

BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) into law. The \$1.9 trillion Fiscal Recovery Funds package is intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including public health and economic impacts. Will County has received a total of \$134M to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts. On July 14, Will County Executive Committee members approved the Health Grant Program including the following prioritized categories: Food Stabilization, Behavioral Health, Violence Prevention, and General Health.

GRANT INITIATIVES

Projects and programs are expected to be focused on two primary categories 1) Services and 2) Access.

Services: The pandemic exposed an increased need for community-based services. Programs may address a shorter-term response resulting from the immediate needs brought on by the pandemic.

Access: Most of the funds will be committed to improving access to resources and services to address inequities created or expanded by the public health crisis.

TARGET POPULATION

Treasury presumes the following households and communities are *disproportionately impacted* by the pandemic:

- ✓ Low-income households and communities
- ✓ Households residing in Qualified Census Tracts
- ✓ Households that qualify for certain federal benefits¹

Low-income households and communities are those with (i) income at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for the size of its household based on the most recently published poverty guidelines or (ii) income at or below 40 percent of area median income for its county and size of household based on the most recently published data.

Treasury presumes the following households and communities are impacted by the pandemic:

- ✓ Low- or-moderate income households or communities
- ✓ Households that experienced unemployment
- ✓ Households that experienced increased food or housing insecurity

¹These programs are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Free- and Reduced-Price Lunch (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast (SBP) programs, Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidies, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Head Start and/or Early Head Start, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Section 8 Vouchers, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Pell Grants. For services to address educational disparities, Treasury will recognize Title I eligible schools as disproportionately impacted and responsive services that support the school generally or support the whole school as eligible

- ✓ Households that qualify for the Children’s Health Insurance Program, Childcare Subsidies through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Program, or Medicaid

Low- or moderate-income households and communities are those with (i) income at or below 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for the size of the household based on the most recently published poverty guidelines or (ii) income at or below 65 percent of the area median income for the county and size of household based on the most recently published data.

Will County Executive Committee approved ARPA funding to be made available as grants to community organizations, nonprofits, and healthcare partners that have faced economic hardship resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency. Below is a summary of the program, as well as eligibility requirements and documentation required for submission. Applicants may apply for multiple programs but must submit a separate application for each.

Food Stabilization, Behavioral Health, Violence Prevention, & General Health:

The County is seeking applications for four prioritized categories of funding. In general, applicants will be required to 1) identify a COVID-19 public health or economic impact on an individual or class (i.e., a group) and 2) support or expand a program that responds to that impact. Responses to the impact will be required to be related and reasonably proportional to the harm identified and reasonably designed to benefit those impacted. For example, funding may be applied for and used to establish and support substance use treatment service providers in Will County as they address service gaps caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and support residents in recovery. Funding may also be used for services and distribution programs for food service providers.

The funding will be issued as subrecipient awards to establish and/or support, for example, referral recovery services, evidence-based practices like focused deterrence, behavioral therapy, trauma recovery, job training, education, child nutrition programs, victim support services, equitable access to healthcare, and other community-based services. The County’s mission is to use ARPA funding as a catalyst for long-term viable programs. Sustainable programs will be given priority. Funding applications may also be submitted for eligible capital expenditures. To be eligible, capital expenditures must be detailed in the application and must directly respond to the pandemic and be proportional to the demonstrated impacted. They must also serve or provide benefits to County residents and support a permanent expansion or increase in service for disproportionately impacted residents.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The County’s ARPA grant programs are designed to support residents, organizations, programs, and activities that benefit Will County residents and community. Below are general eligibility requirements that all organizations must meet:

- ✓ Organization must be physically located in Will County OR provide evidence that the organization directly serves the residents/community
- ✓ Be in good standing and registered with the [State of Illinois](#) and registered with SAM.gov. Registration is FREE and should be started here: [SAM.gov | Home](#)
- ✓ Must have no current unpaid code enforcement liens or violations of any state, federal or local laws
- ✓ Must be current on all taxes including payroll, sales, unemployment, property, State, and Federal
- ✓ No owners, including all managing members and/or officers, have been convicted of financial crimes within the past three (3) years
- ✓ Provide proof of insurance to the satisfaction of the County prior to the receipt of any funding.

