



## AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA  
ITEM  
#VII.A**

**AGENDA DATE:** September 14, 2021

**PRESENTED BY:** Randy Partington, County Administrator

**AGENDA TOPIC:**

Resolution regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Funds.

**SUMMARY & BACKGROUND OF TOPIC:**

The ARPA Resolution was initially brought up to Commissioner Sellers and myself at an ARPA Taskforce meeting in July. The taskforce has been working the past few months and will continue to puttogether public meetings with the purpose listed below.

“To help engage as many voices as possible, a task force of representatives (the ARPA Taskforce) from organizations serving Reno County, along with elected officials and public officials, have formulated a bold plan of conducting approximately 60 community listening sessions throughout Hutchinson and Reno County to determine how residents would prioritize spending American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funds earmarked for Reno County.”

At the last commission meeting, a draft Resolution was discussed by the county commission with the option of a Joint Resolution that was dependent on the City of Hutchinson agreeing to the same. At the Tuesday, September 7, 2021, Hutchinson City Council meeting, the council consented to the city viewing a Resolution. County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and City Attorney Paul Brown discussed the Resolutions and agreed to prepare two individual Resolutions that are similar in nature to support the efforts of the Reno County ARPA Taskforce.

**ALL OPTIONS:**

- Approve Resolution No. 2021-19
- Deny Resolution No. 2021-19

**RECOMMENDATION / REQUEST:**

Approve Resolution No. 2021-19, a Resolution of intent with respect to the distribution of American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funds.

**POLICY / FISCAL IMPACT:**

The adoption of this Resolution does not bind the county to any expenditure or policy change, but it does delay the expenditures of any ARPA funds until the commission has received the ARPA Taskforce's report. The report is expected to be received later this fall.

**RENO COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 19**

**A RESOLUTION OF INTENT WITH RESPECT TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer of the United States has awarded Twelve Million Forty Two Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Five Dollars (\$12,042,385.00) of American Rescue Plan Act: Fiscal Recovery Funds to Reno County, Kansas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of the Treasury has identified the following funding objectives for said funds:

1. To support urgent Covid-19 response efforts to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control.
2. To replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and to help retain jobs.
3. To support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses.
4. To address systemic public health and economic challenges that contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic on certain populations; and

**WHEREAS**, the four (4) eligible use categories for ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds are:

1. Support public health expenditures and address negative economic impacts.
2. Replace lost public sector revenues.
3. Provide premium pay for essential workers.

4. Invest in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the interim final rule issued by the Department of the Treasury with respect to State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds includes the following provision:

“Treasury urges State, territorial, Tribal and local governments to engage their constituents and communities in developing plans to use these payments, given the scale of funding and its potential to catalyze broader economic recovery and rebuilding.”; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board of County Commissioners is aware that the ARPA Taskforce has been created consisting of representatives from the Hutchinson Community Foundation, Reno County United Way, Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce, Hutchinson Recreation Commission, StartUp Hutch, NAACP Hutchinson Unit 4032, Young Professionals of Reno County, and Leadership Reno County, whose stated purpose is:

“To help engage as many voices as possible, a task force of representatives (the ARPA Taskforce) from organizations serving Reno County, along with elected officials and public officials, have formulated a bold plan of conducting approximately 60 community listening sessions throughout Hutchinson and Reno County to determine how residents would prioritize spending American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funds earmarked for Reno County.”

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RENO COUNTY, KANSAS**, that this Board is appreciative of the offer by the ARPA Taskforce to conduct numerous public meetings throughout Reno County to provide Reno County residents information regarding the ARPA and to seek their opinions and recommendations as to the distribution of ARPA Fiscal Rescue Funding.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that it is the intent of this Board of County Commissioners to receive, review and to provide due consideration of all of the recommendations submitted by the ARPA Taskforce prior to this Board making any decision on the prioritization and distribution of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that subject to federally established criteria for eligibility, this Board of County Commissioners shall exercise in its sole discretion the authority to prioritize and distribute ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds and shall not be bound by any recommendations made by the ARPA Taskforce.

ADOPTED in regular session this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF RENO COUNTY, KANSAS

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RON HIRST, Chairman

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DANIEL FRIESEN, Member

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RON SELLERS, Member

ATTEST:

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Reno County Clerk

8/31/21