: Kristopher Adams
Contact Email: kris@restorationvillage.net
Telephone #: 479-402-0036

1. Name of Project:

Safe Shelter for Women and Children

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$200,000 ($100,000 for two years)

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,
D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our organization has seen negative economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic in regards to our nonprofit event fundraising. We also provide services to disproportionately impacted communities including those who have experienced domestic violence, homelessness, and other forms of abuse.

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

Restoration Village is requesting support for the housing of women and children who have been impacted by domestic violence, other forms of abuse, and homelessness. Throughout the pandemic, we have continued to provide safe shelter and life-changing services. We are requesting funds to assist with providing this shelter (utilities costs), maintaining this shelter (property manager), and caring for our residents (program director, resident aides).

None of these items or positions have grants or other committed support for their funding in 2022-2023. Benton County American Rescue Plan funding would enable us to continue to provide housing support for women and children, facilitate healthy childhood environments with shelter for children,

and improve the social determinants of health for women and children with safe shelter at our facility.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

The project relates to our ongoing nonprofit work and operations. Funds will be utilized to support the salary needs for several essential workers, including our property manager (50% of salary), program director (50% of salary), and hourly resident aide positions. Most importantly, funding will help secure safe shelter for our residents by providing the utilities for our facility to benefit the women and children living at our shelter. Electricity, gas, water, internet, etc. are critical needs for our ability to provide safe shelter to women and children. The full amount funded would provide for these staffing and operational needs from 2022 through 2023.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

COVID-19 has negatively impacted on the nonprofit sector, especially in regards to in-person fundraising events. Postponements and cancellations have been all too frequent. Sponsors and participants have been reluctant to participate. Those who are able to support in-person events are also likely to be experiencing economic impacts themselves, which in turn makes supporting at previous levels difficult. We have shared in this experience during the pandemic, and our statement of need (below) details the difficulties we have faced with event fundraising from 2020 through the present.

Some nonprofits, like ours, have not only been impacted by COVID-19 economically, but also directly through the services they provide and clients they serve. Homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters have struggled during the pandemic to provide safe shelter for those trying to escape difficult living situations *and* avoid disease. Throughout the current health emergency, our doors have remained open to serve women and children and provide the shelter they need to alleviate homelessness, escape abusers, and have assistance navigating the pandemic with our comprehensive services. Our statement of need (below) details the specific items related to safe shelter for which we are requesting funding – salaries for our essential workers and utilities for our facility.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

COVID-19 continues to have a negative impact on the nonprofit sector, including our ability to host and raise funds at in-person events. In 2019, Restoration Village was able to raise $105,689 through its fundraising events. However, with the onset and continuance of the pandemic, only $72,146 was raised in 2020 through fundraising events. In 2021, our event fundraising was reduced even more to $50,080. This continued decline in our event fundraising capacity has been a significant difficulty.

Also, our service of safe shelter is a critical need for women and children who are homeless or domestic violence victims. Residents come to our program seeking stable, secure housing with adequate utilities for themselves and their families. Their need is great, and funding from the American Rescue Plan will help alleviate their needs by empowering our organization to provide these crucial services.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

Restoration Village provides long-term safe shelter and services to women and children. In 2020, we had 53 total residents, including 19 women and 34 children. In 2021, we served a total of 36 individuals, 13 women and 23 children. Most of our women are victims of domestic violence (89% in 2020, 92% in 2021), and most of our children have encountered domestic violence as well (witnesses) (74% in 2020, 70% in 2021). Many of our women have experienced homelessness (68% in 2020, 77% in 2021), and many of our children have experienced homelessness along with their mothers (62% in 2020, 74% in 2021).

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

The following measures will be tracked as a means of quantifying impact:

- Individuals Receiving Safe Shelter – The total number of residents, women, and children will be tracked and reported. We estimate serving 45 total residents, including 15 women and 30 children, with long-term safe shelter and life-changing services each year.
- Days of Safe Shelter Provided – The total number of days of safe shelter and services provided to women and children will be tracked and reported. This figure will be calculated based on residents' dates of arrival and departure, with the final figure being the total days of shelter provided to all residents. Because our population and length of stay varies, we anticipate at least 7,300 days of safe shelter for individuals each year.
- Resident Status – Residents will be tracked and reported based on their status of being either a (1) current resident in good standing, (2) successful graduate, (3) or withdrawn from

residency. Reports of successful graduates will be conveyed with personal stories and testimonials.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Organizational oversight, including the execution of this funding and any requirements, will be provided by Restoration Village's Executive Director, Natalie Tibbs, and the Restoration Village Board of Directors. Our board members include: Gary Anderson (Chair, Retired, Owner of Anderson Heating & Air), Marty Parkhurst (Vice Chair, Director of Implementation, Wal-Mart), Robyn Staggs (Treasurer, Senior Relationship Manager, Bank of America), Micah Brandon (Secretary, Attorney Ad Litem), Dr. Joel Fankhauser MD (Primary Care Physician, Direct Care Clinic of Northwest Arkansas), Jenni Blood (BIM Manager, Marrs Electric), Becky Wisener (Community Member).

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

This proposal will build toward a just and equitable COVID-19 recovery by supporting an organization that furthers the common good of the community and by providing assistance to those who are at a significantly greater disadvantage during the pandemic. Assisting our women and children's shelter demonstrates a concern for justice and equity among those who have experienced significant trauma and abuse by providing for their basic needs (through utilities at our facility and our property manager) and the life-changing services we offer (through our direct service staff).

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate: 1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and; 2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform? Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project.

No subcontractors will be used for the proposed scope of work. Key partners to the project include our nonprofit organization's volunteers and community support.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Restoration Village has been serving women and children locally since 1989. We have a strong reputation with local government, businesses, churches, other nonprofits, law enforcement, community groups, and individual supporters. We have experience managing federal funds, as our organization received a Care Act Community Development Block Grant from the City of Rogers last year. We also continue to receive ongoing funding with our current Victims of Crime Acts Grant from the state of Arkansas. Our experience managing these grants demonstrates our capacity to facilitate the current request and manage any awarded funding accordingly.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

The budget spreadsheet has been attached and submitted for the committee's review.

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire?

Restoration Village's safe shelter and life-changing services will be funded beyond the American Rescue Plan with fundraising events, other government grants, business sponsorships, public and private foundations, and individual contributions.

While the expenses related to this request are ongoing (salary for essential workers, utilities for our women and children's shelter), we hope to return to more normalcy regarding nonprofit events and their fundraising outcomes. This support would provide the funding necessary for our organization through an anticipated economic recovery period until our fundraising events can generate more substantial income. Benton County American Rescue Plan funding would provide critical aid to our nonprofit organization, especially supporting our payroll and utilities costs as we provide safe shelter to women and children impacted by trauma and abuse.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes, we would be able to report quarterly on our expenditures for these funds.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

Restoration Village is Northwest Arkansas' faith-based long-term women and children's shelter. Since 1989, we have worked to restore the lives of women and children through a community of hope and healing. Our goal is for those we serve to lead safe, healthy, and independent lives. To facilitate this transformation, we provide safe shelter and life-changing services to women and children who have been impacted by domestic violence, homelessness, and other forms of abuse.

As a long-term shelter, we emphasize the quality of the services we provide to women and children. Unlike other shelters, there is no time limit for our program. Women and children in crisis have as long as they need to heal from past trauma. Our emphasis on long-term care results in our program serving fewer residents, but we provide a greater level of support since true restoration is a process that takes time.

For additional information about Restoration Village and our work, please visit www.restorationvillage.net.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Restoration Village**
Project Name:	**Safe Shelter for Women and Children**
Amount Requested:	**$200,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 200,000.00	Pending	
Total	$ 200,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Shelter Utilities 2022	$ 35,000.00		$ 35,000.00	Operating	Electricty, water, gas, phone, internet, etc.
Property Manager (50% Salary) 2022	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00	Operating	Remaining salary will be raised through other grants, donations, etc.
Program Director (50% Salary) 2022	$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	Operating	Remaining salary will be raised through other grants, donations, etc.
Resident Aides (Hourly Positions) 2022	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00	Operating	More than one position, hours will vary
Shelter Utilities 2023	$ 35,000.00		$ 35,000.00	Operating	Electricty, water, gas, phone, internet, etc.
Property Manager (50% Salary) 2023	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00	Operating	Remaining salary will be raised through other grants, donations, etc.
Program Director (50% Salary) 2023	$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	Operating	Remaining salary will be raised through other grants, donations, etc.
Resident Aides (Hourly Positions) 2023	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00	Operating	More than one position, hours will vary
TOTAL	**$ 200,000.00**		**$ 200,000.00**		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Returning Home Inc.
Contact Name: Nick Robbins
Contact Email: nick@returninghomenwa.com
Telephone #: 479-640-5358

1. Name of Project:

Community Alternative Program (CAP), Benton County

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$175,200.

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. *Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19

Reducing the number of individuals in the county detention center mitigates the spread of Covid-19

B. *Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19

We will be participating in growing the workforce of several industries that have been hit hard by Covid-19. While participants are in our program they are fully employed.

C. *Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by theCOVID-19 pandemic.

Corrections community was hit very hard by Covid-19, so being able to reduce the jail population and provide healthcare to those coming to our program can make a significant impact. Offering vaccines, boosters and flu shots to all residents will help mitigate the spread as well as educate the population on the necessity of safety protocols to reduce the risks associated with Covid-19

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

Returning Home looks to provide an alternative sanction to incarceration in NWA. We are seeking to find a middle ground between no consequences for supervision violations and a less punitive measure to imprisonment when an individual has not committed a new crime.

Individuals will participate in: Trauma Informed care through trained counselors, Relapse Prevention Programming, Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Medication Management, Health and Wellness goals, Housing, Case Management, Healthy Relationships classes and other various services.

The financial need to run the program will be $175,200 per year. This represents a cost of $60 a day per the 8-bed program. With these individuals the alternative to their supervision violation would be jail or prison time. A day in jail cost the county $73 and a day in the State prison system costs $64 a day. What sets us apart is not only the reduced cost but the services we provide are evidence based in reducing the likelihood of re-incarceration.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

This is a 90-day program once they have been accepted. The amount of time to get into the program varies due to individual case circumstance and those involved in determining eligibility. Depending on when funding is received, it will take 60 days to educate and help facilitate the referral process. In addition, during those 60 days we will work to bring awareness of the program to all potential clients. We will also use this time to complete all renovations needed to the rooms dedicated to this program Once all parties involved are

comfortable with the process we will begin scheduling compatibility interviews. After the initial 60 days, we will begin to house clients for the 12-month duration of the program funding

- Step 1 – the candidate is identified by Benton County's probation or parole officers, public defenders, prosecutors, and drug court staff.
- Step 2 – a compatibility interview is performed to determine if the candidate is capable of meeting program requirements.
- Step 3 – an acceptance letter is sent to the individual and the referral party upon confirmation of bed availability.
- Step 4 – the candidate is accepted into the program with agreement from involved parties.
- Step 5 – upon program completion, a discharge summary will be sent to the participant and supervising authorities.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Congregate living is a significant contributing factor to the spread of Covid-19. Reducing the number on individuals housed in the county detention center would help mitigate the spread of Covid-19, while providing services and resources to help prevent those participating in the program from returning to incarceration

An eligible use for the ARP funds is "support for prevention, mitigation or other services in congregate living facilities (incarceration settings, homeless shelters, etc.)," according to information from an Aug.16 county meeting that dealt with public health and economic recovery. As of November 2021, Benton County Detention Center topped out at 751inmates, which is 82 over capacity (AR online, Nov 2021).

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need and cite the source of the data.

As of November 2021, Benton County Detention Center topped out at 751inmates, which is 82 over capacity (AR online, Nov 2021). In order to reduce the number of people being housed in Benton County Detention Center alternative sentencing options need to be increased. This program would allow the judicial system to have an additional option for those in need of consequences other than additional time served in jail.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

Decreasing the jail population by providing individuals that are eligible for alternative sentencing and diversionary programs would help those that have been diagnosed with a mental illness, have experienced physical or sexual trauma and address those struggling with substance use disorder. An example would be men, with low-level charges such as possession of paraphernalia, possession with controlled substances, theft and those with parole and probation revocations

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

Increased Employment: Those leaving jail are rarely employed, either through the consequences of their actions they lost their job or in most cases did not have one when they were arrested. Through our program we will ensure each participant will have fulltime employment. We commit to 100% of participants will be fully employed through our community partnerships with several area employers.

Financial Sustainability: Through financial literacy classes and budget workshops we ensure all participants are meeting financial obligations such as paying fines to courts and counties and fees to community supervision. We reach out to sentencing courts and local child support enforcement offices and provide details to ensure garnishments are established and back payment plans are in place.

Mental and Physical wellness: We provide weekly mental health counseling that addresses their substance abuse disorders and other areas of concern. We ensure a wellness check and address any physical ailments of concern through proper medication management and follow up appointments with primary care providers.

Substance Abuse Disorder: We utilize weekly random drug testing to ensure a sober lifestyle is being maintained. We use an evidence-based curriculum that addresses cognitive and behavioral changes, and healthy coping mechanisms that will assist with living a healthy sober lifestyle. We complete CBT pre and post surveys to track progress of cognitive and behavioral changes based on the class work and document rule infractions and positive character awards weekly

Reduction in reincarceration by providing programming and resources along with mental health services and case management this program would decrease the number of revocations and rearrests associated with these individuals.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

We utilize the IORNS Criminogenic Risk and Strengths assessment to establish a prioritized treatment plan. We utilize a spreadsheet for each participant that is updated weekly that tracks, drug tests results, pay stubs that show taxes and child support payments, fines and fee payments are recorded and we utilize a spreadsheet that has all rule infractions and character awards.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

Through providing resources and services to address health disparities such as lack of health insurance, mental health counseling, proper medication management and establishing primary care we will be able to participate in the sustaining of Covid-19 recovery. In addition to providing a safe and sober living environment, addressing food insecurities, and connecting participants with employment opportunities paired with the substance abuse education, this program will ultimately enhance the Covid-19 recovery process. People of Color and other minorities are impacted at a higher rate by the criminal justice system, we work to ensure equity across all races, religions and socioeconomic status.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

- Phoenix Recovery: Our transitional housing partner. This partnership allows us to offer discounted rates to those willing to participate in the Fatherhood program
- TCIY Behavioral Health: Offer weekly counseling to everyone in the program, including family counseling sessions.
- UAMS: Provide certified trainers to facilitate the Fatherhood program that utilizes the 24/7 Dad curriculum, provided by the National Fatherhood Initiative. In addition, they will provide six months of case management to help ensure what is learned in class is put into practice in the real world.
- CCOA: Provide curriculum for financial literacy
- Arkansas Community Corrections: In-house parole officer to ensure all clients meet their community supervision requirements.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

The organizational structure for RH is as follows; Nick Robbins is the Chief Executive Officer, Britt Gjeruldsen is the Director of Operations, Brenda Stringfellow is the Program Coordinator and Margaret Spiller is the facility Caseworker.

Nick Robbins CEO has worked in the fields of prison ministry and reentry for the past 14 years. During that time, Nick has held positions with both Prison Fellowship and Pathway to

Freedom. Nick currently works as the CEO of Returning Home, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, located in Northwest Arkansas, that provides reentry services to those coming out of incarceration. Nick is a Charles Colson Scholarship recipient from Wheaton College and a graduate of the School for Correctional Ministries Reentry Leadership Credential Program. He is a former Executive Board Member of the Correctional Ministry and Chaplains Association and is currently the Jail and Prison Ministry Volunteer Coordinator for Woodland Hills Family Church, as well as a member of the NWA Reentry Coalition and is the Co-Chair of the Washington County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee.

Nick is responsible for ensuring RH is financially and ethically executing the responsibilities of running a nonprofit. Nick is responsible for utilizing the funds in the most effective manner, that includes hiring and evaluating staff to ensure Returning Home's mission is being fulfilled to the best of the organization's capabilities. Nick will be responsible for managing partner relationships including judicial, county, and local providers. Nick will assist in the facilitation of the reentry-focused curriculum. Lastly, Nick will identify, train, and oversee volunteers who assist in the RH mission.

Britt Gjeruldsen is a Licensed Master of Social Work and the Director of Operations for Returning Home. She has been working with RH and PRC since August of 2018. Britt's responsibilities consist of overseeing daily operations to ensure clients are receiving the necessary services to complete the 90-day program and have a successful reentry into the community. Britt also assists with all grant writing opportunities, monitors, and evaluates key performance objectives, and coordinates and oversees secondary case management for those struggling in the program. Britt will be responsible for collecting data for all inputs and outputs for the program. Britt will be responsible for the supervision of both the Caseworker and the Program Coordinator. Lastly, Britt will assist with completing eligibility interviews for the program.

Brenda Stringfellow is the Program Coordinator for the Community Alternative Program (CAP) for Washington County. Brenda has been coordinating this program since June 1st, 2020. Brenda Stringfellow began her employment with Goodwill Industries of Arkansas in 2017 as a Career Specialist-Reentry. In 2019 Brenda was promoted to Reentry Program Specialist where she focused solely on clients who have encountered the criminal justice system. Brenda has completed Peer Support Core training, specializing in peer services, addiction recovery and reentry. Brenda has completed several ethics and compliance trainings along with several business-related programs which will allow her to effectively communicate with the team as well as future employers. She has created several relationships with employers which guarantees all residents will have a full-time job.

Margaret Spiller began working in May 2019 as the Caseworker at RH and PRC. Margaret completed her BS in Psychology in May 2014 and has completed Addiction Peer Support Specialist Core Training and 500 hours in field experience with Midsouth School of Social Work. She is a diligent and empathetic Caseworker with 10 plus years of experience in the fields of addiction support services and reentry. She offers well developed skills in case management, ethics, written and verbal communication, support services and networking.

Margaret is responsible for initial intake for new residents, assisting new residents with obtaining driver's license, social security cards and birth certificates. Margaret facilitates communication with the judicial system to assist residents in getting payment plans and court appearances to address fines and fees from each county a resident has unsettled debt. Margaret also assists residents with medical needs such as primary care physicians, medications, doctor appointment scheduling and health insurance needs. Margaret collaborates with community partnerships to ensure residents have their needs met in areas of optometry, clothing, housing, and next step support services for day 91.

