American Rescue Plan Funds

Public Engagement Strategy / Rental Assistance Update

County Administrator's Office
June 3, 2022

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Purpose / Summary

- **Review staff recommended plan for public engagement components and obtain committee direction on path forward.**
- **Review current state of Rental Assistance Programs in Lake County and discuss needs and recommendation for options.**

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Public Engagement Components

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Background

- **Presented external request process options to the Special Committee on April 29, 2022 and discussed future public engagement**
- **Related to public engagement, received direction to:**
  - **Formalize process for external requests**
  - **Finalize plan for engagement for future presentation/discussion**

- **Three primary public engagement components discussed previously:**
  - **Online Questionnaire / Survey**
  - **Public meeting / townhall-type meetings**
  - **External partner request process**

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Public Engagement

LakeCounty

- **US Treasury ARPA Compliance and Reporting Guidance**
  - **Recovery Plan Performance Report**
    - *Document how the County's planned use of funds incorporates written, oral, and other forms of input that captures diverse feedback from constituents, community-based organizations, and the communities themselves.*

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Component Review

LakeCounty

- **Online Questionnaire**
  - **Requests separate and overall ranking/prioritizing different components of recovery and response**
    - **Public Health**
    - **Household Assistance**
    - **Economic and Business Investment**
    - **Infrastructure & Facility Investment**
    - **County Service Investment**
  - **Requests additional suggestions for each component that are not shown or clear**
  - **Opportunity for other components not included**
  - **Can be released and left open throughout engagements**

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Component Review

LakeCounty

- **Public Meeting / Townhall (in-person)**
  - **Proposing 2 in-person community information/feedback events**
    - **Round Lake Area (evening)**
    - **Waukegan Area (evening)**
  - **Work with community leaders to communicate event, support**
  - **Station-based breakouts that align with ARPA expenditure categories**
    - **Subject matter experts review current work and discuss potential ideas/needs with members of the community**
    - **Translators, scribes, comment cards**
    - **One general station for help with questions, ARPA understanding**

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Component Review

LakeCounty

- **Public Meeting / Townhall (virtual)**
  - **Proposing 1 virtual public engagement event**
    - **Initial presentation with background**
    - **Listening session**
    - **Translator present**
  - **Solicit feedback on priorities / needs**

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Component Review

LakeCounty

- **External Partner Request Program**
  - **Guided by:**
    - **Program guidelines**
    - **Request form**
    - **Scoring methodology / criteria**
  - **Develop a scoring criteria based on the feedback and priorities solicited during previous components**

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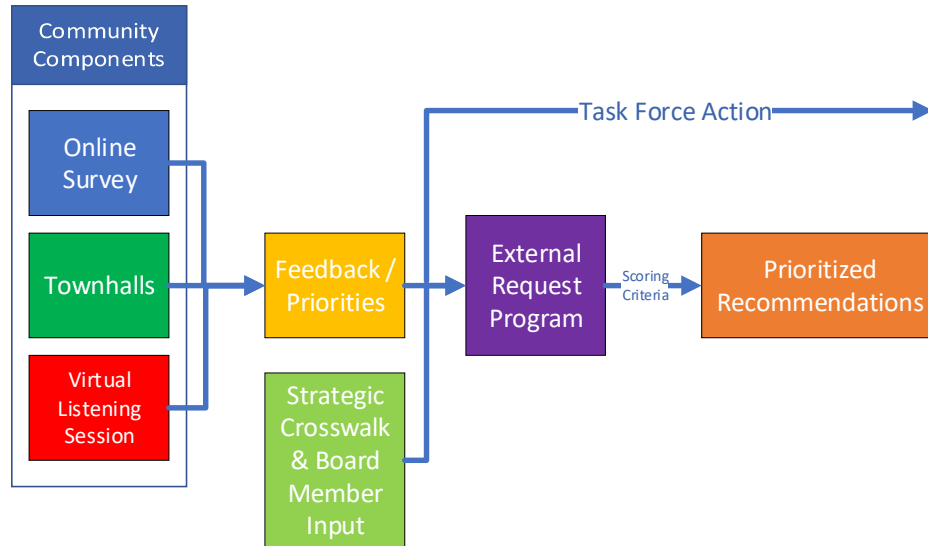# Component Review

LakeCounty

- **Program Guidelines**
  - **Only requests that are eligible for funding under a specific direct ARPA eligibility category will be considered. All requests that will require revenue replacement dollars will not be scored or considered.**
  - **The request will be scored based on a number of established criteria and a list provided to Lake County's Special Committee on COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery and Investment for review and consideration.**
  - **Eligible requestors include not-for-profits/non-profits and local units of government other than municipalities.**
  - **The physical location of the program or service provided needs to be within the geographical boundaries of Lake County, Illinois.**
  - **Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis unless a case is established for upfront funds.**
  - **The minimum request value for this program is $50,000. No maximum request is established however the soft program maximum allocation is currently $10 million.**

