

# American Rescue Plan Act

Presentation Subtitle

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# Direction

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Staff seeks direction to bring back appropriate legislation including needed budget amendment(s) and authorization to use up to \$8 million the ARPA funding.



# Agenda

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1. Overview of ARPA
2. Eviction/Rental Relief
3. Small Business
4. Direction



# American Rescue Plan Act - \$1.9 Trillion

- Over 70 percent to individual economic impact payments, enhanced unemployment insurance, expansion of business and individual tax credit programs, and direct funding for education and pension systems.
- Leaving:
  - to economic development and small business relief (\$40 billion),
  - relief for children and families (\$15 billion),
  - housing and utility assistance (\$47 billion),
  - food assistance programs (\$8 billion),
  - disaster relief (\$50 billion), and
  - **state and local government fiscal aid (\$350 billion)**

# City of Bellevue will receive \$20.1M (1/2 in 2021, 1/2 in 2022)

- Uses under the interim guidance is:
  - Responding to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts
  - Providing premium pay to eligible essential workers
  - Reduction in revenue related to COVID-19
  - To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
- “be incurred” by December 31, 2024, spent by December 31, 2026.



# Most Critical Immediate Needs

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- Housing/Workforce Stability
  - Rent/eviction relief up to \$7M
  - Workforce assistance \$500,000
  - Small business rent assistance \$500,000
- Recommendation: Appropriate up to \$8M of the \$20.1M
- Reserve remaining \$12M funding until a later date



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# Rent/Eviction Up to \$7M



# Current Data

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- As a result of COVID-19, ~2,000 households are considered “very likely” to be evicted within the next two months, and ~5,600 households are considered “somewhat likely” to be evicted within the next two months.
- Housing First interventions focus on helping people achieve stability in housing first.
- Other areas of need, continue to have other funding options:
  - Food
  - Childcare
  - Behavioral Health



# Recommendation

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- \$7 million
  - Approximately 1,000 households to be helped by clearing 100% of past rent due and forward by 3 months.
- The average rental debt owed by these households ranges from \$4,000 - \$11,000.
- Existing eviction bridge proclamation requires renters to work with landlords or apply for rent relief or else the eviction process may begin by the end of the eviction bridge.



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# Small Business \$1M



# Situation Analysis

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As a result of COVID-19 and recovery

- approximately 3,300 unemployed, job-seeking Bellevuers
- 25% of commercial tenants are seeking rental assistance
- Personal services, health/wellness, and the creative economy impacted by low worker & visitor volumes



# Workforce Program - \$500,000

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- 3-year pilot program, in cooperation with external partners
- Support over 2,100 residents, help 20 businesses create internship programs
- Long-term goal is
  - lower unemployment rate,
  - improved workforce participation rate for diverse communities,
  - increased percentage of Bellevue residents working in the city



# Small Business Rent Relief - \$500,000

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- Intended to prevent further small business closures
- Targeted relief to pay down rental debt for about 55 businesses and cultural activity organizations.
- Helps preserve jobs at small businesses



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