

STAFF REPORT

Date: October 11, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion and potential direction to staff regarding the allocation of the \$1,000,000 in State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act on May 19, 2021 to the following non-profit community projects: Karma Box Project (\$342,396), The Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (\$397,604), Children's Cabinet (\$60,000) and Bristlecone (\$200,000).

From: Cynthia Esparza, Chief Equity and Community Relations Officer

Department: City Manager's Office

Summary:

Council previously approved a \$1,000,000 allocation for distribution to non-profits from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) received by the City of Reno. An open application process was led by staff in which non-profits applied for the funding. 18 applicants applied, applications were scored based on adherence to Federal compliance, Reno City Council priorities, and the efficacy of the project. Four projects are being recommended for funding.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Fiscal Sustainability

Economic Opportunity, Homelessness, and Affordable Housing

Previous Council Action:

January 26, 2022 – Council allocated \$24,499,998.50 to seven priority categories, including \$1,000,000 to non-profit community projects.

August 25, 2021 – Council accepted the SLFRF allocated through ARPA, allocated \$1,260,000 to urgent projects, and directed staff to begin a public engagement process to identify potential uses of remaining funds to support pandemic response and relief.

Background:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). The SLFRF allocates funding to state, county, and local governments to support efforts to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council has approved priority categories based on Treasury requirements, community input, City of Reno Strategic Plan, and Reno City Council priorities. These are:

- Access to Healthcare
- Affordable Housing
- Community Projects
- Pandemic Response
- Parks & Recreation
- Public Safety
- Senior Support

Included in the community category was a \$1,000,000 allocation to be distributed to non-profits serving Reno.

After the SLFRF Final Rule was distributed on January 27, 2022, staff led an open application process for non-profits to apply for the funding. Non-profits had to meet the following requirements:

- Uniform Administrative Requirements: SLFRF funds are subject to the requirements of Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for federal awards per 2 CFR 200 Uniform Guidance.
- SAM.gov Requirements: All eligible recipients are required to have an active registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://www.sam.gov>). Please register for SAM and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier prior to applying to the grant program. Your organization must be actively registered on SAM.gov in order to be eligible for ARPA-SLFRF funds.
- Single-Audit Requirements: Recipients and subrecipients that expend more than \$750,000 in Federal awards during their fiscal year will be subject to an audit under the Single Audit Act and its implementing regulation at 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F regarding audit requirements. Recipients and subrecipients may also refer to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplements for audits of federal funds and related guidance and the Federal Audit Clearinghouse to see examples and single audit submissions.

The application included:

- Non-profit organization information
- Project description
- Alignment with Treasury eligible use categories
- Alignment with City of Reno Council priorities
- Impact on community

- Project milestones
- Budget

Staff received 18 applications, and scored the applications based on:

- Nevada Nonprofit certificate 501I(3) or 501I(19) certification
- Ability to provide direct services to the Reno community
- Familiarity with 2 CFR 200 uniform guidance
- Subjectivity to single audit requirements
- Experience with federal award dollars
- Active SAM.gov registration and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- Project Scalability
- Previous ARPA funding received by City of Reno or Washoe County
- Currently providing services to the City of Reno
- Community needs addressed through the project
- The project scope and execution
- Eligible use category fit
- City of Reno priority category fit
- Collaboration with community partners
- COVID-19 community recovery
- Individual/unit/household impact
- Project milestones/major expenditures
- Budget/budget narrative

The full application and scorecard are attached (Attachment A and Attachment B).

Discussion:

Staff ranked the scores and is recommending funding for 4 projects (Table 1).

Table 1: Proposed Non-Profit Projects		
Organization	Project	Amount
Karma Box Project	Street Outreach Program	\$342,396
The Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality	RISE Clean & Safe Program	\$397,604
Children's Cabinet	Community Youth Mental Health Director	\$60,000
Bristlecone	Recovery Center Capital Campaign	\$200,000
Total		\$1,000,000

Project Summaries

The Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (RISE)

Funding will be used for professional intervention teams to engage and motivate our unsheltered community to pursue healthier, more productive lifestyles. A team of peer support specialists with extensive training and experience in crisis intervention, active listening, de-escalation, trauma-informed care, harm reduction, motivational interviewing, diversion strategies, diversity and inclusion, and mental health first aid will work with identified encampments to provide support, resources, and options to our unhoused neighbors. This intervention will minimize the trauma associated with relocations and will increase the likelihood of future successful permanent housing. The team will also utilize the homeless management information system (HMIS).

Karma Box Street Outreach Program

Karma Box Project takes a proactive approach to creating a safe environment around local businesses. The Street Outreach Program will engage unhoused people in cleaning up trash throughout the city while working with outreach providers. This acts as a vehicle to build rapport and eventually get them into housing, shelter, or programing. It will also provide the individuals with employment skills. Individuals will be selected from the unsheltered population and at the end of the workday will receive a \$50 gift card. They will also be entered into the homeless management information system (HMIS) and receive outreach services with the intention of getting the individual sustainably housed, into treatment or shelter.

Children's Cabinet Community Youth Mental Health Director

The Children's Cabinet Community Youth Mental Health Director position will be dedicated to leading a coordinated youth mental health strategy designed to develop a common agenda and transform change in our region. The Community Youth Mental Health Director will provide leadership with private and public partners across northern Nevada to build and direct collective impact initiatives to address our region's youth mental health crisis. This includes strategy, community assessments, communications, community engagement and data functions. The Director, housed at The Children's Cabinet, is responsible for implementing The Children's Cabinet as the backbone identity as a neutral convener among public and private local stakeholders.

Bristlecone Recovery Center Capital Campaign

Currently, Bristlecone owns and operates out of a four-story building, built in 1975, on the corner of Wells and Mill Streets in Reno, Nevada. In 2012, Bristlecone purchased these existing properties, and its two-neighboring outbuildings, with the hope of someday expanding services. Now is that time. The campaign includes critical capital improvements and renovations of the Main Building (704 Mill St), which includes revitalizing a Veteran's Dorm and Natal Unit, and building a Medical Detox Center (196 S. Wells) and a Women's Residential Dorm (130 S. Wells), all next-door to one another. Funding will support a capital campaign to provide desperately needed treatment opportunities to northern Nevadans who need this life-saving care.

Financial Implications:

Funding for the projects is from the State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Legal Implications:

Funds will be allocated and spent in compliance with the American Rescue Plan Act, Department of Treasury Final Rule, and City purchasing policies and procedures.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve allocations for Karma Box, RISE, The Children's Cabinet, and Bristlecone to total \$1,000,000 in State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act to non-profit community projects.

Proposed Motion:

I moved to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

City of Reno SLFRF Non-Profit Community Scorecards
City of Reno SLFRF Non-Profit Community Application