



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: SCRCOG Chief Elected Officials
FROM: Antoine Campbell, Graduate Intern
DATE: July 5, 2021
RE: State Projects using American Rescue Plan Funds

Background:

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021(ARPA) is the sixth Covid-19 relief bill to be passed by congress. With it, the state expects ~\$6Billion of ARPA funds to enter to enter through various grants. The Governor has laid out 16 priorities which the state will focus much of their allocation efforts toward. Those efforts are (1) Supporting Early Childhood and Family Needs Resulting from COVID-19; (2) Addressing K-12 Education Impacts of COVID-19; (3) Addressing the Higher Education Impacts of COVID-19; (4) Addressing the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19; (5) Continuing the State's Nationally Recognized Testing Program; (6) Addressing the Public Health Impacts of COVID-19; (7) Promoting Effective, Safe, and Fair Criminal Justice System Responses to COVID-19; (8) Supporting the Recovery of Private Providers through the Pandemic; (9) Addressing the Economic Impacts of COVID-19; (10) Addressing Workforce Development Needs Resulting from COVID-19; (11) Provision of Government Services Impacted by Revenue Reduction; (12) Addressing Other State Operations; and (13) Governor's Reserves for Contingencies.¹

¹ CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MGMT., CONNECTICUT'S PLAN FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021, 5 (2021)

(1) Supporting Early Childhood and Family Needs Resulting from COVID-19

- a. Pay Care4Kids Parent fees through 2021
 - i. covering parent fees in the Care4Kids program through December of 2021. Expected Allocation of \$5.3 Million²
- b. Free Summer Pre-school for 3-4 year olds
 - i. Pay Parent fees in the school readiness and child day care state – contracted programs through September of 2021. Expected Allocation of \$3.5 Million³
- c. Supplement Home Visiting Programs
 - i. Provide support to high performing home visiting programs serving at-risk families in Hartford, Meriden, and New Britain. Expected Allocation of \$2 Million⁴

(2) Addressing K-12 Education Impacts of COVID-19

- a. Summer Experience at Connecticut’s Top Venues
 - i. Provide free admission for Connecticut residents age 18 and younger to Connecticut Museums, arts, and educational venues from 07/01/2021 through Labor Day. Expected Allocation of \$15 Million⁵
- b. Summer College Corp.
 - i. Recruit 500 students statewide to work in summer programs and provide those students with training so that they may support the well-being of

² *Id.* At 6.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* At 7.

other children participating in various summer programs throughout the state. Expected Allocation of \$1.5 Million⁶

c. Summer Camp Scholarships

i. Fund Scholarships to sports and specialty camps targeted at children at or below 50% of the state median income. Expected Allocation of \$3.5 Million.⁷

d. Teen Experience

i. Targeted community programs that focus on providing a safe place for “teens to be kids... [focusing] on the social-emotional needs of students in this age group [which] has increased as a result of the pandemic. Expected Allocation of \$1.9 Million.⁸

(3) Addressing the Higher Education Impacts of Covid-19

a. Funding Additional Roberta Willis Need-Based Scholarships

i. \$6 Million / Yr allocation for two years (FY22 & 23) to the Roberta Willis Scholarship program. Expected Allocation of \$12 Million.⁹

b. Enhance Retention at Community Colleges

i. \$6.5 Million/ Yr allocation for three years (FY22, 23 & 24) to establish emergency student financial aid programs aimed at aiding students identified by CSCU advisors as being at high risk of dropping out due to financial distress. Expected Allocation of \$19.5 Million.¹⁰

c. Providing Revenue Support to the University of Connecticut Health Center

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.* At 8.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

- i. Reimburse the UCH clinical fund revenue loss that was experienced during the the period of reduced revenue capacity as a result of the COVID-19 outbreaks. Expected Allocation of \$10 Million.¹¹
- d. Doubling Support for PACT – Last Dollar Financial
 - i. Double support for program which provides last – dollar scholarships for unmet costs of attending Connecticut Community Colleges. Expected Allocation of \$24 Million.¹²
- e. UConn/CSCU Operating Support
 - i. Allocation to help offset direct COVID-19 related costs and revenue impacts of the pandemic. Expected Allocation of \$30 Million.¹³

