

WORK SESSION AGENDA

Monday, August 9, 2021

**Immediately following the Special
Meeting**

Mayor Ken
Miyagishima

Mayor Pro Tem
Kassandra Gandara

Councilors
Tessa Abeyta-Stuve
Gabe Vasquez
Johana Bencomo
Gill Sorg
Yvonne Flores



City of Las Cruces
MOUNTAINS OF OPPORTUNITY

CITY HALL
P.O. BOX 20000
LAS CRUCES, NM
88004

700 N. Main St.
PHONE (575) 541-
2067

City Council Chambers

If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event please contact us 72 hours before this event at [541-2115/V](tel:541-2115) or [541-2182/TTY](tel:541-2182).

	Page
1. <u>PETS OF THE WEEK</u>	
2. <u>JOBS OF THE WEEK</u>	
3. <u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	
3.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP UPDATES WS #21-035 - Pdf	2
3.2. ARPA FUNDING. 21-034 - Pdf	3 - 126



Council Work Session Summary

Meeting: Work Session - Aug 09 2021

TITLE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

PURPOSE(S) OF DISCUSSION: ☒ Inform/Update ☐ Direction/Guidance ☐ Legislative Development/Policy

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

Economic Development Partners are required to report to City Council annually. Each of the partners will review the metrics from the previous year with Council, then make a report of their accomplishments and challenges over the last year. Reports will be provided by:

Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market

Downtown Las Cruces Partnership

Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance

Film Las Cruces

PLAN(S):

None

COMMITTEE/BOARD REVIEW:

None



Council Work Session Summary

Meeting: Work Session - Aug 09 2021

TITLE: ARPA FUNDING.

PURPOSE(S) OF DISCUSSION: ☐ Inform/Update ☒ Direction/Guidance ☐ Legislative
Development/Policy

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

The City of Las Cruces (City) received a direct allocation from the U.S. Treasury under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, which provided a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

The City received the first tranche of funding in the amount of \$12,379,913 on May 19, 2021. The second tranche, in the same amount, will be received approximately one year from that date.

The funding is intended to be used for the following funding objectives, as defined in the Act:

To support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control; replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs; support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; and address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the in-equal impact of the pandemic.

Staff presented the initial plans for ARPA funding at the June 14, 2021 and July 12, 2021 work sessions and will present more in-depth information on the RFP and public input process for the \$10.4M currently set aside for Community and Economic Development Initiatives at this work session.

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

[ARPA RFP Guide and Application 8.3](#)

[ARPA Summary of Comments](#)

[ARPA Meeting Minutes](#)

PLAN(S):

Comprehensive Plan, City Council Strategic Plan, 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan, Elevate Las Cruces

COMMITTEE/BOARD REVIEW:

None

Agenda Item #3.2.

PREFACE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT/CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

1. Applications will only be accepted from eligible 501c organizations.
2. Applicants must submit **one (1) original application plus ELEVEN (11) copies**. All documents must be three-hole punched to fit three ring binders. One (1) sided copies.
3. One copy of each required attachment should accompany the original application. All required attachments must be three-hole punched to fit three ring binders.
4. NO STAPLES on the original application, copies or attachments are allowed. Use binder or paper clips only.
5. The City will not accept faxed, emailed, incomplete or late applications. (Submit Early, Make an appointment for submission)
6. Each organization may submit only one (1) application for ARPA funding.
7. Requests must be no less than \$_____, and no more than \$_____. Applications with funding requests of less than \$_____ or more than \$_____ will be disqualified. **Agency's that expend more than \$750,000.00 in Federal Funds in a single fiscal year will be subject to a single audit.*

General Timeline* for the ARPA Application Process

September 7, 2021	Approval of ARPA RFP Guide/Application
TBD-September	Advertise/Distribute RFP
TBD-September	Pre-Proposal Meeting (Voluntary)
TBD-October	Completed applications are due back to City staff by 4:30 pm.
TBD-October	Committee Public Meetings for presentations (Council Chambers)
TBD-October	Scoring, Ranking and Recommendation Meeting (Council Chambers)
TBD-November	Public Comment Period
TBD-November	City Council votes on funding recommendations for ARPA Funds (Council Chambers, 1:00pm)
December	Contract Development and Council Approval
January 1, 2022	Project Start Dates

*Subject to Council Approval/Adoption

Proposals must be submitted by the due date/time.

- a. Proposals delivered after the closing date and time will not be accepted.

The City of Las Cruces reserves the sole right to:

- a. Determine responsible applicants and responsive proposals.
- b. Determine and waive minor technicalities in the responses from requirements not affecting price, quality, quantity of items, or services sought.
- c. Reject any or all responses/proposals and terminate this solicitation process.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA) – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)
CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
FOR THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES

In response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) the City of Las Cruces is soliciting proposals for Community and Economic Development initiatives. These federal funds are to be used by the City for programs or services that address or mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for households, businesses, or populations disproportionately impacted by the public health emergency.

Applications will only be accepted from eligible 501c organizations.

Potential priorities include but are not limited to:

- Programs or services that facilitate access to health and social services.
- Programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness.
- Programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on education or that promote healthy childhood environments.
- Programs or services that support small businesses or non-profits with loans, grants, in-kind assistance, or counseling programs to mitigate the negative economic impact of the pandemic such as declines in revenues or impacts of periods of business closure.
- Programs or services that support small businesses or non-profits with technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs.
- Programs or services that speed the recovery of impacted industries, such as tourism, travel, and hospitality that were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and business closures.
- Programs or services that provide assistance to households to address the negative economic impacts of COVID-19.

Guidance on potential uses can be found in the Interim Final Rule, Section II.2. at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/TREAS-DO-2021-0008-0002>

ARPA PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Requirement #1: Meet the established ARPA eligibility criteria; and be used to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.

Requirement #2: Applicants, must have the organizational capacity to carry out their proposed activities and meet the record keeping and reporting requirements of the City of Las Cruces.

Demonstration of organizational capacity includes:

- (1) A copy of the agency's most recent audit or financial statement (preferably within the past six months);

(2) Ability to operate on a reimbursement basis for at least two months, if necessary; and

(3) Must already have an established exemption status and must be able to provide a copy of their most current 501c designation from the Internal Revenue Service.

Requirement #3: Provide documented services to residents who live within the City Limits.

Requirement #4: Under City regulations, certain requirements must be met in order to negotiate an agreement and disburse funds. Contractor recipients will be required to obtain adequate insurance covering worker's compensation, bodily injury, property damage, or automobile liability, depending on the nature of the project. Contractors will be responsible for obtaining any necessary licenses and for complying with applicable federal, state, and municipal laws, codes and regulations.

Requirement #5: Projects must be complete by December 31, 2024.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on DATE, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Council Chambers

For submission questions or assistance please contact:

Natalie Green

Housing and Neighborhood Services Manager

Economic Development

City of Las Cruces

Physical: City Hall, 700 N. Main Street, Rm. 1132, Las Cruces, NM

Mailing: P O Box 20000, Las Cruces, NM 88004

Phone: 575-528-3086

Email: ngreen@las-cruces.org

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THURSDAY DATE, 2021 BY 4:30 PM

Proposals must be submitted by the due date/time.

Proposals delivered after the closing date and time will not be accepted.

The City of Las Cruces reserves the sole right to:

- Determine responsible applicants and responsive proposals.
- Determine and waive minor technicalities in the responses from requirements not affecting price, quality, quantity of items, or services sought.
- Reject any or all responses/proposals and terminate this solicitation process.

ARPA PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS:

Proposals should emphasize projects or programs that service to:

1. **Assistance to Households.** Assistance to households or populations facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19 is also an eligible use. This includes: food assistance; rent, mortgage, or utility assistance; counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness; cash assistance¹; emergency assistance for burials, home repairs, weatherization, or other needs; internet access or digital literacy assistance; or job training to address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker's occupation or level of training.
2. **Disproportionately Impacted Populations and Communities.** A program, service, or other assistance that is provided in a Qualified Census Tract, that is provided to households and populations living in a Qualified Census Tract or that is provided to other households, businesses, or populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as:
 - (i) Programs or services that facilitate access to health and social services, including:
 - (A) Assistance accessing or applying for public benefits or services;
 - (B) Remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards; and
 - (C) Community violence intervention programs;
 - (ii) Programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness, including:
 - (A) Supportive housing or other programs or services to improve access to stable, affordable housing among individuals who are homeless;
 - (B) Development of affordable housing to increase supply of affordable and high-quality living units; and
 - (C) Housing vouchers and assistance relocating to neighborhoods with higher levels of economic opportunity and to reduce concentrated areas of low economic opportunity;
 - (iii) Programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on education, including:
 - (A) New or expanded early learning services;
 - (B) Assistance to high-poverty school districts to advance equitable funding across districts and geographies; and
 - (C) Educational and evidence-based services to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students;
 - (iv) Programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on childhood health or welfare, including:
 - (A) New or expanded childcare;

¹ Cash assistance programs are defined One-time or short-term (no more than three months) emergency payments **on behalf of** individuals or families, generally for the purpose of preventing homelessness. Examples include utility payments to prevent cutoff of service, and rent/mortgage payments to prevent eviction. They must be reasonably proportional to the negative economic impact they are intended to address.

- (B) Programs to provide home visits by health professionals, parent educators, and social service professionals to individuals with young children to provide education and assistance for economic support, health needs, or child development; and
 - (C) Services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth to provide support and education on child development, positive parenting, coping skills, or recovery for mental health and substance use.
- 3. ***Assistance to Small Businesses and Non-profits.*** As discussed above, small businesses and non- profits faced significant challenges in covering payroll, mortgages or rent, and other operating costs as a result of the public health emergency and measures taken to contain the spread of the virus. State, local, and Tribal governments may provide assistance to small businesses to adopt safer operating procedures, weather periods of closure, or mitigate financial hardship resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, including:
 - (i) Loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship such as declines in revenues or impacts of periods of business closure, for example by supporting payroll and benefits costs, costs to retain employees, mortgage, rent, or utilities costs, and other operating costs;
 - (ii) Loans, grants, or in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, such as physical plant changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers or partitions, or COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or contact tracing programs; and
 - (iii) Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs.

STEPS TO THE SELECTION AND EVALUATION PROCESS

1. Applicants must complete and submit the application by the deadline with applicable attachments.
2. Non-scoring staff will review applications for eligibility determination and full submittal requirements.
3. Copies of all eligible applications are distributed to the Staff Review Committee.
4. Committee members will read all eligible applications and **individually** score all applications. The maximum number of points allowed for each application is 80, and the minimum number of points is 0. Committee members may not score more than a maximum of 80 points nor score less than the minimum number of points of 8 for each eligible application.
5. The Review Committee will hold a public meeting to listen to presentations from all of the eligible applicants. The Committee members may add additional points to the original application score (up to a maximum of 80 points). The Committee members may also deduct points from the original score (down to a minimum of 8 points) previously given if the applicant's presentation does not meet the expected criteria.
6. Applicants will make a presentation of their proposal to the Committee. Presentations by the applicant organizations are limited to three (3) to five (5) minutes, and a one (1) minute response by the Presenter to each Committee member's question. Each Committee member is allowed only one (1) question of each Presenter. Only one (1) presenter is allowed for the presentation. Presentations about the proposed projects should be clear, concise, informative, and accurate. Presenters should not bring their clients to the presentation. No brochures, posters, or PowerPoint presentations are allowed at the presentation to the Committee.
7. The Committee members submit completed score sheets to staff for tabulation at the public meeting after all presentations.
8. Staff tabulates the totals for each application. The staff shall eliminate highest and lowest scored worksheets, then all shall be tabulated. All scores for that application are combined (except for highest and lowest scores giving a total score for each application).
9. The tabulations are then presented to the Committee in public meeting, which are the final rankings.
10. The Committee uses the applicants' final scores, as determined by the application and presentation, to recommended funding amounts for each selected grant award.
11. Rankings and funding recommendations are then sent to City Council for final decision as a separate Resolution.

SCORING MATRIX	SCORE	9-10	6-8	3-5	1-2
Project Justification		• Specific with significant detailed information to support the proposal • Highly creative, unique and/or innovative. May establish a new model or best practice for others. Proposal are best practice and/or research/data driven • Strong rationale and significance of need(s) and clearly responds to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts	• Specific with some detailed information to support the proposal • Somewhat creative, unique and/or innovative. May be something done before but contains some originality • Rationale or significance of need(s) is too general; Proposal somewhat responds to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts	• General statement of need, but includes no supporting information; Provides information on Proposal only • Few components contain creative, unique or innovative approaches • Proposal is unclear if it responds to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts	• No description of need or supporting information provided • Lacks creativity or innovation. • Proposal does not respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts
Meets City Goals/priorities established in City's Strategic Plan, Elevate Las Cruces and/or 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan		• Proposal outcomes or activities align with both organizational vision and goals of greater community • Applicant documented a need for the Proposal consistent with all 3 Council adopted plans	• Proposal elements align with goals of either the organization or its greater community, but not both • Applicant documented a need for the Proposal consistent with all 2 Council adopted plans	• Proposal tangentially but not directly related to organizational strategic vision or community goals • Applicant documented a need for the Proposal consistent with all 1 Council adopted plans	• No explicit relationship between Proposal and the agenda of its organization or community • No documented need/nor consistency with Council adopted Plans
Community Impact		• The Proposal demonstrates a clear and significant impact that describes a specific and measurable evaluation plan. Proposed impact on community is quantifiable and substantial	• The Proposal includes some quantifiable results to show impact. Describes some measurable value to community.	• The Proposal includes few quantifiable results to show impact. Proposed impact does not fully align with need or activities	• Impact on community is minimal; Does not demonstrate value to community
Budget		• Budget is reasonable and consistent with the proposal • Proposal budget has 25% or more matching funds/in-kind services	• Budget is not reasonable but consistent with proposal • Proposal budget has 10% - 24% matching funds/in-kind services	• Budget is neither reasonable nor consistent with the proposal • Proposal budget has 1% - 9% matching funds/in-kind services	• Proposal budget has no matching funds/in-kind services

Duplication		• New project or program/ Existing program with 71-100% service increase	• Existing program with 31-70% service increase	• Existing program with up to 30% service increase	• Existing program, No increase in services
Feasibility/Timeline		• Personnel, project activities timeline, and budget expenditures congruent with project description and outcomes • Timelines for grant period are clearly stated	• Deficiencies or overestimations exist in personnel, timeline, or budget within tolerable range, outcomes appear achievable despite gaps or leaps	• Project's assembled personnel, timeline, or budget expose weaknesses in plan design. Outcomes unlikely to be achieved in project's current form	• Insufficient information about personnel, project activities timeline, or budget expenditures to gauge feasibility
Organization Capacity /History		• Applicant demonstrates HIGH capacity/ability to implement and oversee the proposed Proposal • One or more Proposals completed, high compliance or new organization with extensive experience in service provision	• Applicant demonstrates ACCEPTABLE capacity/ability to implement and oversee the proposed Proposal • One or more Proposal completed, satisfactory compliance or new organization with satisfactory experience in service provision	• Applicant demonstrates LOW capacity/ability to implement and oversee the proposed Proposal • One or more Proposal completed, limited compliance or new organization with limited experience in service provision	• Applicant demonstrates NO capacity/ability to implement and oversee the proposed Proposal • No Proposals completed last three years, no compliance record or new organization with no experience in service provision
Clarity/Quality of Proposal		• Proposal is clearly written; Logical alignment between needs, goals and activities	• Proposal is somewhat clear; Some alignment between needs, goals and activities	• Parts of proposal are unclear; Minimal alignment between needs, goals and activities	• Entire proposal is unclear; No alignment between needs, goals and activities
SUBTOTAL (Must be scored Prior to Presentations)					
PRESENTATION (Add/Deduct based on clarifying points)					
TOTAL SCORE Min 8; Max 80					

- ☐ I would definitely recommend funding this Proposal.
- ☐ I would recommend partial funding. Amount \$ _____
- ☐ I would not recommend funding this Proposal.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REQUIRED ASSURANCES

This page must be signed and submitted with the application. Applications which do not contain a signed Acknowledgement of Required Assurances are ineligible for consideration.

By submitting the accompanying application and by my signature on this document, I understand and agree that any funding award resulting from this solicitation will require compliance with the signed agreement and with the regulations, requirements, and policies identified below, including but not limited to:

- **Compliance with 2 CFR Part 200 - Uniform Administrative Requirements**, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (as appropriate);
- Compliance with policies of the City of Las Cruces, NM
- Compliance with federal and state laws requiring the safeguarding and disclosure of confidential information.
- Evidence of comprehensive liability insurance and bonding, as required by the City;
- Completion of an annual financial audit, and/or as applicable, providing the City with a copy of the organization’s audited financial statement;
- Completion and subsequent renewal of background checks for all employees, volunteers, or interns who will or may have unsupervised contact with children or vulnerable adults;
- Maintaining program and financial records for audit review, and providing access to documentation upon request by the City;
- Submission of program and financial reports, as required by the City;
- Certification that the firm, association, corporation, or any person in a controlling capacity or any position involving the administration of federal, state, or local funds is not currently under suspension, debarment, voluntary exclusion, or a determination of ineligibility by any agency; has not been suspended, debarred, voluntarily excluded, or determined ineligible by any agency within the past three (3) years; does not have a proposed debarment pending; has not been indicted, convicted, or has not had a civil judgment rendered against said person, firm, association, or corporation by a court of competent jurisdiction in any matter involving fraud or misconduct with the past three (3) years.
- Certification that the firm is not bankrupt or under an administration appointed by the Court, or under proceedings leading to a declaration of bankruptcy; and provide any pending or known legal actions against the company.
- Certification that, in the past seven (7) years, the organization has not had any bankruptcy proceedings (closed or not) initiated against the Contractor and that there are no bankruptcy proceedings pending by or against the Contractor regardless of the date of filing;
- All pending or known litigation/court action(s) have been disclosed in the application.
- Certification that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder. The Applicant further covenants that in the performance of this project/application, no person having any conflicting interest will be employed.