In addition to the staff of RH, other providers located within the facility are the Director of Phoenix Recovery Center Transitional House, Clint Majors. There are three full-time support staff and 11-part time support staff who provide coverage for the 67-bed facility. We have a designated in-house parole officer and a counseling agency with four therapists located within our facility as well.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

Our goal would be able to present next year for continual funding for this program. By doing so, we believe Benton County will be able to see the benefits of the services being offered.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

We receive federal and foundational grants that require very specific things to be tracked and reported. We collect demographics such as race, religion, and socioeconomic status. We also

track expenditures for food, curriculum and program costs, medication and identification funds and payroll

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Returning Home Inc.**
Project Name:	**Community Alternative Program, Benton County**
Amount Requested:	**$175,200**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 175,200.00	Pending	
Total	$ 175,200.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Payroll	$ 78,728.00		$ 78,728.00	Operating	
Materials and Suppies	$ 3,440.00		$ 3,440.00	Operating	
Ongoing Monthly Costs	$ 69,722.00		$ 69,722.00	Operating	
Initial on-time Cost	$ 4,800.00		$ 4,800.00	Operating	
Office Set Up	$ 5,200.00		$ 5,200.00	Operating	
Room Renovations	$ 13,310.00		$ 13,310.00		
	$ 175,200.00	$ -	$ 175,200.00		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Samaritan House Community Center (dba Samaritan Community Center)
Contact Name: Debbie Rambo, Executive Director
Contact Email: drambo@samcc.org
Telephone #: (479) 636-4198

1. Name of Project:

Building to Thrive: Samaritan Community Center

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$750,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

Due to the scope of the project, which asks for programmatic support and capital building campaign support, the project falls into multiple categories. Specifically,

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19
B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19
C. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health and economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Samaritan Community Center has served this NW Arkansas at-risk population with dignity and compassion since 2002 with programs that focus on the wrap-around services that support the health of the whole person. Core to this concept is the use of social workers who serve as Care Advocates helping client families walk their individualized journeys toward health, providing encouragement along the way, and reducing obstacles to their potential success.

COVID has taught us that our organizational strength comes from our core values to be client-centered, mission-driven, collaborative, and sustainable. This understanding of who we are and how we best serve has led us to our plan for a new 40,000 SF campus in southeast Rogers that focuses on:

Capacity: To expand critical services including social services, counseling, and dental. The need for an enlarged space is essential as our current Rogers community center facility is at

maximum capacity. With COVID, and the projected increase in population, we expect to serve an additional 300-500 families per year by 2025.

Collaboration: To streamline the process of clients needing services from many organizations, we choose to collaborate with other like-minded organizations rather than duplicate services. We will provide our partners with no-cost office space, virtual meeting capabilities, and classroom space within our new facility on a rotating, scheduled basis to those organizations further strengthening the nonprofit community.

Clients will be able to access a myriad of services and educational opportunities "under one roof" and have access to Care Advocates coupled with Counseling services for ongoing case and emotional health management. We are also in strategic discussions with Dayspring in Siloam Springs to potentially expand our services (virtual care and counseling) to families in need in western Benton County.

Sustainability: To ensure the long-term success of our organization, our strategic planning always includes opportunities to add social enterprise components to our programs rather than pursue funding through large-scale fundraising events. This ensures that the organization remains financial healthy even if there is a downward trend in donations or grants. Our new campus will allow us to transform our charitable dental clinic, counseling and social work programs into hybrid, full-service care models that include funding from Medicaid, sliding scale payments, and charitable care.

We are requesting American Rescue Plan funds in the amount of $750,000 be provided by the Benton County ARP Committee to help build this "one of a kind" facility to serve the financial, physical, emotional, and social health needs of lower-income families in Benton County.

Capital funding ($450,732) coupled with the proposed programmatic funding ($299,269) will allow for program expansion and establishing hybrid, whole healthcare models prior to opening of the new facility. ARP capital funding will be matched dollar for dollar by a local family foundation.

Our total building project cost is $14.8 million. We currently have donations and gift commitments totaling $9.05 million after 5 months in the "quiet phase" of our capital campaign with multiple proposals currently under consideration by foundation and corporate partners. Our goal is to move to the public phase of our capital campaign in conjunction with the groundbreaking in May/June 2022.

5. Project Plan:

Year 1: **Expanding Access to Wrap-Around Services and Affordable Healthcare to At-Risk, Low-Income Individuals in Benton County.**

During Year 1, we will focus on strengthening and expanding existing healthcare and social services infrastructure and on the completion of the capital fundraising campaign.

Social Services / Case Management. Care Advocates are at the core of the seven programs we offer at Samaritan Community Center. We currently have 4.25 Care Advocate FTEs, including 2 who are bilingual. Care Advocates provide resource referrals, education, and in-depth case management to our clients. Our goals in Year 1 are as follows:

- Hire 1 bilingual FTE Care Advocate that focuses on becoming a Medicaid Enrollment Specialist. During the first year, the position will establish processes and procedures for vetting all clients for Medicaid eligibility and walk alongside client case managers to ensure Medicaid enrollment is easy and streamlined.

- Migrate existing client data to a comprehensive case management software platform that allows us to maximize client needs that can either be filled by Samaritan Community Center or in partnership with existing nonprofit and government entities.

- Client outcomes will be tracked in accordance with case management best practices as established by the Care team. The Medicaid Enrollment Specialist will specifically track the number of Medicaid enrollments, eligible candidates that refused enrollment, the number of ineligible clients, and the reason for client ineligibility.

Samaritan Counseling – C4 Consulting (Projects 1-3 of attached C4 proposal). In collaboration with C4 Consulting, we have developed a full-service proposal for outpatient continuum of care at Samaritan Community Center that addresses the gap in affordable mental health services in Benton County. Upon completion of Projects 1-3 of the attached proposal, we will move to Phases 2 and 3 with the addition of providers and a billing specialist.

- Samaritan Counseling has been a long-standing program of Samaritan Community Center, providing free behavioral and mental health counseling services to low-income individuals in NW Arkansas. Historically, counseling sessions were provided by 5-7 master's and post-masters level students in the final stages of their counseling program. Supervision was provided by an on-site licensed professional counselor or marriage and family therapist contracted by the SCC to provide intern guidance and mentorship. For the past 2 years, Samaritan Counseling has been on hold due to COVID-19 as we have been unable to attract interns to counsel clients in-person due to the possibility of COVID-19 exposure and university-instituted intern restrictions.

- As part of our holistic, wrap-around service approach, we are proposing to relaunch Samaritan Counseling. The need for mental/behavioral health care services in Northwest Arkansas continues to rapidly grow, due to population growth and social isolation during the pandemic.

- Our new model will allow for program expansion, program financial sustainability (hybrid Medicaid/charitable clinic) and an outpatient mental/behavioral health Continuum of Care that can be replicated in other communities with similar needs. Coupling comprehensive wrap-around services with high-quality mental/behavioral health access targeted to low-income families will provide an innovative model of holistic client care that lowers the barrier to addressing social determinants of health for at risk populations in Northwest Arkansas.

Samaritan Dental Clinic: The shortage of Medicaid providers plagues adult oral health care. While funding for expansion of Samaritan Dental Clinic is not specifically proposed here, it is important to note that Samaritan Dental Clinic will also be expanding to conduct Medicaid eligibility and offer a hybrid model of Medicaid services and free and charitable services.

- This will expand the number of Medicaid oral health appointments in Benton County by at least 1200 appointments per year while still providing the equivalent number of appointments to low-income Medicaid ineligible adults who qualify for free oral health care.

Combined with Samaritan Community Center's long-standing commitment to hunger-relief in Benton County, the expansion of our existing healthcare programs that are anchored by Samaritan Care's community collaboration and case management approach will improve positive health outcomes through an intentional and systematic methodology that addresses each client's social determinants of health.

Capital Campaign Funding and Building for the Future. Since the arrival of COVID-19, Samaritan Community Center has consistently embraced our mission of "Serving the hurting and hungry of Northwest Arkansas with dignity and compassion" which allowed us to serve a record number of new clients and total clients over the last two years through the provision of food, COVID-related services (PPE, vaccinations, and home test kits), case management, and resource information.

- The COVID-19 pandemic showed us that families across NW Arkansas need a place like Samaritan Community Center, both today and for generations to come. We continue to serve far more clients that we did prior to the pandemic and fully expect to do so from now on.

- During the pandemic, we boldly launched a $14.8 million dollar campaign to build an expanded Rogers community center that will better serve our clients through collaborative and educational initiatives and will expand our commitment to food justice through the expansion of Samaritan Garden to a 3-acre urban farm.

- With the uncertainty of COVID, we have gained clarity and fortitude. Samaritan Community Center is financially and operationally strong. We are ready to help build a better future for all NWA families. We currently have 61% of our capital goal funded with multiple proposals under consideration. We anticipate starting the bidding process for the new building in April

2022 at which time we expect to be 70-75% funded. Our timeline is to break ground on the new facility in May/June 2022.

The new building is designed to purposely fill gaps in services that exist for low-income families in NW Arkansas and to move our most vulnerable neighbors to life stability.

Year 2: Implementing the framework established in Year 1.

Social Services / Case Management.

- Hire 2 additional bilingual FTE Care Advocates. All eligible Care Advocates will become certified Medicaid providers and will be well-versed in the new client case management system.

- As a Care Team, they will work to grow the reach of Samaritan Care through innovative and strategic partnerships based on client needs as determined through in-depth case management.

- Establish the system by which clients navigate the needed services at Samaritan Community Center and implement the system for tracking appropriate referrals and follow-ups.

- Establish collaborative partner calendar to ensure that the appropriate collaborative partner agencies have a regularly scheduled presence in the new facility. Establishing key collaborative partners will strength the nonprofit ecosystem in Benton County and move clients more quickly toward life stability while furthering our understanding of existing service gaps.

Samaritan Counseling - C4 Consulting (Projects 1-3 of attached C4 proposal). We will move to Phases 2 and 3 of C4 Consulting's proposal with the addition of team members.

- This includes ensuring all regulatory compliance, program design and layout and necessary licensure and accreditations. As we have only had pro-bono counseling previously, this proposal will not only allow our counseling program to serve Medicaid eligible patients but also still provide for the hybrid model whereby counseling interns can receive necessary practicum hours at Samaritan Community Center.

- We will hire, 1 FTE Licensed Counselor, and a Clinic Coordinator/Billing Specialist. This approach will establish the foundational model for expansion in Year 3 at the new facility.

- We will begin recruiting social work and counseling interns from John Brown University, University of Arkansas and Harding University in preparation for the expanded clinic space.

Capital Building Campaign. In year 2, we expect the capital campaign to be fully funded and the construction to be completed with an anticipated opening date of January 2024.

Year 3: Full Implementation of Wrap-Around Services Approach and Moving into the New Facility for Long-Term Sustainability of NWA At-Risk Persons.

- The primary focus of Year 3 will be hiring, credentialing, and training of additional personnel required for the expanded services in counseling (3 LPCs), social work (2 LCSWs), and dental (2 dentists and 1 hygienist). We will also continue to seek volunteer dental professionals for our charitable clinic.
- We will also formalize our partnership calendar to fully promote to our clients when partner agencies will be on-site and available, including offering our clients the ability to online schedule these appointments.
- There will be a wide array of on-site educational opportunities both through our computer lab as well as our classroom. These classes will be offered by the SCC, as well as partner agencies.

6. Link to COVID-19:

With the arrival of COVID-19 in March 2020, Samaritan Community Center chose to remain open and serve those in need across NWA. Other than a few months in early 2020 when several of our programs were required by law to close, Samaritan Community Center has remained open and committed to our mission.

During COVID-19, we adjusted our services to best fulfill our mission and serve the needs of not only our regular clientele, but the thousands of community members adversely impacted by COVID-19. Our resilience, fortitude and long-standing commitment to meeting emergency needs of our vulnerable neighbors validated our ability to withstand and persevere during adverse events.

During COVID-19, we pivoted our community meals and food pantry operations outdoors, trained all staff in disease mitigation tactics, established extensive COVID protocols in alignment with CDC/ADH guidelines, provided virtual case management, reopened the dental clinic to be completely COVID-19 compliant, and began providing rental and utility assistance to families financially impacted by COVID-19. Over the past 2 years, we have served 104% above our usual yearly capacity (102,000 people vs 50,000).

Historically, our Care Advocates have not directly provided financial assistance with rent/mortgage payments. Instead, they have resourced clients out to other funded organizations. Due to the devastating financial impact of COVID-19 on our low-income, at-risk clients (and many of our new clients who were living on a shoestring budget prior to the pandemic), we have established a rent/mortgage financial assistance program. Grants for this purpose have been provided by the Equal Opportunity Agency in Washington County, the Emergency Food and Shelter Program CARES fund in Benton and Washington Counties, the City of Springdale, the City of Rogers Community Development Block Grant CARES fund, Micah 6:8, and individual donors.

To date, we have helped 273 families with rent/mortgage assistance in the amount of $154,927. These families suffered housing insecurity as a direct result of COVID-19. Samaritan Care

Advocates continue to offer regular programming, which includes case management, providing clothing and household goods vouchers redeemable at our nonprofit Samaritan Shop thrift stores, as well as transportation assistance to families via gas cards and paid Uber rides.

We have expanded our partnership with the UAMS Northwest – Office of Community Health and Research to distribute CDC complaint COVID-19 infection control and testing location resources. In addition to directly disseminating resource lists, all information is located on our website and social media pages. In January 2022, we became Benton County's primary at-home COVID-19 test kit distribution site. Since then, we have distributed 4016 boxes of free test kits (2 kits per box) to the Benton County community. Finally, we have hosted COVID-19 and flu vaccination clinics in collaboration with Mercy Hospital and UAMS. We continue to be a vaccination site as requested and provide COVID-19 at-home test kits to anyone who needs them.

7. Statement of Need:

Poverty is a complicated problem with no simple, easy solution. It affects the financial, physical, emotional, and social health of a family. When you couple that with a pandemic like we have experienced with COVID-19, it becomes not only more complicated but also much more widespread throughout our community, affecting additional families who have faced job loss, illness, and other unplanned expenses.

While the overall percentage of persons living in poverty has remained fairly stable, the total NWA population continues to grow by 30 persons per day with 4-5 of those persons living in poverty. With NWA ranked as one of the most expensive places to live in Arkansas, the working poor (those above the Federal poverty limit) continue to have growing needs due to limited job skills (earning them lower wages) and high housing costs.

The need for free or low-cost counseling, case management and dental services continues to grow, especially in response to COVID-19. A lack of stable financial resources has affected both the poor and working poor, setting priorities based on immediate needs such as food, shelter, and utilities. Other services such as counseling and dental become less of an immediate priority due to a lack of resources. The long-term physical and emotional health of these at-risk populations will continue to mount without additional resources opening up for them to access.

8. Population Served:

Our focus is serving those below 150% of the Federal poverty level ($39,750 for a family of 4). While we do not limit geographically, our Rogers location primarily serves those living in Benton County and our Springdale location primarily serves those living in Washington and Madison Counties. Approximately 23% of those we serve are elderly, and 18% are new first-time clients. (Note: this is almost twice what it was pre-pandemic.)

Our client population by ethnicity includes 62% white/Caucasian, 1% black/African American, 31% Hispanic/LatinX, and 6% Pacific Islanders.

9. Results

1) Expansion of Medicaid providers for social services, counseling and dental to allow greater access to those programs by at-risk NWA families in addition to providing an income stream to cover a portion of those providers' salaries.
   - Our goal would be to have 15 Medicaid providers enrolled by the end of Year 3 including 6 LCSWs, 3 dentists, 3 dental hygienists, and 4 LPCs.
   - This will increase outputs in social services (additional 3,000 sessions per year), counseling (2,000 sessions per year) and dental (additional 1,500 appointments per year) by the end of Year 3.

2) Establish a system to identify clients eligible for Medicaid but not enrolled and enrolling those clients to expand their access to various services.
   - Our goal would be to enroll 100 persons in year 1; 200 persons in year 2; and 300 persons in year 3.

3) Complete a longitudinal study of clients to identify the number of families no longer needing our assistance or a decrease in the number of visits per year. This would allow us to better tailor programs to improve client success.

10. Evaluation

We will utilize program-appropriate software platforms that will allow us to track and collect data on all programs affecting the client's physical, financial, emotional, and mental health. This data will be summarized monthly for review by senior leadership and program managers to ensure that accurate results are being obtained and goals are being met. Each quarter a summary report will be provided to our Governing Board for their review and to ensure compliance with funding requirements.

We will also perform annual client surveys to identify specific issues within each program area that might need to be changed, discontinued or added based on client input.

11. Equity Impact

Recovery from the effects of COVID-19 has been more difficult for populations that are considered to be at higher risk (low income, minority populations, the elderly). These groups consistently incur higher infection rates coupled with more severe and long-term health complications. This can be correlated to many other social determinants of health, many of which are being addressed by the program services offered by the Samaritan Community Center and its collaborative partners. The expansion of those

program services as noted previously as well as the expanded service hours of our feeding programs in our new facility will help close service gaps that currently exist and directly address those needs among at-risk populations in NWA.

12. Project Partners:

Social Services/Case Management:

- Internship partners: John Brown University, University of Arkansas and Harding University
- Collaborative partners to utilize our care and education space may potentially include:
    - Health: UAMS, Mercy, Community Clinic, Northwest Health, Benton Co Health Dept
    - Program Enrollment: SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare, HUD housing, AR Kids, Social Security
    - Legal: Legal Aid; UA Legal Clinic
    - Immigration: Catholic Charities, Canopy NWA, MEI
    - Financial: VITA, Bank of America (financial literacy), CCOA
    - Other: Celebrate Recovery, Literacy Councils, Camp Wat Eagle

Samaritan Counseling:

- Consultant: C4 Consulting (paid)
- Internship partners: John Brown University, University of Arkansas and Harding University

Capital Campaign/Building Project:

- JKJ Architects (paid)
- Commerce Construction (paid)

13. Capacity

In 2002, Samaritan Community Center became an independent nonprofit organization to serve the low-income population of Northwest Arkansas. Each year since then, we have consistently served more client families and grown the number and variety of program services we offer. We are committed to a more collaborative nonprofit community which is evidenced in out decision to build collaborative office and educational space in our new facility.

Our focus is to maintain financial strength, balancing efficient provision of services with our call to be compassionate and kind. We have diversified our revenue streams and do not depend on large fundraising events for funding. Our two thrift stores provide 1/3 of out total operational funding, while we partner with over 30 area churches who provide consistent financial, volunteer, and in-kind support.

We choose to undergo an annual financial audit by an outside firm and have done so since 2002. Our overhead consistently falls below industry standard and is typically below 10%.

14. Budget

Budget and budget narrative files are attached.

15. Continuity of Services:

In addition to Medicaid reimbursement for social services, mental health services and case management, we will continue to strengthen our financial position with revenue growth at our two thrift stores and online shops, expand outside program revenue for other programs to make charitable contribution income more available for program services, and to utilize earnings from our endowment fund as needed.

16. Reporting:

We will provide both a written summary of activity as well as program measurements and results to the ARP committee and to the SCC governing board each quarter.

17. Special Considerations

C4 Consulting Proposal attached
Letters of support are attached.

