



RESOLUTION TITLE: GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR THE GASTON COUNTY CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Commissioners of Gaston County, North Carolina that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted:

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). The 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	AFrale	BHovls	KJohnson	TKeigher	JPhillbeck	RWarley	Vote
2021-264	09/28/2021	BH	CB	A	AB	A	A	AB	A	A	U

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GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE 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 (BCR Attached)

Remaining Available CSLRF Project \$42,995,760

[*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

Remaining Available CSLRF Project \$42,995,760

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.

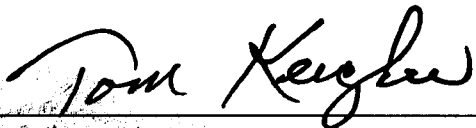
Section 5: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to report the financial status of the project to the governing board on a quarterly basis.

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.

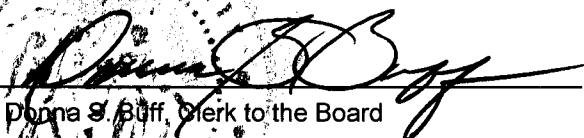
Adopted this 28th day of September, 2021.

/s/

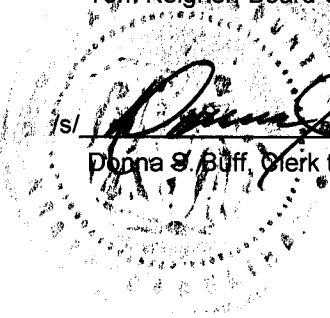


Tom Keigher, Board Chair

/s/



Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board



GASTON COUNTY BUDGET CHANGE REQUEST

TO: Dr. Kim S. Eagle COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: 4130 Finance
Dept. # Department Name

Tiffany Murray 9/28/2021
Department Director's Name Date

TYPE OF REQUEST:

☐ Line Item Transfer Within Department & Fund

☐ Line Item Transfer Between Funds *

☐ Project Transfer Within Department & Fund

☒ Additional Appropriation of Funds *

☐ Line Item Transfer Between Departments *

* Requires resolution by the Board of Commissioners

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION (As it appears in the budget)	ACCOUNT NUMBER	AMOUNT
	Fund - Function - Dept - Division - Object - Project	Whole Dollars Only
	xxx - xx - xxxx - xxxx - xxxxx - xxxxxx	(See Note Below)
Continued on Page 2		

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:

To appropriate American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 CSLRF funds for Family Justice Center (FJC) project 22520. FJC was funded by grants. The program did not secure grant for FY2022 and has submitted a proposal for funding with the CSLRF funds.

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.

Gaston County Budget Change Request

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ARPA: Family Justice Center	010-05-5810-4135-420000-22520	(616,366)
Salaries: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-510001-22520	232,992
FICA: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-510100-22520	17,824
Retirement: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-510101-22520	26,445
Health Insurance: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-510103-22520	11,650
Dental Insurance: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-510108-22520	38,386
Life Insurance: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-510109-22520	1,001
401K Contrib: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-510110-22520	668
Office Supplies: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-520001-22520	3,500
Program Supplies: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-520002-22520	2,500
Medical Supplies: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-520004-22520	2,000
Mileage Reimb: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-520010-22520	500
Employee Training: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-520011-22520	7,000
Printing: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-520013-22520	2,500
Postage: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-520014-22520	500
Other Communicat:ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-530003-22520	6,400
Janitorial Svcs: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-530005-22520	5,000
Temp Services: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-530013-22520	70,000
Parts: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-530020-22520	2,000
Fuel: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-530021-22520	3,500
Repairs & M'tnce: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-530023-22520	500
Building Rental: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-530027-22520	20,000
Equipment Rental: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-530030-22520	1,500
Furn/Equip<\$5,000: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-540001-22520	10,000
Transitional Housing: ARPA FJC	010-05-5810-4135-560007-22520	150,000
		616,366

Hope United Survivor Network:
Continuation of Services Impacted By The Loss of VOCA Grant Dollars

1.Amount of funds Requested - \$616,366

2.Recovery Fund Eligible Category – In accordance with the Interim Final Rule, the eligibility for services provided by this department are as follows:

- a. To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small business and nonprofits;
 - i. Services include mental health and other behavioral health services, which are critical component of holistic public safety to include community based mental health and substance use disorder that deliver evidence-based psychotherapy, crisis support services, medications for opioid use disorder, and/or recovery support. Additionally, trauma recovery services for crime victims.
 - ii. Assistance programs to households or population facing negative economic impacts of the public health emergency including assistance to support economic security, including for the victim of crime; housing assistance, including rent, utilities and relocation assistance; assistance with food and employment or job training to address the negative economic or public health impacts.
- b. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
- c. To prevent and respond to crime, and to support public safety in the community as the Interim Final Rule provides several ways for recipients to “respond to” this pandemic related gun violence, ranging from community violence intervention programs to mental health services to hiring of public safety personal.
 - i. In communities where an increase in violence or increased difficulty in accessing or providing services to respond to or mitigate the effects of violence, is a result of the pandemic may use funds to address that harm. This may include – Community Violence Intervention programs