Application Approval and Signature: The signatory declares that he/she is an authorized official of the applicant organization, is authorized to make this application, is authorized to commit the organization in financial matters, and will assure that any funds received because of this application are used for the purposes set forth herein.

Printed Name, Title and Agency

Signature and Date

**CITY OF LAS CRUCES
ARPA FUNDING APPLICATION**

Application Deadline: Thursday, DATE , 2021 4:30 pm

Applications must be submitted in person or by mail no later than 4:30 p.m. on DATE, 2021.

Please Note: No Late Submissions Will Be Accepted.

Applicant Organization Information:	
Name of Organization:	
Address/City/State/Zip:	
Phone:	Fax:
Organization DUNS Number:	
Primary Contact Information:	Alternative Contact Information:
Project Manager:	Alternative Contact:
Title:	Title:
Phone:	Phone:
Email:	Email:
Fax:	Fax:
Phone:	Email:

PROJECT NAME:
PROJECT SUMMARY: Describe the proposed Project. This summary will be used to describe your project in official City documents and media. (Note: The Project Summary is an abstract or summary of your proposal and should be written after completion of the application.)

Type of Client Populations to be Served Population Served:	Number of Clients to	Program Type: * (check one only)	
General (Low/Moderate income clients)		Health/Mental Health Programs (includes direct treatment, prevention and intervention, and education)	
Individuals with Disabilities		Food and Nutrition Programs	
Homeless		Education and Youth Programs	
Domestic Violence		Short Term Shelter/Housing Assistance	
Elderly (62+)		Homeless Services	
Children & Youth		Affordable Housing Development	
HIV/AIDS		Small Business/Nonprofit Assistance	
Migrant Workers		SBA Counseling/ Technical Assistance	
Small Business		Direct Assistance to Households	
Other		Other Services (not elsewhere classified)	
Total			

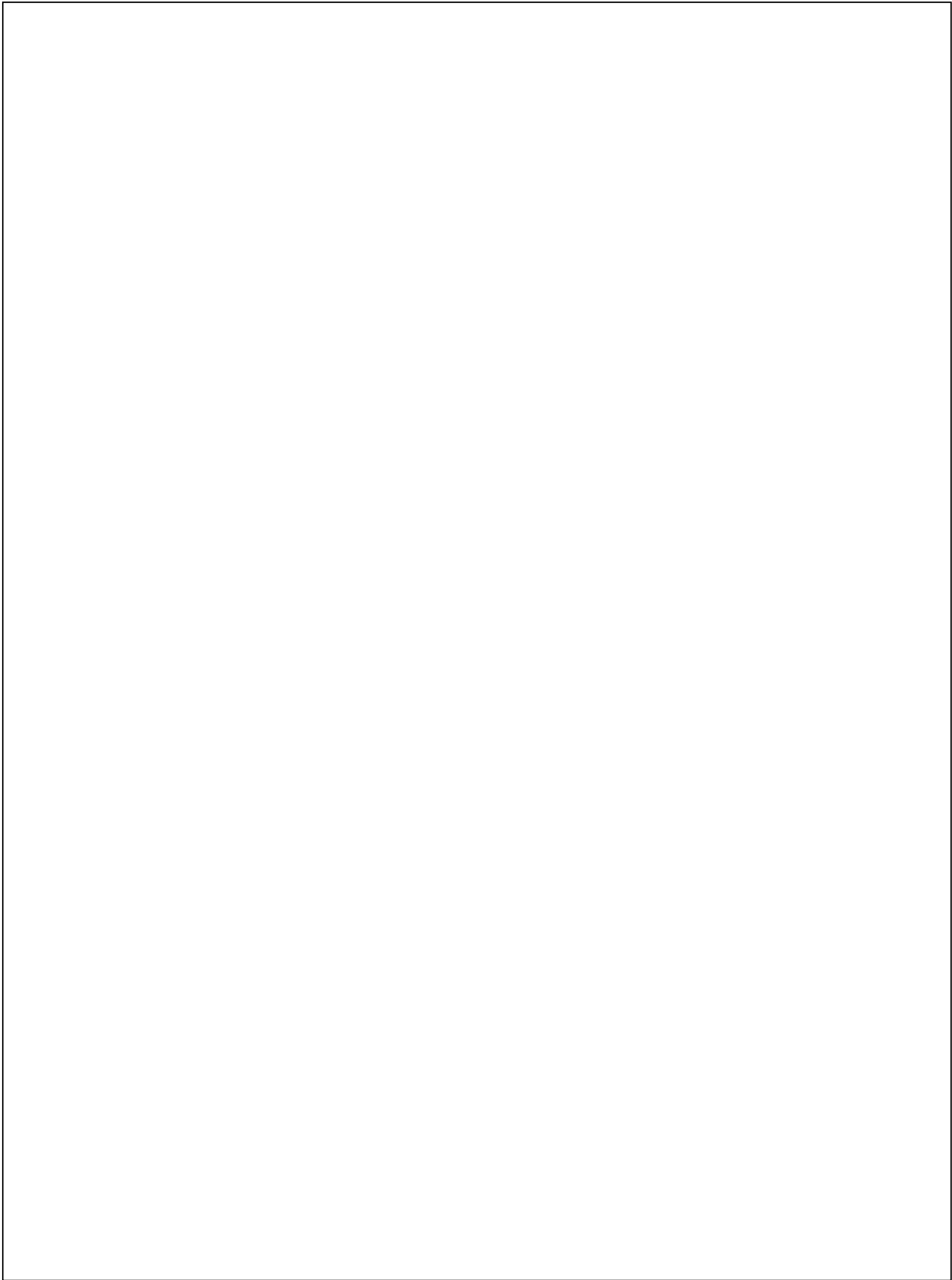
History of your organization's **TOTAL ANNUAL REVENUES** for the past three (3) fiscal years:

2020: \$_____ 2019: \$_____ 2018: \$_____

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Directions: Use 12 point font only, single space and limit answers to the space provided. All questions must be answered, and all forms completed to be eligible for review by staff.

- 1. Description and Justification of the Project; Provide a detailed description of the proposed project: Include project objectives, target population, major project characteristics, number and type of units, and how it responds to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.



Agenda Item #3.2.

2. What specific priorities in the City's Strategic Plan, Elevate Las Cruces and/or 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan?

3. What is the anticipated impact of your program on the Las Cruces community? How will you measure the expected outcomes?

Agenda Item #3.2.

4. Instructions: Please complete the budget summary. Indicate the amount ARPA funds needed for each expenditure classification. Also include other funds for the project from federal, state and private sources. Columns A, B, C & D must add up to Column E (Total Budget) needed for the project.

Project:		A	B	C	D	E
Line Item	EXPENDITURE CLASSIFICATION	ARPA FUNDING	OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS	STATE FUNDS	PRIVATE FUNDS	TOTAL BUDGET**
501-001	Permanent Position, Full Time					
501-101	Permanent Position, Part Time					
501-003	Temporary Positions					
502-006	Employment Liability Insurance					
502-007	Other Employee Benefits *					
602-001	Office Supplies					
602-002	Operating Supplies					
602-003	Repair & Maintenance Supplies					
602-004	Small Tools					
602-005	Motor Oil and Fuel					
602-006	Library Books and Periodicals					
602-007	Magazines and Periodicals					
602-008	Audio Visual Aids					
602-009	Wearing Apparel					
603-001	Postage and Federal Express					
604-001	City Service (water, waste, etc.)					
604-002	Electricity					
604-003	Telephone					
604-004	Utility Services – Other					
605-001	Legal Services					
605-002	Auditing Services					
605-003	Engineering Services					
605-004	Architectural Services					
605-005	Maintenance Agreements					
605-006	Fees or Service Charges					
605-007	Advertising					
701-001	Landscape Maintenance					
701-002	Required Building Repair & Maintenance					
701-003	Auto or Truck Repair					
701-004	Equipment Repair					
702-001	Building or Land Rental					
702-003	Vehicle Rental					
702-004	Equipment Rental					
704-001	Liability Insurance					
704-002	Property Insurance					
704-003	Fidelity Insurance					
708-001	Transportation (in-state only)					
708-002	Per Diem (in-state only)					
708-003	Registration Fees					
708-004	Miscellaneous Costs					
708-005	Training and Education					
801-001	Land-Vacant					
801-002	Land-Buildings or Other					
801-003	Land-Right of Way					
802-001	Land Improvements					
804-004	Furniture and Fixtures					
803-001	Building Improvements					
804-001	Automobiles					
804-002	Trucks and Vans					
804-003	Heavy Equipment					
804-004	Furniture and Fixtures					
804-005	Office Equipment					
804-006	Data Processing					
804-007	Shop Equipment					
900-001	Client Housing (rent, mortgage, utilities, deposit)					
900-002	Client Support (medical, classes)					
	TOTAL					

* Other Employee Benefits may include costs of health insurance, workers’ compensation, FICA, unemployment insurance

Agenda Item #3.2.

Part B – BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Briefly and specifically describe each line item listed on Part A in a separate paragraph below (limit to the space provided):

5. Is this a new or existing program in the Community? How do ARPA funds makes this project feasible? If existing, describe additional efforts to prevent duplication of services.

6. Please provide a detailed timeline or work schedule for implementing this project including anticipated milestone dates.

7. Is this project dependent on future funding to fully complete this project? Include specific timelines/dates and funding commitments needed to complete the project and have it fully operational for public benefit. Can this project be phased? Can this project be partially funded?

8. If funded, it is expected that the project will begin within ninety (90) days of being issued a fully executed contract. What potential or known barriers exist to beginning the project within ninety (90) days and completing the project within twenty-four (24) months of being issued a Notice to Proceed from City Staff? Please describe in detail your plan for overcoming the barriers identified and achieving a timely and successful completion of the project.

9. Applicant Qualifications- Summarize your organization's experience in areas relevant to the proposed project describe at least two most recent projects; if applicable. Please complete the table below for all key staff members involved in the project.

Name	Title	Total Years' Experience	Years with Association

APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

All applications must include the following documents to be considered for processing. Do not submit in spiral covers, binders, folders or plastic covers. Use binder clips only. Submit in the following order:

- ☐ One (1) UNSTAPLED original application (pg 8-17) with required assurances and attachments, and ELEVEN (11) UNSTAPLED COPIES (application only: pg 9-17).
Original application and copies must be three hole punched to fit three ring binders. Use binder clips only.

Required Attachments include:

- ☐ Proof of 501c Status – IRS Tax Exemption Determination Letter
- ☐ Most Recent Independent Audit or Financial Statements
- ☐ List of Current Board Members’ names, physical addresses, mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses
- ☐ Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
- ☐ Statement of Insurance
- ☐ Signed letter from the Board of Directors or designated authorized official authorizing submission of the application
- ☐ One (1) page (maximum) Resume(s) of executive director, fiscal officer, project manager and any employees to be funded by the project.

All Applications must be submitted by:

Thursday DATE , 2021, 4:30 pm

Applications submitted after the 4:30 pm deadline will not be accepted.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
1	7/19/2021	5:10 AM	Email	R. Reynaud	No UBI	Thank you for allowing me to comment: My one comment is that I am against these funds used for “universal guaranteed income”, meaning being compensated for not working. This is a moral line which must not be crossed in this community, no person should receive income while another is working. There is dignity in work, and you dishonor those who receive income for no reason, as well as those earnestly at work.
2	7/23/2021	12:37 PM	Email	D. Torres	GBI/UBI	Greetings. I write to you in regards to the federal funds under the American Rescue Plan received by the State of New Mexico. I understand the City of Las Cruces has received some funding and I implore that the City utilize some of the funding under the American Rescue Plan for Guaranteed Basic Income. The cost of living (housing, food and basic necessities) have skyrocketed over the past years. New Mexicans, particularly Las Cruces residents, are struggling to make ends meet. There are not many well paid jobs in Las Cruces (without a college degree or trade school certificate) and we know that many residents are working minimum wage jobs. The minimum wage is not enough to survive. It is inhumane for people to work 2+ jobs to barely survive and support a family. As a local educator, I see firsthand what poverty does to my students. Many of my kids attend school for a meal and a safe place to be and when they experience poverty at home, my students struggle to come to school to learn and perform their duties as students. I, myself, have struggled financially in the past as a single parent. I know first hand how stressful it is to have to deal with a job that doesn't pay enough and to think about how I will pay for housing, food, day care, and my education. I cried and stressed so much about a secure future. Now, I am in a place of financial freedom (to an extent), but I often think about how hard and stressful poverty is on parents and most importantly the kids I serve on a daily basis. The City Council must consider what poverty does to the whole child and to our community. We must help our gente survive by providing them with some additional funds. Anything would help. An extra \$300-500 per month is life changing and can lift families out of poverty or at least to a place where parents or individuals can gain financial traction. It is unthinkable that any student should have to leave school or drop out to go out and get a job to help support the family. I want my students to stay in school and learn so they can be financially independent. We have all asked for help at one point or another in our lives. Just like the wealthy asking for tax breaks, I beg you to consider how the middle class, working class, and/or the poor are having to foot the bill. I beg the City of Las Cruces to please consider assisting the poor and working class with Guaranteed Basic Income. Let us help those most in need (and it certainly is not the wealthy!). I realize the city has no control over taxes (state level) but the City of Las Cruces has the responsibility to help its residents with financial funding. If we really want to make the City of Las Cruces a better place to live and raise children, then do the right thing! The city has to be bold and take action. Take the chance on this new idea. The City can not continue to make the same decisions over and over and expect different results. Please consider the Guaranteed Basic Income! Take the necessary steps to help people in need. If City Council members and the Mayor are more concerned about what their constituents might say and do and not vote for you in the future, think about this: There are more poor voters than wealthy ones and I can bet that if the city did the right thing, you would have more votes to reelect council members than to vote you out. No more catering to the wealthy. The City Council's job is to help ALL residents of Las Cruces. The working class caters to all of us on a daily basis. For once, let's do the right thing and return the favor. Vote yes and implement Guaranteed Basic Income NOW! Do the right thing!
3	7/23/2021	1:17 PM	Email	K. Aguilar	GBI/UBI	Hello, I'm writing today to express my full and enthusiastic support for directing ARPA funds to a Global Basic Income pilot. Multiple studies have shown the incredible benefits of a GBI program in reducing poverty and increasing equity. In order to move Las Cruces to be more competitive economically, we must use innovative and just models that support communities that have been excluded from conventional economic development work for far too long. As a long-time resident of Las Cruces and life-long New Mexican, I urge the City of Las Cruces to be bold in addressing the pernicious issue of poverty in our state and city by directing meaningful funing to a GBI pilot program.
4	7/23/2021	1:52 PM	Email	C. Adams PHD	GBI/UBI	I would like to submit my support for the use of ARPA funds for the Guaranteed Basic Income pilot program sponsored by my District 4 Councilor, Johanna Bencomo. There have been lots of similar programs tested in other parts of the country and world, and I think that it is a model of economic development that the city should seriously look into. If proven successful, I would also be in support of expanding the program to include more of our communities' vulnerable populations who need this kind of support the most. If you have any questions or need more clarification, please feel free to contact me.
5	7/23/2021	2:05 PM	Email	B. Graham	GBI/UBI	Good Afternoon, I am writing to express my support for the proposed guaranteed basic income (GBI) pilot study currently under consideration. I urge the City of Las Cruces to join other municipalities exploring such programs. Reading I have done on GBI and related topics indicates that such programs are among the simplest ways to alleviate poverty and increase quality of life outcomes for families. Studies also indicate that GBI initiatives do not negatively impact unemployment or workforce participation, reduce participants' need to work with predatory emergency lenders, and support a more just, equitable economy. Thank you for your consideration.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
6	7/23/2021	3:34 PM	Email	F. Adams	GBI/UBI	To Whom It May Concern: I would like to submit my support for the use of ARPA funds for the Guaranteed Basic Income pilot program sponsored by my District 4 Councilor, Johanna Bencomo. There have been lots of similar programs tested in other parts of the country and world, and I think that it is a model of economic development that the city should seriously look into. If proven successful, I would also be in support of expanding the program to include more of our communities' vulnerable populations who need this kind of support the most. If you have any questions or need more clarification, please feel free to contact me.
7	7/23/2021	4:31 PM	Email	M. Martinez-White	Transitional Housing	Please use ARPA funding for intensive, supportive transitional housing for people exiting jail and prison. The specific cohort I refer to is categorized as high-risk/high-need. In this context, High-risk does not mean dangerousness it is high risk that the individual will not be successful in traditional interventions without intensive support. Without stable, sober only housing, this cohort is highly vulnerable to reoffending. And, this cohort is highly vulnerable to the Corona Virus and for spreading it among the general population. Thanks you,
8	7/23/2021	5:33 PM	Email	K. White	GBI/UBI	Hello, my name is Kaiti and I live in District 6 and I want to express my full support of the use of ARPA funds to be used for a GBI program to support the most vulnerable families in Las Cruces. I myself was able to start a business and purchase all of my equipment due to receiving a guaranteed income for only a short period of time. I see the potential for this to do enormous good.
9	7/23/2021	5:49 PM	Email	C. Kane	Affordable Housing	Dear funders/funding deciders- Is there anything more crucial to someone’s safety and well-being than a safe. secure, affordable place to live? Please please give serious consideration to the following supportive housing proposals currently under consideration: Los Amigos Royal Crosses Soteria House Each of these projects meets a different community housing need; taken together they are ‘game changing’. The rewards for these housing projects would be enormous and have far-reaching benefits - both for those housed and the community in general. We are a caring and compassionate community. Let’s apply those qualities to housing programs that will truly change the culture.
10	7/24/2021	11:16 AM	Email	K Myers	GBI/UBI	Hello Economic Development Team! I am writing as a Las Cruces Citizen to express my support for ARPA funds to be used for a GBI pilot. I am a New Mexico State University graduate with a Master's Degree and was chosen to be a Domenici Public Policy Conference Panelist. I spent 6 months researching GBI and Universal Basic Income for the Conference. What I found is that there are states and countries that use this as a strategy to boost health and productivity in their populace. There is a wealth of research backing these initiatives and the real barrier is attitudes towards them. Holding a pilot in Las Cruces could give us the information we need to tweak the program to fit this community's unique needs as well as show that it will not make a lazy or unproductive populace, but a healthy, vibrant community that contributes their best to the whole. Thank you for considering this bold and brave proposal! Respectfully,