1. SCC Letter of Support Mercy NWA Eric Pianalto
2. SCC Letter of Support Micah 6_8
3. SCC Letter of Support Mickey Rapier Fellowship Bible Church
4. SCC Letter of Support NWA Continuum of Care Pam Hutcheson
5. SCC Letter of Support UAMS Pearl McElfish

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Samaritan House Community Center**
Project Name:	**Samaritan Care/Collaborative Care Center**
Amount Requested:	**$750,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 450,732		22% of program capital costs
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 299,269		15% of program 3 year operating costs
SCC Capital Campaign	$ 1,500,000	Confirmed	2 donors - Payment to be received prior to 6/30/22
SCC Capital Campaign	$ 98,048	Pending	1 donor - Commitment pledge not yet received
Foundation Grant Funding	$ 500,000	Pending	3 year plan
Corporate Funding	$ 250,000	Pending	3 year plan
Individual/Church Funding	$ 250,000	Pending	3 year plan
Thrift Store Revenue	$ 519,268	Confirmed	3 year commitment
Medicaid Revenue	$ 176,580	Pending	50% of counselor/LCSW salaries - year 3
Total	$ 4,043,897		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Building Site Prep/Construction	$ 405,659.00	$ 1,438,243.00	$ 1,843,902	Capital	JKJ Architects/Commerce Construction
Furniture/Fixtures/Equipment	$ 45,073.00	$ 159,805.00	$ 204,878	Capital	
Salaries	$ 207,144.00	$ 1,173,816.00	$ 1,380,960	Operating	3 year plan - See Budget Narrative
Payroll Taxes/Health Insurance/Retirement	$ 42,721.00	$ 242,086.00	$ 284,807	Operating	3 year plan - See Budget Narrative
Professional Fees	$ 18,375.00	$ 104,125.00	$ 122,500	Operating	C4 Consulting - See Budget Narrative and proposal
Software/Hardware	$ 13,800.00	$ 78,200.00	$ 92,000	Operating	3 year plan - See Budget Narrative
Training/Licensure	$ 2,610.00	$ 14,790.00	$ 17,400	Operating	3 year plan - See Budget Narrative
Liability Insurance	$ 2,708.00	$ 15,342.00	$ 18,050	Operating	3 year plan - See Budget Narrative
Utility/Rent/Transportation Assistance	$ 8,100.00	$ 45,900.00	$ 54,000	Operating	3 year plan - See Budget Narrative
Supplies/Printing/Marketing	$ 1,080.00	$ 6,120.00	$ 7,200	Operating	3 year plan - See Budget Narrative
Telephone/Utilities	$ 2,730.00	$ 15,470.00	$ 18,200	Operating	3 year plan - See Budget Narrative
		Total	$ 4,043,897		

Benton County American Rescue Plan
Budget Narrative

Capital Revenue/Expenses:

Total building costs for the entire Rogers campus is $14.8 million including furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Costs associated with the Samaritan Care Program (Care hotline, social workers/case managers, and counselors) and the Collaborative Care Center (on-site office and classroom space for community partners; virtual office space for off-site partners) has been allocated based on square footage. This total allocated program capital cost is $2,048,780. We have requested ARP funding for 22% ($450,732) of this total cost.

Two donor commitments have been received from a corporate donor ($1 million) and a private foundation ($500,000). Payment is pledged prior to 6/30/22. A local family is currently considering a $100,000 to the campaign earmarked for the Care center.

Our building designer is JKJ Architects of Rogers, and Commerce Construction will be the general contractor for the project.

Operational Revenue:

Operational projections are for a 3-year period with the Year 3 being fully operational in the new facility. Total 3-year operating costs are projected to be $1,995,117, with our request for ARP funding at 15% ($299,269) of this total cost.

Our funding strategy has consistently been diversified through the years with approximately 1/3 of revenue from foundation/corporate grants, 1/3 from churches/individuals and 1/3 from thrift store profits. We also have a $3 million endowment fund from which we can withdraw interest/annual growth which has consistently been about 10% of the fund.

Our focus on grants and corporate funding centers on the provision of case management and counseling services to encourage self-reliance and financial independence for SCC client families. Our unique collaborative care model has received great feedback from initial conversations with potential funders (both foundation and corporate).

Thrift store funding comes from our two Samaritan Shops in Rogers and Springdale, as well as our online shop, Warehouse 479. They have been consistently profitable and provide organizational salary support and food purchases for our Snackpacks for Kids program.

Medicaid billing is budgeted for year 3 with a conservative goal of supporting 50% of counselor salaries and 50% of one LCSW salary with this revenue stream.

Operational Expenses:

Salaries:

The number of paid program staff grows each year from 4.75 FTE's in year one to 11.75 FTE's in year three. Total salary projections for the 3-year period are $1.38 million This breakdown is as follows:

Social Workers/Care Advocates: Year 1 (4.75 FTE), Year 2 (5.75 FTE) and Year 3 (7.75 FTE)
Licensed Counselors: Year 2 (1 FTE), Year 3 (4 FTE)
Clinic Coordinator/Billing Specialist: Year 2 & 3 (1 FTE)

Payroll Taxes/Health Insurance/Retirement:

Payroll taxes include 7.65% for employer portion of FICA (Social Security/Medicare) as well as .3% for Arkansas state unemployment. Employer portion of health insurance premiums is $600 per month per employee. We offer a 3% match on employee contributions to their Simple IRA account upon completion of one year of service.

Professional Fees:

This consulting contract is with C4 Consulting to develop the hybrid charitable/Medicaid outpatient counseling program from planning stages through the first full year of clinic operation. The program will also provide for an expanded internship program with an onsite supervisor in conjunction with JBU, Harding University and the University of Arkansas. This contract will be paid incrementally based on the completion of 9 individual projects.

Software/Hardware:

Year one includes the implementation of case management and counseling software along with the purchase of the appropriate hardware for the project. Years 2 and 3 expenses are for ongoing monthly software support costs and the purchase of additional laptops for new personnel.

Training/Licensure:

This category is budgeted at a cost of $700 per employee to cover CEU training and licensure fees.

Liability Insurance:

This is for both professional and general liability insurance. As the number of employees increase, this increases proportionately.

Utility/Rent/Transportation Assistance:

These are funds we budget for assisting clients as individual needs arise and cannot be resourced from our collaborative partners. Additional funding for this category is obtained each year through various grants as funding opportunities arise. These additional amounts are not budgeted as they vary from year to year and are financially neutral to the organization.

Supplies/Printing/Marketing:

These funds are for printing appointment and business cards, informational flyers, and resource lists as well as for the purchase of educational materials. The use of social media or other outlets (such as community events) to promote service availability and/or educational classes would be included in these amounts.

Telephone/Utilities:

These include telephone allowances for personal cell phone usage, fees for computer-based phone numbers as identified as SCC numbers, internet service, and allocation of general utility costs based on square footage. This amount increases in Year 3 due to moving to the new Rogers facility with larger operating space.

Proposal – Full-Service Proposal for Outpatient Continuum of Care Development

C4 Consulting is pleased to present a proposal to provide a 'Range of Services' to assess the opportunity for development and launch of an Outpatient Continuum of Care in an unspecified location in the northwest corridor of Arkansas. This agreement is to formalize the understanding of the project and serve as a proposed contract between the Client (Samaritan Community Center) and the Consultant (C4 Consulting).

C4 Consulting, Inc, a subsidiary of C4 Recovery Foundation, is a firm focused on securing the missions and advancing the visions of behavioral health organizations. We collaborate with our clients to establish and improve financial performance, enhance competitive positions, create and deliver the highest quality of organizational and consumer services, and achieve the most productive organizational alignment among staff, management, and boards to produce optimized performance.

In addition, we feature clinical and operational enhancement, which may include technical assistance and training that leads to improved outcomes and measurement. Through our C4 Learning Platform, we provide engagement management systems, including *e*-learning and tele-behavioral health services. Our principals & team have a combined 350+ years of experience in the behavioral health sector, holding executive leadership, operations, medical, and clinical positions producing quality care at the highest level of integrity.

Our companion divisions within C4 Recovery Foundation include an international division responsible for advocacy, education, policy and practice innovation, structural and system development, and implementation of behavioral health concerns in underserved global regions and our world renowned Education and Events division responsible producing five premier annual national conferences that serve the behavioral health community as industry innovators, leaders, and integrators. With over thirty years of convening, collaborating, conferencing, and consulting (the C's of C4), C4 Recovery Foundation and its subsidiaries continue to challenge the behavioral health industry to create, innovate, improve, and integrate solutions with the highest consistency and integrity.

C4 Consulting, (herein referred to as "Consultant") is pleased to present a proposal for the representation of Samaritan Community Center (herein referred to as "Client") to provide guidance in the conception, development and launch an outpatient continuum of care being planned in northwest corridor of Arkansas. The client currently serves the community with a variety of social impact and wellness services to include community outreach, food security programs and resources, two resale stores, advocacy and counseling services, as well as a dental clinic. The client is considering expanding the range of services to include growing a behavioral health outpatient extension of their current offerings. The prospective outpatient continuum of care service array may incorporate mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment services to include levels of care of partial hospitalization (i.e. day treatment), intensive outpatient programming, and general outpatient services (i.e. individual and group sessions). The Client's preference would be to focus on serving a target service population comprised of Medicaid recipients to maintain alignment with their mission, vision, and values attending to the greatest needs of the surrounding community.

The Client is looking to take further steps in the development process by collaborating with the Consultant wherein the Consultant will provide full service of all operational phases outlined below, which include but are not limited including advisory support for business and financial planning, development of clinical and operational programming, program licensure and selected program accreditation, commercial payor contracting, vendor, staffing, training, strategic business development and marketing planning, through initial facility launch support. Licensing preparation will require a complete Policies and Procedure Manual, Clinical and Operational Program Plan, Payor Credentialing, and Facility Staffing for select positions prior to facility opening and public launch.

This proposal will include development of a comprehensive operating business model and the subsequent execution and inception of a comprehensive treatment platform. Structurally, the proposal will be broken down into three separate phases (Preparation, Pre-Operational, Operational). Services will include all related advisory services related to the aforementioned outpatient

continuum of care and platform. The Client agrees to engage the Consultant through an initial down payment followed by subsequent payments upon receipt of deliverables. The following outline is offered for consideration by the Client.

Project Outline

Preparation (Phase I)

Defined as those activities to be performed prior to programmatic or clinical design, submission of licensure application, and/or pursuit of operating partnership agreements.

Project 1: Competitive Market & Industry Analysis

Research analyze and present specific demographic and geographic market data relative to the localized Medicaid and addiction treatment industry and the current market position. Analysis will be data specific to the Client's property location and proximity to metro and greater markets.

1. Provide Client with industry data as it relates to billing, changing market conditions, industry tone, considerations for reimbursement, and forecasted changes
2. Collaborate with Client to develop and build a representative value proposition
3. Research analyze and present SWOT analysis profile of predicted competitors to the current program offerings, to include deep-dive profile on relevant regional comparable services and all other comparable models in surrounding states.

Project 2: Financial Pro-Forma

Develop new business financial pro-forma model based on site-selected property and refined business model. Build and present two operating sensitivity scenarios:

1. A conservative model for internal planning, budgeting and staffing
2. An aggressive (within applicable reasonable limits) model for presentation to third parties or vendors

Project 3: Business Model

Refine operating business model based on feasibility studies of a site selected by the Client; including new additional service options (such as consideration of medical or social detox programming, step up/down level of care services, existing service and care integrations, and related offerings).

Pre-Operational (Phase 2)

Defined as requisite activities to be performed for opening in turn-key fashion behavioral healthcare / addiction treatment center platform on an appropriately selected site, with a target completion date of to be determined from completion of Phase 1. It is noted than an overlapping of these Phase 1 and 2 timeframes is probable, and Consultant will work to expedite Phase 2 activities.

Project 4: Regulatory

1. Submission of application for state licensure/certification
2. Completion of requisite physical infrastructure requirements
3. Ongoing meeting support in zoning issues, presentations with attorneys, city and county officials
4. Ongoing meeting support in local meetings with concerned city, county neighbors, businesses, residents

5. Ongoing interface at regulatory meetings & discussions

Project 5: Program Design & Layout

1. Delivery of custom clinical model and programmatic content (complete package of programming/scheduling)
2. Clinical team candidate identification (recruiting, interviewing, selection, hiring, training)
3. Executive, Business Development and Admin team candidate identification (recruiting, interviewing, selection, hiring, training)
4. Delivery of Policy & Procedure for licensure and accreditation (Clinical, HR, Administrative)
5. Licensure and Certification advisory services

Project 6: Accreditation: JCAHO or CARF

1. Collaborate with client to explore, identify, and recommend accreditation for selected levels of care (anticipated as Residential Treatment Program), with consideration for preparation and completion of required application and processing to include, but not be limited to the following:

a. Review of all policies and procedures to insure selected Accreditation compliance
b. Initial site-walk through assessment & inspection – assessment of facility and operational needs for application compliance
c. Preparation and submission of selected Accreditation application for selected services
d. Ongoing Chart review tracers and forms creation to assist client in meeting accreditation compliance requirements
e. Second Site walk-through prior to selected Accreditation inspection date – mock inspection and evaluation of remaining needs
f. On-site support during Selected Accreditation actual site inspection
g. Follow up on any selected Accreditation inspection report requirements and needs

Project 7: Medicaid Contracting

1. Collaborate with client to prepare and complete Medicaid insurance provider application and certification submission.
2. Collaborate with client to negotiate rate contracting for Medicaid insurance services for the appropriate programs identified.
3. Collaborate with client to prepare proper billing and coding policies and procedures, to include training of key staff, for commercial insurance processing.

Operational (Phase 3)

Project 8: On-Site and/or Remote Support

1. Nimble Changes to operational and treatment plan
2. Maintenance of designed systems and processes
3. Training staff on systems, processes and procedures
4. Strategic Planning

Project 9: Milieu Management

1. Ad-hoc management support as required
2. Decision making and guidance
3. Onboard hired staff
4. Transition responsibilities to hired management team
5. Nimble Changes to operational and treatment plan
6. Strategy sessions based on launch outcomes

Project Scope

Target Timelines

Preparation of Advisory Services as described in Project Summary will be completed upon an agreed upon date to be determined in the final contract and will begin with the selection and designation of the consulting team. Projects 1,2 & 3 can each be completed within 15 business days per project. Time frames for completion of projects 4 through 9 will be collaboratively determined by the Client and the Consultant and include consideration for execution based upon processing times for regulatory and accreditation agency estimates.

Completion and delivery of Phase One services as follows (Phase Two and Three to be developed by Client):

Subset Phase 1 Deliverables Outline (Market Analysis and Financial Plan):

- *Feasibility Study to include validation of referral networks, contracts and relationships within the local community, law enforcement networks, employee assistance systems and private pay sector for the feasibility of operations. Assessment of competitive environment in the form of a market analysis assessment of feasibility of operations, assessment of staffing availability / preliminary look into availability of necessary staff. Recommendations of preferable areas and of properties and their current geographic setting.*

- *Financial Pro-Forma Models and related high-level market analysis, including planned medical & clinical programming will be presented to client. Zoning Change Application Submitted and Hearing Scheduled. Immediate Physical Plant needs planned. Marketing and Branding Plan initiated. Administrator/Directors (Clinical, Facility, Marketing, Medical) Search Parameters finalized.*

- *Business Model, Market Analysis, Competitive Profile and Analysis, and Financial Pro-forma revisions. Medical & Clinical Programming Model Completed. Administrator/Directors (Clinical, Facility, Marketing, Medical) Selection continued. Physical Plant Plan reviewed for commencing construction. Policy & Procedure Manuals Completed. Fire/Safety and Sanitation Inspections finalized.*

Compensation

The following describes the compensation and payment plan for all services. If only selected services are desired, the cost of some sections may be adjusted for the initial payment to offset the cost of certain projects.

INITIAL PAYMENT AT CONTRACT INTITATION:	*Based Upon Options Selected (TBD)*
- Project 1: Market & Feasibility Study	$12,500.00
- Project 2: Financial Pro Forma	$12,500.00
- Project 3: Business Plan	$12,500.00
- Project 4: Regulatory	$20,000.00
- Project 5: Program Design & Layout	$20,000.00
- Project 6: Selected Accreditation	$15,000.00
- Project 7: Payor Credentialing & Contraction (hourly rate applied)	TBD
- Project 8: On-Site Support	$15,000.00

- Project 9: Milieu Management $15,000.00

Compensation for the Advisory Services presented above to be billed at the defined rate. Additional specialized support shall be billed at the hourly consulting rate of $250.00 per hour. Hours are to be applied for phone calls, site visits, meetings, drafting, electronic correspondence, analysis and development of any additional deliverables. Additional payments are due upon receipt of each deliverable or project completion. If additional expenses are to be incurred, such as travel & accommodation expenses, they must be preauthorized by Client.

PAYMENT METHOD & ACCEPTANCE

Upon acceptance of this proposal the Consultant will prepare a comprehensive contract for execution by both parties, initial payment should be made within 3 business days. Final payment will be invoiced upon receipt of final deliverable or project by the Consultant. Payments can be made via check by mail to the address below. To initiate payment via credit card or ACH payment, please call 847-658-8518. ACH payment or wire transfer can be made to:

Chase Bank
Account: 151899033
Routing: 071000013

C4 Consulting
414 Ridge Street
Algonquin, IL 60102

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Simon, MA, LPC, CSAT-S
Senior Consultant
C4 Consulting
C: 479-721-1292
E: Chris@C4-Consulting.com
W: www.c4-consulting.com

MercYit

Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas
2710 Rife Medical Lane
Rogers, AR 72758
phone 479-338-8000
fax 479-338-2906
www.mercy.net

February 11, 2022

Benton County American Rescue Plan Committee
215 E Central Ave
Bentonville, AR 72712

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Samaritan Community Center in their request for $750,000 from the American Rescue Plan funds that have been allocated to Benton County. Their plan is to establish a collaborative care center as part of their new campus in Rogers which will be the first of its kind in this region.

This unique space will bring nonprofit organizations together in a single location to create an efficient and effective way to serve low and middle-incomefamilies, especially those adversely affected by the pandemic. This will remove barriers that families face such as transportation, childcare, and lost wages when having to make multiple appointments at multiple locations to access services. It will also allow community partners to have a no cost option for office and/or educational space in Benton County, reducing their operational costs and strengthening the entire nonprofit system in NWA. Client families will be able to access other SCC services including the dental clinic, food pantry, community meals, case management, and computer access.

Samaritan Community Center's new facility will also include a state-of-the-art classroom to provide free classes on topics including financial literacy, ESL, and cooking/nutrition.Community partners will also be able to utilize this educational space for other classes not offered by the SCC.

The Samaritan Care program will be expanded to include a hybrid charitable/ Medicaid clinic to meet the huge service gap that currently exists for mental health care in NWA for those low and middle-income families. The pandemic has only created an even greater need for improved access to mental health services, and this program will help meet that need.

I believe that this proposal shows the Samaritan Community Center has developed a long-term plan to meet the needs of at-risk Benton County families in a creative and sustainable way. I support this proposal and urge you to fund this important request.

