



RESOLUTION TITLE: TO AMEND GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE 2021-264 FOR THE GASTON COUNTY CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the Gaston County Grant Project Ordinance 2021-264 for the Gaston County Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds was adopted in Regular Session by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners on September 28, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners shall amend Section 2 of the Grant Project Ordinance to authorize appropriations for specific programs, services, projects, and activities. The Board may also appropriate some or all of these funds to an enterprise fund in an annual budget ordinance for a water, wastewater, or stormwater infrastructure project.

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Commissioners of Gaston County, North Carolina, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, that:

Section 1: This ordinance is to establish a budget for a project to be funded by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (CSLRF). Gaston County has received the first tranche in the amount of \$21,806,063 of CSLRF funds. The total allocation is \$43,612,126, with the remainder to be distributed to the County within 12 months. These funds may be used for the following categories of expenditures, to the extent authorized by state law.

1. Support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff
2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector
3. Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic
4. Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	AFraley	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	TPhilbeck	RWotley	Vote
2022-002	01/11/2022	BH	RW	A	A	A	AB	AB	A	A	U

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TO AMEND GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE 2021-264 FOR THE GASTON COUNTY CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

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Section 2: The following amounts are appropriated for the project and authorized for expenditure:

CSLRF Project \$43,612,126*

Project Allocations

- FJC Program Project \$ 616,366 - Approved 9/28/2021
- Grants Manager Position \$ 535,159 - Approved 12/14/2021
- **Short-term Emergency Housing Assistance \$ 250,000 (BCR Attached) – 1/11/2022**

Remaining Available CSLRF Project \$42,210,601

[*Once it is determined how we will spend all or a portion of the ARP funds, the governing board will amend this section to authorize appropriations for specific programs, services, projects, and activities. The Board may also appropriate some or all of these funds to an enterprise fund in an annual budget ordinance for a water, wastewater, or stormwater infrastructure project.]

Section 3: The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete the project:

CSLRF Funds \$43,612,126

- ARPA: Family Justice Center \$ 616,366 - Approved 9/28/2021
- Grants Manager Position \$ 535,159 - Approved 12/14/2021
- **Short-term Emergency Housing Assistance \$ 250,000 - 1/11/2022**

Remaining Available CSLRF Project \$42,210,601

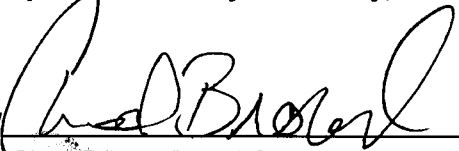
Section 4: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grantor agency and the grant agreements.

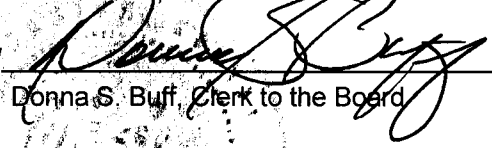
Section 5: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to report the financial status of the project to the governing board on a quarterly basis.

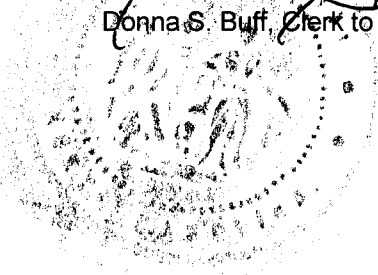
Section 6: Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the Budget Officer, the Finance Officer and to the Clerk to County Commissioners.

Section 7: This grant project ordinance expires on December 31, 2026, or when all the CSLRF funds have been obligated and expended by the County, whichever occurs sooner.

Adopted this 11th day of January, 2022.