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
11	7/25/2021	11:54 PM	Email	State Rep A. Rubio	GBI/UBI Housing Stability Infrastructure Equity	City of Las Cruces % City Manager, Ifo Pili 700 N . Main St. Las Cruces, NM 88005 Dear Ifo, I hope you’re hanging in there during these trying and uncertain times. I write to you today to urge you and the city to consider ideas on how to better invest the \$10 million that will be issued to the city from America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) As a legislator representing the second-largest city in New Mexico, I work towards addressing systemic issues, especially when it comes to the generational poverty that exists throughout the state. We’re experiencing it here in our community, where the overall poverty is at a level of 26%, and much higher for children under the age of 18, and even so for those under the age of 5 years old. While I recognize the urgency to address issues by reacting to what is occurring in our city now, I believe that it is vital we work towards making long-term investments that will transform our community for generations to come. That is why I urge you to invest the funding into one or more of the following: •First, I support 100% the pilot program that Councilmember Johana Bencomo is championing--a basic income program. The pandemic exposed inequities that have been realities for so many of us prior to COVID19. A pilot program to test this idea could be one of many steps that we take to not only address poverty as a whole but can also provide an opportunity for many to regain the hope many in our community have lost--and create a new life. •Secondly, the city must develop a holistic strategy that links housing stability with income security, food assistance, unemployment insurance, and child care benefits, and other resources. By actively establishing this link and a strategy for the city, our community can begin to see the interconnectedness between issues that impact all of us, not just siloing our self-interests. •Finally, develop city planning that is sustainable, and must go beyond a focus on the environment and climate change, but must be inclusive and ensure that this planning no longer contributes to systemic racism. The city must deploy new tactics such as allowing the communities voices to be heard on what transportation and infrastructure equity means to our neighborhoods, the inclusion of local residents in any decision-making process, and a commitment to transparency can help ensure that climate justice is a guarantee for many of us and not just a few. We must prioritize pedestrian safety, ample supply of free and electrified public transportation, and street and road improvements for bike commuters across the city, and less on the prioritization of personal vehicle use. Las Cruces has an opportunity to provide so much for its residents, and I believe that this is an opportunity to look beyond what we’ve always done. COVID19 has devastated our communities, and I also believe that it is the reset we need to think and dream bigger. Let’s invest in the future of our community now. I am committed to being your thought partner in this and urge you to consider these ideas. Thank you for your leadership and time. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I am here to help in any way I can. Sincerely,
12	7/25/2021	12:38 PM	Email	R. Padilla	GBI/UBI	Dear City Councilors, I am excited to hear that you are considering using a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to pilot a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) program in Las Cruces. I want to offer my full-throated support for such a pilot program because I am convinced of the economic impact it will have for those in our city who are the furthest from economic opportunity and closest to economic pain. Perhaps more importantly, is the bolstering of the dignity of our neighbors, and their families, chosen to participate in the pilot program by freeing them from the stigma surrounding economic welfare programs. As a public school teacher in Las Cruces, I witness the effect economic hardship has on student engagement and, thus, learning. It is time that we heed the plethora of achievement gap studies that find students' socio-economic status is the prime factor in students' educational success. Give those families the furthest opportunity the dignified support they need. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to fund the GBI pilot program by taking advantage of the opportunity for which the ARPA monies allow. Sincerely,

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
13	7/25/2021	3:46 PM	Email	A. Orzoff PHD	GBI/UBI Transportation Infrastructure Equity	Ms. Ifo Pili, City Manager City of Las Cruces 700 N. Main St. Las Cruces, NM 88005 Dear Ms. Pili, I write to you today to offer some ideas on how to we as a city might invest the \$10 million that will be issued to the city from America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). I have taught at New Mexico State University since 1999. The vast majority of our students are from the local area, and struggle to sustain their commitment to their education. They and their families contend with systemic poverty, often going back generations. While I’m sure the city wants to use some of these ARPA funds for pressing infrastructural needs, or medical needs post-pandemic, I urge you to look toward the future and invest the monies in ways that could transform our community. First, I enthusiastically support the GBI (guaranteed basic income) pilot program proposed by Councilmember Johana Bencomo. Similar initiatives in other cities have shown multiple positive outcomes, as documented by the Stanford University Basic Income Lab (https://basicincome.stanford.edu) and a host of other research sources. I think it’s worth investing in a local pilot program, in hopes not only of ameliorating poverty’s effects on the next generation of Las Cruces but perhaps of helping our fellow citizens reshape their post-pandemic lives. It’s urgent for us to do what we can to support the most vulnerable among us. Second, I’d encourage the city to plan sustainably with regard to its infrastructure needs. El Paso Electric has been a problematic partner for Las Cruces, not least in its efforts to shift modernization costs to its customers while constantly boosting the salaries of its CEOs. Our ample sunshine, wind, and available land make it possible for us to reimagine an energy future without fossil fuels. Changing traffic patterns could help us update zoning codes to decrease parking and with it the heat sinks generated by asphalt. We can prioritize bike lanes. We can improve and electrify our public transit. And we can do all this with a dedication to transparency. Local voices need to be consulted and meaningfully integrated into policy-making. NMSU’s programs in solar power and renewable energy make us a natural ally in these efforts. Thank you for considering these ideas. If I can be of use in these or other efforts, please don’t hesitate to contact me. Sincerely,
14	7/25/2021	6:15 PM	Email	E. McDowell	GBI/UBI	Good evening, My name is Erica McDowell and I am a resident of Las Cruces in District 1 and educator in Las Cruces Public Schools. I recently heard a proposal to use ARPA funds the city will be receiving for a Guaranteed Basic Income program to support the most vulnerable families in Las Cruces. I fully support this idea because I have seen first-hand how economic insecurity directly harms the health and educational progress of many of my students. This past year has been especially difficult for families struggling economically and I believe this program is a great way for the city to step up to support its residents. I look forward to seeing how this pilot program positively impacts our community! Sincerely,
15	7/26/2021	11:48 PM	Email	A. Barela	GBI/UBI Community Schools Substance Abuse	Good morning, I am emailing to write in support of the city utilizing ARPA funding for a pilot program for guaranteed basic income. This is beneficial to our community in many ways, mainly by eliminating the waste associated with means tested programs and administrative costs, providing families with income to further lift them out of poverty, stimulating our local economy, and ensuring that all our families and residents have a basic income to rely on. Poverty greatly impacts our community, and we must avoid any actions reflective of the failed ideology of trickle-down economics. A guaranteed basic income program would put money in the hands of those who need it, without the burden and costs of other aid programs. It would also be great to see this be at least partially geared towards our city's residents who do not have citizenship papers and are excluded from other forms of aid and equitable employment opportunities. Further, I would like to propose the taxation on recreational marijuana be partially used to fund community schools. Even 1/5 of the taxation revenues could likely fund many community schools. Community schools are vital to our community, a proven equity strategy that engages all our communities in the education of our students. Community schools are proven to increase academic achievement, close the equity and learning gaps, and to foster healthier more active communities centered around the community school as being the hub of the community. We could be a model in NM and the nation of having all our schools be community schools! I would also like to see a part of these tax revenues to go towards substance abuse programming in our city. The public schools are a perfect avenue to do prevention education and services to our youth, yet there is no position within LCPS to promote and sustain such an endeavor. I would like to suggest part of the tax revenues be used to fund a substance abuse prevention and response position (make sure a LADAC) in our public schools. Moreover, that also some of that tax revenue go to fund out local AA and NA communities. Please feel free to contact me to discuss further. I would be elated to attend any meetings to further promote or explain my suggestions.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
16	7/26/2021	12:59 PM	Email	L Bennett	GBI/UBI	To Whom it May Concern, I am writing in support of using American Rescue Plan funds in the form of General Basic Income for our most vulnerable communities in Las Cruces. All of us depend everyday on essential workers who are keeping our community going during a public health crisis while making poverty wages and having to choose between their health and their income. Even those we consider professionals such as teachers and business owners often struggle to make ends meet due stagnant wages and increasing costs of necessitates such as health care. Not only is minimum wage not enough to live a quality life, but no one should have to lose their livelihood when choosing to stay home from due to illness. Studies have found that general basic income: •Reduces poverty and improves mental health - oScott Santens, "Universal Basic Income as the Social Vaccine of the 21st Century," medium.com, Feb. 5, 2015 - oMatthew Smith, “Universal Basic Income Could Improve the Nation’s Mental Health,” theconversation.com, Apr. 27, 2020 •Does not disincentive working - o https://www.newscientist.com/article/2193136-universal-income-study-finds-money-for-nothing-wont-make-us-work-less/ •Leads to positive job growth and lower school drop out - oLuke Kingma, "Universal Basic Income: The Answer to Automation?," futurism.com (accessed July 6, 2017) - oEvelyn L. Forget, "The Town with No Poverty," public.econ.duke.edu, Feb. 2011 •Provides wages to traditionally unpaid work of parents and caregivers reducing gender income inequality - oGuy Standing, “Gender Inequality in Times of COVID-19 — Give Women Cash,” en.unesco.org, Apr. 17, 2020 Providing cash directly to individuals empowers them to meet their own immediate needs which often results in those payments being recirculated into the economy. Our federal government failed to protect entire sectors of our society who lost their jobs or risked their health during the pandemic. Meanwhile the rich have taken advantage of the crisis and have gotten richer. The ARPA funds present an opportunity to right that wrong and reinvest in the men and women who keep our society moving – without proper protection or compensation.
17	7/26/2021	2:55 PM	Email	D. Hommer	GBI/UBI Food Security Housing (Desert Hope)	Good afternoon, This email is in support of using ARPA funds for 3 projects in the City of Las Cruces. The first is funding for a Guaranteed Income (GI) Demonstration project as proposed by Councilor Bencomo. There is a great need for innovative anti-poverty programs in the City of Las Cruces. The city’s poverty rates are unacceptably high (24.5%) and in some areas of Las Cruces the poverty rate can be as high as 36%. GI or cash transfers are proven ways to reduce poverty. Examples of cash transfer programs include the stimulus checks, the new advanced Child Tax Credit, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Data has shown that low income households routinely used their stimulus payments to cover basic household expenses including food, transportation, and housing. Data from city led GI projects across the country are seeing significant family wellness outcomes including increased education attainment for parents and children, reducing stress and uncertainty in families that allow them to seek other employment opportunities, and reduced food insecurities. Another significant outcome is the local economic impact for these types of payments. Most families will spend the money rapidly and locally. I am attaching more information about GI. Additionally, I fully support the completion of the Casa de Peregrinos’ food bank project and any resources needed for the Community of Hope’s Desert Hope housing project. All these projects have great potential to provide basic support to the most vulnerable in our city.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
18	7/26/2021	8:00 PM	Email	T. Valenzuela	GBI/UBI	To Whom It May Concern, My name is Teresa C. Valenzuela. I am a resident of District 4 in Las Cruces, NM. As I will not be able to attend the public meetings I did want to have the opportunity to share my perspective on the possible uses of the ARPA funds our city will be receiving. As a native Las Crucen and retired bilingual teacher of our local school district, I have experienced and seen the financial struggles families have in providing the basic necessities for their family members. It is time to not only think outside of the “box”, but to actually get rid of the box altogether. The GBI program may be the answer. While I understand using ARPA funds for the GBI program is an “experimental” project, programs that have been implemented in the past have not been highly successful in providing low income individuals and families to change the trajectory of their social economic status. It is time to look at creative and nontraditional ways of impacting the lives of our community members. Their success in education, employment and health is a success for all Las Cruces residents. Because of that, as a taxpayer, I support the Guaranteed Basic Income being funded through the ARPA funds Las Cruces receives. Thank you for your time and consideration of my recommendation. Sincerely yours,
19	7/27/2021	1:08 AM	Email	P. Enriquez-Courts	GBI/UBI	To whom it may concern: My name is Pamela Enriquez-Courts and I am a working artist living in Las Cruces, New Mexico. I would like it to be known that I fully endorse and support the use of ARPA funds to be used for a guaranteed Basic Income pilot program, and please allow me to tell you why I support this cause. In 1978 I was able to work a full-time job as a CNA. With an hourly wage of \$6.25 an hour I was able to support myself by paying for my rent, bills, groceries, gas and was also able to pay for my own doctor visits, medications and was able to pay my tuition and book costs to attend Community College. In these times all of that is completely impossible on a minimum wage paying job. People are working longer hours than ever. People are doing more tasks in their everyday jobs and/or their full-time jobs as stay-at-home Moms. People cannot afford health insurance and even those who can are forced to pay extra fees for the services that are not covered by most basic health insurance companies. Gas prices are once again on the rise. The rate of inflation and the cost of living has done nothing but go up, up, and further up while minimum wage seems stunted. There has been some small efforts made at raising the minimum wage but in my opinion, it is not nearly enough and too little too late. People are losing their homes. The homeless population is exploding everywhere in this country. And we are trying to recover from the drastic and ongoing effects of a worldwide pandemic. I do not believe that people want a hand-out. But what they DO need is a HAND UP. People need help to keep them going and to help push them onward and UPWARD. Most people do not want to stay home and collect a check. Most people want to work and earn their living but how is that even possible in these times when the minimum wage cannot sustain a single person much less a family? New Mexico is a beautiful state of extreme wealth and extreme poverty. And much disparity. Our people need help and especially those here in the Southern borderlands of Las Cruces where we have many farmworkers and laborers. I believe that if a program were implemented that would help guarantee a basic income for those who need it most that we will see a rise in employment, community involvement, and HOPE. And this is why I STRONGLY support that ARPA funds be used for a guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program. Thank you for your time.
20	7/27/2021	11:58 PM	Email	J. Donohue	Child Poverty	The funds should be used toward curing Childhood Poverty in Las Cruces. Las Cruces has next to the highest rate of childhood poverty in the United States except for one town in Texas. That has to be fixed. It is sad to live in a city where we don’t take care of our kids! Las Cruces needs to take care of its children before we try to take care of anything else. Thank you. Hello--
21	7/27/2021	2:44 PM	Email	J Thompson	GBI/UBI Food Security (Casa De Peregrinos)	I am writing to express my support for the proposal of Councilor Johana Bencomo to use some ARPA funding to provide a \$500 a month stipend to select low-income families as a pilot Universal Basic Income program. Other pilot programs of this sort have shown that receiving these grants does not make people not want to work. It makes them ABLE to work because they can stay healthier and make auto repairs as needed. It results in happier, enriched families and more tax income for the community. Most families being served by the Casa de Peregrinos food pantry where I have volunteered as an interviewer have become near homeless because they had a vehicle break down or they had a health emergency that resulted in unemployment. To have an extra \$500 a month makes it possible to see a doctor before they need the ER and serious and expensive care. It allows them to give their kids some enrichment activities. It allows them to have enough to meet the unexpected repairs to vehicles, water heaters, or furnaces. In fact, it would allow a family to purchase a vehicle in the first place or rent a place so they don’t have to share a home with others. Or maybe they want to improve their situation through a school or training enrollment and can now afford the tuition. THIS HELPS ALL OF US. Thank you for hearing my concerns.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
22	7/27/2021	5:28 PM	Email	M. Adames PHD	Affordable housing Food insecurity Income support Child/Infant Services	Good afternoon Ms. Green, I would like to provide public input regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. As the CEO of a local nonprofit, I fully support ARPA funding being utilized to create long term sustainability of our programs. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our operations, services and programming. I would like to advocate for affordable housing; food insecurity; income support; and funding to be designated for projects that impact infant mental health and behavioral health services. Projects like, Jardin de los Niños' Infant Mental Health Program address trauma from a preventative/holistic approach; the Desert Hope Project addresses affordable housing; Casa de Peregrinos' expansion supports food insecurity; and the Guaranteed Income project addresses poverty and has positive effects on families who are recipients of the funding, but also on the economy and community at large.
23	7/27/2021	6:42 PM	Email	E VanWie	GBI/UBI	I support the Guaranteed Income Project being considered by the City of Las Cruces. These projects have been successful in reducing poverty in other communities.
24	7/28/2021	9:35 AM	Email	C. Lopez	GBI/UBI	Hello! My name is Carissa Owen, and I live in District 4 and fully support the use of ARPA funds to be used for a GBI program to support the most vulnerable families in Las Cruces. I believe if we can support and get families out of survival mode, our whole community will benefit. Thank you so much,
25	7/28/2021	10:24 AM	Email	K. Brooks	GBI/UBI	Economic Development Department Housing and Neighborhood Services Program To Whom It May Concern: I am writing in support of the proposal to use \$2 million in ARPA funding allocated to the City of Las Cruces for a pilot project to provide a guaranteed income to selected families. For decades, the idea of providing a guaranteed income has drawn support from a wide variety of policy-makers across the political spectrum. It is my understanding that Families & Youth, Inc. has partnered with Jardin de Los Niños and the Community Action Agency of SNM to receive a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to study the impact of such a program and that \$128,000 has been raised for direct payments to families. The ARPA funds would provide an opportunity for the City of Las Cruces to experiment with such a program and to join other communities such as Stockton, CA and Jackson, MS in gathering data that could help the federal government determine the merits of such an approach to poverty. A pilot project in itself is not sustainable but is an important step in the right direction. Thanks to you and to the City Council for all the work that has been done during the pandemic to address the needs of the community.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
26	7/28/2021	12:14 PM	Email	N. Martinez	Housing Landlord Reparation Fund GBI/UBI	To Whom It May Concern: We are excited for the recovery opportunities for our community as they relate to several areas, but our comment is focused on: Potential priorities include but are not limited to: •Programs or services that facilitate access to health and social services. •Programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness. I am writing to urge City staff tasked with funding projects to consider housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness in Las Cruces. There is an opportunity to use funds in a creative way—one such way would be to support housing opportunities at Desert Hope Apartments (DHA). DHA is a Permanent Supportive Housing Project that underwent construction during the COVID-19 pandemic and upon its opening in August, will house 40 chronically homeless people in Las Cruces. This project is a collaborative effort between the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, and the City of Las Cruces. Chronically homeless clients are much more successful in remaining housed when there is a service provider onsite. Desert Hope Apartments has a real opportunity to end homelessness for 40 people, but the challenge will be to keep them there; ARPA funds could help do this by facilitating access to social services. Another idea for ARPA funds would be to establish a landlord reparation fund for clients who are formerly homeless and that are on a voucher system for rental assistance. This is a project that will soon be piloted in Albuquerque by the NM MFA with the understanding that landlord rapport is key in ending homelessness for people and in keeping them housed. Typically, security deposits do not always cover damages, and this type of fund could leverage support for landlords willing to house clients who have severe mental illness and need supportive services. We are also supportive of the Universal Basic Income proposal. Thank you,
27	7/28/2021	12:39 PM	Email	M. Hohnstreiter	GBI/UBI Food Security (Casa De Peregrinos)	As a citizen of the City of Las Cruces, I am writing to convey my strong support for a Guaranteed Income project to study the potential to alleviate poverty in our City. I am also strongly in favor of enhanced facilities for food distribution at Casa de Peregrinos. Sincerely,
28	7/28/2021	1:32 PM	Email	A. Galves	Health Affordable Housing	Dear City of Las Cruces Economic Development Department: I am writing to encourage the City to use some of its \$10.9 In American Rescue Plan Act funds to provide a jump start to the Los Amigos Supportive Transitional Housing project. That project addresses two of the City's priorities: Providing access to health and social services and Providing affordable housing to people. The Community Service Corps (CSC), sponsor of Los Amigos, has submitted a proposal to the City for approximately \$2.5 million to purchase the property at 2939 and 2941 Los Amigos Court in Las Cruces and renovate it. CSC plans to provide 32 units of supportive transitional housing to persons who have been involved with the criminal justice system and have not benefitted from the services that have been provided to them and to persons being released from jail and prison, people coming off of homelessness and people returning from mental hospital stays. The project is designed to help high risk-high need people. The plan is to provide more intensive and comprehensive services to residents through the use of coaches who help people connect to jobs, volunteer opportunities, education, recreation, support groups, therapy and other similar activities that help the move towards healthy lives. I want the City to give \$2.5 million of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to CSC for the purpose of purchasing and renovating the property at 2939 and 2941 Los Amigos Court.
29	7/28/2021	2:30 PM	In Person	S. Russel R. Lemons	Poverty Prevention Early Childhood	Recommendation for Allocation of Funds from American Rescue Plan Act We recommend the City of Las Cruces carefully consider the use of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act be utilized to the degree possible in programs that will prevent poverty from occurring. We specifically recommend investment in early childhood development program expansion. In studies recently published through the National Institutes of Health, benefits of expanding early childhood development programs resulted in significantly improved academic performance and in decrease in juvenile arrest rates. It is our belief that many of our children age zero to five are not currently participating in high-quality programs that will give them the same chance of success in life. We firmly support the efforts of the Resilience Leaders organization and the approach they are taking at striking at the causes of issues as opposed to focusing on the symptoms. In that vein, it is our belief that the cycle of poverty can be impacted for the better through early childhood development. Respectfully submitted, (ATTACHMENTS)

