



# MEMORANDUM

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TO: Community and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Karen Harkness, Director of Community & Economic Development

DATE: March 9, 2022

RE: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Funding Allocation

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. This new federal COVID-relief package includes direct funding to municipalities through the U.S. Treasury Department to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, and the safety, health and opportunity for all within our communities, with a focus on those most harmed by COVID-19. Additional information can be found at [U.S. Treasury Department](#).

The City of Appleton Common Council, on November 3, 2021, approved Phase One of ARPA Special Revenue funds which include \$250,000 in grants to local non-profit organizations that bolster the local economy, community wellness, and pandemic recovery. This grant is directed toward organizations that provide cultural opportunities for City of Appleton residents, as well as tourists, enriching our communities and stimulating economic activity. Please note this is Phase One; additional grants may be available based on identified community needs resulting from the pandemic moving forward. Grant funds can pay for specific project costs and/or general organizational expenses. Minimum grants will be awarded for \$10,000; maximum grants will be awarded for \$50,000. These grant funds will be limited to local 501 C (3) and 501 C (6) non-profit organizations.

On January 6, 2022, the City of Appleton released grant applications to non-profit organizers of community events supporting others, as well as organizations that provide mental health services. Applications were due by noon on February 3, 2022. Organizations awarded grants will have until November 30, 2022 to spend the allocated money.

On Thursday, February 24, 2022, the ARPA Grant Team reviewed all eligible applications, and their recommendations for grant awards are attached.

The ARPA Grant Team is comprised of 15 individuals:

- Mayor Jacob Woodford
- Director Karen Harkness, Community & Economic Development
- Director Paula Vandehey, Department of Public Works
- Director Tony Saucerman, Finance Department
- Deputy Director Monica Stage, Community & Economic Development
- Deputy Director Sonja Jensen, Health Department
- Deputy Director Jeri Ohman, Finance Department
- Emergency Management Coordinator Cassidy Walsh, Health Department
- Senior Communications Specialist Sheng Riechers
- Community Partnerships Supervisor APL Adriana McCleer
- Community Development Specialist Nikki Gerhard
- Coordinated Entry Specialist Ryne Lodl
- Behavioral Health Officer APD Ignacio “Nacho” Enriquez
- United Way, Rhonda Hannemann
- Alderperson Kristin Alfheim

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of the ARPA grant allocations as recommended in the attached document.