Eric Pianalto
President- Mercy Hospital NWA
eric.pianalto@mercy.net
479-338-2907

February 11, 2022

Benton County American Rescue Plan Committee
215 E Central Ave
Bentonville, AR 72712

Honorable Justices of the Peace:

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Sincerely,

Donna Schillinger, President

a project of the Micah 6:8 Initiative 307 W Elm St., Rogers, AR 72756 themicah68group@gmail.com

February 11, 2022

Benton County American Rescue Plan Committee
215 E Central Ave
Bentonville, AR 72712

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Sincerely,

Mickey Rapier
Directional Leader

Fellowship NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Mickey Rapier « 1051 W. Pleasant Grove Road Rogers, AR 72758 « 479.659.3664 « mirapier@fellowshipnwa.org

P. O. Box 3643
Fayetteville, AR 72702
(479) 717-7737
www.nwacoc.com

February 11, 2022

Benton County American Rescue Plan Committee
215 E Central Ave
Bentonville, AR 72712

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Samaritan Community Center in their request for $750,000 from the American Rescue Plan funds that have been allocated to Benton County. Their plan is to establish a collaborative care center as part of their new campus in Rogers which will be the first of its kind in this region.

The mission of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care (NWA CoC), a private, nonprofit organization, is to coordinate a community response to end homelessness in Northwest Arkansas. We are a collaborative leader in the region, working to support communities, families, and individuals through a collective impact model. Our members include more than 30 non-profit and governmental organizations that address homelessness in Northwest Arkansas. The NWA CoC's target population to effect change is individuals, families and unaccompanied youth at risk or experiencing homelessness in Benton, Washington, Madison, and Carroll counties in Northwest Arkansas. We accomplish our mission through coordinating a community response to end homelessness in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and we are the officially recognized continuum of care for Washington, Benton, Carroll, and Madison Counties. Broadly, HUD requires the NWA CoC to identify local needs, gaps, and resources; issue a set of local priorities to assist in the allocation of federal funds and submit a collaborative application for Continuum of Care funding in the Northwest Arkansas region. In addition, the NWA CoC collects and reports output and outcome data, and facilitates coordination to reduce duplicative efforts and address emerging needs.

This unique space will bring nonprofit organizations together in a single location to create an efficient and effective way to serve low and middle-income families, especially those adversely affected by the pandemic. This will remove barriers that families face such as transportation, childcare, and lost wages when having to make multiple appointments at multiple locations to access services. It will also allow community partners to have a no cost option for office and/or educational space in Benton County, reducing their operational costs and strengthening the entire nonprofit system in NWA. Client families will be able to access other SCC services including the dental clinic, food pantry, community meals, case management, and computer access.

P. O. Box 3643
Fayetteville, AR 72702
(479) 717-7737
www.nwacoc.com

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This proposal will provide indispensable services for those experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness as well as other vulnerable community members in Benton County. I believe this proposal shows the Samaritan Community Center has developed a long-term plan to meet the needs of at-risk Benton County families in a creative and sustainable way. I support this proposal and urge you to fund this important request.

Sincerely,

Pam Hutcheson

Pam Hutcheson, Executive Director
Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care
(479) 717-7737
pam.hutcheson@nwacoc.com

Northwest Regional Campus
1125 N. College Avenue
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703

Pearl Anna McElfish, M.B.A., M.S., Ph.D.
Director, Office of Community Health and Research
pamcelfish@uams.edu
(479) 713-8102

UAMS
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

February 11, 2022

Benton County American Rescue Plan Committee
215 E Central Ave
Bentonville, AR 72712

Dear Committee Members:

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Sincerely,

Pearl Anna McElfish, MBA, PhD
Director, Office of Community Health and Research
Associate Director of Community Engagement, Winthrop P Rockefeller Cancer Institute
Assistant Professor, College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine
Co-Director, Center for Pacific Islander Health
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
1125 N. College Avenue | Fayetteville, AR 72703-1908
Office phone: (479)713-8680
Cell phone: (479) 264-8690
E-Mail: pamcelfish@uams.edu

February 11, 2022

Benton County American Rescue Plan Committee
215 E Central Ave
Bentonville, AR 72712

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Samaritan Community Center in their request for $750,000 from the American Rescue Plan funds that have been allocated to Benton County. Their plan is to establish a collaborative care center as part of their new campus in Rogers which will be the first of its kind in this region.

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Sincerely,

Debbie
Debbie Martin
Executive Director
Havenwood, Inc.

808 N. Main #1 Bentonville, AR 72712 Phone: 479-273-1060 Fax: 479-464-7169
Visit Us: www.nwahavenwood.org

communityclinic
A HEALTHCARE MINISTRY OF ST. FRANCIS HOUSE NWA

Fayetteville Medical Clinic
3162 W. Martin Luther King Blvd. | Fayetteville, AR 72704 | 479-438-2280
Springdale Family Practice, Dental & Administration
610 E. Emma Ave. | Springdale, AR 72764-4685 | 479-751-7417
Springdale Family Practice, Pediatrics & Women's Health
614 E. Emma Ave., Suite 300 | Springdale, AR 72764-4469 | 479-751-7417
Rogers Medical Clinic
1233 W. Poplar | Rogers, AR 72756-4249 | 479-636-9235
Rogers Dental Clinic
3710 Southern Hills Blvd., Suite 700 | Rogers, AR 72758-8041 | 479-936-8600
Siloam Springs Medical Clinic
500 S. Mount Olive, Suite 200 | Siloam Springs, AR 72761-3602 | 479-524-9550

February 11, 2022

Benton County American Rescue Plan Committee
215 E Central Ave
Bentonville, AR 72712

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to support Samaritan Community Center's request for $750,000 from the American Rescue Plan funds that have been allocated to Benton County.

Samaritan Community Center plans to establish a collaborative care center, which will serve as a hub for nonprofit direct service providers in order to best serve low and middle-income families, especially those adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This format will help to remove barriers for families to access services, such as transportation, childcare, and lost wages due to making multiple appointments at multiple locations. Client will be able to access other SCC services including the dental clinic, food pantry, community meals, case management, and computer access. The center will allow for expansion of a mental health clinic, addressing the great need for mental health services created by the pandemic.

Samaritan Community Center's new facility will also include a state-of-the-art classroom to provide free classes on topics including financial literacy, ESL, and cooking/nutrition. Community partners will also be able to utilize this educational space for other classes not offered by the SCC.

For over 20 years, Community Clinic has served Washington and Benton counties with quality and affordable health care. Our mission is delivering exceptional, accessible, and comprehensive care through patient-focused service to our communities. With 15 clinic sites, we are the largest safety net health care provider in the region. Our extensive services include primary care, pediatrics, prenatal, behavioral health, dental, and physical therapy. We are deeply familiar with the challenges faced by many families in our region and are proud to partner with Samaritan Community Center in addressing these challenges.

Community Clinic supports the Samartian Community Center's long-term plan to meet the needs of Benton County residents and its request for this funding.

Sincerely,

Judd Semingson
Chief Executive Officer

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: SOAR Afterschool Program
Contact Name: Ben Rediske
Contact Email: ben@soarafterschool.com
Telephone #: 479.282.8988

1. Name of Project: SOAR Afterschool Program – Program Support

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $130,000.00

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project. **The SOAR Afterschool Program seeks to serve the Rogers Community with a specific focus on students and families who attend Grace Hill Elementary in Rogers Elementary by providing a safe, free, and high quality afterschool program.**

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe. **SOAR will provide afterschool programming to students who attend Grace Hill Elementary. This program is currently serving students of Grace Hill Elementary and will continue to do so until funding does not allow. SOAR structures our program each day to include homework assistance, a healthy snack and/or meal, activities or clubs, and space for students to develop essential soft and social skills that the COVID 19 pandemic.**

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Since March of 2020, Elementary students and their families have been impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic in a variety of ways. They have dealt with inconsistent schedules and have had times of virtual learning. They have had multiple times of quarantines as well through the past couple years. Additionally, students have learned over the past couple years while wearing masks or their teacher using masks which has a negative impact on communication especially for those students in younger grades. This has created a learning gap that is on a crisis level according to the school (which is supported below by the statement of need). Students have not developed socially liked they had previous to the pandemic starting. Much of the social interactions that they previously were provided by the school, the school hasn't been able to continue to provide because of staffing issues, the need for separation of students within the classroom and school, and the inconsistent schedule of the school. If funded, SOAR would be able to increase the staff at our program to better serve the academic and social needs of all of our students. We would also be able to provide more resources to students who are struggling academically including the hiring of tutors or purchasing kits that students work on to help them get back on grade level.

In addition to the harm on students, families have been forced to stay away from the school and the program in the name of safety and to negate the spread of COVID 19 within the school and our program. The funding would allow us to better provide parents the necessary safety equipment (such as masks) to allow them to be involved in the program in a more consistent way.

Lastly, for our non profit specifically, we have seen a significant decrease in community giving during the pandemic which has had an impact on current programming, staffing, and how we are able to serve kids now and in the future. The funding would help us make up the giving that stopped during the COVID 19 pandemic.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

The SOAR Afterschool Program conducted a needs assessment of both the students of the target school and the families. This was conducted by the following methods. For students, the survey was conducted by their school day teacher through their Chromebooks and/or tablets. The survey was administered either on a class level or through one on one help if the student needed assistance to better understand the questions and response options. We were able to receive a total of 206 students from the school. The needs assessment results include students from each grade level and

students who are currently attending the after-school program (64 total students) and students who are not attending (142). For the family needs assessment, this survey was conducted through three different avenues: (1) The survey was announced by the school through their parent communication tools (text messages, newsletter, and car line communication), (2) the survey was available through paper copy through the school and during pick at the SOAR program, and lastly, (3) the survey was announced through SOAR social media. All of these options had the survey available in both English and Spanish. We received a total of 45 English survey responses and 9 Spanish survey responses for a total of 54 responses. Both surveys had sections for students/families enrolled in the current afterschool program and sections for those not currently enrolled. The findings of the survey showed the following: (1) Homework/Academic help is a high need that was expressed both by the family survey and the student survey. Over 70% of families indicated they would like to see homework help continue to be implemented into our program and over 50% of students who attend the program indicated that the program has helped them with their homework and academics at school. Also, over 50% of all families indicated that they would like to see Reading and Math help occur during the program. Finally, around 40% of respondents indicated they would like to see opportunities for individual tutoring occur within our program. Our student surveys also indicated that 24% of students either did not have internet access or the internet access occurred only sometimes. Access to internet services is essential to virtual programming options and something that we would need to help them solve if the program/school had to move to virtual at some point. (2) - The need for the program is high among working families as 100% of responses indicated that the program has allowed parents to get and/or keep the job they are in or keep their desired hours of the job. This is important because stability in the job allows for stability/consistency at home and that helps students grow in all areas including academics. (3) The students' data showed us a few different results: (a) Students who are currently in the program indicated that the program has helped them most with their social/emotional growth (which includes confidence in self and in social situations, making new friends, public speaking, and motivation). (b) Students want the program to be a place where people are nice and students can have fun. This is a very important need to remember when creating lesson plans, program design, etc because while there has to be a high focus on academic growth there also has to be a mix of what is fun to the students involved. (c) Students and families also want opportunities to experience things outside of the walls of the normal program with field trip opportunities. 66% of students indicated that they would like field trips to be part of the program design. This was the highest result of any option presented to the students in the needs assessment. Art (55%), Snack/Dinner (54%), and Sports (51%) were the other three options that received a response over 50%. The data also showed a high percentage of people who would be interested in opportunities of “parent classes” should they end up being offered with the highest need being in strengthening family relationships, followed by parenting classes, finance/budgeting classes, basic computer/internet classes, and language (Spanish/English) classes. Lastly, there is a high desire from families who do not attend to send their children to the program should it remain free of charge through the 21st CCLC grant as 66% of parents of students not enrolled in the program indicated they will be considering sending their student to SOAR next year. According to the information on the ADE Data Center, Grace Hill Elementary has a total student population of 419 students. Of those 419 students, 79% are low-income, 44% are English learners, and 12% are eligible to receive special education consideration. Also, 66% of the students come from a minority population. SOAR

conducted a needs assessment to determine academic needs by surveying the staff of Grace Hill Elementary. The assessment data shows that the top three identified needs for students at Grace Hill are (1) Reading fluency and comprehension (87.5%), (2) Math fluency and problem-solving (72.7%), (3) writing/ basic grammar and homework completion (43.5%), and a notable (4) social-emotional skills and growth (30.4%). It is important to note, however, that reading fluency and comprehension and students being able to read on grade level can overwhelmingly be identified as the largest academic need at Grace Hill Elementary. Additionally, teachers identified that students are in high need of homework help from an afterschool program as 96% responded that it was either very important or extremely important for students to receive homework help in the program. This is supported by the report on the ADE Data center that showed that in the 2018/2019 school year (most recent data) that only 28% of the students at Grace Hill are Ready or Exceeding in their reading skill, which is 13% lower than the state average. Also, according to the data supplied by the ADE Data Center in 2019-2020, only 24.46% of the 184 English Learners tested showed that they were proficient in English Language proficiency. While the data, because of COVID, was not available for the 2019/2020 school year it is very clear that the target population needs a program that has a main focus on reading fluency and comprehension growth. Math fluency and writing are also a focus but those two are secondary to reading as reading fluency is a foundation in which Math skills for older students are able to grow. The needs assessment also showed that the SOAR program has been an effective help in Reading and Math growth as 100% of surveyed school staff indicated that the program has helped increase student achievement in Math and Reading. According to the student survey conducted, only 22% of students who currently attend the Afterschool Program indicated that if they didn't attend the program that they would spend their time at home doing homework, which shows that the structure of the program is essential for these students being able to focus on homework completion which contributes to growth in the focus areas above. Of the students at the school who do not attend the program, 13% of them said they do not have anyone at home to help with homework completion. When meeting with school leadership to discuss the results of the need assessment, the school principal and vice-principal indicated that reading growth was such a high need that it is difficult for them to reach other school-wide goals that depend on students getting close to grade level on their reading. In addition to the needs assessment completed by the faculty of the school, the SOAR Afterschool Program also met with the instructional facilitators of the school, the testing/data team, and the Principal and Vice-Principal to determine academic need and assist in goal development. Data obtained through that meeting showed high academic needs at the school. The data showed the following: 1. On the iReady Reading Assessment for the 2020-2021 School Year: 51% of students ended the year on grade level. 59% of students ended the year meeting their growth goal. 2. On the iReady Math Assessment for the 2020-2021 School Year: 48% of students ended the year on grade level. 62% of students ended the year meeting their growth goal.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

SOAR Serves the students and families of Grace Hill Elementary. Our goal is to serve at least 100 students per day while also providing opportunities for the families of our students to be involved in their students education while also providing growth opportunities for adults such as parenting classes, stem nights, ESL classes, etc. According to the information on the ADE Data Center, Grace Hill Elementary has a total student population of 419 students. Of those 419 students, 79% are low-income, 44% are English learners, and 12% are eligible to receive special education consideration. Also, 66% of the students come from a minority population.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

SOAR has 5 goals for the program that are measured in partnership with Grace Hill Elementary throughout the year:

Quantitative Goal 1

Students who attend SOAR for 60% of the year will have a student growth percentage of 50% or higher on Accelerated Reader.

Quantitative Goal 2

70% of SOAR students who attend SOAR 50% or more will reach their i-Ready Reading growth goal.

Quantitative Goal 3

70% of SOAR students who attend SOAR 50% or more will reach their i-Ready Math growth goal.

Qualitative Goal 1

80% of SOAR Students with a program attendance of 50% or more will show an increase in social-emotional growth through survey data obtained in beginning and end of year surveys.

Qualitative Goal 2

90% of SOAR Parents were satisfied with the program offerings and opportunities SOAR provided to students and families based on feedback from distributed parent/family surveys.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Through strong communication and partnership, SOAR will be able to consistently collect and obtain the data necessary to measure student success. Scheduled meetings with school leadership will provide SOAR with quarterly data regarding individual and overall student academic growth through analysis of individual student growth on assessments relevant to students at Grace Hill such as i-Ready and Accelerated Reader. SOAR will receive quarterly student data based on the i-Ready assessment, which will assess student's on-grade level proficiency in both math and reading, and Accelerated Reader, which tracks student independent reading growth, on grade level proficiency, and reading comprehension. This will help SOAR staff to know individual student growth and academic learning goals in real time per quarter and semester in order to inform the programming focuses in regards to academics. SOAR will also collect relevant classroom performance data from school day teachers in regards to student behavior, areas of academic need, homework assignments, and

any other relevant data useful to measure how students are progressing as the school year progresses. SOAR will also partner with Grace Hill Elementary on implementation of social emotional learning growth skills and focuses, which school leadership refers to “learner habits'' and will also follow Arkansas’ G.U.I.D.E For Life standards. Progress in these social emotional learning skills will be tracked through a pre and post survey, which students will answer on a sliding scale, proctored by the school. These results will be shared with SOAR, and will help SOAR to place focus in areas the school is seeing gaps. Additionally, through the use of the Reflex Math program, SOAR will be able to see the student growth and skill mastery through the data we receive in that program.
At SOAR, student success and progress will be monitored through homework completion and reading logs. Students that are able to put in the most practice in the areas identified by their school and teachers should be able to display growth. In terms of general enrichment activities, SOAR will track student growth and progress as well as satisfaction through administering pre-tests and-post tests for their enrichment activities, or clubs, that last between four to six weeks and focus on knowledge and skill building. In addition, every Discovery Lab and enrichment activity at SOAR, will allot time for reflection at the end of each session. This will serve as a fast evaluation of student engagement and performance during a single session and be able to allow for quick adjustment and feedback in order to ensure that the learning objectives and standards are being met in each enrichment and Discovery Lab session.

The SOAR Program plan to monitor and evaluate will have the following steps:

1. SOAR will work directly with Grace Hill Elementary to obtain all necessary data throughout the year (as discussed in the communication plan aboved) in order to consistently evaluate academic data to determine the impact our program is having an our students academic growth. We will have the four data meetings during the year to continually evaluate program needs/changes to ensure we are working towards achieving the goals of the grant and program.
2. SOAR will use the YPQA evaluation tools to evaluate our program quality. We will evaluate the results of observations with our staff leadership at the site.
3. SOAR will distribute parent surveys, student surveys, and teacher surveys twice a year (at the end of each semester) to help us measure how we are doing to reach our goals and determine overall program satisfaction. We will also use the data on this survey to help us to determine program offerings for students and families based on the feedback and suggestions they provide.
4. SOAR will also use fast feedback from students during activities, staff at the end of the day meetings, and volunteers/partners who see our program first hand.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

As mentioned before, Students at Grace Hill come from a population that is 66% minority and 79% come from families that classify as low-income according to the Arkansas Dept of Education. The impact of COVID on student education with the transition to virtual has a higher impact on this population because more of families, not because of a lack of desire, simply lack the resources to support their child in this type of learning (virtual, hybrid) because of the impact of work schedules and the availability of internet in the home. SOAR has assisted families with their needs during the pandemic by providing places for them to be during hybrid learning days and by offering afterschool programs during the afterschool hours even when school has gone

virtual. This has allowed families to keep or get the jobs they desire instead of having to work non desirable hours so that they can be home with their children.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

1. SOAR partners with Camp War Eagle to provide transportation for any student who desires to attend the program. We don't want any student not to attend SOAR because their family does not have transportation home from the program.
2. SOAR also partners with a variety of community organizations to provide different programming options and experiences for students: Organizations include: The Amazeum, Crystal Bridges, Art Feeds, Apple Seeds Farm, Camp War Eagle.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

SOAR started in 2015 in partnership with Grace Hill Elementary. During the past 7 years, SOAR has received multiple grants that we have had to have oversite on. One of those grants, which includes one that we are currently utililizing, is a grant from the Dept of Education. SOAR leadership has years of experience in the management of this and has never had any deficiency or complaint against our program or our management of funds. We have multiple staff members who continually create required reports and maintain accurate records of all funds.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

See attached budget sheet.