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
30	7/28/2021	5:17 PM	Email	C. Elder	Affordable Housing (Los Amigos)	Dear City Councilors, I urge you to prioritize the funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to alleviate the housing shortage in Las Cruces. Specifically, I am writing to endorse the Los Amigos project which helps individuals re-enter from jail and prison. This population is one of the most vulnerable because if they don't have a place to live that provides intensive support, they will likely continue the revolving door cycle of justice involvement. Without stable housing, this population is also vulnerable both to getting and spreading COVID. Please help to alleviate criminality as well as the spread of the virus by supporting the Los Amigos project. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,
31	7/28/2021	6:32 PM	Email	P Dulin	Affordable Housing (Los Amigos)	Dear Mr. Mayor and City Councilors, I am writing you to urge that the resources provided under the American Rescue Plan Act be used to provide additional subsidized and affordable housing in the City. Specifically, an important part of the funds under the Act should be used to provide transitional housing for those that are released from jails and prisons and thus contribute to reducing the rates of recidivism, treating this cohort with needed services, medications and care, as well as lower the costs of providing for the security of the public (e.g., police, emergency response, and incidents related to mental and behavioral health needs). The Los Amigos Project provides an important first step and base for assisting individuals to reenter society from jail and prison. This population is one of the most vulnerable and least stable as they do not have a place to live (thus the recidivism and the number of homeless in our community). Without stable housing, this population is also vulnerable both to getting and spreading the Coronavirus, becoming both a conduit for, and a burden with, the disease. This is an area that has enjoyed only very limited funding and has put an inordinate weight on the police and emergency response personnel. Please help to alleviate criminality and the security and economic costs for dealing with this population and support the Los Amigos Project. Thank you!
32	7/28/2021	6:38 PM	Email	C. Barr	GBI/UBI Affordable Housing (Los Amigos)	I support two specific projects, one is the guaranteed income project proposed by Councilperson, Johanna Bencomo and the second is a proposal to provide housing for persons reentering society from jail, the Los Amigos project. We have a shortage of housing for lower income folks and no programs that offer support to help folks transition back into society. Statistically both of these programs have shown success in other communities in the US. I support both programs because they would offer support to populations who are struggling in our community. Sincerely,
33	7/29/2021	9:38 AM	Email	R. Measure	GBI/UBI	Family Prosperity Guaranteed Income Pilot Project gives Las Cruces an opportunity to again lead in our commitment to our poorest neighbors. Our generous and inclusive community is the perfect place to stage our own experiment in promoting equity and opportunity for all.
34	7/29/2021	10:45 AM	Email	L. Taylor	Affordable Housing (Los Amigos)	Dear City Councilors, Please prioritize the funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to alleviate the housing shortage in Las Cruces. Specifically, I am writing to endorse the Los Amigos project which helps individuals reenter from jail and prison. This population is one of the most vulnerable in that if they don't have a place to live that provides intensive support they will likely continue the revolving door cycle of justice involvement. Without stable housing, this population is also vulnerable both to getting and spreading the Coronavirus. Please help to alleviate criminality as well as the spread of the virus by supporting the Los Amigos project. Regards

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
35	7/29/2021	11:08 AM	Email	R. Crecelius	Affordable Housing (Los Amigos)	Dear City Councilors, Having served nearly my entire career developing alternatives to incarceration I can without reservation testify to the necessity of stable housing and support for our at risk populations. The provision of same without fail is a win win for both at risk individuals and the community in which they reside, as such: Please prioritize the funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to alleviate the housing shortage in Las Cruces. Specifically, I am writing to endorse the Los Amigos Project which helps individuals reenter from jail and prison. Said population is one of the most vulnerable in that if they don't have a place to live that provides intensive support they will likely continue the revolving door cycles of both the justice and mental health systems. Your support of the Los Amigos project would be much appreciated.
36	7/29/2021	4:40 PM	Email	V. Quevedo	GBI/UBI	Economic Development Dept Director & LC City Staff, I'm excited to support a pilot Guaranteed Basic Income project, and think that the American Rescue Plan Act relief funding is an ideal way to support the project. GBIs have been working across the country since before the pandemic, and I'm grateful for the chance to implement it here in Las Cruces. I grew up in a family that was food insecure. Food scarcity and hunger followed me into adulthood, and I'm grateful for the quick fixes like SNAP. Being a SNAP participant meant that I didn't go hungry -- but it didn't get me out of poverty. It wasn't until I found a full-time, living-wage job that I was able to pay all my bills and keep a roof over my head. GBI enables folks to make ends meet until they find that job. No one should have to go through these scary, stressful, painful cycles. I'm in full support of Las Cruces spending money to take some of the burden off the shoulders of families in our community. Things were tough here before the pandemic -- but poverty and hunger have now increased even more. A recent Voices for Children report shows that food security in Doña Ana County went from 1 in 3 to 1 in 4 children. I'm sure you agree that this is inexcusable. I hope everyone at EDD and the City of Las Cruces is ready to get this GBI pilot off the ground and get that federal ARPA relief money into the hands of the people who need it the most, no strings attached. After the two years of ARPA money has been spent, I encourage the city to put GBI as a recurring line item in our budget. Our taxes should go to positive programs with high impact, like GBI. If this city is serious about reducing crime, our government should fund poverty alleviation, mental health, and other community-building programs. Safety means investing in community well-being and self-determination. GBI does just that. Thank you for the work you do every day in service of our community. Sincerely,
37	7/29/2021	5:05 PM	Email	L. Alba	Food Insecurity Infrastructure Income Support Affordable Housing Child Poverty	I am in support of funding addressing: Food Insecurity Infrastructure, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty. I firmly believe that transparency is key to this process and projects that involve proven NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations should take priority. Partnerships and collaborative efforts are also important in addressing these social economic issues. Community impact is what should be strived for in this process.
38	7/29/2021	5:58 PM	Email	H. Quiroz	Food Insecurity Infrastructure Income Support Affordable Housing Child Poverty	I am in support of funding addressing: Food Insecurity Infrastructure and Support, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty. I firmly believe that transparency is key to this process and projects that involve proven NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations should take priority. Partnerships and collaborative efforts are also important in addressing these social economic issues. Community impact is what should be strived for in this process. -- Thank you,

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
39	7/30/2021	2:41 AM	Email	P. Hartman	Additional Input Evidence based Data-Based decision making Additional Plans	I attended the public input meeting today, and was extremely disappointed by the lack of specific data-based presentations showing exactly where the needs are. The city should have been gathering information from every sector that has been affected by covid, and at least have people from those areas present us us with fact-based information about their industry. I expect to hear from business leaders, healthcare professionals, residents who were truly impacted by covid, schools, mental health and substance use treatment professionals, social service providers and agencies, Community of Hope, homeless shelters, domestic violence agencies and shelters, etc. What i expect from each of these groups was a clear understanding of how qnd who has been affected ALONG with their perspectives on the solutions needed to address the damaging effects of the pandemic on their industries in terms of the specific groups of people who were disproportionately affected and in what way. I expected details of the types of actual plans that would help people in a measurable way. This is A LOT of money we are talking about. Las Cruces is already a poor town, and people were seriously affected, and you invite me to give input on what i dont know the facts about. Shqme on you. It essentially tells me youre not really interested in my input, and i suspect this is just a formality to receive the funds. What ive seen in Las Cruces is reckless spending on pet projects without solid plans, and NO accountability to show the public you can be trusted with the citys funds. Generally, ive seen failed systems be propped up without any specific thought through plans that tell us what benefits will come from it for THE PEOPLE, not those in power whose interests are truly ignored here. The process itself is being rushed in qn irresponsible way. Just because people are hurting now does not justisfy reckless spending on the usual nonprofits who have failed to produce any meaningful improvement here to date. I absolutely oppose handouts to the same people for business as usual. This moey is intended to help people RECOVER from the effects of a worldwide Pandemic. I expect to see detailed plans and proposals, and then see REAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH to the public who have a right to be part of ensuring this money is well spent. I have not seen this so far, and the quick timeline here almost guarantees the public interest will not be well served. Its time to show some respect to the people in this community, and allow us to know EXACTLY where this money will be spent, and a public presentation of progress with measurable outcomes that allow us, the people to see the evidence of success before you simply tell us to trust you. You do not have a good track record, and this process is evidence that the city continues to be uneducated on how to spend money. Show me evidence of some well thought out plans, and only then can i support the city. The public has a right to expect results from solutions that justify the money spent on pandemic related damage.
40	7/30/2021	7:41 AM	Email	A. Fuentes	Food Insecurity Infrastructure Income Support Affordable Housing Child Poverty	Dear ED Department: As a Las Cruces resident, I am in support of funding addressing: Food Insecurity Infrastructure and Support, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty. I firmly believe that transparency is key to this process and projects that involve proven NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations should take priority. Partnerships and collaborative efforts are also important in addressing these social economic issues. Community impact is what should be strived for in this process. Sincerely,
41	7/30/2021	8:53 AM	Email	N. Ryan	Food Insecurity Infrastructure Income Support Affordable Housing Child Poverty	Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on the City of Las Cruces Economic Development Department proposed use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury. I am in support of funding addressing: Food Insecurity Infrastructure and Support, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty. As noted in the Interim Final Rule for the potential uses for ARPA, "A severe recession—and its concentrated impact among low-income workers—has amplified food and housing insecurity, with an estimated nearly 17 million adults living in households where there is sometimes or often not enough food to eat and an estimated 10.7 million adults living in households that were not current on rent" ARPA funds granted to the City of Las Cruces presents an execllent opportunity to begin to address this disparity. Sincerely,

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
42	7/30/2021	9:11 AM	Email	S. Jamilla	Food Insecurity Infrastructure Income Support Affordable Housing Child Poverty	Good morning, I understand that the City is requesting input on funding priorities for the use of ARPA funding. I reviewed the list of potential priorities presented on the website and the first item caught my attention, “Programs or services that facilitate access to health and social services.” As a board member and vice-chair of Casa de Peregrinos, I am an advocate for addressing food insecurity in the Las Cruces area and hence the first item resonated with me. I am in support of funding addressing Food Insecurity Infrastructure and Support, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty. Transparency is key to this process and projects that involve proven NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations that have proven themselves effective in addressing social challenges, should take priority. Thank you for your time.
43	7/30/2021	9:34 AM	Email	E. Walkinshaw	Food Insecurity Infrastructure Rental Assistance	I am a volunteer and board member of Casa de Peregrinos (CdP) the food pantry serving Dona Ana County. I am in support of using ARPA funding to support NGOs such as CdP as well as other NGOs providing housing for the underserved in our community such as the Tents to Rent program providing low cost housing for the homeless. Sincerely,
44	7/30/2021	10:31 AM	Email	Y. Silva	Food Insecurity Infrastructure Income Support Affordable Housing Child Poverty	"I am in support of funding addressing: Food Insecurity Infrastructure and Support, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty. I firmly believe that transparency is key to this process and projects that involve proven NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations should take priority. Thank you for your investment in this important development in our Community!
45	7/30/2021	11:50 AM	Email	D. Hommer	Letter of Support for UBI/GBI	Attached is a letter of support from nonprofits and organizations who serve the residents of Las Cruces in support of a guaranteed basic income demonstration project.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS						
No.	Date	Time	Type	Name/Email	TLDR Summary	Comment
46	7/30/2021	12:02 PM	Email	K. Bachman	Extend Timeline Additional Input /facilitation Cohort Projects like Housing Rehab Cottage Industry Community kitchen co-housing	Thank you for holding a comment period related to the City’s ARPA funding. I attended the second public input session last night, and would like to elaborate in writing on three topics here: the timeline, the process by which funding decisions are made, and funding priorities. These points relate primarily to the portion of funds the City plans to allocate to nonprofits, but many are also relevant to the ARPA funding the City will spend on its own projects.
						Timeline:
						I appreciate that the City recognizes that many in our community have been overwhelmingly impacted by the pandemic and therefore desires to spend ARPA funds in an expedient manner. I agree that the City should not dawdle.
						If I understood correctly last night, the City must obligate its ARPA funds by 12/31/2024 and funds must be expended by 12/31/2026. This time frame gives the City an opportunity to be more deliberate than the City’s hurried timeline that was presented last night.
						Recommendations: 1. Allocate one additional month to develop the RFP guide and application; 2. Extend by two additional months the deadline to submit proposals.
						Rationale: The City’s ARPA process to date has been rushed and not fully transparent. It was clear at the first work session (June 14, 2021) that funding recommendations from staff had been requested with little lead time and that they were not based on agreed upon priorities or with the input of Council. To my knowledge, staff’s recommendations were not accompanied by a rationale for recommending the projects they did, nor by a list of other projects that had been considered. This left Council to haggle over dollar amounts without first engaging in substantive discussions about what types of internal projects should even be prioritized for ARPA funding.
						Continuing this breakneck pace will have similarly suboptimal consequences for the portion of ARPA funds that the City plans to distribute to nonprofits. The pace will tax staff, frustrate councilors, and keep community members from participating fully.
						Process by which funding decisions are made:
						It is not enough to gather input on what projects should be funded, nor is it optimal to gather individuals’ opinions in isolation from each other. The current 10-day public input period might check the box of community engagement, but it will be unlikely to yield innovative, cross-sector, multi-partner proposals that have the power to move the needle on systemic inequities.
						Slowing the timeline can enable our community to take advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to gain practice in engaging in collaborative and participatory processes between community members, nonprofits, and the City.
47	7/30/2021	1:21 PM	Email	A. Echavarria	Educational Disparities Healthy Childhood Environments Equity	Hello,
						Please see attached letter for public funding regarding the ARPA funding. Thank you!
						Sincerely,
48	7/30/2021	4:53 PM	Email	R. Lozano	GBI/UBI	Good Afternoon, I am writing to express my support for the proposal to pilot a guaranteed basic income program. As a longtime resident of Las Cruces I have seen first-hand the negative impact poverty has in our community. The time is now for our city officials to try innovative ways to give our most marginalized members in our community the means to improve their living conditions. I believe the proposal would give our local community sufficient data to later determine whether this program should be sustained and expanded. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Respectfully,
49	7/30/2021	9:08 PM	Email	M. Lauturner	GBI/UBI	I full support a basic income program for the city of Las Cruces. I would hope that the city would see its benefit as well as many of the city's citizens do.
50	7/30/2021	10:33 PM	Email	L. Meeks	Affordable Housing Mental Health Minimum Wage Vocation Training	These funds should be use to create support structures that will be useful now and well into the future. Priorities should include spending for 1) affordable housing now (stop waiting to "see how it's going"); 2) increase mental health services; 3) subsidize an increase in minimum wage for small businesses over a period of time 4) offer grants to high school graduates for vocational training.
						Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Natalie Green

From: rick@verde-environmental.com
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 5:10 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Comments to American Rescue Plan, No to universal guaranteed income

Thank you for allowing me to comment:

My one comment is that I am against these funds used for “universal guaranteed income”, meaning being compensated for not working.