/s/ 
Chad Brown, Board Chair

/s/ 
Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board



GASTON COUNTY BUDGET CHANGE REQUEST

TO: Dr. Kim S. Eagle COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: 4120 County Manager
Dept. # Department Name

Dr. Kim Eagle 1/11/2022
 Department Director's Name Date

TYPE OF REQUEST:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line Item Transfer Within Department & Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Line Item Transfer Between Funds * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Transfer Within Department & Fund | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Appropriation of Funds * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line Item Transfer Between Departments* | <u>* Requires resolution by the Board of Commissioners</u> |

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION (As it appears in the budget)	ACCOUNT NUMBER <small>Fund - Function - Dept - Division - Object - Project</small> <small>xxx - xx - xxxx - xxxx - xxxxx - xxxxxx</small>	AMOUNT <small>Whole Dollars Only</small> (See Note Below)
ARPA: Homeless Temp Housing	020-05-4790-4135-420000-22537	(\$250,000)
Transitional Housing: ARPA	020-05-4790-4135-560007-22537	\$250,000

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:

In February 2021, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution (21-093) to establish the Intergovernmental and Interagency Task Force on Homelessness in Gaston County to assist with addressing homelessness in Gaston County. Homelessness is a concern in Gaston County just as it is nationwide. The Task Force's charge was to better understand the extent and challenges of homelessness in Gaston County, as well as seek to address those challenges in a written report to be presented to the Board of Commissioners and Municipal Town and City Councils upon completion. The Task Force recommends to allocate \$250,000 of the County's American Rescue Plan Act funding towards short-term emergency shelter so that no family is unhoused this winter. The project timeline is 1/11/2022-6/30/22.

Note: Decreases in expenditures & increases in revenue accounts require brackets. Increases in expenditures & decreases in revenue do not require brackets. Please note that transfers between funds require interfund transfer accounts.

Description of Project:

This project is recommended by the Intergovernmental and Interagency Task Force on Homelessness to address the immediate needs of homeless and unstably housed residents in Gaston County. The Task Force presented their recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on January 11th, 2022. The proposed project will provide temporary housing to Gaston County residents who are homeless or imminently at-risk of homelessness.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 created new Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF). The Act sets aside \$65.1 billion to be allocated to counties based on population and sent directly from the Department of Treasury. Gaston County is expected to receive \$43,612,126 million over two years. The accompanying Board Action and Budget Change Request, if approved, amends Section Two of the Gaston County ARPA Grant Project Ordinance 2021-264, and accepts and appropriates \$250,000 of these funds to provide short-term emergency housing assistance for Gaston County residents facing housing insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For temporary housing, Gaston County will identify temporary housing infrastructure that meets United States HUD's (Housing and Urban Development) best management practice approach to physical attributes such as cleanliness, heating/cooling, bathrooms, etc. HUD recommends non-congregate shelters such as hotels, motels, and/or dorm rooms as an alternative approach to winter sheltering during COVID-19. The program will be coordinated with Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) current Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

The eligibility threshold for potential beneficiaries of this program align with the requirements of the ERAP. Requirements include: income at or below 80% of the area median income, and currently homeless or imminently at-risk of homelessness. Recipients are eligible to receive assistance for up to 18 months. Gaston County DHHS is already administering a similar program (the ERAP) and attests that they have the capacity to undertake this program. The project timeline is 1/11/22-6/30/22.

Statement of Need:

There are more families in need of emergency shelter than there are beds for them to sleep in. On a representative night in 2020, the Gaston-Lincoln-Cleveland Continuum of Care counted 24 family members sleeping outside, and zero spare beds in emergency shelters (97% capacity). This is only marginally better than the six-year average of 118% capacity for families in emergency shelters. The County's DHHS can provide more information about the number of ERAP applications received, which also justifies the need for this additional funding to house people through the cold winter months.

