

Item 24-0090: ARPA Project Update

Finance Committee

Mon, Jan 22, 2024 5:30PM

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 38:58

We do have a handful of information items. Are there any here that anyone wishes to discuss? The last one I—if no one—if no one if no one has any other items—I just wanted to give opportunity to the first four listed. But if no one has any comments or questions on those, if we could just have a quick discussion around 24-0090 The ARPA project update. Director Homan, what microphone? Director one. All right. Floor is yours.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 39:35

So, I wanted to thank you all for your patience in waiting and giving my department a little bit of time to formulate the city's approach next steps for the remaining ARPA allocations. As you know, we had a lot of new staff and turnover, so it took us a little bit of time to work through it. But what we are presenting here today is really where we're headed in terms of ARPA while keeping in mind most if not all of the items that are included in potential projects or programs will work their way back through the Common Council process in the form of grant awards, contract awards, and things of that nature.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 40:17

So, to back up a little bit, where are we at on the American rescue plan Act funding? If you recall, the city Council had allocated \$8 million for programmatic areas of focus. In the areas of arts, culture, and educational institutions in the amount of a half million. Community wellness, mental health, and violence prevention amount of a million. Social infrastructure, belonging, and neighborhood resiliency, a million. Local economic recovery, 1 million. Affordable housing and housing support, 3 million. And early childhood development, childcare, and families 1.5 million.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 40:53

We have worked through to date the allocation of some of those funds, including grant awards to fund the RISE apartments, which are currently under construction, grant funds for Habitat for Humanity, as well as grant funds for the Thompson Center on Lourdes. And what we've worked through collectively as a city is putting together a package of projects that are both internal projects that would be led by the city in the form of projects or programs, as well as external projects that would be awarded through a competitive grant process eligible for nonprofits.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 41:33

So, when we were looking at how to approach this, we really wanted to make sure we were being fiscally prudent and that for those projects that we intended to use for city-led projects, if they were—we wanted to make sure that they were of a nature that wouldn't create what's called a fiscal cliff at the end of the ARPA expenditure period. So, we have until the end of 2026 to spend ARPA funds, but we only have till the end of this year to do what's called being obligated. Being obligated means we're basically under contract either with a vendor or with a sub recipient or grantee to perform that work.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 42:18

So, with regards to city programs that we are proposing to move forward on, many of them are items that we likely would have had to borrow for in the future or build into our operating expense. That includes the projects related to the remodel and furnishings at APD for the Basic Needs Team (the embedded team from public

health), the funds we've identified for the update to the city's comprehensive plan and corresponding sub area and corridor plans, as well as the funds we've allocated for DPW as traffic safety signal enhancements project, which is designed to match grants that we're anticipating. In addition, we have identified two buckets of remaining nonprofit grants in the mental health area as well as the early childhood development and families program.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 43:21

So, if it's okay with the Chair, I'd like to have Olivia Galyon, our new Community Development Specialist walk the committee through the ARPA project development process and then give a high-level overview of what the two different tables that are included in your memo mean.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 43:42

Hi, like Kara said, I'm Olivia Galyon, the community development specialists with city of Appleton. So, we just wanted to give you a brief overview of the project timeline and implementation steps. So, our first step in here is the idea. So, this might be coming internally or externally. And we identify the lead department or some potential partners in this phase. And then moving on from the idea phase into the scoping phase is really where we start to plan out this project. And then the central part of this is determining the timeline [**indecipherable**]. And. We only have until the end of this year to obligate these funds and be under contract, and then they—recipients of the funds or sub recipients have until the end of 2026 to spend the funds. So, making sure that all projects that we're interested in are able to reach that timeline is a critical part of the scope step as well as just determining project or program design and identifying any other partners.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 44:43

And then once the scope is completed the lead project or lead department will submit the—submit a questionnaire to our consulting group Booth Management and Consulting for their technical review and they review it to determine if it falls under an eligible ARPA expenditure category, what the potential risk is, and confirm that each budget item is eligible. And once we have the confirmation that a project is eligible from Booth, they pass that along to us, and we're ready to move into some of our contracting and implementation phases.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 45:19