This is a moral line which must not be crossed in this community, no person should receive income while another is working.

There is dignity in work, and you dishonor those who receive income for no reason, as well as those earnestly at work.

Rick Reynaud
Las Cruces Resident, taxpayer

Natalie Green

From: Delia Torres <deliatorres7@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 12:37 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Guaranteed Basic Income

Greetings.

I write to you in regards to the federal funds under the American Rescue Plan received by the State of New Mexico.

I understand the City of Las Cruces has received some funding and I implore that the City utilize some of the funding under the American Rescue Plan for Guaranteed Basic Income.

The cost of living (housing, food and basic necessities) have skyrocketed over the past years. New Mexicans, particularly Las Cruces residents, are struggling to make ends meet. There are not many well paid jobs in Las Cruces (without a college degree or trade school certificate) and we know that many residents are working minimum wage jobs. The minimum wage is not enough to survive. It is inhumane for people to work 2+ jobs to barely survive and support a family.

As a local educator, I see firsthand what poverty does to my students. Many of my kids attend school for a meal and a safe place to be and when they experience poverty at home, my students struggle to come to school to learn and perform their duties as students.

I, myself, have struggled financially in the past as a single parent. I know first hand how stressful it is to have to deal with a job that doesn't pay enough and to think about how I will pay for housing, food, day care, and my education. I cried and stressed so much about a secure future. Now, I am in a place of financial freedom (to an extent), but I often think about how hard and stressful poverty is on parents and most importantly the kids I serve on a daily basis.

The City Council must consider what poverty does to the whole child and to our community. We must help our gente survive by providing them with some additional funds. Anything would help. An extra \$300-500 per month is life changing and can lift families out of poverty or at least to a place where parents or individuals can gain financial traction. It is unthinkable that any student should have to leave school or drop out to go out and get a job to help support the family. I want my students to stay in school and learn so they can be financially independent.

We have all asked for help at one point or another in our lives. Just like the wealthy asking for tax breaks, I beg you to consider how the middle class, working class, and/or the poor are having to foot the bill. I beg the City of Las Cruces to please consider assisting the poor and working class with Guaranteed Basic Income. Let us help those most in need (and it certainly is not the wealthy!). I realize the city has no control over taxes (state level) but the City of Las Cruces has the responsibility to help its residents with financial funding.

If we really want to make the City of Las Cruces a better place to live and raise children, then do the right thing! The city has to be bold and take action. Take the chance on this new idea. The City can not continue to make the same decisions over and over and expect different results.

Please consider the Guaranteed Basic Income! Take the necessary steps to help people in need.

If City Council members and the Mayor are more concerned about what their constituents might say and do and not vote for you in the future, think about this: There are more poor voters than wealthy ones and I can bet that if the city did the right thing, you would have more votes to reelect council members than to vote you out.

Agenda Item #3.2.

No more catering to the wealthy. The City Council's job is to help ALL residents of Las Cruces. The working class caters to all of us on a daily basis. For once, let's do the right thing and return the favor.

Vote yes and implement Guaranteed Basic Income NOW!

Do the right thing!

Sincerely,

Delia Eloisa Torres

Mom, educator and a lifelong resident of Las Cruces

Natalie Green

From: Krysten Aguilar <krystenaguilar@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Support for ARPA funds for GBI pilot

Hello,

I'm writing today to express my full and enthusiastic support for directing ARPA funds to a Global Basic Income pilot. Multiple studies have shown the incredible benefits of a GBI program in reducing poverty and increasing equity. In order to move Las Cruces to be more competitive economically, we must use innovative and just models that support communities that have been excluded from conventional economic development work for far too long.

As a long-time resident of Las Cruces and life-long New Mexican, I urge the City of Las Cruces to be bold in addressing the pernicious issue of poverty in our state and city by directing meaningful funding to a GBI pilot program.

Sincerely,
Krysten Aguilar
88011

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Natalie Green

From: Christopher Adams <chrisadams72@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Economic Development
Cc: Johana Bencomo
Subject: Guaranteed Basic Income

I would like to submit my support for the use of ARPA funds for the Guaranteed Basic Income pilot program sponsored by my District 4 Councilor, Johanna Bencomo.

There have been lots of similar programs tested in other parts of the country and world, and I think that it is a model of economic development that the city should seriously look into. If proven successful, I would also be in support of expanding the program to include more of our communities' vulnerable populations who need this kind of support the most.

If you have any questions or need more clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Christopher M. Adams, PhD
District 4 Constituent
Las Cruces, NM

Natalie Green

From: Becki Graham <graham.becki@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 2:05 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Global Basic Income Pilot

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed guaranteed basic income (GBI) pilot study currently under consideration. I urge the City of Las Cruces to join other municipalities exploring such programs.

Reading I have done on GBI and related topics indicates that such programs are among the simplest ways to alleviate poverty and increase quality of life outcomes for families. Studies also indicate that GBI initiatives do not negatively impact unemployment or workforce participation, reduce participants' need to work with predatory emergency lenders, and support a more just, equitable economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Becki Graham
1115 Kansas Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Natalie Green

From: ronandfreida adams <ronandfreida@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 3:34 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Fwd: Guaranteed Basic Income

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to submit my support for the use of ARPA funds for the Guaranteed Basic Income pilot program sponsored by my District 4 Councilor, Johanna Bencomo.

There have been lots of similar programs tested in other parts of the country and world, and I think that it is a model of economic development that the city should seriously look into. If proven successful, I would also be in support of expanding the program to include more of our communities' vulnerable populations who need this kind of support the most.

If you have any questions or need more clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Freida Adams
District 4 Constituent
Las Cruces, NM

--
chris

Natalie Green

From: Mary White <mwhite9409@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 4:31 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA Funding Comments

Please use ARPA funding for intensive, supportive transitional housing for people exiting jail and prison. The specific cohort I refer to is categorized as high-risk/high-need. In this context, High-risk does not mean dangerousness it is high risk that the individual will not be successful in traditional interventions without intensive support. Without stable, sober only housing, this cohort is highly vulnerable to reoffending. And, this cohort is highly vulnerable to the Corona Virus and for spreading it among the general population.

Thanks you,

Mary Martinez White
Community Service Corps

Natalie Green

From: Kaiti White <kwhite9002@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 5:33 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA for GBI

Hello, my name is Kaiti and I live in District 6 and I want to express my full support of the use of ARPA funds to be used for a GBI program to support the most vulnerable families in Las Cruces. I myself was able to start a business and purchase all of my equipment due to receiving a guaranteed income for only a short period of time. I see the potential for this to do enormous good.

Natalie Green

From: Carol Kane <ck32188@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 5:49 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Request for ARPA funding

Dear funders/funding deciders-

Is there anything more crucial to someone's safety and well-being than a safe, secure, affordable place to live? Please please give serious consideration to the following supportive housing proposals currently under consideration:

Los Amigos

Royal Crosses

Soteria House

Each of these projects meets a different community housing need; taken together they are 'game changing'.

The rewards for these housing projects would be enormous and have far-reaching benefits - both for those housed and the community in general.

We are a caring and compassionate community. Let's apply those qualities to housing programs that will truly change the culture.

Carol Kane, Chair
Supportive Housing Action Team
Local Collaborative 3

Sent from my iPhone

Agenda Item #3.2.

Natalie Green

From: Kayla Myers <autumnkay90@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: GBI Pilot

Hello Economic Development Team!

I am writing as a Las Cruces Citizen to express my support for ARPA funds to be used for a GBI pilot. I am a New Mexico State University graduate with a Master's Degree and was chosen to be a Domenici Public Policy Conference Panelist. I spent 6 months researching GBI and Universal Basic Income for the Conference. What I found is that there are states and countries that use this as a strategy to boost health and productivity in their populace.

There is a wealth of research backing these initiatives and the real barrier is attitudes towards them. Holding a pilot in Las Cruces could give us the information we need to tweak the program to fit this community's unique needs as well as show that it will not make a lazy or unproductive populace, but a healthy, vibrant community that contributes their best to the whole.

Thank you for considering this bold and brave proposal!

Respectfully,

Kayla

--

Kayla Myers, M.A.
(she, her)
Se habla español
970-779-1601
autumnkay90@gmail.com

Natalie Green

From: Angelica Rubio <angelica@rubionm35.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 11:54 AM
To: Economic Development
Cc: Ifo Pili
Subject: ARPA Funds -- Support letter
Attachments: ARPA -- City of Las Cruces (2).pdf

July 25, 2021

City of Las Cruces
% City Manager, Ifo Pili
700 N. Main St.
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Dear Ifo,

I hope you're hanging in there during these trying and uncertain times. I write to you today to urge you and the city to consider ideas on how to better invest the \$10 million that will be issued to the city from America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

As a legislator representing the second-largest city in New Mexico, I work towards addressing systemic issues, especially when it comes to the generational poverty that exists throughout the state. We're experiencing it here in our community, where the overall poverty is at a level of 26%, and much higher for children under the age of 18, and even so for those under the age of 5 years old. While I recognize the urgency to address issues by reacting to what is occurring in our city now, I believe that it is vital we work towards making long-term investments that will transform our community for generations to come. That is why I urge you to invest the funding into one or more of the following:

- First, I support 100% the pilot program that Councilmember Johana Bencomo is championing--a basic income program. The pandemic exposed inequities that have been realities for so many of us prior to COVID19. A pilot program to test this idea could be one of many steps that we take to not only address poverty as a whole but can also provide an opportunity for many to regain the hope many in our community have lost--and create a new life.
- Secondly, the city must develop a holistic strategy that links housing stability with income security, food assistance, unemployment insurance, and child care benefits, and other resources. By actively establishing this link and a strategy for the city, our community can begin to see the interconnectedness between issues that impact all of us, not just siloing our self-interests.
- Finally, develop city planning that is sustainable, and must go beyond a focus on the environment and climate change, but must be inclusive and ensure that this planning no longer contributes to systemic racism. The city must deploy new tactics such as allowing the communities voices to be heard on what transportation and infrastructure equity means to our neighborhoods, the inclusion of local residents in any decision-making process, and a commitment to transparency can help ensure that climate justice is a guarantee for many of us and not just a few. We must prioritize pedestrian safety, ample supply of free and electrified public transportation, and street and road improvements for bike commuters across the city, and less on the prioritization of personal vehicle use.

Las Cruces has an opportunity to provide so much for its residents, and I believe that this is an opportunity to look beyond what we've always done. COVID19 has devastated our communities, and I also believe that it is the reset we need to think and dream bigger. Let's invest in the future of our community now. I am committed to being your thought partner in this and urge you to consider these ideas.

Thank you for your leadership and time. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I am here to help in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Angelica Rubio
State Representative, District 35

Agenda Item #3.2.

New Mexico State Legislature

State Representative Angelica Rubio

New Mexico State Legislature, House District 35

575-616-1151

Facebook.com/RubioNM35

@anrubio

State of New Mexico
House of
Representatives
Santa Fe



ANGELICA RUBIO

D – Doña Ana
District 35

P. O. Box 2155
Las Cruces, NM 88004
Phone: (575) 616-1151
Email: angelica.rubio@nmlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Chair: Transportation, Infrastructure, Capital Works
Member: Labor, Veterans and Military Affairs
Chair: Transportation Infrastructure Revenue
Subcommittee

July 25, 2021

City of Las Cruces
% City Manager, Ifo Pili
700 N. Main St.
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Dear Ifo,

I hope you're hanging in there during these trying and uncertain times. I write to you today to urge you and the city to consider ideas on how to better invest the \$10 million that will be issued to the city from America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

As a legislator representing the second largest city in New Mexico, I work towards addressing systemic issues, especially when it comes to the generational poverty that exists throughout the state. We're experiencing it here in our community, where the overall poverty is at a level of 26%, and much higher for children under the age of 18, and even so for those under the age of 5 years old. While I recognize the urgency to address issues by reacting to what is occurring in our city now, I believe that it is vital we work towards making longterm investments that will transform our community for generations to come. That is why I urge you to invest the funding into one or more of the following:

- First, I support 100% the pilot program that Councilmember Johana Bencomo is championing--a basic income program. The pandemic exposed inequities that have been realities for so many of us prior to COVID19. A pilot program to test this idea could be one of many steps that we take to not only address poverty as a whole, but can also provide an opportunity for many to regain the hope many in our community have lost--and create a new life.
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Agenda Item #3.2.

unemployment insurance and child care benefits, and other resources. By actively establishing this link and a strategy for the city, our community can begin to see the interconnectedness between issues that impact all of us, not just siloing our self-interests.

- Finally, develop city planning that is sustainable, and must go beyond a focus on the environment and climate change, but must be inclusive and ensure that this planning no longer contributes to systemic racism. The city must deploy new tactics such as allowing the communities voices to be heard on what transportation and infrastructure equity means to our neighborhoods, the inclusion of local residents in any decision-making process, and a commitment to transparency can help ensure that climate justice is a guarantee for many of us and not just a few. We must prioritize pedestrian safety, ample supply of free and electrified public transportation, and street and road improvements for bike commuters across the city, and less on the prioritization of personal vehicle use.

Las Cruces has an opportunity to provide so much for its residents, and I believe that this is an opportunity to look beyond what we've always done. COVID19 has devastated our communities, and I also believe that it is the reset we need to think and dream bigger. Let's invest in the future of our community now. I am committed to being your thought partner in this, and urge you to consider these ideas.

Thank you for your leadership and time. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I am here to help in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Angelica Rubio
State Representative, District 35
New Mexico State Legislature

Natalie Green

From: Ramon Padilla <ramonflorespadilla@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 12:38 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Support Guaranteed Basic Income

Dear City Councilors,

I am excited to hear that you are considering using a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to pilot a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) program in Las Cruces. I want to offer my full-throated support for such a pilot program because I am convinced of the economic impact it will have for those in our city who are the furthest from economic opportunity and closest to economic pain. Perhaps more importantly, is the bolstering of the dignity of our neighbors, and their families, chosen to participate in the pilot program by freeing them from the stigma surrounding economic welfare programs.

As a public school teacher in Las Cruces, I witness the effect economic hardship has on student engagement and, thus, learning. It is time that we heed the plethora of achievement gap studies that find students' socio-economic status is the prime factor in students' educational success. Give those families the furthest opportunity the dignified support they need.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to fund the GBI pilot program by taking advantage of the opportunity for which the ARPA monies allow.
Sincerely,

Ramón Padilla

--

Ramón F. Padilla, Jr.
1265 E Taylor Rd
Las Cruces, NM 88007
575.640.5625

Agenda Item #3.2.

Natalie Green

From: Andrea Orzoff <aorzoff@nmsu.edu>
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: city's use of ARPA funds: public comment

July 25, 2021
Ms. Ifo Pili, City Manager
City of Las Cruces
700 N. Main St.
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Dear Ms. Pili,

I write to you today to offer some ideas on how to we as a city might invest the \$10 million that will be issued to the city from America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

I have taught at New Mexico State University since 1999. The vast majority of our students are from the local area, and struggle to sustain their commitment to their education. They and their families contend with systemic poverty, often going back generations. While I'm sure the city wants to use some of these ARPA funds for pressing infrastructural needs, or medical needs post-pandemic, I urge you to look toward the future and invest the monies in ways that could transform our community.

First, I enthusiastically support the GBI (guaranteed basic income) pilot program proposed by Councilmember Johana Bencomo. Similar initiatives in other cities have shown multiple positive outcomes, as documented by the Stanford University Basic Income Lab (<https://basicincome.stanford.edu>) and a host of other research sources. I think it's worth investing in a local pilot program, in hopes not only of ameliorating poverty's effects on the next generation of Las Cruces but perhaps of helping our fellow citizens reshape their post-pandemic lives. It's urgent for us to do what we can to support the most vulnerable among us.

Second, I'd encourage the city to plan sustainably with regard to its infrastructure needs. El Paso Electric has been a problematic partner for Las Cruces, not least in its efforts to shift modernization costs to its customers while constantly boosting the salaries of its CEOs. Our ample sunshine, wind, and available land make it possible for us to reimagine an energy future without fossil fuels. Changing traffic patterns could help us update zoning codes to decrease parking and with it the heat sinks generated by asphalt. We can prioritize bike lanes. We can improve and electrify our public transit. And we can do all this with a dedication to transparency. Local voices need to be consulted and meaningfully integrated into policy-making. NMSU's programs in solar power and renewable energy make us a natural ally in these efforts.

Thank you for considering these ideas. If I can be of use in these or other efforts, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Orzoff

--

Andrea Orzoff, Ph.D.

aorzoff@nmsu.edu

Zoom Office: <https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/92040574679>

Agenda Item #3.2.

Associate Professor of History

Director, Office of National Scholarships and International Education,

William Conroy Honors College

New Mexico State University

Las Cruces, NM 88003

<https://history.nmsu.edu/facultydirectory/faculty-staff-pages/andrea-orzoff.html>

The purpose of poetry is to remind us
how difficult it is to remain just one person,
for our house is open, there are no keys in the doors,
and invisible guests come in and out at will. -- Czeslaw Milosz

Natalie Green

From: Erica McDowell <erica.c.mcdowell@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 6:15 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA funds for Guaranteed Basic Income

Good evening,

My name is Erica McDowell and I am a resident of Las Cruces in District 1 and educator in Las Cruces Public Schools. I recently heard a proposal to use ARPA funds the city will be receiving for a Guaranteed Basic Income program to support the most vulnerable families in Las Cruces. I fully support this idea because I have seen first-hand how economic insecurity directly harms the health and educational progress of many of my students. This past year has been especially difficult for families struggling economically and I believe this program is a great way for the city to step up to support its residents.