The pandemic has disproportionately affected low-income, homeless, and at-risk of homeless populations. The CDC reports that "[t]ransmission of COVID-19 in your community could cause illness among people experiencing homelessness, contribute to an increase in emergency shelter usage, and/or lead to illness and absenteeism among homeless service provider staff." The CDC also promotes a "whole community" approach to sheltering the homeless during the pandemic, in which many service providers work together to prevent and respond to the immediate needs of homeless and at-risk communities.¹

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html>

ARPA Eligibility:

Funding emergency housing assistance is a clearly eligible use of CSLFRF. It may be categorized under expenditure category 2.5 and/or 3.11 per the U.S. Treasury’s Compliance and Reporting Guidance. Additionally, the Interim Final Rule specifically lists the following examples of allowable projects (pp. 38-39):

“The Interim Final Rule identifies a non-exclusive list of uses that address the disproportionate negative economic effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including:

...

Building Stronger Communities through Investments in Housing and Neighborhoods. The economic impacts of COVID-19 have likely been most acute in lower-income neighborhoods, including concentrated areas of high unemployment, limited economic opportunity, and housing insecurity.² Services in this category alleviate the immediate economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on housing insecurity, while addressing conditions that contributed to poor public health and economic outcomes during the pandemic, namely concentrated areas with limited economic opportunity and inadequate or poor-quality housing.³ Eligible services include:

- *Services to address homelessness such as supportive housing, and to improve access to stable, affordable housing among unhoused individuals;*
- *Affordable housing development to increase supply of affordable and high-quality living units; and*
- *Housing vouchers, residential counseling, or housing navigation assistance to facilitate household moves to neighborhoods with high levels of economic opportunity and mobility for low-income residents, to help residents increase their economic opportunity and reduce concentrated areas of low economic opportunity.⁴”*

² Stuart M. Butler & Jonathan Grabinsky, Tackling the legacy of persistent urban inequality and concentrated poverty, Brookings Institution (Nov. 16, 2020), <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/upfront/2020/11/16/tackling-the-legacy-of-persistent-urban-inequality-and-concentrated-poverty/>.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Quality of Housing, <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/quality-of-housing#11> (last visited Apr. 26, 2021).

⁴ The Opportunity Atlas, <https://www.opportunityatlas.org/> (last visited Apr. 26, 2021); Raj Chetty & Nathaniel Hendren, The Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility I: Childhood Exposure Effects, Quarterly J. of Econ. 133(3):1107-162 (2018), available at <https://opportunityinsights.org/paper/neighborhoodsi/>.



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Finance

Board Action

File #: 21-484

Commissioner Hovis - Finance - To Amend Gaston County ARPA Grant Project Ordinance 2021-264 to Approve and Appropriate Project Funding for Short-term Emergency Housing Assistance \$250,000

STAFF CONTACT

Tiffany Murray - Finance - 704-866-3032

BUDGET IMPACT

Increase revenues and expense in the Public Assistance Fund by \$250,000.

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

Minimal change to the Budget Ordinance.

BACKGROUND

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 created new Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The Act sets aside \$65.1 billion to be allocated to counties based on population and sent directly from the Department of Treasury. Gaston County is expected to receive \$43,612,126 million over two years. Pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the Gaston County Grant Project Ordinance 2021-264 for the Gaston County Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds was adopted in Regular Session by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners on September 28, 2021. This Board Action, if approved, amends Section 2 of the Gaston County ARPA Grant Project Ordinance and accepts and appropriates funds for the following project:

- 1. Short-term Emergency Housing Assistance for Gaston County Residents (\$250,000):** Assistance for Gaston County residents facing housing insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Gaston County will identify temporary housing infrastructure that meets United States HUD's (Housing and Urban Development) best management practice approach to physical attributes such as cleanliness, heating/cooling, bathrooms, etc. HUD recommends non-congregate shelters such as hotels, motels, and/or dorm rooms as an alternative approach to winter sheltering during COVID-19. The program will be coordinated with Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services' current Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). The project timeline is 1/11/22-6/30/22.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

- Amended ARPA Grant Project Ordinance 2021-264;
- Short-term Emergency Housing Assistance: Budget Change Request (BCR) & Proposal

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	AFraley	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	TPhilbeck	RWorley	Vote
2022-002	01/11/2022	BH	RW	A	A	A	AB	AB	A	A	U

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