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

SOAR continually seeks out funding to ensure the program will continue to operation. We actively pursue sponsorship, individual gifts, and grant opportunities. We have current grants that should assist with our program continuing to operate for at least the next four years.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

We know that afterschool programming is needed for families and students in our communities. We help keep kids safe, give them opportunities to dream and to learn, and help hardworking families by giving them peace of mind while they are still at work. The SOAR Afterschool Program is working to ensure that all students in our target schools and communities, regardless of income, have access to high-quality afterschool programming. SOAR's efforts are aimed at creating a place for ALL students to grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. We hope that every student who consistently attends SOAR will show growth in their academic skills in Reading, Math, and language development. We also hope that students that attend SOAR will grow in their self-confidence and their social-emotional health because we know this goes hand in hand with the academic growth the students need to show in order to succeed in school and in their communities. Lastly, we hope that every parent/guardian becomes actively engaged in their child's educational experience at SOAR and in their school.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**SOAR Afterschool Program**
Project Name:	**SOAR Afterschool Program – Program Support**
Amount Requested:	**130,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 130,000.00	Pending	
21st CCLC Grant - Dept of Education	$ 136,000.00	Confirmed	Year 1 of a 5 year grant.
Total	$ 266,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Transportation Costs	$ 6,000.00		$ 6,000.00	Operating Expenses	Bus Gas, Vehicle Maintaince, Bus Purchase from Camp War Eagle
Site Director Salary	$ 45,000.00		$ 45,000.00	Operating Expenses	
Daily Staff (Hourly)	$ 15,000.00	$ 80,000.00	$ 95,000.00	Operating Expenses	Additional Staff Members to help support academic growth of students
Program Supplies & Equipment	$ 10,000.00	$ 48,088.00	$ 58,088.00	Operating Expenses	10,000 would support programming needs that are not allowed expenses according to the guidelines of the 21st CCLC Grant
Amazing Shake Support	$ 15,000.00		$ 15,000.00	Operating Expenses	The Amazing Shake is a competition our students participate in that supports their social emotional growth, leadership skills,
Field Trips & Outside Instructors		$ 2,400.00	$ 2,400.00	Operating Expenses	
Background Checks		$ 750.00	$ 750.00	Operating Expenses	
Staff Training	$ 14,000.00	$ 4,762.00	$ 18,762.00	Operating Expenses	Additional training funds would be used to support identified staff training for all members of our staff including daily staff and site directors.
Assistant Site Director (Hourly)	$ 25,000.00	$ -	$ 25,000.00		We need to hire an assistant site director who can focus on the educational/academic needs of our students because of the crisis situation they are experiencing. The COVID 19 Pandemic has significantly increased the workload on the Site Director to simply operate the program safely.

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Souls Harbor Northwest Arkansas
Contact: Jim Watters
Contact Email: jim@soulsharbornwa.org
Telephone #: 479-650-5292 (office) or 262-366-8672 (mobile)

1. **Name of the Project:**

   Transitional Living Residence Renewal Project

2. **Amount of Funds Requested:**

   $100,000

3. **Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project address:**

   **Please denote which category

   D. Services to Disproportionally Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. **Brief Project Description:**

   Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

   The Transitional Living Residence Renewal Project is designed to reignite the plans and work that Souls Harbor had in place prior to the severe funding downturn that was experienced during the last two years of the COVID pandemic. We serve 18 to 20 men fulltime at our Transitional Living Residence with plans to expand that reach to 50. The men in our program live in our facility full-time and participate in our 12-month sober-living and life skills development program. Each man comes to Souls Harbor with a strong desire and commitment to change his life from living on the street fighting an ongoing addiction to drugs and alcohol to a brand-new way of living. A new way of living where each man regains his sobriety, is fully able to participate in the community, can begin a career in a fulltime job and is able to begin rebuilding life with his family.

   It's important to note that the men who come to Souls Harbor arrive with no material resources so everything they receive while living at the residence is provided for them.

5. **Project Plan:**

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

The project will be implemented by Souls Harbor leadership with the expert guidance and oversight of licensed Benton County contractors and an experienced industrial kitchen installer. The heart of Souls Harbor revolves around the men's lives in the dormitory area and in the "Mustard Seed" which serves as their kitchen, dining hall, visitor center and community room for large meetings. The dormitory and Mustard Seed are the two areas that will benefit from this funding on behalf of the men.

6. **Link to COVID-19**:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The harm that was realized by Souls Harbor due to COVID was realized through a significant shortfall in donation income that is normally realized through ongoing work with the people of Benton County and the businesses residing therein. COVID caused many people to become very reluctant to meet in person, one of our primary methods of generating operating income for Souls Harbor. The reduction of these in-person meetings created a significant downward shift in needed donor income as well as in-person volunteer support. One of our largest income generating events is the Souls Harbor's fall Gala. The Gala had to be cancelled in both 2020 and 2021 with a concern that it might once again need to be cancelled in 2022. Sadly, due to the cancellation of this very popular annual gathering of Souls Harbor supporters, Souls Harbor lost approximately $150,000 in much needed revenue from the cancellation of these events. The loss of the Gala revenue along with the downturn in regular donor giving has created a difficult situation for Souls Harbor where our men are the ones who are on the receiving end of the loss.

The use of this funding, if granted, would enable Souls Harbor to replace kitchen equipment that is in desperate need of replacement and will also allow for the provision new furnishings for the men's dining area and their residence lounges. Finally, the income will allow Souls Harbor to upgrade the electrical service in the kitchen area, as well as be able to have the roof of the "Mustard Seed" resurfaced with a long-term 1500 square foot rubber bladder. Currently we are having to patch the roof as leaks spontaneously appear.

7. **Statement of Need**

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need and cite the source of the data.

This project will address a core need for the men of Souls Harbor. It is important to keep in mind that Souls Harbor is "home" to at least 20 men at any given time. Souls Harbor is not a warming shelter, a soup kitchen or a homeless center. Souls Harbor is a home. As with any home there are various parts of the home set apart for very specific purposes. Beginning with the dormitories where the men live, sleep and enjoy one another's company. We desire to make this area as comfortable and homelike as possible, to do that there is a need to repair and replace the furniture from time to time. We are at a point in our history where we desperately need to replace all the furniture in the men's two lounge/recreation areas. As you can imagine having 20 men using the furniture on a regular basis there is breakdown and wear and tear.

Moving to the Mustard Seed, which houses the kitchen, the dining hall and large community room, and laundry. This important part of the men's home is used multiple times each day by residents, visitors and friends of Souls Harbor. The kitchen at Souls Harbor serves well over 1040 meals each year. This total doesn't include the meals that are served by community partners who use our facilities from time to time all at no cost. Because the kitchen is such a hub of activity the equipment required to run such an operation is quite an investment. Because of the high volume of use of the kitchen area we are at a point where we once again need to upgrade and/or replace much of the equipment. The men need a kitchen that can produce well-balanced, nutritious food on a regular and ongoing basis. Beyond the kitchen equipment, the tables and chairs in the dining/conference area all need to be replaced. This area of the facility is used multiple times each day, every day, hence the wear and tear that comes with use.

When installing the newer kitchen equipment, we want to ensure that we upgrade our electrical service and plumbing to ensure that we are maintaining the standards set forward in the Benton County building code. With the addition of needed equipment we know we will need to upgrade the electrical and plumbing service as well.

Moving to the roof of the Mustard Seed (the dining hall and kitchen) we are at a point where the roofing material needs to be completely replaced. We have been experiencing leaks from time to time simply due to age and the elements. With the downturn in income as a result of COVID, funds for repairs such as this simply aren't available.

8. **Population Served:**

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

The population at Souls Harbor is ever changing. The men we serve all have one thing in common; each man suffers from some form of substance abuse addiction and each man has expressed a desire to turn their life around through Souls Harbor 12-month, live-in program. At any given time, Souls Harbor cares for men who are members of the Hispanic, Caucasian, and African American communities as well as American Indians who come to us from various tribes. Because of the way our program is structured, Souls Harbor sees men come into the program and men leave the program all year long. Souls Harbor will serve any man who comes to us needing a place and a program where they can turn their life around from a substance abuse addiction. The ages of the men we serve range from 20-something to men in their 60s.

In addition to the men who reside at Souls Harbor, the organization also serves Benton County by providing Court Ordered DUI classes each month as well as Victim Impact Classes. Souls Harbor considers itself a true partner of Benton County.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least three performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

a. The first and foremost impact this project will provide is a year-round safe place for men struggling with addictions. We will be able to provide a place for these men to live, recover and rejoin society in a meaningful way, both for them and for their loved ones. This will be accomplished by providing a fulltime "home" where the men can live, learn, eat, sleep and recover. We will be able to continue serving 20 men each day for 365 days each year which constitutes. In total, Souls Harbor provides up to 170,880 hours of care and coordination to the men living at Souls Harbor.
b. Because we will be able to maintain the same level of service that we currently offer through this grant award, we will be able to continue teaching men life skills, we will provide therapeutic counseling to help men overcome addiction and to maintain a life of sobriety. We will also be able to help the men develop basic job skills required to obtain and hold a meaningful job.
c. We assist men in maintaining court-ordered appointments, ensure that the men are paying outstanding debts and fines. In addition, we help the men secure and maintain fulltime employment and or educational opportunities. Some men choose to work parttime and go to school parttime which we fully encourage. We also help the men reinstate their driver's licenses, secure auto insurance and purchase a running vehicle.
d. When we are able, we assist in helping the men to rebuild damaged family relationships through the provision of advice, counsel and mentorship.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Our evaluation process begins with the first interaction we have with one of our guests. Prior to being accepted into the program each man meets with three staff members who talk with them about their journey, what they have done up to this point in time to help themselves recover, etc. The men meet with the program counselor, the very person who will be providing one-on-one in-depth counseling as the men go through the program. The men will then meet with the Program Coordinator so they can learn all about the program requirements they are entering and so the coordinator to get a sense of the level of commitment each man brings to his own recovery. Finally, each man meets with the Peer-to-Peer Supervisor, the Peer-to-Peer supervisor is the person that walks with each man every step of the way through the program to ensure the no one is marginalized, forgotten or left behind while they move forward toward recovery.

a. Every week each of the men will attend three one-hour individual sessions with their counselor. In addition, each man will attend two weekly "group therapy" meetings and one Souls Harbor all-community meeting. All these sessions allow Souls Harbor staff to track the progress of each person to ensure they are correctly placed within the program based on the progress they are making.

b. Every week the Souls Harbor staff meet with a Clinic Supervisor who is responsible for reviewing all the notes generated from individual and group meetings with each of the men. The Clinic Supervisor is also responsible for reviewing the interaction and assessment that the staff have after meeting each of the men.

c. Records documenting movement through the three phases of the program are maintained by the Counselor, Program Coordinator and the Peer-to-Peer Counselor so they always know where each man stands in relation to their program goals and how it compares to the "mean progress" that is typically made by current and past members of the program.

d. To the degree possible, we also track the progress of each person who completes the program. One key measurement is recidivism. If a man returns to our program after having graduated, we know that special attention must be given to that person and a review of the program he completed must be undertaken to ensure that we are not missing something important that the men need in their journey to recovery.

e. Finally, all our interactions and program steps are recorded in a secure, cloud-based Program called "Simple Practice." This program allows assigned staff members to record

their interactions with the men, and it also allows for keeping track of progress, by person, through the program itself.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

One of the major ways that this program helps create an equitable and sustainable COVID 19 recovery is through the medical evaluation and medical care that we ensure the men receive. To be enrolled in the Souls Harbor program each man must provide Souls Harbor staff with the name and contact information of their primary physician. If a man doesn't have a primary physician Souls Harbor staff will work with them to find a physician who will see and treat them. During the height of COVID Souls Harbor took the men to a drive through screening clinic where they could be tested. If a man needs to leave the campus during the day to attend a court appointment or other such engagement, we are sure to test each man upon their return with a 10-minute instant test at Souls Harbor. We also monitor the temperature of each man to ensure we were doing all that could be done to protect the men and the Souls Harbor community.

Without Souls Harbor's intervention most of the men that we are caring for would not have had access to a physician, nor would they have had testing benefits. Additionally, we also provide classes on COVID preparedness and safety precautions that each person should be observing daily.

12. Project Partners

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor, listed, indicate:
a) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
b) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to the project.

The primary contractors that we plan to use are:

- Shewmaker Roofing, LLC – Bentonville, AR
- CJ's Electric, Inc. – Bentonville, AR
- Town and Country Plumbing – Rogers, AR
- Webstaurant Commercial Kitchen Equipment
- Webstaurant Commercial Grade Dining Area Furniture
- Sam's Furniture for the Men's Dormitory Community Rooms – Springdale, AR

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

The primary point person when it comes to managing the federal funds including receipt and disbursement will be:

Fiscal
Kristi Brown, Souls Harbor Board Treasurer and Controller at Walmart Corporation.
Jim Watters, Souls Harbor Executive Director who has 25 years of experience guiding and managing non-profit organizations throughout the United States.

Project
Julio Garcia, the Operations Supervisor at Souls Harbor who has the longest tenure of anyone associated with the organization and who previously worked for the Nabholz Construction Company.
The Board of Directors of Souls Harbor will play an active role in the receipt, management and distribution of the funds received.

Contractors
All contractors hired to complete this project will be licensed and insured. To the degree possible all contractors will be in Benton County.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether the funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.

Please see spreadsheet that we've included with our proposal.

15. Continuity of Services

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Plan Funds run out or expire?

Souls Harbor has been operating since 1986 through the support of Foundations, businesses and individual donations. We are confident that the ability of the organization to sustain itself from year to year is very good. Having said that, Souls Harbor could not make the improvements that we need to make right now to improve the living conditions for the men without the help of the Benton County American Rescue Plan. Benton County's funding will play

a critical role in our being able to improve the quality of life for the men currently living at Souls Harbor as well as those to come in the years ahead.

16. Reporting

Souls Harbor will fulfill whatever reporting requirements are deemed necessary by the County. We will maintain detailed records of income and expense so that all monies can be accurately tracked and accounted for.

17. Special Considerations

Souls Harbor is meeting a unique need throughout Benton County by providing a life altering chance for men that have struggled with addictions for many years of their life. These challenged men come to Souls Harbor feeling defeated, unwanted and unseen. While living and working the Souls Harbor program you can watch hope return to their faces and inspiration light up their life. We hope you will see fit to help us keep this important 24 hour per day, 365 day per year program successfully operating.

Respectfully Submitted
Souls Harbor of Northwest Arkansas

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Souls Harbor NWA**
Project Name:	**The Transitional Living Renewal Project**
Amount Requested:	**$100.000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 100.000,00	Pending	
Schubert Mitchell Homes	$ 10.000,00	Confirmed	
Leslie Alexander Foundation	$ 10.000,00	Confirmed	
Total	$ 120.000,00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Vulcan VC 55ED Oven	$ 10.390,00	$ -	$ 10.390,00	Capital	Needed for meal preparation
Americooler Walkin Freezer	$ 10.681,00	$ -	$ 10.681,00	Capital	Needed for meal preparation
Avantco Heated Holding Cabinet		$ 1.799,00	$ 1.799,00	Operating	Needed for meal preparation
Champion UH-130B Undercounter Washer	$5.770		$ 5.700,00	Operating	Sanitization of Dishes after each meal
Vulcan EV 245-4FP4803 Range	$ 9.300,00		$ 9.300,00	Capital	Needed for meal preparation
Curtis Twin Airpot Brewer D1000		$ 1.199,00	$ 1.199,00	Operating	Coffee preparation for the men
4 Airpots		$ 132,00	$ 132,00	Operating	Coffee preparation for the men
Modular Airpot Rack		$ 26,00	$ 26,00	Operating	Coffee preparation for the men
AvantcoFloor Fryer FF300 - Gas		$ 949,00	$ 949,00	Operating	Needed for meal preparation
Lancaster 36"x36" Tables/chairs (6)	$ 4.614,00		$ 4.614,00	Operating	Needed for dining area
Lancaster 24"x30" Tables/chairs (8)	$ 3.720,00		$ 3.720,00	Operating	Needed for dining area
Flat top Service Grill 36" with Burner	$ 4.600,00		$ 4.600,00	Operating	Needed for meal preparation
Chrome Kitchen Storage Racks (10)		$ 2.070,00	$ 2.070,00	Operating	Needed for dry food storage
Vigor 15 piece cookware set		$ 376,00	$ 376,00	Operating	
Corey Sofa 4 Units at $1500	$ 6.000,00		$ 6.000,00	Operating	Needed for men's community room in dormitory
Ashley Sitting Chairs 6 units at $400	$ 2.400,00		$ 2.400,00	Operating	Needed for men's community room in dormitory
Haroflyn Side Tables 14 units at $150	$ 2.100,00		$ 2.100,00	Operating	Needed for men's community room in dormitory
Maytag Washer and Dryer 4 units	$ 3.756,00		$ 3.756,00	Operating	Needed for mens laundry room
Electrical Service Installation Upgrade	$ 5.500,00		$ 5.500,00	Operating	Needed for Kitchen area

Additional Plumbing Service in Kitchen	$ 3.300,00	$ 3.000,00	$ 6.300,00	Operating	Needed for Kitchen area
Rubber roof repair on Mustard Seed	$ 15.750,00		$ 15.750,00	Capital	Material for roof repair on the Mustard Seed
Labor for roof repair	$ 4.500,00		$ 4.500,00	Operating	Labor cost for roof repair
Vinyl Flooring for dining hall	$ 8.000,00	$ 500,00	$ 8.500,00	Operating	Cost for vinyl dining hall floor w/ installation
Total	$ 100.381,00	$ 10.051,00	$ 110.432,00		
			$ -		
			$ -		
			$ -		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: Sunshine School & Development
Contact Name: Alex Treat
Contact Email: alex.treat@nwasunshineschool.org OR alextreat020@gmail.com
Telephone #: (479) 636-3190

1. Name of Project:

Ventilation Improvements

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$47,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to keep our staff and children safe, we wish to install UV light filters throughout our ventilation systems. The plasma-wave energy from the lights exterminates contagions as they pass their illuminated thresholds, oxidizing and purifying the air it recirculates through the facility. Naturally, this will also help deter flu particles and other viruses aside from COVID-19. Because pathogens are hindered from multiplying and mutating by the plasma field, this protection naturally leads to cleaner air for our congregate spaces, including offices, classrooms, therapy rooms, nursing stations, and more. Cleaner, more secure air prevents the chances of COVID spread through lingering strains in our building and alleviates the possibilities of evacuation and quarantine, which is an ever-present concern for us as we serve the

vulnerable population of children with disabilities. Specifically, we wish to install the lights for 37 systems and to replace a total of 3 current systems to accommodate the improvement.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

Once we receive funding, we will immediately commission Bahl Heating & Air for their services, who from there will carry out the project. Upon receiving approval to install the air purifiers, it will take approximately 1 week to order them. Once they have arrived, it will take 3 to 4 weeks to install the air purifiers to completion. Within 2 weeks of completing the installation, we will initiate replacing and updating the equipment necessary to help improve the indoor air quality. Overall, the time to complete the project is approximately 1-2 months. We will then pay attention to and review the impact of the new system in the following months.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

As we are all well accustomed to now, COVID-19 is capable of transmission through air, especially in enclosed spaces. This is made worse by the circulation of aerosol particles through a combination of human carriers moving from space to space and through ventilation systems. In consideration of ventilation, the venting of outdoor and indoor air is not sufficient to combating the circulation of these particles. This makes education, especially special education and therapy for those with disabilities, difficult to maintain and disrupts services essential to many families.