I look forward to seeing how this pilot program positively impacts our community!

Sincerely,
Erica McDowell

Agenda Item #3.2.

Natalie Green

From: Amanda Barela <abarela4@lcps.net>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA and Basic Income

Good morning,

I am emailing to write in support of the city utilizing ARPA funding for a pilot program for guaranteed basic income. This is beneficial to our community in many ways, mainly by eliminating the waste associated with means tested programs and administrative costs, providing families with income to further lift them out of poverty, stimulating our local economy, and ensuring that all our families and residents have a basic income to rely on. Poverty greatly impacts our community, and we must avoid any actions reflective of the failed ideology of trickle-down economics. A guaranteed basic income program would put money in the hands of those who need it, without the burden and costs of other aid programs. It would also be great to see this be at least partially geared towards our city's residents who do not have citizenship papers and are excluded from other forms of aid and equitable employment opportunities.

Further, I would like to propose the taxation on recreational marijuana be partially used to fund community schools. Even 1/5 of the taxation revenues could likely fund many community schools. Community schools are vital to our community, a proven equity strategy that engages all our communities in the education of our students. Community schools are proven to increase academic achievement, close the equity and learning gaps, and to foster healthier more active communities centered around the community school as being the hub of the community. We could be a model in NM and the nation of having all our schools be community schools!

I would also like to see a part of these tax revenues to go towards substance abuse programming in our city. The public schools are a perfect avenue to do prevention education and services to our youth, yet there is no position within LCPS to promote and sustain such an endeavor. I would like to suggest part of the tax revenues be used to fund a substance abuse prevention and response position (make sure a LADAC) in our public schools. Moreover, that also some of that tax revenue go to fund out local AA and NA communities.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss further. I would be elated to attend any meetings to further promote or explain my suggestions.

Thank you,



Amanda Barela, LCSW, LADAC (she/her/ella)
District Coordinator of Community Schools, LCPS

575-636-7370 | abarela4@lcps.net

<https://www.facebook.com/lcpartnershipcommunityschools>

Agenda Item #3.2.

Natalie Green

From: Elizabeth Bennett <lizben@nmsu.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA Funds for GBI!

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of using American Rescue Plan funds in the form of General Basic Income for our most vulnerable communities in Las Cruces. All of us depend everyday on essential workers who are keeping our community going during a public health crisis while making poverty wages and having to choose between their health and their income. Even those we consider professionals such as teachers and business owners often struggle to make ends meet due stagnant wages and increasing costs of necessitates such as health care.

Not only is minimum wage not enough to live a quality life, but no one should have to lose their livelihood when choosing to stay home from due to illness.

Studies have found that general basic income:

- **Reduces poverty and improves mental health**
 - Scott Santens, "Universal Basic Income as the Social Vaccine of the 21st Century," medium.com, Feb. 5, 2015
 - Matthew Smith, "Universal Basic Income Could Improve the Nation's Mental Health," theconversation.com, Apr. 27, 2020
- **Does not disincentive working**
 - <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2193136-universal-income-study-finds-money-for-nothing-wont-make-us-work-less/>
- **Leads to positive job growth and lower school drop out**
 - Luke Kingma, "Universal Basic Income: The Answer to Automation?," futurism.com (accessed July 6, 2017)
 - Evelyn L. Forget, "The Town with No Poverty," public.econ.duke.edu, Feb. 2011
- **Provides wages to traditionally unpaid work of parents and caregivers reducing gender income inequality**
 - Guy Standing, "Gender Inequality in Times of COVID-19 — Give Women Cash," en.unesco.org, Apr. 17, 2020

Providing cash directly to individuals empowers them to meet their own immediate needs which often results in those payments being recirculated into the economy.

Our federal government failed to protect entire sectors of our society who lost their jobs or risked their health during the pandemic. Meanwhile the rich have taken advantage of the crisis and have gotten richer. The ARPA funds present an opportunity to right that wrong and reinvest in the men and women who keep our society moving – without proper protection or compensation.

Liz Bennett, MPH, LMSW (she/her)
Program Manager | Center of Innovation
NMSU | Extension Family Consumer Sciences Department
[Visit Our Website](#)
(o) 575.646.2386 | (c) 575.513.7052

Natalie Green

From: Dawn Hommer <dawnh@caasnm.org>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 2:55 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA public comment
Attachments: Family Prosperity Info 7.23.21.pdf

Good afternoon,

This email is in support of using ARPA funds for 3 projects in the City of Las Cruces.

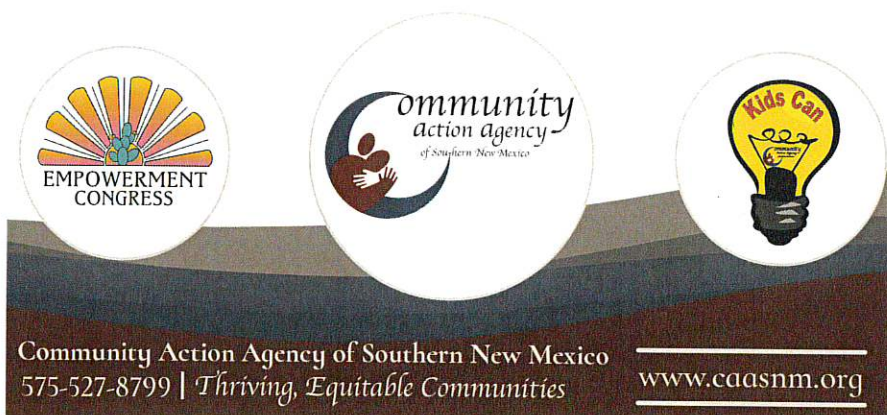
The first is funding for a Guaranteed Income (GI) Demonstration project as proposed by Councilor Bencomo. There is a great need for innovative anti-poverty programs in the City of Las Cruces. The city's poverty rates are unacceptably high (24.5%) and in some areas of Las Cruces the poverty rate can be as high as 36%. GI or cash transfers are proven ways to reduce poverty. Examples of cash transfer programs include the stimulus checks, the new advanced Child Tax Credit, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Data has shown that low income households routinely used their stimulus payments to cover basic household expenses including food, transportation, and housing. Data from city led GI projects across the country are seeing significant family wellness outcomes including increased education attainment for parents and children, reducing stress and uncertainty in families that allow them to seek other employment opportunities, and reduced food insecurities. Another significant outcome is the local economic impact for these types of payments. Most families will spend the money rapidly and locally. I am attaching more information about GI.

Additionally, I fully support the completion of the Casa de Peregrinos' food bank project and any resources needed for the Community of Hope's Desert Hope housing project.

All these projects have great potential to provide basic support to the most vulnerable in our city.

Cheers,

Dawn Z. Hommer. CCAP (She, Her, Hers)
Chief Executive Officer



Family Prosperity Guaranteed Income Pilot

The Family Prosperity Pilot is a local collaboration to demonstrate the economic, societal, and family impacts cash transfers have on families living in poverty in the City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. It is grounded in the fact that addressing poverty at the household level has positive effects not only on participating families, but also on the economy and community at large.

The collaborative is requesting the City of Las Cruces set aside \$2 Million of ARPA funds to support direct payments for 200 families.

Today there are over 30 cities exploring Universal Basic Income. Studies have shown that Guaranteed Income (GI) programs boost the economy because when people have cash in their pockets, they will spend it rapidly and locally. Research has shown that when people are given unrestricted cash payments, recipients are able to pull themselves out of poverty, plan for the future, and create stability for themselves and their families.

What is Guaranteed Income?

GI is a cash transfer program that provides a predictable stream of cash to recipients to spend however they see fit without requiring that they perform specific activities.

Cash transfers are among the most studied anti-poverty interventions. Experiments around the world demonstrate that cash leads to educational achievement increases and substantially improved health outcomes, with people continuing to work and contribute to their communities.

GI Key Findings

Families enrolled in GI programs

- There is little evidence that cash transfers decrease the motivation to work
 - Families keep their jobs and spend the extra money on groceries, utilities or other basic needs
 - Those who may work fewer hours largely invest that time in education, job training, or caring for children.
- Reduces inequality and income volatility
- Have multiple positive impacts on recipients' education, employment, and health outcomes

Statistics

Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) Dashboard

- Health and Wellbeing: People receiving GI were less anxious and depressed than the comparison group. They also showed improvement in emotional health, energy, and emotional wellbeing.
- Freedom from Forced Vulnerability: "Poverty means lack of choice. You're forced in ways you don't want to be."
- Over 75% of the money was spent on transportation, food, utilities, medical and other basic necessities. Other expenses include clothing, school supplies, beds.
- The guaranteed income alleviated financial scarcity creating new opportunities for self-determination, choice, goal-setting, and risk-taking

Magnolia Mother's Trust

- Money spent on: Transportation/Travel; Purchasing a home; Paying bills; Education expenses; Credit improvement
- 100% said they have enough money to meet their basic needs
- 100% saw an increase in positive family engagement
- 100% feel hopeful about their future in 5 years
- 20% more likely to have children performing at or above grade level
- 27% more likely to seek professional medical help for sickness or chronic illness

Personal Stories

"It gave me the opportunity to be able to do what I wanted to do for my child. It made me feel whole as a mother."

"With the SEED money, there's no need for the hustle. I have the time to actually take opportunities for myself, like if I felt like I wanted a new job or a different job for better choices I was able to make it. I didn't have to worry about it." Tomas

"[The Magnolia Mother's Trust] made me realize that I want to do more. This is not it, there is more out there, and I want to push myself to do more...find a better job and think for myself." Tia

Local Progress

W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded Families and Youth, Inc., Jardin de los Niños, and Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico \$200,000 to support pilot evaluation and program design. An additional \$128,000 has been secured to provide direct payments to participants.

Contacts

Jolene Martinez, COO Families & Youth, Inc jmartinez@fynm.org

Michelle S. Adames, Ph.D., CEO Jardin de Los Niños michelle.adames@jardinlc.org

Dawn Z. Hommer, CEO Community Action Agency of SNM dawnh@caasnm.org



Agenda Item #3.2.

Natalie Green

From: TERESA Valenzuela <tcv359@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 8:00 PM
To: Economic Development
Cc: Johana Bencomo
Subject: Public Input ~ ARPA Funds

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Teresa C. Valenzuela. I am a resident of District 4 in Las Cruces, NM. As I will not be able to attend the public meetings I did want to have the opportunity to share my perspective on the possible uses of the ARPA funds our city will be receiving.

As a native Las Crucean and retired bilingual teacher of our local school district, I have experienced and seen the financial struggles families have in providing the basic necessities for their family members. It is time to not only think outside of the "box", but to actually get rid of the box altogether. The GBI program may be the answer.

While I understand using ARPA funds for the GBI program is an "experimental" project, programs that have been implemented in the past have not been highly successful in providing low income individuals and families to change the trajectory of their social economic status.

It is time to look at creative and nontraditional ways of impacting the lives of our community members. Their success in education, employment and health is a success for all Las Cruces residents. Because of that, as a taxpayer, I support the Guaranteed Basic Income being funded through the ARPA funds Las Cruces receives.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

Teresa C. Valenzuela
District 4 Resident

economicdevelopment@las-cruces.org

Amor~Luz~Paz

DO ALL THINGS WITH LOVE  

Natalie Green

From: Pamela Enriquez Courts <regalosdelsol@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:08 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Re: The use of ARPA funds for a Basic Income Pilot Program

7/27/2021

To whom it may concern:

My name is Pamela Enriquez-Courts and I am a working artist living in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

I would like it to be known that I fully endorse and support the use of ARPA funds to be used for a guaranteed Basic Income pilot program, and please allow me to tell you why I support this cause.

In 1978 I was able to work a full-time job as a CNA. With an hourly wage of \$6.25 an hour I was able to support myself by paying for my rent, bills, groceries, gas and was also able to pay for my own doctor visits, medications and was able to pay my tuition and book costs to attend Community College.

In these times all of that is completely impossible on a minimum wage paying job. People are working longer hours than ever. People are doing more tasks in their everyday jobs and/or their full-time jobs as stay-at-home Moms. People cannot afford health insurance and even those who can are forced to pay extra fees for the services that are not covered by most basic health insurance companies. Gas prices are once again on the rise. The rate of inflation and the cost of living has done nothing but go up, up, and further up while minimum wage seems stunted. There has been some small efforts made at raising the minimum wage but in my opinion, it is not nearly enough and too little too late. People are losing their homes. The homeless population is exploding everywhere in this country. And we are trying to recover from the drastic and ongoing effects of a worldwide pandemic.

I do not believe that people want a hand-out. But what they DO need is a HAND UP. People need help to keep them going and to help push them onward and UPWARD. Most people do not want to stay home and collect a check. Most people want to work and earn their living but how is that even possible in these times when the minimum wage cannot sustain a single person much less a family?

New Mexico is a beautiful state of extreme wealth and extreme poverty. And much disparity. Our people need help and especially those here in the Southern borderlands of Las Cruces where we have many farmworkers and laborers. I believe that if a program were implemented that would help guarantee a basic income for those who need it most that we will see a rise in employment, community involvement, and HOPE. And this is why I STRONGLY support that ARPA funds be used for a guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program.

Thank you for your time.

Pamela Enriquez-Courts
2047 Sedona Hills Pkwy.
Las Cruces NM 88011
575-520-5246

Natalie Green

From: June Donohue <june@snmdo.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: COVID Funds Use

The funds should be used toward curing Childhood Poverty in Las Cruces. Las Cruces has next to the highest rate of childhood poverty in the United States except for one town in Texas. That has to be fixed. It is sad to live in a city where we don't take care of our kids! Las Cruces needs to take care of its children before we try to take care of anything else.

Thank you.

Natalie Green

From: Jan Thompson <janthompson0817@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Support for Councilor Bencomo's Proposal

Hello--

I am writing to express my support for the proposal of Councilor Johana Bencomo to use some ARPA funding to provide a \$500 a month stipend to select low-income families as a pilot Universal Basic Income program.

Other pilot programs of this sort have shown that receiving these grants does not make people not want to work. It makes them ABLE to work because they can stay healthier and make auto repairs as needed. It results in happier, enriched families and more tax income for the community.

Most families being served by the Casa de Peregrinos food pantry where I have volunteered as an interviewer have become near homeless because they had a vehicle break down or they had a health emergency that resulted in unemployment. To have an extra \$500 a month makes it possible to see a doctor before they need the ER and serious and expensive care. It allows them to give their kids some enrichment activities. It allows them to have enough to meet the unexpected repairs to vehicles, water heaters, or furnaces. In fact, it would allow a family to purchase a vehicle in the first place or rent a place so they don't have to share a home with others. Or maybe they want to improve their situation through a school or training enrollment and can now afford the tuition. THIS HELPS ALL OF US.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

-Jan Thompson
(pronouns: she/her/hers)
5243 Cochise Trl.
Las Cruces, NM 88012-9737
(575) 888-0886 (voice or text)
<https://www.facebook.com/jan.thompson.77312>
Piro-Manso-Tiwa Ancestral Land

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." Shirley Chisholm

Agenda Item #3.2.

Natalie Green

From: Michelle Adames <michelle.adames@jardinlc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:27 PM
To: Economic Development
Cc: Michelle Adames
Subject: ARPA Funding

Good afternoon Ms. Green,

I would like to provide public input regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

As the CEO of a local nonprofit, I fully support ARPA funding being utilized to create long term sustainability of our programs. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our operations, services and programming.

I would like to advocate for affordable housing; food insecurity; income support; and funding to be designated for projects that impact infant mental health and behavioral health services.

Projects like, Jardin de los Niños' Infant Mental Health Program address trauma from a preventative/holistic approach; the Desert Hope Project addresses affordable housing; Casa de Peregrinos' expansion supports food insecurity; and the Guaranteed Income project addresses poverty and has positive effects on families who are recipients of the funding, but also on the economy and community at large.

Thank you,

Michelle S. Adames, Ph.D.

Chief Executive Officer

Jardin de Los Niños

999 West Amador

Las Cruces, NM 88005

Phone: 575.522.2111

Email: michelle.adames@jardinlc.org

Natalie Green

From: E.K. VanWie <vanwieek@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:42 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: GI Project

I support the Guaranteed Income Project being considered by the City of Las Cruces. These projects have been successful in reducing poverty in other communities.

Eileen VanWie

Las Cruces, CLC District 6

Natalie Green

From: Carissa Owen Lopez <carissaowen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:35 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: GBI program

Hello!

My name is Carissa Owen, and I live in District 4 and fully support the use of ARPA funds to be used for a GBI program to support the most vulnerable families in Las Cruces. I believe if we can support and get families out of survival mode, our whole community will benefit.

Thank you so much,
Carissa Ann O. Lopez

Natalie Green

From: Kathy Brook <kathybrook@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA Priorities

Economic Development Department
Housing and Neighborhood Services Program

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the proposal to use \$2 million in ARPA funding allocated to the City of Las Cruces for a pilot project to provide a guaranteed income to selected families. For decades, the idea of providing a guaranteed income has drawn support from a wide variety of policy-makers across the political spectrum.

It is my understanding that Families & Youth, Inc. has partnered with Jardin de Los Niños and the Community Action Agency of SNM to receive a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to study the impact of such a program and that \$128,000 has been raised for direct payments to families.

The ARPA funds would provide an opportunity for the City of Las Cruces to experiment with such a program and to join other communities such as Stockton, CA and Jackson, MS in gathering data that could help the federal government determine the merits of such an approach to poverty.

A pilot project in itself is not sustainable but is an important step in the right direction.

Thanks to you and to the City Council for all the work that has been done during the pandemic to address the needs of the community.

Sincerely,
Kathy Brook
14 Lebanon Arc
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575-644-8296
kathybrook@comcast.net

Natalie Green

From: Nicole Martinez <hope@zianet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA funds--Public Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

We are excited for the recovery opportunities for our community as they relate to several areas, but our comment is focused on:

Potential priorities include but are not limited to:

- Programs or services that facilitate access to health and social services.
- Programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness.