(4) Addressing the Mental Health Impacts of Covid-19

- a. Mental Health Investments
 - i. Investments to address the most acute needs in the children’s and adult systems. Expected Allocation of \$54.5 Million.¹⁴
- b. Children’s Behavioral Health
 - i. Expand access to acute care, develop health promotion and early intervention capacity and create additional mental health consultive capacity for primary care providers. Expected Allocation of \$33.5 Million.¹⁵
- c. Supporting Adult Behavioral Health

¹¹ *Id.* At 9.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.* At 10.

- i. Support to help phase in 24/7 access to mobile crisis programs statewide that will take advantage of Medicaid enhanced match available under ARPA for mobile crisis services. Expected Allocation of \$20.4 Million.¹⁶

(5) Continuing the State’s Nationally Recognized Covid-19 Testing program

- a. Continue the State’s robust testing efforts and supplement based on testing cost forecasts. Expected Allocation of \$240 Million.¹⁷

(6) Addressing the Public Health Impacts of Covid-19

- a. Supporting Local Health Departments and Districts

- i. Enhancing financial assistance to Connecticut’s local health departments and districts. Expected Allocation of \$10 Million.¹⁸

- b. Investing in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- i. Investment over three years to support continued investment and replacement of expired PPE in order to ensure that the state’s frontline workers are continuously protected. Expected Allocation of \$20.6 Million.¹⁹

- c. Universal Home Visiting

- i. Investment over three years to allow the office of Early Childhood to introduce universal home visiting to certain areas which suffered a disproportionate impact and trauma during the pandemic. Expected Allocation of \$12.5 Million.²⁰

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.* At 11.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

- d. Community Health Workers/Navigators
 - i. Funds for community health workers who will support over 3,000 high-risk families and children. Expected Allocation of \$33 Million.²¹
- e. Expand the Office of Health Equity
 - i. Expansion of the Office of Health Equity within the department of public health. The purpose of this is to provide an enhanced focus on racial disparities in public health. Expected Allocation of \$875K.²²
- f. Supporting a Resident One-Stop for Health and Human Services (MyCT)
 - i. Expansion of the initiative to put all government services online via “MyCT” in an effort to make state services more accessible to those in need. Expected Allocation of \$7.8 Million.²³
- g. Premium Pay for Direct Care Nursing Home Employees
 - i. An additional second round of incentive payments to direct care staff in recognition of their efforts during the pandemic. Expected Allocation of \$12.5 Million.²⁴
- h. Family Caregiver Respite
 - i. Short term relief and break to family caregivers who have been taking care of elderly parents or family members during the pandemic. Expected Allocation of \$3 Million.²⁵

²¹ *Id.* At 12.

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.* At 13.

²⁵ *Id.*

i. Deaf Community Supports

- i. Funds directed to address deficiencies in support services for individuals in the general community and at the American School for The Deaf.

Expected Allocation of \$2 Million.²⁶

j. Partnering with Upstream USA to Reduce Unplanned Pregnancies

- i. Investment in a time-limited, transformative contraceptive access initiative by partnering with Upstream USA to provide “patient-centered, evidence-based training and technical assistance to bolster the state’s commitment to children and health equity.”²⁷ Expected Allocation of \$10 Million.²⁸

(7) Promoting Effective, Safe, and Fair Criminal Justice System Responses to COVID-

19

a. Cut the Criminal Case Backlog

- i. Funds directed for temporary contract prosecutors and public defenders to stay on long enough to resolve pending cases. Such resources will allow attorneys to more efficiently triage cases and prioritize more experienced prosecutors and public defenders with more complex cases. Expected allocation of \$7 Million.²⁹

b. Divert People Safely from Incarceration and Address Treatment or Service Needs

- i. Funds directed to initiatives that will cut the criminal case backlog via programs like diversion or placement of community supervision. Expected Allocation of \$4.75 Million.³⁰

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.* At 14.