This indicates a need for upgrading our equipment to further clean our spaces. The UV filters of the new systems would decrease the chance of exposure in all of our spaces, from therapy rooms to classrooms. While the introduction of pathogens from outside our facility can still occur, the UV system can neutralize these harmful particles as it circulates the air, preventing its permeation throughout the school. Such a defense is invaluable to us, especially with the risk of future spike periods in the pandemic.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we were forced to shut our doors and operate our services remotely. Remote services led to children missing their developmental milestones, and not every family is financially ready for the monetary costs of remote learning. Even after we reopened in July 2020, we have continued to

see this risk. In a past report, we logged 1 student case of COVID in a classroom, leading 4 students to quarantine for 14 days. The same report also logged 1 case amongst the teaching staff with 14 more students in quarantine as the result. We expect to continue seeing these statistics, especially considering the characteristics of our vulnerable service population (Houtrow et al., 2020). Also, during times of crisis, we have generally seen an increased demand for our services, with a 14.5% increase in post-pandemic enrollment for our EIDT services compared to pre-pandemic enrollment. In the first week of January, 10 students and 12 staff members tested positive, resulting in the respective quarantine of 93 students. This was a stark increase from the previous month, attributed to the omicron variant. Children in need of special education and therapy absolutely require their services be in-person, something that COVID-19 compromises.

Houtrow, Amy et al. (2020). "Children with disabilities in the United State and the COVID-19 pandemic." *Journal of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine: An Interdisciplinary Approach,* 13, 415-424.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

Childcare and therapy are our services offered to families who may otherwise have no options, and our population is at more risk than ever due the recurring rise of pandemic conditions. With only 10% of infants and toddlers having access to high-quality childcare, the Sunshine School & Development Center is dedicated to rectifying that statistic, being only one of two Early Intervention Day Treatment (EIDT) centers in the Rogers/Bentonville area and the only organization with a 3-Star Better Beginnings. Better Beginnings is the state accreditation, assessing quality care and education in early childhood centers and 3-stars is the highest rating.

We serve a variety of specific disabilities. The Sunshine School currently serves 224 children, with 115 openly listed for disability. The disabilities we treat are varied, including developmental delays, autism, Down syndrome, ASD, cerebral palsy, and Costello syndrome. Developmental delays make up most of our cases at 76%, followed by children with autism at 14%. Cases involving Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, ASD, and Costello syndrome accumulates to 11%. Children with autism are all registered in our ABA program, which offers behavioral analysis and therapy specifically for autism. Most children with disabilities receive a mixture of physical, occupational, and speech-language therapies, and most of those children are enrolled as students in EIDT.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

The desired impact of the improved ventilation is a decrease in infection not just in COVID-19 but also in other viruses like influenza. Currently, we are experiencing a significant number of students and staff in quarantine due to exposure to positive cases of COVID-19, and we hope that the new system will combat the next surge/variant.

Case numbers, then, is our first measurement of the installation's success. By comparing future numbers with past numbers, we can begin to interpret the effect of the filters.

Our second measurement is the automated detection of particles detected and neutralized by the filters. Detectors within vents will tell us particles are being captured, and we can estimate from there the ventilation system's prevention capabilities.

For the third measurement, we will keep track of the ventilation system's general functionality. This means recording all maintenance needs for if they break, if they for whatever reason create problems, and so on. We want to keep in mind the future costs of the vents as we move forward.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Since the onset of the pandemic, our teams have been tracking all cases of COVID-19 within the school to inform our decisions going forward. Some of these estimates include: student positive case, student quarantines (due to exposure), client positive cases, client quarantines, staff positive cases, staff quarantines, and more.

With the installation of the new ventilation system, we will continue recording cases as we have with the installation date as a point of reference for past and future quantitative data.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

As a therapeutic preschool, we serve the vulnerable population of children with disabilities in Northwest Arkansas, operating as an essential service in terms of therapy, early intervention, and special education. While we have been able to implement remote services like teletherapy through Zoom, in-person programming is crucial for many families, which unfortunately can put them, their children, and our staff at risk of exposure to COVID-19. The recent surge in the Omicron variant has led to multiple quarantines due to both infection and exposure, hindering our ability to serve families to our maximum potential.

As such, we need provisions to deter the risk of spread and exposure within our spaces; purifying our air through a protective ventilation system helps this immensely. Official data from the CDC states that "ventilation mitigation strategies can help reduce viral particle concentration," and UVGI systems can effectively secure physical spaces from harmful pathogens. With the air in our spaces being automatically filtered, along with our intensive sanitation strategies, families affected by the experience of disability are able to receive the services essential to their lives without safety concerns present with the pandemic.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

We are primarily working with the local Benton County company Bahl Heating & Air. Bahl operates as Building Equipment/Air Conditioning contractor and has done so for roughly 5 years. They will perform 100% of the labor for the installation of the UV ventilation system.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

The Sunshine School has a consistent history of handling federal funds, particularly as it relates to Medicaid and Pre-K education. We are recipients of funding for the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program to operate our preschool services, and Medicaid assists us in our therapy and health services. We have received funds in the past for the Rogers Block or CDBG grant for purchasing and maintaining buses, along with funding from Arkansas's Department of Transportation. We also have multiple partnerships through private and corporate entities, including grants, donations, and sponsorships.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire.

The project in question is a one-time payment for our building infrastructure. All future maintenance will be taken care of as general expenses within our budget.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Reports would be taken care by our Annual Giving Coordinator.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

As an additional consideration for our project, we are commissioning Bahl Heating & Air for their status as a company local to Benton County. This means that all gifted support from the American Rescue Plan is going to a local interest, which aligns with the American Rescue Plan's goal of local economic stimulation. We want our project to have not just an effect on our facility but also on the community of Benton County

For convenience, here is a general list of details for this project

- We are installing 37 UV light filters and replacing 3 ventilation units.
- Total request is $47,000.
- Project is a one-time expense.
- We serve the vulnerable population of Children with Disabilties.
- We are recipients of recurrent federal funds for Medicaid and Arkansas Better Chance.
- We hope that the UV ventilation will deter COVID-19 spread in our facility so that we may best serve our clients safely.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**Sunshine School & Development Center**
Project Name:	**Ventilation Improvement**
Amount Requested:	**$47,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$47,000	Pending	
Total	$ 47,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
UV Lights in 37 Systems	$22,712.83	$ -	$ 22,712.83	Capital	
3 Systems Replaced	$ 20,183.19	$ -	$ 20,183.19	Capital	
Sales Tax	$ 4,075.12	$ -	$ 4,075.12	Capital	

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: The Gravette Lions Club
Contact Name: Jeff Davis, Secretary / Treasurer
Contact Email: jduke22@att.net
Telephone #: cell – 479-250-0125 Home- 479-787-1068

1. Name of Project: **Individual Eye Examinations and Eyeglasses**

2. Amount of Funds Requested: **$ 1,300.00**

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This proposal falls under Item B, Economic Impacts

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

To provide individuals who meet Lions Club guidelines for assistance with an eye examination and eyeglasses through an eye care professional.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

This is an ongoing service that was initiated eight years ago when the club was formed. We have procedures, guidelines, volunteers and professional eye care providers in place.

We receive requests from individuals or from social agencies. Our program chair interviews the applicant and makes a recommendation to the membership. (We observe HIPPA requirements through the process.) If approved, the applicant is referred to the eye care professional, who in-turn, bills the agreed upon amount to the Lions Club.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The pandemic has created many well documented financial hardships. In an effort to cut expenses during tough times, individuals and families forego things not deemed vital. Often times, eye care and glasses are among things they postpone.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

The Lions Club has been receiving more requests for glasses. As individuals and families are recovering from the pandemic hardships, they are finding the need of new prescription or replacing broken glasses which are essential to their jobs, education, wellbeing and family life.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

Although we are the Gravette Lions Club, we work with participants in all areas of western Benton County not reached by other clubs with similar programs.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

Since HIPPA does not allow any feedback or results from the eye care professionals, we would need to develop a participant questionnaire.

Measures of success:

Did the eye exam reveal additional vision problems needing further care or treatment?

Have your glasses helped your job (or education) performance or lead to greater opportunities?

Have your glasses helped you improve your family and social life, hobbies, or recreational activities?

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

A follow-up interview with the above assessment questions would be implemented for each participant. A “yes” to any of the questions should be considered positive.

11. Equity Impact

Families or individuals enduring financial hardships , whether or not related to COVID-19, suffer in employment, education and other areas. Being able to see properly can lead to greater self-confidence, which can go a long way in overcoming the indignities of needing help.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

We have an agreement with the following eye clinic to perform the examination and provide suitable glasses to the participants we refer under the program. The total grant funds will be spent as needed with this provider unless a need arises to change providers.

The Gravette Eye Clinic
Hwy 59 South
PO Box 209
Gravette, AR 72736

Although no additional administrative or incidental costs are expected, the Gravette Lions Club will accept responsibility for those costs.

+

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

The Gravette Lions Club has members who have direct experience writing, administering, keeping records and reporting on grants similar to this. In addition, our charter with Lions Club International demands credibility from clubs and meticulous record keeping / reporting.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

Attached

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

Our club has been providing this service and will continue, however Covid and other factors are increasing request for glasses. Those same factors, however, are hampering our normal fundraising efforts. With this grant, we will be able keep this program going and address the anticipated pandemic related need. The grant will also allow us time to restore our funds and fundraising efforts.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

The Gravette Lions Club agrees to maintain all needed records and provide timely reports.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

Although this request only seems to help ten individuals, remember the benefits of proper vision extends to their families, friends, employers and others.

The Gravette Lions Club appreciates the opportunity of requesting funding for our program. Thank you.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**The Gravette Lions Club**
Project Name:	**Individual Eye Examinations and Glasses**
Amount Requested:	**$1,300.00**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 1,300.00	Pending	
Fundraiser - Annual White Cane Day	$ 200.00	Pending	Estimated from previous years
Fundraiser - Annual Pecan Sale	$ 225.00	Pending	Estimated from previous years
Fundraiser - Mile of Pennies campaign	$ 75.00	Pending	Estimated from previous years
Fundraiser - Crockpot Festival -			Canceled for 2 previous years
			Note: During COVID-19, our fundraising has been down. As a
			club, our priority has always been our eyeglass program and
			as our resources become limited, we find ourselves cutting
			other projects and services to guarantee we have funds
			when we receive a request for an exam and glasses.
Total	$ 1,800.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Eye care professional	$1,300	$ -	$ 1,300.00	Operating	Our cost / participant is currently $130. This grant will pay
			$ -		for 10 individual participants. We anticipate this grant will
			$ -		serve our program for two to three years, allowing our
			$ -		own resources to recover from the pandemic.
			$ -		
Administrative	$ -	$ -	$ -	Operating & Capital	This is an established program, so there are no capital or
			$ -		start-up expenses. We are volunteers, so we expect no
			$ -		administrative or incidental expenses.

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: The Jones Trust
Contact Name: Zelda Parson
Contact Email: zparson@jonesnet.org
Telephone #: 479-756-8090 ext. 2160

1. Name of Project: Center for Nonprofits at St. Mary's support for essential health and human services

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $3,885,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

** A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

** D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

The 60 nonprofits housed in the Center for Nonprofits at St. Mary's have been and continue to be frontline support in the battle against Covid-19. Community Clinic and the Benton County Health Department provide Covid-19 testing, vaccinations, monoclonal antibody infusions and contact tracing. Additionally, there are two organizations that have shelter services. Due to the age of the building, a majority of the building mechanical support ages back to the 1950's and doesn't provide

the air filtration and equipment operation that is needed to combat the spread of Covid-19. The Jones Trust is requesting funds to upgrade building mechanical, HVAC, and backup generator systems. In addition to providing mechanical and HVAC equipment that meet ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force regarding indoor air quality we will also be replacing the backup generator that will provide safeguarding of vaccinations and medical supplies.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

The Jones Trust will be contracting for equipment and installation services immediately upon receipt of grant.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The building equipment requested will improve air filtration and help prevent the spread of Covid-19 for the employees of the 60 nonprofit organizations and the people who use their resources. Additionally, the backup generator will ensure that vaccines are safeguarded in the case of a power outage.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need and cite the source of the data.

There is a need to upgrade mechanical, HVAC, and emergency generator equipment to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and safeguard Covid-19 vaccines. An independent engineering firm has identified the mechanical, HVAC, and emergency generator equipment that needs to be upgraded.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

The nonprofit organizations located in the center provide health and human services to a very diverse population and specifically those that are underserved and have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

We will track the progress of equipment installation to ensure that 100% of identified equipment is upgraded.

We will track the air quality and ensure that it meets ASHRAE standards.

We will track the number of service organizations housed in the Center for Nonprofits at St. Mary's that benefit from this equipment, with the goal to maintain a minimum of 90% occupancy.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

We will maintain a tracking spreadsheet of progress on equipment installation. We will utilize an external source to measure the air quality. We will track the building occupancy rates through our leasing program.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

Racial and/or ethnic minority health services patients within the center are estimated at 70% or more, and those best served in a language other than English at 50% or more. Nonprofit organizations within the center continuously reach out to those in need and those who are underserved. They have been on the front lines reaching out to those disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 and will be able to continue to do so in a safe environment through the support of these funds.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

We will outsource the purchase and installation of all equipment. We will utilize a competitive RFQ process for the outsourcing.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Our Director of Facilities is highly skilled and experienced in managing these types of equipment installation projects, and our Accounting department is experienced in accounting for grant funds.

Financial audits will be conducted as required.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

These are one-time projects.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?
Yes

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

We have attached a list of current non-profit organizations located at the Center for Nonprofits at St. Mary's.

Center for Nonprofits @ St. Mary's

Affiliate Descriptions

- **ALS Association:** Raises money for research and patient services, promotes awareness about and advocates in state and federal government on issues related to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.
- **AMC Therapy:** Provides mental health services to individuals and families struggling with acute and/or chronic trauma.
- **American Legion:** Patriotic veteran's organization devoted to mutual helpfulness; mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.
- **American National Red Cross:** Humanitarian organization that provides emergency assistance, disaster relief, and disaster preparedness education in the United States.
- **Arkansas Crisis Center:** Provides a hotline and services for those going through crisis (sexual assault, child maltreatment, elder abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, bullying); suicide prevention.
- **Area Agency on Aging of NWA:** Commits financial and human resources to enhance the lives of the NWA senior and elderly community. They provide a wide variety of services to the community, including but not limited to: Day Centers, Care Coordination, Housing, In-Home Services, Meals on Wheels, and Senior Activity Centers.
- **AR Dept. of Health - Benton Co: "**Encompasses everything the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) does to protect and improve the health and well-being of all Arkansans"; Benton County Health Unit.
- **Arkansas Hospice:** Rogers satellite office **"**Enhances the quality of life for those facing serious illness and loss by surrounding them with love and embracing them with the best in physical, emotional and spiritual care."
- **Benton County Public Defenders:** Provides representation to persons accused or convicted of a crime who cannot afford private counsel.
- **Center for Arkansas Legal Services:** Provides free civil legal services to low income Arkansans in an effort to balance the scale of justice.
- **Chinmaya Mission: "**To provide to individuals through knowledge of Vedanta, spiritual practices and service to society, growth and happiness, enabling them to become positive contributors to society." Has services at the Center every Sunday.

- **Clothes to Children:** Provides essentials to children.
- **Community Clinic:** Community Clinic Rogers Medical; primary care, prenatal, preventative, pediatric, women's health, physical therapy.
- **Community Services, Inc.:** Serves all youths and their families; encouraging participants in their service process. No youth is denied help regardless of financial capability.
- **Compassion House:** Serves pregnant teens and their babies with housing, case management, education and life skills to help each resident succeed.
- **Diva and Dude Community Outreach and Training Center:** A non-profit providing a catalyst for family empowerment through encouragement, education and edification. They increase the social well-being of individuals and families.
- **Down Syndrome Connection of NW Arkansas:** Since 2002, they have sought to facilitate inclusion and respect for individuals with Down Syndrome in NW Arkansas., ensuring access to support and resources to reach their full potential.
- **Engaging Arkansas Communities:** Engaging strong community networks. Providing innovative and empowering sexual health strategies while advancing healthy living to Arkansas' marginalized communities with particular focus on people with HIV.
- **Entrepreneurship for All:** Accelerate economic and social impact in NWA through inclusive entrepreneurship.
- **Freedom Seekers Ministry:** Their mission is to promote communities of spiritual healing by reaching out and empowering people suffering from substance abuse, addiction and related problems, through awareness, education and dynamic support services.
- **Friends of the Rogers Historical Museum:** Aids and supports the museum and staff to preserve the memories, objects, and history of Rogers, Arkansas.
- **Garden Club of Rogers:** To stimulate the knowledge and the love of gardening among our members and others in the Rogers area. To encourage civic beauty and roadside beautification.
- **Girl Scouts Diamonds:** As the preeminent leadership development organization for girls, they build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.
- **Greater Works Ministries:** Wayne and Sandy Womack combine their musical talents and healing gifts and visit homes, churches, hospitals and rehab centers. The also provide Healing and Deliverance Training.
- **Harbor Recovery:** Provides outpatient services for those struggling with addiction; individual counseling, group counseling, family counseling, and self-help groups of others in recovery.
- **Healing Gardens**: A garden space campus located alongside the Razorback Greenway Trail by Highlands Oncology Group. Project completion will be 2020. The offices serve as a hub for fundraising purposes and administration.
- **Junior Auxiliary Rogers-Bentonville:** A non-profit organization for women who share a desire to improve their communities through hands-on projects focused upon basic needs, including: hunger, safety and literacy. "Care Today….Character Tomorrow."