I am writing to urge City staff tasked with funding projects to consider housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness in Las Cruces. There is an opportunity to use funds in a creative way—one such way would be to support housing opportunities at Desert Hope Apartments (DHA). DHA is a Permanent Supportive Housing Project that underwent construction during the COVID-19 pandemic and upon its opening in August, will house 40 chronically homeless people in Las Cruces. This project is a collaborative effort between the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, and the City of Las Cruces. Chronically homeless clients are much more successful in remaining housed when there is a service provider onsite. Desert Hope Apartments has a real opportunity to end homelessness for 40 people, but the challenge will be to keep them there; ARPA funds could help do this by facilitating access to social services. Another idea for ARPA funds would be to establish a landlord reparation fund for clients who are formerly homeless and that are on a voucher system for rental assistance. This is a project that will soon be piloted in Albuquerque by the NM MFA with the understanding that landlord rapport is key in ending homelessness for people and in keeping them housed. Typically, security deposits do not always cover damages, and this type of fund could leverage support for landlords willing to house clients who have severe mental illness and need supportive services.

We are also supportive of the Universal Basic Income proposal.

Thank you,

Nicole Martinez, LMSW, MA
Executive Director

Natalie Green

From: Mark Hohnstreiter <mhohnstr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Public comment ARPA funding

As a citizen of the City of Las Cruces, I am writing to convey my strong support for a Guaranteed Income project to study the potential to alleviate poverty in our City.

I am also strongly in favor of enhanced facilities for food distribution at Casa de Peregrinos.

Sincerely,
Mark Hohnstreiter

Natalie Green

From: Al Galves <agalves2003@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: American Rescue Plan Act

Dear City of Las Cruces Economic Development Department:

I am writing to encourage the City to use some of its \$10.9 In American Rescue Plan Act funds to provide a jump start to the Los Amigos Supportive Transitional Housing project. That project addresses two of the City's priorities: Providing access to health and social services and Providing affordable housing to people.

The Community Service Corps (CSC), sponsor of Los Amigos, has submitted a proposal to the City for approximately \$2.5 million to purchase the property at 2939 and 2941 Los Amigos Court in Las Cruces and renovate it. CSC plans to provide 32 units of supportive transitional housing to persons who have been involved with the criminal justice system and have not benefitted from the services that have been provided to them and to persons being released from jail and prison, people coming off of homelessness and people returning from mental hospital stays. The project is designed to help high risk-high need people. The plan is to provide more intensive and comprehensive services to residents through the use of coaches who help people connect to jobs, volunteer opportunities, education, recreation, support groups, therapy and other similar activities that help the move towards healthy lives.

I want the City to give \$2.5 million of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to CSC for the purpose of purchasing and renovating the property at 2939 and 2941 Los Amigos Court.

Al Galves

Home address:

2711 Sunrise Point Road
Las Cruces, NM 88011

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Las Cruces, NM 88005

575-522-8371 (home)
575-571-3105 (cell)
575-635-4331 (fax)

Recommendation for Allocation of Funds from American Rescue Plan Act

We recommend the City of Las Cruces carefully consider the use of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act be utilized to the degree possible in programs that will prevent poverty from occurring. We specifically recommend investment in early childhood development program expansion.

In studies recently published through the National Institutes of Health, benefits of expanding early childhood development programs resulted in significantly improved academic performance and in decrease in juvenile arrest rates.

It is our belief that many of our children age zero to five are not currently participating in high-quality programs that will give them the same chance of success in life.

We firmly support the efforts of the Resilience Leaders organization and the approach they are taking at striking at the causes of issues as opposed to focusing on the symptoms. In that vein, it is our belief that the cycle of poverty can be impacted for the better through early childhood development.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Russell and Richard Lemons



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Impacts of Early Childhood Education on Medium- and Long-Term Educational Outcomes

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Abstract

Despite calls to expand early childhood education (ECE) in the United States, questions remain regarding its medium- and long-term impacts on educational outcomes. We use meta-analysis of 22 high-quality experimental and quasi-experimental studies conducted between 1960 and 2016 to find that on average, participation in ECE leads to statistically significant reductions in special education placement ($d = 0.33$ *SD*, 8.1 percentage points) and grade retention ($d = 0.26$ *SD*, 8.3 percentage points) and increases in high school graduation rates ($d = 0.24$ *SD*, 11.4 percentage points). These results support ECE's utility for reducing education-related expenditures and promoting child well-being.

Keywords

early childhood education; grade retention; high school graduation; meta-analysis; preschool; special education

As a period of rapid growth in foundational cognitive, social, and emotional skills, early childhood represents a particularly sensitive time for the promotion of children's educational potential (Shonkoff & Philips, 2000). Reflecting this promise, rates of enrollment in state-funded early childhood education (ECE) programs have risen dramatically in recent years, more than doubling between 2002 and 2016 (Barnett et al., 2017; Barnett, Hustedt, Robin, & Schulman, 2003). Despite increased investment in publicly funded ECE programming as a mechanism to promote learning, the ability of ECE to improve children's educational outcomes in middle childhood and adolescence remains uncertain for both methodological and substantive reasons.

In the present study, we conduct a meta-analysis of high-quality research studies to provide an up-to-date estimate of the overall impact of ECE program participation on three distinct medium- and long-term educational outcomes: special education placement, grade retention,

and high school graduation. We focus on these outcomes for several reasons. First, previous literature suggests that the skills typically targeted by ECE programming—including cognitive skills in language, literacy, and math as well as socio-emotional capacities in self-regulation, motivation/engagement, and persistence—are likely precursors of children's ability to maintain a positive academic trajectory (Heckman, Pinto, & Savelyev, 2013). As a result, educational outcomes are theoretically relevant as more distal targets of ECE programming. Second, the prevalence and cost of special education, grade retention, and especially high school dropout are large (Levin, Belfield, Muennig, & Rouse, 2007). Because of this, understanding the possible benefits of ECE for mitigating negative educational outcomes such as these is of particular importance to educational policymaking.

Methods

To address several limitations of previous work in this area (see Appendix), we employ data from a comprehensive meta-analytic database of ECE program evaluations published between 1960 and 2007 as well as a supplement to this database covering studies published between 2007 and 2016. All studies met strict inclusion criteria based on study design, attrition, and relevance. From this larger database, we focus on estimates for three educational outcomes (special education placement, grade retention, and high school dropout) and conduct sensitivity analyses probing differences based on model specification and the time between the end of the ECE program and the outcome measurement.

Results

Appendix Table A1 provides detailed information on the 22 studies that met our inclusion criteria. Seven of these studies used experimental designs (i.e., random assignment to ECE vs. a non-ECE control condition), 4 used quasi-experimental designs (i.e., sibling fixed effects, regression discontinuity, and propensity score matching), and 11 compared ECE and control group children who were not randomly assigned to conditions but provided evidence that groups were equivalent on observed characteristics at baseline.

Results of multilevel weighted regression analyses revealed positive and statistically significant average effects of ECE across all three outcomes combined, $b = 0.24$, $SE = 0.04$, $p < .001$ (see Table 1). Specifically, ECE participation led to an average decrease of 0.33 SD ($SE = 0.11$, $p < .01$) in special education placement, an average decrease of 0.26 SD ($SE = 0.06$, $p < .001$) in grade retention, and average increase of 0.24 SD ($SE = 0.07$, $p < .001$) in graduation rates relative to nonparticipation. Based on the subset of observations providing the necessary data, our results show that ECE participation is associated with an 8.09 percentage point ($SE = 3.44$, $p < .05$) decrease in special education placement, 8.29 percentage point ($SE = 2.05$, $p < .01$) decrease in grade retention, and 11.41 percentage point ($SE = 2.40$, $p < .01$) increase in high school graduation (see Figure 1). Results of sensitivity analyses were largely consistent with those from our primary analyses (see Table 1 and Appendix for details) and suggest that effects of ECE on educational outcomes (particularly special education and retention) are larger at longer term follow-up relative to time points close to the end of treatment.

Discussion

These results suggest that classroom-based ECE programs for children under five can lead to significant and substantial decreases in special education placement and grade retention and increases in high school graduation rates. These findings support previous work on the lasting impacts of ECE on children's educational progression, placement, and completion (Aos, Lieb, Mayfield, Miller, & Pennucci, 2004; Camilli, Vargas, Ryan, & Barnett, 2010; Gorey, 2001; Lazar et al., 1982). Importantly, relative to this earlier work, our analyses cover a wider age range, reflect a mix of both historical demonstration projects and more modern large-scale evaluations, and use more rigorous criteria for research design.

These results provide further evidence for the potential individual and societal benefits of expanding ECE programming in the United States. Over the past several years, financial investments in public ECE have risen rapidly, with states spending \$7.4 billion in 2016 to support early education for nearly 1.5 million 3- and 4-year-olds (Barnett et al., 2017). At the same time, approximately 6.4 million children are in special education classes, and more than 250,000 are retained each year, with annual per pupil expenditures for special education and retention amounting to more than \$8,000 and \$12,000, respectively (Chambers, Parrish, & Harr, 2002; Office of Special Education Programs, 2014; U.S. Department of Education, 2015; Warren, Hoffman, & Andrew, 2014). Even more costly is the fact that approximately 373,000 youth in the United States drop out of high school each year, with each dropout leading to an estimated \$689,000 reduction in individual lifetime earnings and a \$262,000 cost to the broader economy (Chapman, Laird, Ifill, & Kewal-Ramani, 2011; Levin et al., 2007). These negative educational outcomes are much more frequent for children growing up in low- as opposed to higher-income families, and yet more than half of low-income 3- and 4-year-old children remain out of center-based care (Child Trends, 2015; O'Connor & Fernandez, 2006). Given the high costs that special education placement, grade retention, and dropout place on both individuals and taxpayers, our results suggest that further investments in ECE programming may be one avenue for reducing educational and economic burdens and inequities.

Acknowledgments

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Appendix

Existing Evidence on Impacts of Early Childhood Education

Since the initiation of the Head Start program in the 1960s, a large body of educational and developmental research has focused on understanding the impacts of early childhood education (ECE) programs on children's subsequent well-being. Most of these studies have focused on immediate and often positive gains in the types of cognitive and self-regulatory skills that are associated with children's later academic well-being (Lazar et al., 1982). Building on this work and broader theory regarding developmental cascades, a much smaller set of studies has aimed to quantify ECE's longer term educational benefits (Masten et al., 2005). In particular, the results of two of the most influential model programs in the early childhood literature—Perry Preschool and Abecedarian—are often cited as conclusive evidence for the role of ECE in improving educational attainment (Barnett & Masse, 2007). In addition to demonstrating individual benefits, these studies are also used as exemplars of ECE's potential to generate social benefits far in excess of their costs, with estimates typically surpassing \$5 returned for every initial \$1 invested in early educational programming (Barnett & Masse, 2007; Belfield, Nores, Barnett, & Schweinhart, 2006; Heckman, Moon, Pinto, Savelyev, & Yavitz, 2010; Karoly, Kilburn, & Cannon, 2006).

Although the results of the Perry and Abecedarian programs support the promise of ECE for delivering both individual and social benefits, it is difficult to draw general conclusions from just two model program evaluations. In an attempt to provide a more comprehensive—and representative—perspective of the longer term benefits of ECE, several studies have used meta-analysis to quantify average effects across multiple evaluations using studies, rather than individuals, as the unit of observation (Cooper & Hedges, 2009). When focusing on educational outcomes like graduation, attainment, special education placement, and grade retention, these meta-analyses have identified positive overall impacts of ECE participation, with effect sizes in the $d = 0.15$ to 0.50 range (Aos, Lieb, Mayfield, Miller, & Pennucci, 2004; Camilli, Vargas, Ryan, & Barnett, 2010; Gorey, 2001; LazQazar et al., 1982).

Although promising, there are several limitations of this collective body of work that we attempt to address in the present study. First, with the exception of Aos et al. (2004), no meta-analysis has included studies of ECE's impact on educational outcomes published after 2000. In the present study, we review literature published up to 2016 to provide a more up-to-date meta-analytic estimate. In addition, we extend previous work focusing on ECE for 3- and 4-year-old children (e.g., Aos et al., 2004; Camilli et al., 2010) by considering services provided for children in the full 0 to 5 age range.

Second, unlike previous meta-analyses in this area (Aos et al., 2004; Camilli et al., 2010; Lazar et al., 1982), we limit our analyses to focus exclusively on studies meeting a strict set of quality standards. From a methodological standpoint, the quality of a given meta-analysis

is largely determined by the quality of the individual studies it covers (Barnett, 1995; Gormley, 2007). When an included study is systematically biased, for example due to problems with nonrandom selection into treatment conditions or selective attrition, the results of the meta-analysis will also be biased (Borenstein, Hedges, Higgins, & Rothstein, 2009). By limiting our analysis to studies using rigorous experimental and quasi-experimental designs that have established baseline equivalence across ECE and comparison groups and reasonable levels of attrition, we aim to ensure that our estimates are as internally valid as possible.

Third, we provide both aggregated and disaggregated estimates of ECE's impacts on three distinct educational outcomes. A common issue within meta-analysis is the collective evaluation of studies that differ fundamentally from one another in one or more ways, otherwise known as the "apples and oranges" problem (Borenstein et al., 2009). In ECE research, previous meta-analyses (e.g., Camilli et al., 2010) have combined special education placement, grade retention, high school completion, and academic attainment into one outcome category despite the fact that these outcomes differ in terms of their relationship with other domains of functioning (Alexander, Entwistle, & Kabbani, 2001; Morgan, Frisco, Farkas, & Hibbel, 2010). Although some older meta-analyses have included domain-specific estimates (e.g., Gorey, 2001), no studies in the past decade have estimated the impacts of ECE on the subtypes of educational outcomes that generate important costs to both individuals and societies. We address this problem in the present study by identifying separate estimates for ECE's impact on special education placement, grade retention, and high school graduation.

Detailed Methods

The present study draws from a comprehensive database of early childhood care and education program evaluations conducted in the United States between 1960 and 2007 and compiled by the National Forum on Early Childhood Policy and Programs. Building on several previously existing meta-analytic databases (Camilli et al., 2010; Jacob, Creps, & Boulay, 2004; Shager et al., 2013), the Forum's database was expanded to include ECE programs for children under age 3 and new research through 2007 and narrowed to focus only on studies meeting a strict set of quality-related criteria. For the present study, this database was then expanded once again to include studies published between 2007 and 2016. Studies were identified through systematic literature review, manual searches of leading policy institutes (e.g., Abt, Rand, Mathematica Policy Research, NIEER) and state and federal departments (e.g., U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), and "snowballing" of the reference sections of included studies and reviews.

Studies were included in the database if they (a) evaluated a U.S.-based educational program, policy, or intervention for children ages 0 to 5 years; (b) made use of a comparison group that was shown to be equivalent to the treatment group at baseline; (c) had at least 10 participants in each condition; (d) experienced less than 50% attrition in each condition between initiation of treatment and the follow-up measurement; and (e) had enough information to calculate effect sizes for analysis. Included evaluations made use of experimental designs as well as quasi-experimental designs that included pre-post treatment

and control group comparisons and were equivalent on relevant characteristics before initiation of treatment. Full inclusion and exclusion criteria for the complete meta-analytic database can be found in Shager et al. (2013).

Of the more than 10,000 documents reviewed, most were excluded because they were not research studies, did not include an evaluation component, or consisted solely of previously published results. In total, 272 met the aforementioned criteria and were included in the full database. An additional 4 studies focusing exclusively on the outcomes of interest for the present study were also included covering the time period of 2007 to 2016. Data abstraction and coding were completed by doctoral-level research assistants. Coder training took place over a three- to six-month period and ended with reliability checks in which coders were required to achieve an interrater agreement with an expert coder of .80 for all codes with the exception of effect sizes, which were required to be within 10% of the true effect size. The range of interrater reliabilities for all study information was .87 to .96. Coding questions and discrepancies were resolved during weekly, full-team meetings and recorded for future reference in an annotated codebook.

Data were abstracted at multiple levels. *Studies* refer to the distinct investigations of different ECE programs. *Contrasts* are defined as comparisons of groups within a given study that experienced different conditions (e.g., full-time ECE vs. control, part-time ECE vs. control). Finally, *effect sizes* represent the standardized treatment-control difference using different outcome measures at different time points within contrasts.

Effect sizes were coded for special education placement, grade retention, and high school graduation outcomes using Comprehensive Meta-Analysis computer software (Borenstein, Hedges, Higgins, & Rothstein, 2005). Specifically, Hedges g was calculated, which adjusts the standardized mean difference (Cohen's d) to account for bias in the d estimator when sample sizes are small. In the case of dichotomous rate and event data, effect sizes were first calculated as odds ratios before being converted to Hedges g . All effect sizes were coded such that positive numbers indicate more desirable outcomes (i.e., lower special education placement and grade retention, higher high school graduation).

For the present paper, we focused exclusively on studies that compared classroom-based ECE programs to non-ECE conditions for the full study sample. We excluded effect sizes that were not relevant to one of our three focal outcome measures (special education placement, grade retention, and high school graduation), including college participation and years of education completed. After imposing these exclusions, the final analytic sample for the present study included a total of 75 effect sizes taken from 34 contrasts and 22 studies (see Appendix Table A1 for study names and features).

Within our analytic sample, outcome definitions varied in two important ways. First, special education placement and grade retention were coded as either "current" (e.g., being in special education at the time of the data collection) or "cumulative" (e.g., ever having been in special education since the time of the intervention). Second, different studies captured outcomes at different time points. Time between the end of treatment and the measurement

of the given outcomes was coded in years and included as a control variable in our sensitivity analyses.