3. Brief Project Description – Hope United Survivor Network exists to provide real time response to those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and elder abuse along with victims of childhood sexual abuse. The COVID 19 pandemic has proved to be an added challenge to the population we serve. Many survivors saw reduced financial resources and increased stressors as a result of the pandemic. The funds provided would allow for the continuation of supportive and collaborative service provision to those impacted by these crimes. Services provided as a result of this funding include: comprehensive safety planning, clothing, food, job training, transportation, improved mental health, increasing safety by pursuing and obtaining a domestic violence protection order, maintaining safe homes for children by securing a child custody order, support through the court process via legal representation and financial assistance with rent, utilities, and relocation. Additionally, this funding would allow for an increased number of those in the community to be educated about such crimes and informed as to where to obtain these free and confidential services. This work requires a coordinated community response by which the professionals are removing the burden from those impacted.

4. Provide a short summary of your proposed project – Using ARPA funding will allow for survivors to benefit from a coordinated, team response and improve outcomes. Without Hope United Survivor Network, survivors had to make 21 stops to get to the helping agencies, which required 8 bus trips and took a total of 19 hours. With ongoing community education and continued agency operations, those engaged in survivor led services benefit from a coordinated community response addressing the safety and wellbeing on those impacted. Additionally, with the engagement of services, future trauma is mitigated and children are protected leading to long term impacts. The exacerbation of factors contributing to the rise of abuse in relationships are off set with the survivor's ability to initiate services either remotely or in person and receive a response that is specific to their needs. The removal of these services would cause a return to the segmented and siloed response to victims of crime.

5. Project Plan – Hope United Survivor Network is the community's convener of those working to reduce domestic & sexual violence. This department has been operating since 2020. With the allocation of funding, the services will not be interrupted, survivors will be supported in reaching their goals and the community will be educated on where to get help. Partners will continue to collaborate regularly to ensure comprehensive services for victims. The model is proven to streamline services, increase arrest and prosecution of offenders, and reduce fear and anxiety for survivors, ultimately increasing survivor's safety & reducing violence. This model of service delivery provides these services free and is more accessible to survivors through our collaborative efforts. This department is proving to be invaluable to survivors experiencing the impact of COVID as services can be initiated remotely. In our first year, with a lock down in place, Hope United Survivor Network reached over 1000 survivors in Gaston County and the surrounding area. Additionally, our contracted attorneys assisted close to 500 survivors through the court process. Without the funding, the ability to obtain services will revert back to a barrier ridden landscape inclusive of 21 separate agencies and 21 separate intake processes leading to the likelihood that survivors stay with their abuser.

6. Statement of Need – COVID 19 has exacerbated the factors that contribute to violence in relationships. Locally, law enforcement and child welfare services reported an increase in crime and an increase in the complexity of needs. Without our programming and services, survivors would be left to navigate all the systems impacted by violence. Our model is working with survivors to bring the services to them, we take on that burden. With our support, advocacy, and services, we empower survivors to seek services to meet their goals. Our partners provide essential services ensuring the needs of our community are met when it comes to this public health & safety crisis. Without our Partners, it would be impossible for the County to provide these essential services, opening dangerous gaps in our community that would reinstate barriers for survivors. Many of our Partners, including us have experienced significant funding cuts due to a national shortfall in Victims of Crime Act funding. Our department is directly impacted by this cut. Our Partners have proven to be resilient, adaptable, & innovative. As a result, all of our services have stayed operational during the pandemic. These services are needed more than ever post COVID.

Additionally, many survivors are experiencing housing insecurity and may be forced to face evictions while there is a strain on emergency shelter making them more vulnerable. Adversely, many survivors who would otherwise be homeless remain in an abusive relationship as a result of a lack of safe and affordable housing. Funding is necessary to utilize hotels and provide financial assistance for rent and utilities.

7.Link to COVID-19 – Those eligible for our services are from an underserved/ marginalized population as they have experienced an increase in violence and have difficulty accessing the services, hence our ability to navigate and coordinate a response tailored to their needs.

During COVID, domestic and sexual violence was described as a “shadow pandemic.” While these crimes were underreported during COVID, local anecdotal reporting indicated otherwise. What is significant about the domestic and sexual violence during COVID is that all of the compounding effects were amplified. Stay-at-home orders, while designed to keep people safe, unintentionally put others in danger especially those living with their abusers. Prolonged social isolation, job loss or reduction, disruption of social supports and services, caring for school-aged children, increased substance use, and general stress created specialized high-stress environments. In a research study, it was found that these stressors, in addition to intimate Partners being in close proximity, predicted a 20% increase of violence in the household (Buttell et al., 2020). The intensity of the violence also increased and the mental health of survivors was also significantly impacted.