- ✓ During the period beginning on March 3, 2021, and ending at the time the application is submitted, the applicant has not received alternate Federal grant funding to cover these same costs and/or impacts

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the general eligibility requirements, below are specific eligibility requirements for each program available for funding award:

- ✓ Must be a Non-Profit, Private Entity, or Governmental Agency
- ✓ Must have been providing service for at least (6) six months at the time of application
- ✓ Must be licensed and/or certified to provide service, if applicable

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Below is a list of required documentation for beneficiary award applications. In general, applicants will be required to 1) identify a COVID-19 public health or economic impact on an individual or class (i.e., a group) and 2) design a program that responds to that impact. Responses to the impact will be required to be related and reasonably proportional to the harm identified and reasonably designed to benefit those impacted. Applicants may also apply for funding to support or expand existing programs that fall within this category – these statements will be required as part of the application submission.

Documents may be uploaded online at <https://willcountyillinois.org/arpa-health/> or submitted to arpainfo@willcounty.gov with the body of the email referencing the application to ensure it is saved with the correct submission.

Examples of general documents that may be required for organizations, businesses, and agencies to provide proof include:

- ✓ Copy of IRS letter or certificate, verifying tax-exempt status (*if applicable*)
- ✓ Copy of Annual IRS 990 Form (*if applicable*)
- ✓ Federal Tax Identification Number
- ✓ Current copy of IRS W-9 Tax Form
- ✓ Single Audit (*if applicable*)
- ✓ Most recent audit or Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
- ✓ List of Board of Directors and Organizational Chart
- ✓ Articles of Incorporation
- ✓ Disclosure statement if Owner(s) hold greater than a 10% interest in the company/organization
- ✓ Detailed budget or cost estimate reflecting all funding sources if cost exceeds ARPA request
- ✓ Location/Service Area Maps
- ✓ Program Intake – proof of certifying income or client self-attestation
- ✓ Marketing Material – documentation of how residents seek services or become aware of agency
- ✓ Procurement Policy (*if available*)
- ✓ Specifications/Plans (*capital requests only, if available*)
- ✓ Other – upload any documents which may support or enhance the understanding of the request

GENERALLY ELIGIBLE USES

Below is a list of generally eligible uses of funding. This is not an exhaustive list. Therefore, any programs or uses that align with the first bullet point may be considered for review

- ✓ Funding for new or existing programs and projects designed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the broader health impacts of the COVID-19, and the COVID-19 public health emergency, including community violence interventions, behavioral health services.
- ✓ Funding for programs that increase awareness about healthy behaviors, increasing the safe recreation outlets available, increasing the awareness about the services available in the community, and collaborative efforts to address transportation to and from service provider facilities
- ✓ Prevention, outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment, crisis care, diversion programs, outreach to individuals not yet engaged in treatment, harm reduction & long-term recovery support
- ✓ Funding to support services related to depression, isolation, and anxiety treatment
- ✓ Enhanced behavioral health services in schools
- ✓ Support for equity to reduce disparities in access to high-quality treatment
- ✓ Peer support groups, costs for residence in supportive housing or recovery housing, and the 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or other hotline services
- ✓ Behavioral health facilities & equipment
- ✓ Referrals to trauma recovery services for victims of crime Community violence intervention programs, including evidence-based practices like focused deterrence, with wraparound services such as behavioral therapy, trauma recovery, job training, education, housing and relocation services, and financial assistance

INELIGIBLE COSTS

- ✓ Loss that bears no relation or is grossly disproportionate to the type or extent of harm experienced due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- ✓ Contributions to rainy day funds, financial reserves, or similar funds.
- ✓ Payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments.
- ✓ Inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization and/or those that promote or inhibit religious interest.
- ✓ Lobbying, support of candidates for public office, or other political activities.
- ✓ Funding for programs or organizations that do not serve Will County residents.
- ✓ Funding for programs or capital expenditures that have already applied for and been awarded alternate federal funding -duplication of benefits will not be allowed
- ✓ Expenses reimbursed or eligible for reimbursement through any other contract or agreement with the County, including but not limited to previously administered ARPA or CARES Act funding.