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*

c. Reduce Community Gun Violence

- i. Funds directed to a package of community gun violence reduction strategies. Expected Allocation of \$3 Million over the biennium.³¹

d. Prepare Justice-Involved Youth and Adults to Meet Workforce Needs in the Pandemic

- i. Utilizing the office of Workforce Strategy within the department of Economic and Community Development to fund services to prepare justice involved youth and adults to contribute to employer's workforce needs during the pandemic. Includes initial job training for youths and reattachment to education to help develop the hard and soft skills needed to establish their first connections to the workforce. Expected Allocation of \$4 Million over the biennium.³²

(8) Supporting the Recovery of Private Providers through the Pandemic

- a. Support for community providers who were forced to transform and adapt their services in order to keep their staff and clients safe. Expected Allocation of \$50 Million.³³

(9) Addressing the Economic Impacts of COVID-19

a. Supporting the Unemployment Insurance Fund and Mitigating the Impact on Businesses

- i. Support for the Unemployment Insurance trust fund. Expected Allocation of \$50 Million.³⁴

³¹ *Id.* At 15.

³² *Id.* At 16

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ *Id.* At 17.

- b. Supporting the Unemployment Insurance Contact Center
 - i. Support for the need for enhanced staff and operations at the Department of Labor's contact center during this period of heightened demand. Expected Allocation of \$30 Million.³⁵
- c. CT Brand, Hospitality Business Supports and Regulatory Modernization
 - i. Funds allocated to support the reopening of Connecticut's economy and restarting tourism. Expected Allocation of \$45 Million.³⁶
- d. CRDA Economic Support for Venues
 - i. Provide support to venues under the CRDA such as the Connecticut Convention Center, Rentschler Stadium and the XL center. Expected Allocation of \$7 Million.³⁷
- e. Support to Arts and Cultural Organizations
 - i. Aid to arts and entertainment organizations that have experienced economic hardship and/or dislocation during the pandemic. Expected Allocation of \$6.375 Million.³⁸
- f. Leveling the Playing Field in Housing Court
 - i. Funds allocated to support legal representation costs as well as administrative termination hearings, assistance to tenants at the notice to quit stage, increases in tenants appearing in cases and education/outreach to tenants. Expected Allocation of \$ 20 Million.³⁹
- g. Food Insecurity Grants to Food Pantries and Food Banks

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ *Id.* At 18.

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ *Id.*

- i. Funds allocated to combatting food insecurity in communities with high health disparities which have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Expected Allocation of \$2 Million.⁴⁰

(10) Addressing Workforce Development Needs Resulting from COVID-19

a. Sector Based Training

- i. Allocation for job training programs in high demand and high growth sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, IT, truck driving, clean energy, etc. Expected allocation of \$93.5 Million.⁴¹

b. Youth Employment

- i. The pandemic highlighted the need for targeted support services for youth employment participants. Excepted Allocation of \$2 Million.⁴²

c. Employment Support for Justice-Involved Adults

- i. Provide workforce development training for people with criminal records facing difficulty with employment. Expected Allocation of \$4 Million.⁴³

d. Extended Operating Hours at CTECs

- i. Funds to extend the hours of the state's technical high schools. Expected Allocation of \$3.7 Million.⁴⁴

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ *Id.* At 19.

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ *Id.* At 20.

⁴⁴ *Id.*

(11) **Provision of Government Services Impacted by Revenue Reduction**

- a. Acknowledgement that state and local governments have suffered heavy revenue losses and usage of such funds can be used to ensure important government services are maintained. Expected Allocation of \$1.75 Billion over the course of FY 22 and 23.⁴⁵

(12) **Addressing Other State Operations**

- a. State Operations
 - i. Operational support needed in the face of uncertain long-term economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Expected Allocation of \$10 Million.⁴⁶
- b. Premium Pay for Front Line State Employees
 - i. Provide financial recognition for the essential workers during the pandemic. Expected Allocation of \$10 Million.⁴⁷

(13) **Governor's Reserves for Contingencies**

- a. Funding required to allow the Governor's office to be flexible and adapt to changing situations as they evolve. Expected Allocation of \$25.7 Million.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ *Id.* At 21.

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ *Id.*