- **Kendrick Fincher Foundation**: Working to improve safety for athletes and reduce the number of injuries and death from heat related causes for all ages.
- **Legal Aid of Arkansas:** Providing free legal services to those who need but cannot afford it. They make a difference by solving problems affecting people's most basic needs.
- **Light House Solutions:** Therapeutic art studios available to provide expressive art services for individuals and families that empower self-awareness and connectivity.
- **Marine Corp League:** Promotes and preserves the traditions of the United States Marine Corps by strengthening the fraternity of Marines and their families while fostering the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.
- **Mercy Home Health: "**Our in-home services include: physical therapy, speech therapy and skilled nursing which may include wound care, IV therapy, or specialized education, such as chronic care self-management, just to name a few. Physician ordered care is reimbursed through Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance."
- **Midsouth Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church:** Strengthen the networks healthy churches in the five-state region of AR, OK, TX, LA, and NM.
- **NWA Center for Sexual Assault:** Making a positive difference in the lives of survivors of sexual assault. The Center seeks volunteers and donors for their advocacy and outreach work.
- **NWA ESC Early Childhood: "**Professional Development for Northwest Arkansas Teachers."
- **NWA Regional Dance Company:** Open to all children in NW Arkansas, they provide the opportunity to perform in non-competitive events such as The Nutcracker and other public performances which enrich the art of dance.
- **NWA Respect Life:** To encourage and promote a respect for the dignity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death.
- **Natural State Golden Retriever Club:** To promote a good standard of vet care, grooming, healthy lifestyle, fitness, and nutrition for both competitive and non-competitive Golden Retrievers.
- **Oasis of NWA:** Provide housing and resources for women in recovery and their children.
- **Ozarks Water Watch**: Dedicated to maintaining and improving the water quality of the upper White River watershed.
- **Pathfinder Inc:** Seeks to provide the best possible education and vocational opportunity for individuals with developmental disabilities so that it may fulfill its major responsibility, the fullest development of these human resources.
- **Pathway To Freedom:** They seek to address the transformation of prisoners' lives through an 18-month pre-release residential program through a contractual agreement with The Arkansas Department Of Corrections (ADC).
- **Renewing Grace Together:** Providing Retreat Camps, particularly for families to come and rest, rejuvenate and reconnect in a beautiful setting, with no obligations or agenda.

- **Rogers Museum Foundation:** Seeks to provide on-going financial support for purposes of fulfilling its mission to enrich lives through education, experience and exploration of our heritage.
- **Saving Grace:** Christian based program that provides a home in Northwest Arkansas offering hope and transformation to young women lacking critical supports.
- **SCORE:** Provides free and confidential small business counseling and mentoring, seminars, workshops and other services to the region's small business community.
- **Servant's Heart:** Licensed professional counselors that work with families, addictions and most of the major mental health disorders; works with all ages, accept insurance and Medicaid and provide both office-based and home-based (as in we go to the client) counseling in the event the client struggles with transportation; case management services assist clients in acquiring housing, food stamps, insurance, child care, schooling, etc.
- **Sheep Dog Impact Assistance**: Provides a civilian framework through which trained emergency and military personnel extend their service to society; assists communities in times of disaster, responds independently, efficiently and strategically to provide major impact.
- **Simply Divine:** Supporting the organizations at the Center for Nonprofits @ St. Mary's by providing quality food services and partnerships that harbor growth, teamwork and sustainability.
- **Socks and Cookies:** Providing a platform of gratitude for our military service members, they send care packages to those deployed while they are away from family and friends.
- **Sources for Independent Living:** Provides services, support, and advocacy for individuals with disabilities, their families and the community.
- **Speak up About Drugs:** An excellent resource for information about drugs and drug use. Together with family members at risk they provide informative dialogue and support.
- **Stateline Woodturners:** Endeavor to involve members of the community in the woodturning craft.
- **Sunday Serenity Group (AA):** AA meetings and support.
- **Sunshine School:** Develops and enriches the lives of individuals and families with therapy, education and support.
- **Teen Action Support Center:** Provides a safe and inviting environment where youth, parents, community members and staff work together to provide support and opportunity for teens and their families.
- **The Foundation for Critical Thinking:** We seek to promote essential change in education and society through the cultivation of fair-minded critical thinking.
- **UAMS:** With its intersection of education, research, and clinical programs, brings a unique capacity to lead health care improvement in Arkansas.
- **Village Writing School LLC:** Independent creative writing school offering online workshops, full-day Summits and meetup groups on many aspects of writing.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**The Jones Trust**
Project Name:	**Center for Nonprofits at St. Mary's support for essential health and human services**
Amount Requested:	**$3,885,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 3,885,000.00	Pending	
Total	$ 3,885,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Building and HVAC equipment	$ 3,654,000.00		$ 3,654,000.00	Capital	To improve air filitration and prevent spread of Covid-19
Emergency Generator	$ 231,000.00		$ 231,000.00	Capital	To safeguard Covid-19 and other vaccines stored on site

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: The Music Education Initiative
Contact Name: Orson Weems
Contact Email: oweems@musiceducationintiative.org
Telephone #: 501-838-5461

1. Name of Project:

Production Education and Technical Training Program Workshops

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$50,000.00

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our project addresses categories:

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description: Please provide a short summary of your proposed project.

We offer training to program participants by upskilling them with training and development into potential career paths such as live performance technicians, production lighting technicians and logistics support (crew and stage hands for loading and unloading equipment, lighting and cases). Participants will be trained by live performance production professionals in the region, who are in immediate need of additional trained workforce personnel. Workshops will be held twice

monthly from February 2022 through April 2022, to prepare a pool of newly trained personnel that will be ready to work during the highly anticipated return of the 2022 *Live Event* season, which will kick off in Spring of this year. Workshops will continue at least monthly the rest of the year. Our program will positively affect the workforce of the region, by putting more people to work, which in turn, provides some economic impact. The Music Education Initiative's unique perspective focuses on musical education in the interest of creating new writing, recording, performing artists, entertainers and industry personnel by exposing students and other interested parties to music and entertainment career paths at earlier ages.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

Our programs are structured to do workshops throughout the region, until we see a positive affect on the shortage of production workforce in NWA. We are already planning to have our second and third workshops for February. The time frame is active, now.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

In consideration of the extent of the COVID-19 impact on industries such as compared to tourism, travel, and hospitality, our recent discussions with the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) have encouraged us to increase our focus, and implementation on the importance of the technical and production training aspects of the leisure, music and entertainment industries, which are experiencing shortages of workers due to the identified, lack of workforce development, training and upskilling, to fill the existing void of available, qualified personnel. This void increased industry wide due to shuttered venues, concert and theatrical performance venue cancellations that were closed, are closed, and those that have been continuously delayed, during the COVID-19 public health emergency and have experienced the negative economic impacts of this pandemic. We understand that nationally the leisure and hospitality industry has experienced an approximately 17+ percent decline in employment and 24+ percent decline in revenue, on net, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need and cite the source of the data.

In addition to addressing the need for qualified personnel (mentioned above) to support the live event sector, we are introducing a younger generation to careers in the music and entertainment industry in NWA. Our data sources are: the live event industry, venue owners, bars and performance halls in the area.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

Our program benefits the regional population of NWA of over 500K+ people, and is not limited to demographic characteristics. The program is open to all that can legally work in the region.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

1. We are tracking program enrollment
2. We track participant/attendee satisfaction
3. Employment placement is also tracked

Baselines and goals will be established after year one of the program

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

We collect data from our website analytics and surveys. Also data is collected by us from the venues that request our program participants for hire.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

Our Production Education and Technical Training Workshops put people to work. By targeting and exposing the underserved communities to new careers and those that may want a career change.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

None used at this time.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

We have the knowledge, experience and a willing group of professional industry professionals and local production company owners as critical program advisors. We have already successfully completed a pilot program training workshop.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.) Attached

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire.

The Music Education Initiative continually looks for program sponsors, partners and supporters from philanthropic, individual, non government and government entities to fund current and future programs.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized? Yes.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

Our Production Education and Technical Training Workshop will serve and has drawn interests from schools, an art center, professional career development programs, live event venues and production companies within Benton County.

A few interested parties and supporters: *George's Majestic Lounge, Al Bell Presents, avad3, Forge Productions, Ozark Productions, The Momentary, The University of Arkansas, The Community School, Ignite Professional Studies, Springdale School District, The Arkansas Arts Academy, the Juvenile Justice Center, and the TeenAction Support Center (TASC).*

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**The Music Education Intitiative**
Project Name:	**Production Education and Technical Training Workshops**
Amount Requested:	**$50,000**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 50,000.00	Pending	
Al Bell Presents	$ 500.00	Confirmed	
Total	$ 50,500.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Workshop Instructors	$ 10,000.00		$ 10,000.00	Operating	Includes payment for instructors and event coordinator
Paid interns	$ 1,500.00		$ 1,500.00	Operating	Two local college students at $15/hr., ten hours week
Marketing/Advertising/Social Media/Communications	$ 2,500.00		$ 2,500.00	Operating	
Project Programming & Development	$ 12,000.00		$ 12,000.00	Operating	This includes programs, guest speakers, workshop supplies and events
App for scheduling and database management	$ 2,500.00		$ 2,500.00	Operating	Analytics, content and data management
Venue Rentals for workshop presentations	$ 15,000.00		$ 15,000.00	Operating	Larger venue spaces are needed to have adequate space with the need for social distancing
Insurance	$ 1,500.00		$ 1,500.00	Operating	Genral Liability coverage
General and Admin. Services	$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00	Operating	
			$ -		
			$ 50,000.00		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: The Salvation Army- Northwest Arkansas Area Command
Contact Name: Captain Joshua Robinett
Contact Email: Joshua.Robinett@uss.salvationarmy.org
Telephone #: 479-521-2151

1. Name of Project:

Benton County Homeless Support and Inmate Release Housing Coordinator

2. Amount of Funds Requested:

$350,000

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

The funding will be used to support 3 separate but similar responses to homelessness in Benton County. It will provide two Housing- Focused Case Management professionals for homeless service re-housing. Housing-Focused Case Managers are essential to ensuring homeless families and individuals can be re-housed. Very few homeless families and individuals are re-housed without the help of a case management professional. One Case Manager will assist with homeless case management at the newly formed Micah 6:8 Homeless Day Shelter and one Case Manager will be based out of the Salvation Army's

current Housing-Focused Shelter in Bentonville and provide virtual or in-person (if allowed) case management to anticipated release inmates in the county jail as well as clients in the shelter.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

We already have the pieces in place to begin nearly immediately upon funding with this project. If funds are granted, then hiring would be completed within 2-3 months and Case Managers would begin working with Micah 6:8 and the county jail as soon as possible. One Case Manager will be assigned and have a satellite location at Micah 6:8. This Case Manager would work directly with Micah 6:8 staff as well as other service providers to identify and begin case management services with homeless clients in the Benton County area. Case Mangers work to help clients identify barriers and reach goals that lead to eventual housing placement in this situation the clients have responsibility to help move their case management forward in a positive way. The other Case Manager would be located at The Salvation Army's Bentonville Housing-Focused Shelter facility. This person would coordinate with the Benton County Sheriff's Department and jail staff to engage a specific number of inmates scheduled for release within the next 6-9 months (approx. timeframe). These inmates would be those either self-identifying as homeless, those with uncertain housing, or those identified by jail staff as at-risk for homelessness upon release. This case manager will work with these clients in a virtual setting to create a housing focused release plan that will enable them to become housing ready and be released either directly to permanent housing or to The Salvation Army Housing-Focused Shelter for other direct case management and a short stay before finding permanent housing.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Homelessness is a burden to the families and individuals experiencing it and to the community in which it is taking place. Covid has exacerbated these issues in many ways. Economically speaking, recent inflation costs coupled with already rising rental rates, and lack of reasonably priced housing stock in Benton County has nearly exhausted affordable options for housing for people with income, let alone those without that are experiencing homelessness. Going from homeless to housed is a difficult prospect, especially to those who

must clear or eliminate barriers in their lives before they can attain housing. The multiple steps needed to eliminate those barriers have been nearly impossible for homeless families because of the difficultly in travel, advocacy, and timing brought on by Covid and its unpredictability. Additionally, as housing eviction moratoriums are lifted more families and individuals are being evicted we are seeing an increase in need but a decrease in available housing stock and an overwhelming flood of case management need. The current systems and programs in place just cannot keep up with the demand.

Homeless individuals, according the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, have higher rates of illness and die on average 12 years sooner than the general public. According to a pre-covid study from 2019 by the Council homelessness exacerbates pre-existing conditions and creates new health problems in homeless individuals. Moreover, with limited or no income, homeless individuals cannot pay for healthcare, lack the resources to find it, and become sicker. Eventually leading to healthcare outcomes that cost communities in ER visits and jail stays. While few current studies exist that show data related to homelessness and its correlation to Covid we do know that Covid has created additional homelessness as well as created difficult, if not dangerous, situations with covid illness and transmission within the homeless community.

Jail overcrowding has also created a perfect storm of covid related issues and with the ability to decrease recidivism through positive ex-offender housing situations we can help to relieve pressure, over time, on current jail populations.

Having additional Housing-Focused Case Managers will help those effected by economic disparities find housing. It is difficult for anyone to essentially rebuild their life following a homelessness event and it has been all the harder because of Covid. Our Case Managers will help walk those in need of housing in the right direction. In some ways housing is healthcare; imagine experiencing the flu, a headache, or Covid out on the streets, in a tent, or in a public place unable to find respite care, rest, or a bathroom. These are essential needs that our program can and does address in Benton County, we just need more resources to meet the growing need brought on through Covid.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

This project expansion will allow us to expand our current successful Housing-Focused Case Management program to allow us to reach more people. Over the past three years of collecting data, we are finding greater success with our methods. We are seeing the need in our shelters and know of the jail over crowding issues. At any given time we believe that 100-150 people are homeless in Benton County (as evidence by the average of the past 3 years CoC Point-in-time homeless count). Those numbers are most

likely underrepresented and don't account for people sharing housing or families that are doubling up in housing designed and intended for only one family.

We also know that there is not enough data collected or available in Benton County about jail recidivism rates and we don't know collectively who is homeless or not upon release from the jail. Our project would aim to help jail staff and ultimately the community by relieve some of the strain of case counseling and helping to place individuals leaving jail in safer situations which we know can provide for less opportunity for recidivism. In 2018 studies Arkansas Department of Correction show that in Benton county inmates released in 2014 and monitored for three years had a 53%-73% percent recidivism rate. (ADC_2014_Recidivism_Study_Final_with_BOC_approval_-_11_5_18.pdf (arkansas.gov))

In their paper, Community Navigation to Reduce Institutional Recidivism and Promote Recovery: Initial Evaluation of Opening Doors to Recovery in Southeast Georgia, Thomas Reed and his fellow investigators discovered that communities with fragmented services do not help with recidivism rates. That building an interconnected system of community stakeholders helps all aspects of homelessness recovery. This points directly toward our intent to engage the county jail and work with them in cooperation to ensure we are providing the substantial service of helping to house homeless inmates prior to their release.

Further studies indicate the impact on families with children and the correlation of homelessness. In the 2018 "Journal of Child and Family Studies" paper: Jailed Parents and their Young Children: Residential Instability, Homelessness, and Behavior Problems. Principal investigators studied the family disruption in the form of the jailed parent's housing situation a year prior to incarceration and found a myriad of effects on young children and their behavior. Not surprising was the finding that children do not thrive well in situations where homelessness or housing instability followed by parental recidivism lead to parent incarceration.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

The populations served by this project include families and individuals from nearly ever demographic category in Benton County. Homelessness does not discriminate. The underlying factor is economic hardship and inter-generational poverty conditions. We believe that we will be working with 100-200 homeless individuals per year based on past records and service statistics.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

Very few homeless families or individuals can "self-resolve" a homeless condition. It's simply not possible. To most community members that is hard to believe or understand. We often hear things like: "can't they just get a job?" Although jobs and income are a critical part of this problem it is not the silver bullet that

equals success. So many factors exist in attaining employment. Often homeless families and individuals lack vital documents to become employed. Those documents take time to get, but they also require computers, money, travel to and from state offices, etc. Those are things that would be inconvenient to the general public but to a homeless person with zero resources they are equivalent to climbing a mountain several times a day. Low or no income is often generally paired with no or low credit scores, which contribute to lack of housing opportunity. Past criminal convictions can adversely affect a family or individual seeking housing. Saving the funds necessary for a first month's rent, a last month's rent, a security deposit, an application fee, and utilities deposits can be thousands of dollars. That is very difficult for someone with no income. The list goes on and on. Thankfully, The Salvation Army exists in Benton County to help alleviate those problems for homeless families and individuals. Our Housing-Focused Case Managers are the key to success in housing in this community. The Salvation Army is the only shelter that anyone can stay in to receive these services and our case management program is the only program in Benton County to serve anyone regardless of their situational cause of homelessness.

Performance Measures:

1. By grant received date +3 months both Case Managers will be successfully hired.
2. All jail clients (allowed by jail staff) and all Micah 6:8 homeless day shelter clients will receive info on Case Management program 4 months after grant begins and continuing for the duration of the program (3 years minimum with planned continuation in perpetuity).
3. 50% of all homeless clients presenting to these new Case Managers will be housing ready within 9 months of working with Case Manager

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Our organization employs state of the art tracking software (Service Point) that coordinates through HUD's HMIS system that collects data and helps us to synthesize and analyze it. Our staff directors regularly track outcomes and participate in frequent case counseling with our Case Managers and outside agencies. We track outcomes of each client. Additionally, our financial department and administration tracks all expenditures and participates in yearly audits to ensure financial data is properly accounted for.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

Our program will give opportunity equally to those impacted by homelessness in Benton County. Our Case Managers will be helping the most acutely impacted families and individuals both in the community and those

set for release from the jail. Housing is healthcare, housing is security, and housing leads to more successful outcomes in citizens and the overall community.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

Micah 6:8

1. We will work to staff a Housing-Focused Case Manager at their homeless day center

Benton County Sheriff's Office

1. We will work with Sheriff and jail staff to identify and facilitate housing-focused case management for inmates with scheduled release dates.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Our organization is one of the only organizations in Northwest Arkansas that actively works on housing homeless families and individuals. We already have the infrastructure, policies, procedures, and plans in place and have been successfully accomplishing this with our Housing-Focused approach for the past 3 years. We receive several federal grants currently and have successfully managed those as well as gain more support throughout the past few years.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital

vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

As we plan our ongoing budgets, we often use one-time grants or gifts to build out new programs or expand existing programs. Allowing 2-3 years of "start-up" funding for this capacity building project will allow us to begin fundraising to create a sustainable means for continuing these positions after the American Rescue Act funds have been spent.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

The Salvation Army has been operating in Benton County continuously for over 125 years. We are dedicated to providing services to the those who have no other options. Our mission is Preach the Gospel of Jesus and to serve human needs in His name without discrimination. We do not require participation in any religious or spiritual activities to receive services, but we are available if people have questions or wish to learn more about Jesus.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**The Salvation Army, Northwest Akransas Area Command**
Project Name:	**Benton County Homeless Support and Inmate Release Housing Coordinator**
Amount Requested:	**$350,000 over 3 years**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	**Amount**	**Confirmed or Pending?**	**Notes**
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 350,000.00	Pending	
Total	$ 350,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	**Proposed Recovery Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**	**Capital or Operating Expense?**	**Notes**
Housing Focused Case Manager	$169,572		$ 169,572.00	Operating	Salary and benefits for one case manager for 3 years
Housing Focused Case Manager	$ 169,572.00		$ 169,572.00	Operating	Salary and benefits for one case manager for 3 years

Tapestry Home

a project of the Micah 6:8 Initiative

Honorable Justices of the Peace,

I am writing in support of the Salvation Army's proposal for funding case management for persons experiencing homeless in Benton County. The project would provide coordinated case management services across three environments–Benton County jail, a proposed Micah 6:8 day shelter and the Salvation Army's night shelter.