So next we have procurement. And during the procurement phase, this could be finalizing an RFP or grant opportunity, which would then be brought to Council for approval before it goes out publicly or it goes out for RFP. And then also this might include getting some of our like internal contracts, if it's an internal department project, and then the implementation includes executing formal contracts. So again, that might be a memorandum of understanding for internal or contracts with sub recipients, beneficiaries, or firms that were procured during the procurement process.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 45:59

And then this is when the actual project starts. And they carry out the project as agreed to in the contract and according to the ARPA timeline there.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 46:09

And then the last phase here kind of happens during implementation and after. This is reporting, and so they have quarterly financial and programmatic reporting requirements to our consultant. And our consultant then passes that information along to Treasury. So that's kind of what the different steps of this process are.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 46:28

And then moving into those two charts, just some information about them. So, exhibit number two, that first chart, these are projects that we considered approaching implementation. So, these are mostly in stages four or five right now. You can see under the next steps what that next stage that it would be entering into. So, most of these are ready for an RFP, and there'll be brought back to Council, like we said, during that time, or they're ready for the contract in most of these, and then as well, like Kara's example, with RISE apartments, that one is already in step six. It's under construction during—in the implementation phase, and they're doing the reporting.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 47:10

And then with the other table, exhibit three, these are projects that are a little bit more in that scoping phase. So, we're not quite as far along with these but these projects will all be sent to Booth for eligibility review soon. And then in this bucket, you'll also notice our two nonprofit grant opportunities, and those ones were currently working with Booth Management Consulting to finalize the program design and prepare that, and then they will also help us administer this grant program with—they will provide questions and answers for grantees and help walk them through the application process as well. So.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 47:58

All right. I saw Alder Fenton first and then Alder Van Zeeland.

Alderman Denise Fenton (District 6) 48:04

Thank you, chair. And this question is either for Olivia or Director Homan, either one. So, obviously, Apple—the City of Appleton is going to fulfill our responsibility to have these funds allocated by the end of 2024. My first question is, is the city on the hook for any organization that gets a grant that is unable to execute by the end of 2026? And the reason I'm thinking of that is, of course, in Community and Economic Development this week, we're going to take up some CBDG grant funds that the organization wasn't able to use, and we're going to reallocate. So, I guess, what steps are we taking to make sure that the end organization is going to be able to use those funds by the deadline?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 48:55

Yeah, so those are matters we're trying to work with BMC (Booth Management Consulting) in terms of program design as well as the evaluation criteria. So, a lot of times when you're developing a grant process, you're evaluating on their ability to perform. And it's my understanding that that plays into the risk analysis that Booth has built into their evaluation process.

Alderman Denise Fenton (District 6) 49:18

Okay.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 49:19

There's—you know, I'll be honest, there's no way to 100% guarantee that a grantee will perform, but we will put measures in place to mitigate the risk. But the risk is—there's always going to be some risk there that a sub recipient after 2024 may not spend all the funds.

Alderman Denise Fenton (District 6) 49:38

Thank you.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 49:38

That's not what we're hoping happens, and we won't set it up for that to happen, but we'll mitigate the risk where we can.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 49:46

Alright, thank you. And just as an aside, I personally—I am really grateful for the work you've put in to give us this information. Because I know that a lot of us have been, you know, a little vague. We know this money is there. So, thanks a whole lot for pinning it down for us.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 50:03

Alder Van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 50:04

Thank you, Chair. Just to echo that, thank you for putting this all-in-one comprehensive document. Having this all together in one place for us to be able to review it is really helpful. And I just wanted to say thank you for showing us even those items that are going to eventually come in front of us—I'm just thankful for the transparency of being able to see these things prior to having an RFP in an agenda. So, thank you very much.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 50:37

Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 50:39

Thank you, chair. I understand we've had a lot of time to work on this. And by a lot of time, I don't mean taking away all the work that you guys put into it. I mean, we got ARPA funds quite a while ago, and now we're looking at the last period of time that we have to do something with these funds. How firmly are we entrenched in Exhibit Three at this point, if for example, some other project comes up that would be perhaps, you know, more internal to the city or something like that? I'm looking at, in particular, the non-nonprofit grant opportunity in in the very end there, that is a bucket (community wellness, mental health, and violent violence prevention) that might have some other play somewhere with some other initiative that might just be brewing right now in the community.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 51:36

Yeah. So, if you look at the bottom of exhibit three, we do have an asterisk that says the total available for external grants will be determined after city-led projects are substantially scoped, bid, and procured. There will come a time when we'll need to make a decision as to which external grants we recommend to award. But until we're at that phase, which I would anticipate would be March or April, we wouldn't be bound to award this exact dollar amount. And we—so there is a little bit of time before we are locked into contracts. But that time is moving fast.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 52:19

Thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 52:20

Alder Doran.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 52:23

Thank you. Just had a couple of questions about some of the projects themselves, I guess. Looking at exhibit two, the Integration of Neighborhood Watch Programming with registered—with the registered neighborhood

program. These are two sort of internal programs we already have in place. And on the face of it, it sounds like we're just going to merge the two programs, and we're going to spend \$50,000 on that. I'm not sure if that's exactly what that is. But could you just explain a little bit more of what the initiative there is and the costs behind it?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 53:00

Okay, so I'm going to take a crack at it. And then Olivia has been more deep in the planning of this one. So, it's my understanding the intention is not to merge the programs, but it's to create alignment of the programs and set them up in a way where it's more user friendly for the neighborhoods, because right now they interact completely separately with APD versus the programming that we have through CED. But if it's okay, I'd like Olivia to add on if I missed anything.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 53:30

Yeah, just another point of discussion with this is just kind of updating the messaging that goes along with these as well. A lot of that is very outdated, and so the police department is looking to both integrate these programs and make sure that the messaging of what Neighborhood Watch looks like and how that can work with the Registered Neighborhoods programming is clear. And so there might be some design of new materials and especially educational related materials and materials for the public that represent some of that cost as well.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 54:06

Do we know how we came up with the \$50,000 figure, I guess? I mean, you know, if we put out an RFP, and it's clear, like the city's budget's \$50,000 lo and behold, we're gonna get RFPs that—or bids that come back at, you know, could be close to \$50,000. So, I'm just—I'm not, I'm not picking on staff at all. Just curious how we came up with like a \$50,000 number that we think would be needed for all of that.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 54:29

So right now, this is a placeholder. And I'll be honest, I haven't released an RFP during my time with the city, but when I've released RFPs in the past through other organizations, I do not put my price in because I want them to provide a price that is competitive and then we evaluate based on qualifications with a cost consideration. So, it could likely come in under, and then that could be reallocated to some other place.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 54:55

Okay.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 54:56

And then sort of just moving on, the next one was the Transit Center—the \$1.8 million for the transit center. Just—I guess, just for understanding is that the city's portion of the project? I know, in total Valley Transit's funded by the federal government, by other municipalities. Just kind of curious if that's—if this part—doing this this portion of the work that this money's been allocated for, is that all the city's responsibility or will other communities be needing to chip in on top of that, because the cost is actually more than \$1.8 million for that?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 55:35

Ron, do you want me to take a stab? Or do you want to start?

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 55:43

What mic number do you have, General Manager McDonald? District 14.

General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 55:49

Thank you. So, the total project cost that we're looking for—this is part of our overall Transit Center Project. Total project costs were looking at as \$26.8 million, \$25 million of which would be funded by the USDOT. We're applying for a RAISE grant in 2024. So, this would be provided by the City of Appleton. We have not requested any money from the other municipalities.