Dillon et al., 2013 cites studies that look at mental health impacts of intimate partner violence (IPV) and found that survivors of IPV are 2.3 times more likely to develop PTSD. Depression and anxiety are also prevalent in survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Not having access to care, isolation, and/or living with an abuser exacerbated or re-triggered past trauma to unmanageable levels.

This complexity is best addressed with a colocated model where survivors have a clear path to safety or access to coordinated services that address the impacts of COVID. At Hope United Survivor Network, protective factors such as safety planning, legal assistance, mental health services, and financial assistance are offered.

This funding would ensure the FJC is adequately resourced to meet the influx of survivors seeking services.

8.Population Served – Our service criteria are those who are currently experiencing or have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse and childhood victims of sexual abuse. Our previous work has drilled down on the groups known to be underserved in areas of domestic and sexual violence by working in conjunction with the City of Gastonia Police Department to engage the Hispanic population. Other tactics to disperse information to that population proved impactful as we observed an increase in their seeking services. Ongoing focus will continue to hone in on the Hispanic, LGBTQ+ and male population.

9.Results – The continuation of these services will result in the following outcomes:

1. Serve 700 new survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse and/or child sexual abuse through a trauma-informed, integrated intake process that supports survivors in understanding available services and resources including COVID-19 related services and resources.

Performance Measure: Number of new intakes of survivors completed by GCC funded Intake Specialists at contracted partner agencies.

2. Obtain or maintain survivor safety by utilizing funding that allows to secure safe housing inclusive of the use of hotels to assure protection.

Performance Measure: Survivors in need of housing and utility assistance will obtain safe housing. Information will be maintained by our data tracking system.

3. Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking will have a plan to keep themselves safe, understand how to access resources, including emergency housing funded by this request, and experience decreased fear and anxiety after accessing intake services at the Hope United Survivor Network.

Performance Measure: 80% of survivors reporting they have a plan to keep themselves safe on post intake feedback form.

4. Ongoing targeted education and outreach to the marginalized population to provide education and identify barriers to obtaining services.

Performance Measure: Clear record keeping on outreach opportunities.

10. Evaluation – The following tools will continue to be utilized:

- New World Data Base specifically designed by the City of Gastonia for the sole use of this program
- Data reporting from community partners
- Munis
- Monthly Reporting to track trends and adjust services as needed
- Survivor Surveys

11. Equity Impact – Survivors of domestic and sexual violence, especially those in marginalized groups, are among the most impacted in our community thereby more likely to not seek services. The concept behind this work is providing equitable outcomes by using an equity lens in our strategic planning process and outreach efforts along with reducing barriers to those seeking services. An equity and inclusion goal is necessary to our strategic plan. Secondly, our services are free, therefore those without financial means can obtain the same level of care. Being intentional with our outreach efforts will also ensure that we are reaching those that are the most impacted.

12. Project Partners – Nesco will continue to provide staff responsible to administrative assistant related tasks and child care tasks. Non funded key partners are as follows: Law Enforcement, Legal Aide, Gaston County District Attorney Office, Gaston County Sheriff's Office Victim Advocates, Gaston Emergency Services, Pretrial Intervention, Kintegra Health, contracted legal representation (not funded by this request), DHHS, Phoenix Counseling, Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center, and The Lighthouse Children Advocacy Center along with 5 local business dedicated to providing employment to our survivors.

13. Capacity – Work to establish this department began in 2018 as the Gaston County Family Justice Center Steering Committee. In 2019, we received grant dollars to begin this initiative and important work. In June of 2020 the Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center and The Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center was relocated into this department strengthening the response to survivors by creating one department leveraging knowledge, services and experience to provide individual care to children and families. Many of our community partners have been engaged since the inception of this initiative and some are newly invested in the collaboration, all are driving to provide survivor led services.

14. Budget – Services are free and confidential. Therefore, no revenue is generated. Expenses are as follows:

- Salary required: \$328,966
- Operational Budget required: \$137,400
- Housing assistance required: \$150,000

15. Special Considerations – Grant dollars will continue to be pursued. Should a portion or all of the needs be funded by other sources, the allocated ARPA dollars would revert back to the county.



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Finance Board Action

File #: 21-202

Commissioner Worley - Finance - To Establish a Budget for a Project to be Funded by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for H.R.1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

STAFF CONTACT

Tiffany Murray - Finance Director - 704-866-3032

BUDGET IMPACT

Increase revenues and expenses in General Fund \$616,366.

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. This Board Action and Budget Change Request, if approved, accepts and appropriates these funds for projects to be determined.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution, Budget Change Request (BCR) and Family Justice Center Request for Proposal for ARPA Funding

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	TKelgher	TPhilbeck	RVorley	Vote
2021-264	09/28/2021	BH	CB	A	AB	A	A	AB	A	A	U

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