GRANT PERIOD

Eligible programs or projects will typically be funded for programming beginning February 2023 and ending on or before December 31, 2026. By August 2023, awarded applicants will be required to provide evidence to the County of progress in initiating or funding new or existing programs, and capital. If sufficient evidence is not provided, the County reserves the right to recoup funding that may have been awarded. Funding for programs will end on **December 31, 2026** and all funds received by the applicant for these programs will need to be fully expended and reported back to the County.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Will County's ARPA grant program applications will be available at <https://willcountyillinois.org/arpa-health/> from September 6, 2022, through October 28, 2022. Late submissions will not be accepted.

The application packet must include the information listed below.

- ✓ Completed Application
- ✓ List of required documents per program

County and Anser Advisory staff are available to answer questions about the application requirements, eligible activities, or the funding process once the application is posted through the deadline. Please contact arpainfo@willcounty.gov with questions.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Will County staff, elected officials, and ARPA consultant, Anser Advisory, will review grant applications for completeness and eligibility. Applicants may be asked to revise proposals or provide additional information.

Complete and eligible applications will then be reviewed by a committee.

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

Award allocations will be based on the total number of applicants, completeness of applications, expense eligibility, organizational need, community benefit, and organizational operating budget size. No cash match is required.

Committee members may consider the following factors in their evaluation:

- ✓ Organization is a qualifying and eligible entity
- ✓ Impact of COVID-19 is clear and demonstrated and program designed to respond the impact is direct and reasonably proportional
- ✓ Impact of other Federal, County, or City assistance received, alone or in comparison to other applicants
- ✓ Fiscal and administrative capacity to administer the funding in compliance with requirements
- ✓ Grant budget is provided, reasonable, and aligns with eligible expenses
- ✓ Alignment of the request with the County's mission and vision
- ✓ Demonstrated partnership with other community entities
- ✓ Impact the funding request will have on under-served groups and local community
- ✓ Program delivery includes that included communication in multiple languages, appropriate care around cultural sensitivities, and targeted outreach to underrepresented, underserved, or historically marginalized populations
- ✓ If the applicant has received, or intends to receive, alternate funding from other federal or state sources for the same request
- ✓ If the applicant has previously administered or been awarded federal funds
- ✓ Applicants' quality of key performance indicators submitted to monitor the program's success
- ✓ Anticipated long-term impact the funding will create within Will County
- ✓ Applicants' identification of outcomes and impacts that will remain after the programs initial implementation phase, if funded
- ✓ Applicants' readiness to fund and capacity for implementation
- ✓ Organization and program viability – will the program continue to be sustainable without continued funding support from Will County or other temporary funding sources
- ✓ Ability to fully expend funds by December 31, 2026
- ✓ Other factors as deemed appropriate by the panel members

APPLICATION TIMELINE

The County anticipates the following schedule for reviewing submitted applications for the Non-Profit Grants and determining funding awards, information will follow for other funding opportunities:

September 6, 2022	Release of application
October 28, 2022	Deadline for application submissions
October 31, 2022 – December 2, 2022	Answer Advisory/Staff - application review period
December 8, 2022	Recommendations to Executive Committee
January 12, 2023	Approval of projects by Executive Committee
January 16, 2023	Notification and Subrecipient Agreement Issuance

AFFIDAVIT, WAIVER, AND RELEASE FORM

All nonprofit, governmental and business organizations offered a grant who choose to accept the grant will be required to sign a non-negotiable affidavit, waiver, and release form prior to payment being made. The affidavit will require the applicant to declare that all information contained in the application is true and correct and can be used as admissible evidence in any legal proceeding against the company if the County attempted to recoup any grant funds provided under false pretenses.

AGREEMENT REQUIREMENT & MONITORING

Grant awards will be made in the form of an agreement executed between the applicant and the County. The grant period, scope, allowable budget, and reporting requirements will be outlined in a grant agreement between the applicant organization and the County. All awarded funds for new programming/activities must be expended no later than December 31, 2026. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in disqualification from future grant cycles. Additional information may be required at the County's discretion, based on the usage of funds.

EXIT REPORT

An Exit Report will be required at the end of each grant agreement. Awardees must submit the Exit Report to the Office of Community Development by December 31, 2026. Failure to submit an Exit Report may result in disqualification from future grant cycles.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Please contact arpainfo@willcounty.gov with all inquiries regarding the grant application.