General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 56:17

We're trying to—first of all, we've identified that there's a need for housing in the area. Clearly, that's been a problem. And as part of that, we want to have some affordable—an affordable housing component of this project because, number one, that will also help us get the grant. But we believe there's a need for at least a portion of that housing to be affordable and then a portion to be market rate for the developer to be able to do the project. We're putting this money into the overall project, because according to the consultant, Booth, that we can't have incentives; we have to have a project, and we can't have specific incentives. So, we want to have this as part of the project and make the project as appealing as possible for a developer to come in and to be able to provide a component of affordable housing. So, the housing unit would be in the city of Appleton. These housing units are going to pay taxes to the city of Appleton, and so I think that's where all that plays.

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 57:15

Okay, thank you. And then from exhibit three, the Neighborhood Leadership Academy asset-based community development training, can you just sort of expand on what that actually is?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 57:32

Is it okay, if I turn it over to Olivia?

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 57:33

Yeah. Sure.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 57:34

Yeah. So, with this Neighborhood Leadership Academy, that was actually something that the city administered in the past. And it's an opportunity for leaders within the registered neighborhoods to get some training on, for example, how a grant process works and how they could access grant funds through the city's neighborhood grant program, kind of how to work through the lifestyle of—or lifecycle of a neighborhood when there's organizational changes within the neighborhood organization. So different educational components there. However, this was, as I said, something the city had in the past, and the program was significantly scaled back and really reduced because of lack of staff capacity for it. So, this one was—we were interested in, going out, again, for a consultant there to kind of run this Neighborhood Leadership Program and create both an opportunity for our current neighborhood leaders to be trained and have a lot of resulting documents and resources to share in the future as well so that there's still continued benefit in terms of connecting these neighborhoods and helping people make those connections in the future as well with, like, those deliverable resources.

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 58:49

Okay. And is that is that going to become an ongoing expense then for the city in that in that funding range? Or is this like a one-time sort of fee to create the program; we won't need to spend on it in future?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 59:00

So, the intention is, this is a one-time expense, and then there'll be materials and a toolkit that will be available for as long as they're relevant. So, I hope it stands at least 5-10 years plus, in terms of tools that our neighborhoods can use to really empower them and help them become better at strengthening the neighborhood from the bottom up.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 59:23

Okay. And then the next one was the just a local tourism recovery, the million dollars, what we're kind of planning there?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 59:31

So, this is one that is the earliest in the scoping. We are working really closely with Pam Seidel at the Convention and Visitors Bureau to identify how best to structure whatever's recommended in terms of implementing this particular bucket. They've recently completed their Destination Next Master Plan, which is a document that we'll be referring to as we work with them to advance what specifically or what assortment of projects we would advance in this bucket. But we're not as far in that, so I really couldn't get into the detail at this point until we're further along.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 1:00:14

I guess the follow up there then would be sort of similar to the Valley Transit question, I guess, the—is this specific to like Appleton, or are other communities contributing to this overall plan that they're working on?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 1:00:26

Oh, so the plan's already been completed. So, in terms of what we implement with a million dollars, it would be our intention to partner with the Convention and Visitor's Bureau for guidance and advice, referencing that plan that they've already completed for specific things that should be implemented within the City of Appleton that move the needle on local tourism recovery.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 1:00:51

Okay. And then my last question, just related to the two sort of open-ended grants, you know, the roughly \$2 million we have in those two buckets yet. We have we have no—have had no requests to this point for any of those funds, is that correct?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 1:01:12

There have been no requests because we haven't opened up an opportunity.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 1:01:16

Okay, so this is, this is the first time we're going out to look for requests for groups to utilize these funds?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 1:01:23

For these particular categories, yes. We had opened up request for housing in the latter part of 2022.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 1:01:32

