



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: April 19, 2022

In Control: Public Safety Committee

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Framework – Impactful Investments for Mental Health

SUMMARY:

This item provides background on current City of San Antonio mental health investments and requests Public Safety Committee feedback on investment priorities for ARPA Spending Framework Mental Health investments.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 11, 2021, Congress signed into law ARPA which included resources to support local government's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of San Antonio was awarded \$326.9 million in State and local Fiscal Recovery Funds. As part of the FY 2022 Budget process, City Council approved \$97.50 million to support the city budget and address community needs. On November 18, 2021, Council approved an additional \$30.0 million for utility assistance. The remaining \$199.4 million remained unallocated and was intended to be awarded following a community engagement process that began in the fall of 2021.

On October 20, 2021, City Council was briefed and presented with a potential spending framework, strategic guiding principles, and a community input plan for the use of the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. In November 2021, the City held community meetings and launched a survey to obtain feedback on the use of the ARPA Funds. Additional meetings were held in December 9, 2021 and January 26, 2022 to obtain further policy direction from the City Council and to discuss community input. Finally, on February 3rd, City Council approved a spending framework. This Spending framework supports the continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, addresses community priorities, and allocates funds for

City employee compensation/benefits/retention.

Included in the spending framework are seven categories that will be further discussed at three Council Committees to develop plans and expected outcomes for each of the categories. The table below reflects these categories.

City Council Committee	Spending Category	Amount (In Millions)
Community Health, Environment and Culture	Arts	\$5.0
	Seniors	5.0
	Non-Profit Social Services	4.0
Economic and Workforce Development	Small Business	30.9
	Youth	10.0
	Digital Inclusion/Literacy	6.9
Public Safety	Mental Health	26.0

The San Antonio Metro Health Department will provide a briefing to the Public Safety Committee on the mental health programs currently funded by the City of San Antonio.

ISSUE:

The Public Safety Committee will begin discussions to develop a plan for the allocation of the \$26 million allocated to Mental Health. The Public Safety Committee will provide policy direction to City staff to develop a plan that:

1. Identifies a COVID-19 impact
2. Includes programs/ strategies that will benefit community members affected by the impact identified in Step 1
3. Defines desired equitable outcomes with metrics to measure those outcomes
4. Provides a not-to-exceed, 4-year implementation plan

FISCAL IMPACT:

The ARPA – Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Spending Framework approved by City Council on February 3rd allocated \$26 million to Mental Health.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for discussion purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for discussion purposes only.