

MEMORANDUM

To: RuthAnne Hall, Purchasing Agent
From: Matthew Meyers, Asst. County Administrator
Patrice Sutton, Chief Financial Officer
Date: September 29, 2021
Re: Request for Bid Exemption for American Rescue Plan Consulting Services

In April, 2020 Lake County received approximately \$121.5M of federal CARES Act funds directly from the US Treasury for use in our response and recovery from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The Bronner Group was hired subsequent to receiving the CARES funds for consultant support, assistance in building our use plan, and to ensure appropriate use of the funds. One of the County's goals in the use of these funds was to maximize the use of other available funding sources to ensure preservation of CARES for intended uses in which other options did not exist for use. Lake County was successful in its administration of the CARES Act funding and has met all federal deadlines.

As the County continues its vaccination distribution efforts, we have also proceeded with the use of the FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement program for all eligible vaccine expenses to ensure maximization of CARES, and newly receive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Similar to CARES we required support to build our use plan, ensure appropriate use of funding source, and assistance in building our federal application for reimbursement. We additionally selected the Bronner Group to support in these efforts.

Similarly, we have requested a proposal and intend to proceed with utilizing the services of the Bronner Group for consulting support in the administration of the approximately \$136M of ARPA funding that the County has received. **The basis for the exemption is our longstanding, successful relationship and their knowledge gained through the relationship, which adds expediency and efficiency to the services they will provide to the executive team during this unprecedented time. In addition, Bronner has a full understanding of Lake County's previous and current COVID-19 related operations, financials, and all previous and future planning efforts. They have demonstrated exemplary performance in supporting the County executive team with outstanding professionalism and responsiveness.**

The dollar value of the proposal is a not to exceed amount of \$55,860. This cost is reasonable based on the costs of our previous engagements.

In accordance with Chapter 6-102 of the Purchasing Ordinance, I request a "bid" exemption with regard to obtaining consulting services support in the administration of Lake County's American Rescue Plan funding.