Okay. Thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:01:35

And Alder Alfheim.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 1:01:41

Thank you, chair. Quickly the question. Thank you. Obviously, this is a long, long, arduous process. My question comes in, recently, you know, we've had a little uptick in some activities downtown. So, my question is, is there a way in this very long in-depth process, that we could still consider looking at an immediate need downtown that both deals with violence prevention and tourism, in my opinion, in dealing with some current issues in terms of lighting, or are we already so far down the line that there's no more discussion? I think there's plenty of areas where that topic could fit in. But again, respecting the process that you've gone through, is it too late to say, "Could we add or is there a place for a current need dealing with the violence uptick downtown?" Or is it too late?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 1:02:47

So, if it were to be a nonprofit-driven project, there would be an opportunity to apply for that grant opportunity when it's released. If it were a city-driven project that could be obligated in '24 and completed by '26, there would still be a little bit of time over the next few months to scope that before we would grant out the remainder of the funds, if that makes sense. So, the answer is, yes, it could be possible, but the window of time is closing very quickly.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 1:03:26

Okay, I appreciate that. And I will be following up. I'm not sure that it should be the nonprofits responsibility on that. So, I'd like to open up the conversation on a on a city project that we may be able to talk about. Thank you, Chair.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:03:40

All right. Alder Van Zeeland, and I—we do have members of the crowd that want to speak on this item as well. So.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:03:46

Thank you. I just wanted to clarify. In the discussion that we had about this, it was my understanding that city projects were considered, I guess, prior to this document. Is that correct, that we did give priority to some study projects? I think it's hard to—it's hard to get into details, but I'm sure the police department has something that they're working on with safety. Would that—you know, if they are working on something, would that have been something that was offered to them?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 1:04:19

Yeah, so we have been working closely with APD. And you'll see a handful of projects driven out of their department. I think the issue that Alder Alfheim is referencing was an urgent issue that emerged when we had already kind of nailed down the projects that are in here. So, if there is something that APD could do, or that APD working with DPW or another department could do, there is still time. We would just have to be cognizant of the ARPA parameters and recognize that it would mean that external grants would need to be reduced.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:04:55

Okay, thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:04:56

All right. And we did have members of public that want to talk on this item, so please, uh, if you want, approach the podium, state your name and address for the record, please.

Sheng Lee Yang (Executive Director - Us 2 Behavioral Health) 1:05:06

Name and I'm sorry, what was that?

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:05:07

Name and address.

Sheng Lee Yang (Executive Director - Us 2 Behavioral Health) 1:05:09

Yep. So, my name is Sheng. Do I need to spell it? I feel like I'm in court.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:05:12

That's, that's all right.

Sheng Lee Yang (Executive Director - Us 2 Behavioral Health) 1:05:13

My name is Sheng. I'm here to represent Us 2 Behavioral Health Care. Our address is 119 North McCarthy Street in Appleton, 54913. I'm here to talk about the ARPA funds for mental health and related community well-being. As an organization, we are a nonprofit, and our focus is really on root causes of mental health, behavioral health for those who are in our communities. And so, I think when we think about ARPA funds, and really what the purpose of it is, and what are the what are—what is it intended to do—right?—I just have a couple of asks from those in the room today.

Sheng Lee Yang (Executive Director - Us 2 Behavioral Health) 1:05:47

I know we've been kind of sitting on these dollars for a while, and mental health is kind of one of those last things and it sounds like we are addressing. As an organization that also provides mental health services to those in the school districts, I want us to really not put this really crisis on a backburner. I'm looking at the recent data that we just received from a local school district that we provide services for. 40% of the student body, or 1333 participants took the test or the survey—40% of our students in Appleton here's they don't feel like they belong here. That's pretty significant out of a sample size of about 1300. We have about 8 percent of our student body or those who took the survey said that they had attempted suicide in the last three months. These are residents and children in Appleton here.

Sheng Lee Yang (Executive Director - Us 2 Behavioral Health) 1:06:44

11% said they had considered suicide but not had attempted. Again, our sample body here, our sample size, is 1330. 17% engage in self-harm. 25% meet diagnostic criteria of major depression. And 45% meet diagnostic criteria for generalized anxiety disorder.