The reputation of the Salvation Army needs no defense and their claim to "Doing the Most Good" is certainly credible as we see the dedication with which they address the needs of our community's most vulnerable persons. The Micah 6:8 Initiative is proud to be presenting our proposal to collaborate with such an established and respected partner.

We believe this unprecedented level of case management will result in lower recidivism of those experiencing homelessness upon release from jail. We base our claim, in part, on the success the Benton County Drug Court has in reducing recidivism with its intense case management services for persons with drug convictions. They have reduced the average 40 percent recidivism to 15 percent (as of three-year follow-up). Further, 76 percent of those experiencing homelessness that are referred to Drug Court leave the program with a stable living situation.

Case management intervention works. And applying this same intensive intervention to persons experiencing homeless before and after they exit the jail will ultimately save this county money both in social services and criminal justice services.

We know that every proposal funded will address a need created by COVID, but if we have the opportunity to do that as well as improve our community for the future, how much more value we will gain from the dollars! I urge you to support the Salvation Army's case management proposal.

Sincerely,

Donna Schillinger, President

themicah68group@gmail.com

Micah68Initiative.org and Facebook.com/themicah68group/

307 W. Elm St., Rogers, AR 72756

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: The Valle Pino Foundation
Contact Name: Daisy Bonilla
Contact Email: daisybonillalcsw@gmail.com
Telephone #: 479.360.8875

1. Name of Project: Bilingual Mental Health Center

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $5million

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

C. Infrastructure: Provides water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Brief Project Description:

The Valle Pino Foundation (VPF) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that seeks to deliver linguistically and culturally appropriate, fully bilingual, mental health services to immigrant communities in NWA. Through connection and education, the VPF's vision is to bridge the gap in disparities that exist in the areas of funding, access, and quality mental health care for Hispanic and immigrant communities in Arkansas. The VPF will also focus on training, recruiting, and retaining the next generation of bilingual mental health providers.

5. Project Plan:

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

The plan is to provide safe, culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services in a facility in Lowell, AR. We will be seeking an office space with at least four therapeutic offices, a media/teaching room, children's playroom, and group/conference room. We will be providing services from 8am-8pm on weekdays and

depending on the need may offer Saturday appointments. We will be providing on-site therapy, support groups, and virtual therapy. We will implement proper social distancing measures to protect clients and staff from the pandemic. We will be paying for certified medical interpreters to linguistically meet the needs of our immigrant communities that speak another language outside of Spanish and English. We would implement grant funds immediately to provide crisis intervention to those clients most in need, identified by our community partners. The starting goal is to provide mental health services through the use of three full time bilingual therapists and two (or more) graduate level interns to at least 160 clients per month.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a documented rise in mental health crisis worldwide, as the economic downturn and medical issues continue to steadily remain. COVID-19 has greatly increased an already unmet need in our community and is causing a rise in substance abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, depression, suicide, and other mental health ailments in our area. Mental health needs have exploded within our society but for Latinx and immigrant communities in NWA who need culturally and linguistically appropriate services to seek help, even more so.

The Valle Pino Foundation is designed to improve health AND economic outcomes for communities or populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic- a public health priority outlined in the guidelines for the American Rescue Plan funding. People are overwhelmed and unable to cope with large societal stressors, this is doubled for those who are unable to find services in their native language.

Based on population data and the prevalence rates of Latinx communities in NWA, there are currently ____ residents in Benton County who can benefit from our program.

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

Through the collaboration with various community partners who serve the Latinx community in NWA we have gathered information from agencies who work with Latinx communities through the educational sector, criminal justice system, or community healthcare programs and have determined that there is a large need for bilingual mental health services, not only in Benton County but across Northwest Arkansas. Upon researching for data that highlights mental health disparities (and access) in Arkansas we have spoken to healthcare centers who share that “we have continued to use past research and information to build and expand our program offerings. While we collect many, many data points on our patients, the data are a more overall picture of our patients’ health, likely not at the granular level that you would be looking for on Latinx mental health needs for this specific project.”

As it currently stands "the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Northwest has been contracted by Ozark Guidance (the largest mental health agency in Arkansas) to help learn more about the mental health and substance use disorder needs of and resources available to communities in Northwest Arkansas (NWA). Ozark Guidance is particularly interested in understanding the needs of and resources available to NWA's Latinx and Marshallese communities." Aside from this current research, there has not been any local commissioned research to collect data surrounding the mental health needs of the Latinx and immigrant communities of NWA. This lack of data speaks to the degree of how underserved/underfunded these communities are, but the advocates working directly with these groups are witness to the great need there is to address the mental health disparities in these communities.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

Our project can serve over 160 adults and children of all genders, ages and backgrounds who are seeking mental health services in a single month alone. We will provide a hotline for emergencies, advocacy and support services to all clients served. Though we will aim to serve clients from Benton, Washington, Carroll and Madison Counties, most of our clients will come from Benton County.

Our aim is to have an intentional, organization-wide focus on serving all the communities to which our clients belong and have staff that represents the communities we serve.

9. Results

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

10. Evaluation

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

The only subcontractors we anticipate in needing are certified medical interpreters that we will come in to help when dealing with non-English and non-Spanish speaking clients. Our goal as we reach diverse immigrant populations is that there will a justifiable need to then train and hire linguistically appropriate bilingual mental health providers to supplement that need.

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Our board members have extensive experience in funding nonprofit agencies and managing federal funds. Our board will be providing the guidance to deliver the VPS's mission through strategic planning and spending.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.)

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

Fundraisers, grant applications as well as Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance streams.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes, our goal is to immediately implement a development plan to support the VPF through diverse funding streams and be able to document how our funds are being utilized to continuously apply for more grant funding.

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	The Valle Pino Foundation
Project Name:	Bilingual Mental Health Services
Amount Requested:	$5 million

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds		Pending	
AR Children's Community Health Fund		Pending	
Walton Family Foundation		Pending	
Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation		Pending	
Walmart Foundation		Pending	
Medicare		Pending	
Medicaid		Pending	
Private Insurance Carriers		Pending	
U.S Department of Health		Pending	
AR Community Foundation		Pending	
Community Development Block Grant		Pending	
United Way NWA		Pending	
RISE- Internship Program		Pending	
NWA Hispanic Leadership Council		Pending	
Total	$ -		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Rent			$ 108,000.00	O.E	
Full Time Bilingual Therapist			$ 65,000.00	O.E	
Full Time Bilingual Therapist			$ 65,000.00	O.E	
Part Time Bilingual Therapist Intern			$ 22,500.00	O.E	
Part Time Bilingual Therapist Intern			$ 22,500.00	O.E	
Full Time Bilingual Nurse Practitioner			$ 120,000.00	O.E	
Full Time RN/LPN			$ 55,000.00	O.E	
Executive Director			$ 85,000.00	O.E	
Program Development Director			$ 65,000.00	O.E	
Bilingual Billing Specilist			$ 55,000.00	O.E	
Bilingual Referal Specialist			$ 50,000.00	O.E	
Bilingual Intake Coordinator			$ 50,000.00	O.E	
Community Engagement Director			$ 55,000.00	O.E	
Community engagement fees			$ 12,000.00	O.E	
Bilingual Office Manager			$ 50,000.00	O.E	
Bilingual Administrative Office Staff			$ 45,000.00	O.E	
Development Director			$ 60,000.00	O.E	Not including fundriasing expenses.
Interpreter Fees			$ 57,600.00	O.E	($480 per client, per month per weekly session = $5,760 per year). Total for 5 clients
HR			$ 50,000.00	O.E	
Accountant			$ 50,000.00	O.E	
Utilities			$ 60,000.00	O.E	
Computers			$ 29,100.00	C	
Electronic Medical Records			$ 4,200.00	C	
Office Furniture			$ 35,500.00	O.E	

Workers Comp Insurance			$ 500.00	O.E	
Board of Directors Insurance			$ 900.00	O.E	
Printing Machines and Costs			$ 5,500.00	C	
Benefits			$ 256,250.00	O.E	25% of what salaries are. (17 staff)
Video and audio equipment for education program			$ 65,000.00	C	
Program Evaluator			$ 50,000.00	O.E	
Marketting Director			$ 50,000.00	O.E	
Marketting and communications			$ 28,000.00	O.E	
Cleaning expenses			$ 27,000.00	O.E	
Consultants/Contractual			$ 45,000.00	O.E	Auditors, Attorneys
Program and events food and refreshments			$ 12,000.00	O.E	
Travel and expense			$ 15,000.00	O.E	
Professional development fees			$ 8,500.00	O.E	Chambers
Transportation			$ 15,000.00	O.E	
Legal Fees			$ 25,000.00	O.E	
Meals and entertainment			$ 5,000.00	O.E	
Bank Fees			$ 1,000.00	O.E	Checking account, debit cards
Repairs and Maintenance			$ 10,000.00	O.E	
Volounteer Coordinator/ Incentives			$ 1,800.00	O.E	
Postage			$ 2,800.00	O.E	
Childcare Providers			$ 24,800.00	O.E	
Childcare Facilities			$ 5,000.00	O.E	Toys, arts, books.
Telephones			$ 12,000.00	O.E	
Total			$ 1,937,450.00		

Benton County American Rescue Plan

Proposal Questionnaire

Organization Name: University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service-Benton County
Contact Name: Johnny Gunsaulis and Cathy Love
Contact Email: jgunsaulis@uada.edu and clove@uada.edu
Telephone #: 479-271-1060

1. Name of Project: **Healthy Meals & Wheels: Improving the health of limited resource families with nutrition programming and bicycle education**

2. Amount of Funds Requested: $79,500

3. Category of the American Rescue Plan that your project addresses:

** Please denote which category

A. Public Health: Prevents or mitigates COVID-19,

1. Improve health to decrease infection/decrease severe cases of Covid
2. Help decrease prevalence of chronic health conditions/improve existing conditions
3. Decrease prevalence of overweight/obesity
4. Improve mental health

B. Economic Impacts: Addresses an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19,

1. Save money on food
2. Better use of available food resources
3. Reduce food insecurity
4. Save money on health care costs

D. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: Improves health or economic outcome for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Limited resource families with children
2. Minority families (lessons in Spanish)

4. Brief Project Description:

Healthy Meals and Wheels proposes to improve the health of limited resource families in Benton County through nutrition programming and bicycle education. Adults will attend a free six-session class focused on healthy eating and cooking, making good use of food resources, and the importance of being a physically active family. Classes would be offered through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). In addition to class materials, participants would receive ingredients and basic kitchen utensils to practice preparing healthy recipes in their own home. Simultaneously, children would complete a bicycle education class through the Benton County 4-H program. Children would learn bike safety and first aide, bike maintenance, and trail and road etiquette while developing biking skills. Bicycles will be provided for families who cannot afford one.

5. Project Plan:

A series of 6-session classes will be offered once per quarter over a 3-year time frame. Classes will be offered in various county locations, but special effort will be made to focus on western Benton County which has the highest concentration of citizens living with limited incomes. We plan to reach 200 adults with nutrition programming and 1200 youth with bicycle education over the 3 year period. Participants will be encouraged to take advantage of other Extension health resources and to form Healthy Lifestyle 4-H Clubs.

6. Link to COVID-19:

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

Low income adults are twice as likely to experience serious illness from Covid 19 than those with household incomes greater than $50,000. Underlying health conditions are more prevalent among this population and contribute to the health risk. (Kome, W., Artiga, S., Neuman T., Claxton, G., Rae, M., Kates, J., Micjaud, J. (2020, May 07). Low-Income and Communities of Color at Higher Risk of Serious Illness if Infected with Coronavirus. KFF. https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/low-income-and-communities-of-coor-at-higher-risk-of-serious-illness-if-infected-with-coronavirus/#)

In addition, adults with children in their home were more likely to lose their jobs, have difficulty paying bills, and suffer from food insecurity. (Orgera, K., Garfield, R., Rodowitz, R., (2021, 15 December) Tracking Social Determinants of Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Kaiser Family Foundation.

https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/tracking-social-determinants-of-health-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/.

Individuals who have been able to continue working are often in public facing jobs that increase their exposure to Covid-19, resulting in higher infections rates, and deaths among low wage earners. (Tan AX, Hinman JA, Abdel Magid HS, Nelson LM, Odden MC. Association Between Income Inequality and County-Level COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the US. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2021;4(5):e218799. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.8799)

We propose that improving nutrition practices and increasing physical activity are foundational health practices that increase immunity to disease and improve quality of life. These strategies are affordable and effective, saving families money in the long run. In 2021 Benton County graduates of EFNEP nutrition classes reported saving an average of $85 per month on grocery/food bills. (WebNEERS)

Studies suggest that regular physical activity strengthens the immune system, providing a benefit in the response to viral communicable diseases, such as Covid-19. (Physical exercise as a tool to help the immune system against COVID-19: an integrative review of the current literature Matheus Pelinski da Silveira, Kimberly Kamila da Silva Fagundes, Matheus Ribeiro Bizuti, Édina Starck, Renata Calciolari Rossi, Débora Tavares de Resende e Silva. Clin Exp Med. 2020 Jul 29 : 1–14. doi: 10.1007/s10238-020-00650-3 [Epub ahead of print] PMCID: PMC7387807)

Finally, optimal nutrition and dietary nutrient intake positively impacts the immune system. A proper diet coupled with good food safety practices can help the body stave off infection and if infected, reduce the severity of the illness. (How Nutrition can help to fight against COVID-19 Pandemic. Faseeha Aman, Sadia Masood Pak J Med Sci. 2020 May; 36(COVID19-S4): S121–S123. doi: 10.12669/pjms.36.COVID19-S4.2776 PMCID: PMC7306972)

7. Statement of Need:

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

This project will increase health and decrease food insecurity for limited resource families with children in their home. Although Benton County is the most prosperous county in Arkansas almost 10% of its citizens live below the poverty level and 14% of Benton County's children are food insecure (2021 Rural Profile of Arkansas). We have an abundance of opportunities for physical activity, but 23% of Benton Countians report being physically inactive, 69% of adults are overweight/obese, and 35% of children are overweight/obese ((2021 County Health Rankings. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation). This combination of inadequate food and physical inactivity contribute to overall poor health, decreased immunity to disease, and chronic health conditions. While there are many strategies to address these problems, one of the most basic approaches is to help families feed themselves better and find inexpensive ways to be physically active.

8. Population Served:

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served

The target audience for Heathy Meals & Wheels is limited resource families with children. In Benton County 9.9% of its citizens live in poverty (2021 Rural Profile of AR), with twelve percent of these being children. (2021 County Health Rankings. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) Forty percent of Benton County's school age children receive free or reduced price school meals indicating that a significant number of families are struggling financially. As is often the case, people of color in Arkansas experience poverty at higher rates: African American-27%, Latino-21%, Native American 14%, White-13%. (Arkansas Report-2020-Talk Poverty. https://talkpoverty.org/state-yearreport/arkansas-2020-report/)

Although this program will target limited resource families, all Benton County youth are welcome and eligible to participate.

9. Results

- 1200 Youth reached with bicycle education program
- 200 Adults reached with nutrition education program
- 3 new Healthy Lifestyle 4-H Clubs formed
- Improved family diet quality
- improved food resource management
- increased participant physical activity

10. Evaluation

- Pre/post class surveys for adults tracking food habits, grocery spending, food safety practices, access to food, and physical activity level.
- Surveys for kids will track youth exercise and time spent riding bikes.

11. Equity Impact

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

This project will provide resources that limited resource families may not have access to because of cost and sometimes language barriers. A special effort will be made to target the western part of Benton County which has significantly higher poverty rates. Adult classes can be offered in Spanish

for Hispanic participants. This program will increase physical activity and good nutrition which improves overall health and quality of life.

12. Project Partners:

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform?
Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project

This project will not require any sub-contractors. University of Arkansas Extension staff will be used to supervise and implement the program.

Non-funded partners:
Runway Group-help with bicycle program and possible provision of bikes to those who cannot afford a bicycle
Whole Health Institute-training for Whole Health facilitators
Local Grocers-Insulated bags for take-home recipe ingredients
University of Arkansas Extension-Program Assistant supervision and support

13. Capacity

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

The University of Arkansas Extension Service specializes in delivering research-based programming to the local community. The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and 4-H youth program are already in place and successfully working in Benton County. We have a proven track record of program delivery and responsible management of federal funds.

14. Budget

Provide a detailed project budget on the attached budget spreadsheet including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs.

operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Benton County Recovery Funds.

Please attached budget worksheet.

15. Continuity of Services:

If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire

Continued funding sources will be sought to continue the program. Results of the program evaluation will be used as justification to continue.

16. Reporting:

If granted funding, would your organization be able to report quarterly on how funds were utilized?

Yes

17. Special Considerations

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

University of Arkansas Extension would be willing to work with other agencies of similar interest in these types of efforts. This effort could serve as a model program that could have application in other counties.

BENTON COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	**University of Arkansas Extension Service-Benton County**
Project Name:	**Healthy Meals and Wheels**
Amount Requested:	**$79,500**

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Benton County COVID Recovery Funds	$ 79,500.00	Pending	Proposed 4-H Program Assistant salary and take-home food for nutrition classes
University of Arkansas Extension	$ 15,000.00	Pending	Travel/Benefits for proposed 4-H Program Assistant
U of A Extension-EFNEP	$ 53,460.00	Confirmed	EFNEP Program Assistant to deliver nutrition programming
Total	$ 147,960.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
4-H Program Assistant	$ 67,500.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 82,500.00	Operating	
Take-home recipe ingredients	$ 12,000.00		$ 12,000.00	Operating	
EFNEP Program Assistant		$ 53,460.00	$ 53,460.00	Operating	