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Component Review

LakeCounty

Community Components

Online Survey

Townhalls → Feedback / Priorities → External Request Program → Scoring Criteria → Prioritized Recommendations

Virtual Listening Session

Strategic Crosswalk & Board Member Input

Task Force Action →

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Questions / Direction

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Emergency Rental Assistance Program Update

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FERA Update

Treasury grant information:

	ERA1	ERA2
Total Award	$20,646,763	$16,336,817
Contracted	100%	94%
Spent	99%	49%
Expiration Date	9/30/2022	3/30/2025

- **Started with 15 partners, now 12**
- **Providing 12 months of assistance with utilities**

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Total Monthly Spending on Direct Assistance

$755,458.50
$1,692,878.24
$2,829,363.43
$1,900,504.23
$2,030,352.07
$2,876,484.64
$2,438,627.77
$2,539,079.26
$2,358,891.56
$2,320,920.33
$2,015,401.12
$3,115,342.61
$1,755,011.71

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Rental Assistance Need

LakeCounty Community Development
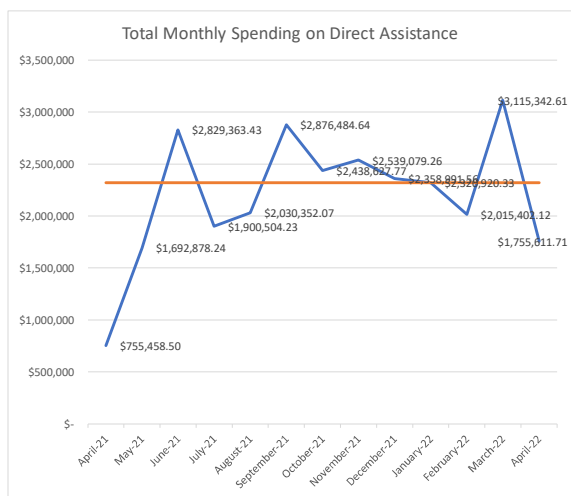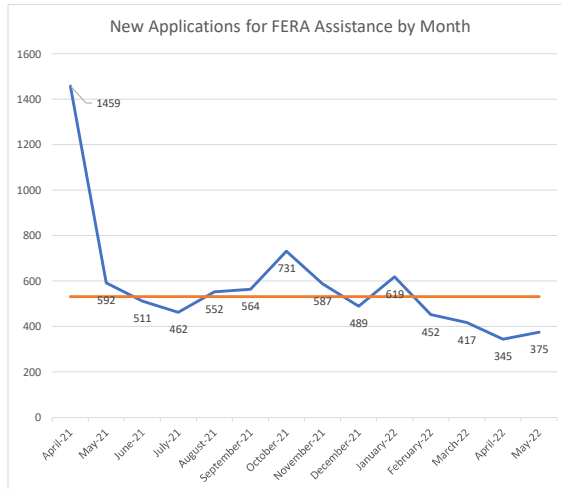
- **Eviction Court is modified to assure landlords and tenants have applied for assistance**
  - **Courts operating two days a week to keep up with demand**
- **State programs are winding down**
  - **Court-based program ending 9/30**
  - **Future rounds dependent on funding**
- **New need from COVID variants and the impacts of inflation**

New Applications for FERA Assistance by Month

(Values: 1459, 592, 511, 462, 552, 564, 731, 587, 489, 619, 452, 417, 345, 375)

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Proposed Pathway Forward

LakeCounty Community Development

- **Wind down FERA**
  - **Application portal closes June 30, 2022**
  - **Partners continue to work on applications until contracts are spent**
- **Communicate the success of FERA**
- **Pivot to new program with open/closed application rounds**
  - **New program will allow us to communicate clearly about the program changes**
  - **Model allows for better prioritization**
  - **Ramp down assistance as the recovery continues**

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Proposed New Rental Assistance Program

LakeCounty
Community Development

- **Continue to work through community partners, likely fewer**
- **First application period open in October**
- **Targeted benefits**
  - **Limit of six months of rental assistance, no utilities**
  - **FERA assistance counts towards the limit**
- **Continue Eviction Court applications on a special path**
  - **Applications always open**
  - **Continue 12 months of rental assistance, no utilities**
- **Run program consistent with ERA guidance to allow spending of additional funds, if they become available**

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Proposed Budget Options

LakeCounty
Community Development

Option 1: Two Rounds of Assistance (Fall and Spring) = $6m*

Cost Category	Amount
Direct Assistance	$5,175,000
Project Delivery (for partners)	$575,000
Lake County Program Staff	$250,000

Option 2: Three Rounds of Assistance (Fall, Spring and Summer) = $10m*

Cost Category	Amount
Direct Assistance	$8,640,000
Project Delivery (for partners)	$960,000
Lake County Program Staff	$400,000

Option 3: Wind Down and Return to Status Quo

June 3, 2022   *includes a court-based program and post-round   18
                                                 assessment

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Questions / Direction

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