Sheng Lee Yang (Executive Director - Us 2 Behavioral Health) 1:07:07

And so, I understand that the procurement process takes time. And I understand that we want to have a fair and equitable process to these dollars, but I really want us to consider who are we jeopardizing when we wait on this? It's really the children of our city. And we're only—we got a couple more months left to go right of the school year. And so, my concern is that if we wait until the end of the school year, we're no longer preventing; maybe we're too late.

Sheng Lee Yang (Executive Director - Us 2 Behavioral Health) 1:07:36

And then I want to address the childcare and early child care development needs as well. Because as an organization, we're the only organization providing perinatal mental health services to new and expectant parents. If we know and we can see that children who were born during the pandemic are delayed in their development. We don't have time to wait on these dollars. And again, I want to respect the committee, and I want to respect the process, but my biggest fear and my biggest concern is that those of us who are on the

frontline can see the direct impact and the residual symptoms of COVID-19, and we're still waiting. And that the is organizations and these nonprofits have about a year or so to development a process and in a program and a strategy to try to backtrack damage or trauma that we all experienced—right?—4, 5, 6 years later. And so, when we look at the health of community well-being of our of our of our city and who's going to be the future of our city, I really hope that we take into consideration the little bodies, the little minds.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:08:40

Thank you. Oh, sorry. Alder Van Zeeland has a question for you, if you could just come—did...?

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:08:51

Oh, no.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:08:51

Oh for—sorry. Never mind. My misunderstanding. So just real quick. One second, then.

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:08:58

I just wanted to ask; it looks like those are in step three in finalizing program design. Do we have a timeframe at this time of how long it's going to take to finalize these [??] the program?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 1:09:12

The earliest we are targeting to launch the grant programs would be February 1.

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:09:18

Okay, thank you.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:09:20

Now, if you'd like to go ahead, just state your name and address of yourself or your organization you're here for.

Noelle Fenwick (Associate Director - Reach Counseling) 1:09:27

My name is Noelle Fenwick. I'm the Associate Director at Reach Counseling. And one of our office spaces is here in Appleton at 400 North Richmond Street. And so, we are a sexual assault service provider who provides essential services for sexual assault survivors in Winnebago, Outagamie, and Calumet County's. So, I'm also here today to really encourage this open process for mental health funds as well as violence prevention funds. We are working compasses, trauma counseling, prevention education in our schools, comprehensive advocacy, and offender treatment. Our services are not just supportive; they are critical to the mental health and healing journeys of the survivors we work with, providing them with the necessary tools to rebuild their lives.

Noelle Fenwick (Associate Director - Reach Counseling) 1:10:14

This funding comes at a really critical time for our organization as well. We are currently facing a significant challenge due to a 70% cut in our federal funding from the Victims of Crime Act. This reduction will severely impact our capacity to serve survivors as we stand to lose at least \$420,000 starting October of this year. So, we are navigating this financial strain on our organization that will come this October.

Noelle Fenwick (Associate Director - Reach Counseling) 1:10:45

And this is at a time when as we heard from Sheng as well that the need for mental health is now as great or more than it has ever been in the history of our agency. Our waitlist continues to grow even as we add therapists, then they have a full caseload, and we have a waitlist again. So, this really does come at a time when

the need for our services is so important, especially in the light of the pandemic's effect on mental health and safety.

Noelle Fenwick (Associate Director - Reach Counseling) 1:11:12

So, I definitely request this committee to keep that line on there for that open application for mental health and violence prevention funds, to not only support our mission to give us that chance to apply, but also to safeguard the health and safety of our community. So, thank you for considering. And thank you for your commitment to the well-being of our citizens.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:11:33

Thank you. All right. So, these are all things that are going to—this is just an information item tonight. These are all things that will come through as action items through this committee, other committees, and the Council. So, I guess I would say just keep an eye open, keep your ears open, maybe even have some communication to just kind of keep open. But thank you for both coming and sharing today. I do appreciate both you being here and sharing that information and giving us that perspective as these things do come before us and we start deciding—making decisions.