To account for the nested nature of the effect size data, we used a two-level random intercept model with effect sizes at Level 1 nested in contrasts at Level 2. We chose this over a three-level model due to the low levels of nesting of contrasts within studies (average n of contrasts within studies = 1.54; range = 1–6). To determine whether ECE participation affected our targeted educational outcomes, we ran four primary models: (1) a model predicting cumulative and current special education effect sizes at all available time points, (2) a model predicting cumulative and current grade retention effect sizes at all available time points, (3) a model predicting high school graduation effect sizes at all available time points, and (4) a model that combines all of the aforementioned effect sizes for a single estimate of overall ECE impact on educational outcomes. We replicated these analyses using available percentage point (rather than effect size) data, which required us to limit our sample to 62 of the original 75 observations as some effect sizes could not be converted to percentage points (e.g., the NLSY79 Head Start regression discontinuity study). Effect sizes were, on average, slightly larger in the 13 observations without available percentage point data (mean effect size = 0.31) than they were in the 62 observations with available percentage point data (mean effect size = 0.28), though this difference was not statistically significant, $t(73) = 0.72, p = ns$.

We also ran three supplemental sets of sensitivity analyses using effect size data. The first used an alternative nesting strategy, with effect sizes nested in studies rather than contrasts. The second took the same approach used in the primary analyses but controlled for the amount of time that passed (in years) between the end of the treatment and the observation time point. The third focused on a narrower set of models predicting only “cumulative” outcome definitions taken from the latest available time point.

Because effect sizes are based on varying numbers of cases and are therefore estimated with varying degrees of precision, effect sizes (and estimates of percentage point differences) were weighted by the inverse of the variance of each effect size estimate multiplied by the inverse of the number of effect sizes per contrast (Cooper & Hedges, 2009; Lipsey & Wilson, 2001). Across all models, the primary coefficient of interest was the Level 1 intercept, which reflects the average effect size for the particular outcome across included contrasts (or studies).

Results of Sensitivity Analyses

Results of primary and sensitivity analyses are shown in full in Table 1, as well as in Appendix Figures A1 through A3. Specifically, results of the first set of sensitivity analyses in which effect sizes were nested in studies (rather than contrasts) produced estimates that were relatively comparable (within approximately 0.03 SD) to the primary results. In particular, when nesting in studies, the overall effect of ECE on all outcomes was $b = 0.24$ ($SE = 0.04, p < .001$), and the effect on special education was $b = 0.30$ ($SE = 0.11, p < .05$), grade retention was $b = 0.23$ ($SE = 0.05, p < .01$), and graduation rates was $b = 0.27$ ($SE = 0.07, p < .001$).

Results of the second set of sensitivity analyses—which included an additional “time since end of treatment” control—produced results that were similar to the primary findings for grade retention, attenuated slightly (by approximately 0.04 *SD*) for graduation and attenuated substantially (by approximately 0.15 *SD*, or nearly 50% of the primary estimate) for special education. In particular, the overall impact of ECE immediately following treatment across all outcomes was $b = 0.16$ ($SE = 0.06$, $p < .01$), whereas the effect of ECE immediately following treatment on special education was $b = 0.17$ ($SE = 0.11$, *ns*), grade retention was $b = 0.26$ ($SE = 0.07$, $p < .05$), and graduation rates was $b = 0.21$ ($SE = 0.08$, $p < .01$). The coefficient for time in years since treatment was significant and positive for all outcomes but graduation, indicating that ECE impacts grew larger each year posttreatment for special education and retention and remained stable over time for graduation. Specifically, ECE effects were found to be significantly larger across time for all outcomes combined ($b = 0.013$, $SE = 0.002$, $p < .001$), special education ($b = 0.022$, $SE = 0.003$, $p < .001$), and grade retention ($b = 0.020$, $SE = 0.001$, $p < .001$). Collectively, these results showing growing ECE effects on special education and retention diverge from prior evidence showing “fade-out” of ECE’s benefits for cognitive skills and achievement. Additional research is needed to identify the mechanisms underlying these gains. It is possible, for example, that ECE may benefit children’s development of fundamental but often unmeasured skills such as self-regulation, communication, and motivation, and these skills in turn may lead to more favorable educational outcomes over time (Bailey, Duncan, Odgers, & Yu, 2017).

A third set of sensitivity analyses examining only (a) the last time point of data available within a given contrast and (b) cumulative data for special education and grade retention again revealed positive and statistically significant effects of ECE across all three outcomes ($b = 0.28$, $SE = 0.05$, $p < .001$). Relative to the primary results, results of these sensitivity analyses were slightly stronger (by approximately 0.03–0.05 *SD*) for special education and retention and substantially smaller (by approximately 0.14 *SD*) for graduation. In particular, these sensitivity analyses showed that ECE participants were, on average, 0.37 *SD* ($SE = 0.05$, $p < .001$) lower in special education placement, 0.29 *SD* ($SE = 0.07$, $p < .001$) lower in grade retention, and 0.10 *SD* ($SE = 0.02$, $p < .001$) higher in graduation rates than their control group peers. Follow-up analyses revealed that the substantial drop in average effect size magnitude for graduation rates within this set of sensitivity analyses was attributable to the relatively greater weighting of the NLSY study—which, due to its large sample size, has a very small standard error—within a more limited sample of effect sizes.

Limitations

Research is needed to address several important limitations of the work presented. First and most importantly, circumstances surrounding today’s ECE programs differ from those associated with many of the programs included in this analysis. Many programs in this analysis were implemented at a time when alternative care options were limited, mostly targeted particularly high-risk children, often included comprehensive “wrap-around” services and home visiting components, and frequently provided services for multiple years at a time. Although our inclusion of more recent programs (up to 2016) represents an improvement on prior meta-analyses in this area, the degree to which the impacts found in

the present analyses are comparable with the potential effects of the types of universal, publicly funded pre-school programs being considered for scale-up today is a needed area of future research (Barnett, 2010). Second, the limited data from the small sample of included studies precludes our ability to test hypotheses of mechanism, impact variation, and relative forms and levels of program quality. In particular, probing the degree to which these effects may be explained by differences in cognitive and/or socio-emotional functioning is of particular use for generating knowledge about intervention impact fadeout and persistence (Bailey et al., 2017). Additional attention is also needed to understand the degree to which ECE’s impacts may be stronger—or weaker—for particular subgroups of children (Magnuson et al., 2016). In the Perry program evaluated in this study, for example, improvements in graduation rates and reductions in grade retention were driven entirely by girls, whereas effects on criminal activity, later-life income, and employment were driven by boys (Heckman et al., 2010; Schweinhart et al., 2005). Moving forward, research with a larger number of longitudinal studies is needed to probe these critical, policy-relevant questions of “why” and “for whom.”

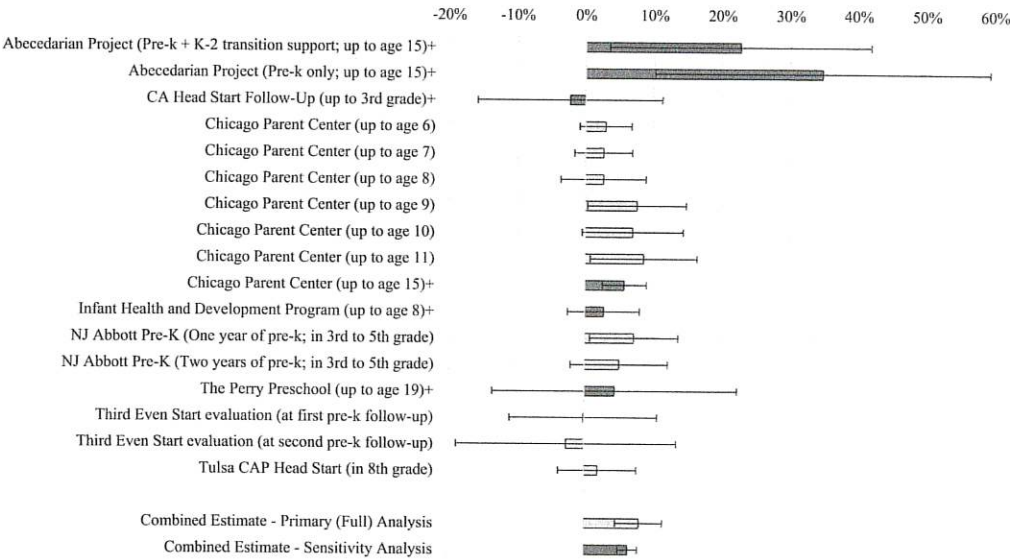


FIGURE A1. Percentage point reduction in special education placement rates (with 95% confidence intervals) for children attending early childhood education versus control group (selected programs with available data)
+ and dark grey bars identify those observations included in sensitivity analyses using a reduced sample. Two additional observations (one from the Yale Child Welfare Research Program and one from the Perry Preschool study) included in primary analyses but not shown due to lack of percentage point data.

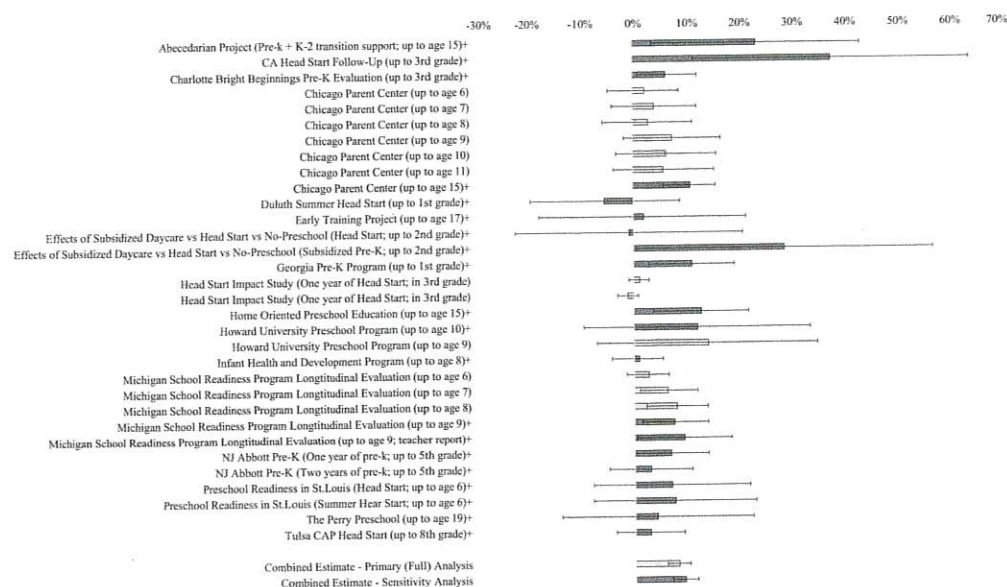


FIGURE A2. Percentage point reduction in grade retention rates (with 95% confidence intervals) for children attending early childhood education versus control group (selected programs with available data)
+ and dark grey bars identify those observations included in sensitivity analyses using a reduced sample. Seven additional observations (six from the Currie and Thomas NLSCM fixed effect study and one from the NLSY79 Head Start regression discontinuity study) included in primary analyses but not shown due to lack of percentage point data.

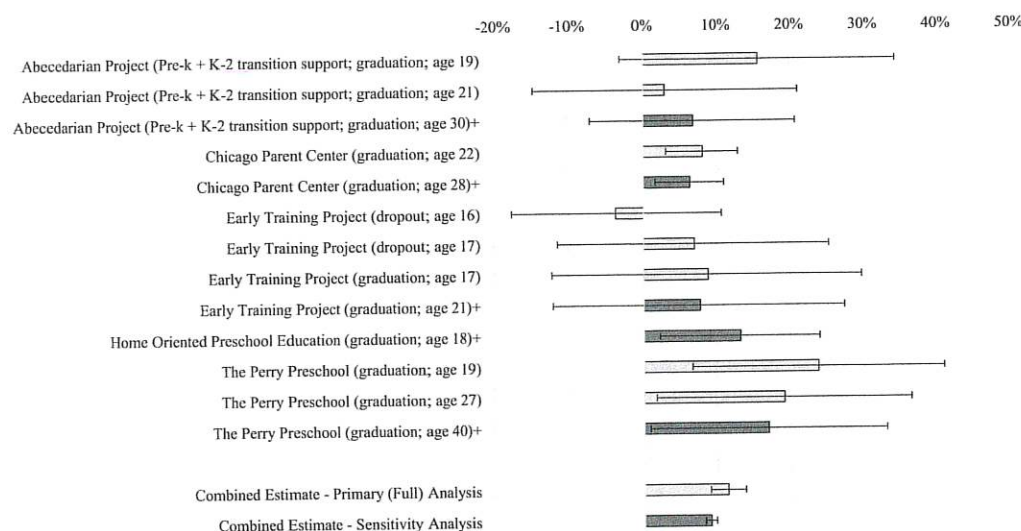


FIGURE A3. Percentage point gain in high school graduation rates (with 95% confidence intervals) for children attending early childhood education versus control group (selected programs with available data)
+ and dark grey bars identify those observations included in sensitivity analyses using a reduced sample. Two additional observations (from the NLSY79 Head Start regression discontinuity study and the OEO Head Start regression discontinuity study) included in primary analyses but not shown due to lack of percentage point data.

Table A1

Summary of Included Studies

Study Name	Citation(s)	Program Description	Study Design	Year	State	Contrasts		Time Points	Effect Sizes (N) High			
						N	Description	N	Special Ed	Grade Retention	School Graduation	Total
Abecedarian Project	Campbell, Ramey, Pungello, Sparling, and Miller-Johnson (2002); Campbell et al (2012); Masse and Barnett (2002); Ramey et al. (2000)	Intensive, full-time preschool services provided for low-income children from birth to age 5, with or without support services for the kindergarten to elementary school transition	Experimental	1972	NC	2	(1) Preschool services only versus no pre-k control; (2) preschool services + K-2 transition supports versus no pre-k control	4	2	1	3	6
CA Head Start Follow-Up	Newton, 2006	Full- and half-day Head Start programs in southern California, with children participating for either 1 or 2 years	Nonrandom assignment to demographically equivalent groups	2003 (est)	CA	1	Head Start versus no pre-k control	1	1	1	0	2
Charlotte Bright Beginnings (CBB) Pre-K Evaluation	Smith, Pellin, and Agruso (2003)	Full-day preschool program for low-income 4-year-olds run by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public School System	Nonrandom assignment to demographically equivalent groups	1997	NC	1	CBB pre-k versus no pre-k control	1	0	1	0	1
Chicago Parent Center (CPC)	Reynolds (1995); Reynolds and Ou (2011); Reynolds, Temple, and Ou (2010); Reynolds, Temple, Ou, Arteaga, and White	Half-day (morning) preschool program for 3- and 4-year-old low-income, Black children in Chicago; program provided for either 1 or 2 years	Nonrandom assignment to demographically equivalent groups	1985	IL	1	CPC pre-k (1 or 2 years) versus no pre-k control	7	7	7	2	16
Currie and Thomas NLSCM Fixed Effect Study	Currie and Thomas (1995, 1999)	Existing Head Start and preschool services reported in the National Longitudinal Survey Child-Mother (NLSCM) by mothers participating in the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY)	Quasi-experimental (sibling fixed effect models)	1978	National	6	(1) White children in Head Start versus sibling no pre-k control; (2) White children in pre-k versus sibling no pre-k control; (3) Black children in Head Start versus sibling no pre-k control; (4) Black children in pre-k versus sibling no pre-k control; (5) Hispanic children in Head Start versus sibling no pre-k control; (6) Hispanic children in pre-k versus sibling no pre-k control	1	0	6	0	6
Duluth Summer Head Start	Tamminen, Weatherman, and McKain (1967)	Summer Head Start program for low-income, "culturally deprived" children	Nonrandom assignment to demographically equivalent groups	1965	MN	1	Summer Head Start versus no pre-k control	1	0	1	0	1

Study Name	Citation(s)	Program Description	Study Design	Year	State	Contrasts		Time Points	Effect Sizes (N) High			
						N	Description	N	Special Ed	Grade Retention	School Graduation	Total
Early Training Project (ETP)	Gray, Ramsey, and Klaus (1982)	10-week, half-day summer pre-k program plus year-round home visiting for low-income children offered for 2 to 3 years	Experimental	1962	TN	1	ETP pre-k versus no ETP pre-k control	3	0	1	4	5
Effects of Subsidized Daycare Versus No Preschool	Handler (1972)	Existing year-round Head Start and subsidized preschool centers in a single community	Nonrandom assignment to demographically equivalent groups	1966	Unknown	2	(1) Subsidized preschool versus no pre-k control; (2) Head Start versus no pre-k control	1	0	2	0	2
Georgia Pre-k Program	Pilcher and Kaufman-McMurray (1994)	Universal, state-funded, full- and part-day preschool program for 4-year-olds	Nonrandom assignment to demographically equivalent groups	1993	GA	1	Pre-k versus no pre-k control	1	0	1	0	1
Head Start Impact Study	Puma et al. (2012)	Head Start programs for low-income 3- and 4-year-old children	Experimental	2002	National	2	(1) 3-year-olds in Head Start versus alternative care; (2) 4-year-olds in Head Start versus alternative care	1	0	2	0	2
Home-Oriented Preschool Education (HOPE)	Gotts (1989)	Daily at-home television lessons, weekly home visits, and weekly classroom group lessons for rural children ages 3 to 5	Experimental	1968	WV	1	HOPE program versus television lesson only control	1	0	1	1	2
Howard University Preschool Program	Herzog et al. (1972)	2-year preschool program for low-income, low-IQ 3- and 4-year-old children + 3 years kept together in elementary school	Nonrandom assignment to demographically equivalent groups	1964	DC	1	Howard University pre-k program versus no pre-k control	2	0	2	0	2
Infant Health and Development Program (IHDP)	McCarton et al. (1997)	Home visits, child development center educational services, and parent meetings from birth to age 3 for low birthweight babies	Experimental	1984	8 states	1	IHDP versus no IHDP control	1	1	1	0	2
Michigan School Readiness Program Longitudinal Evaluation	Xiang and Schweinhart (2002)	State-funded, part-day preschool program for 4-year-olds at risk of school failure based on economic and sociodemographic characteristics	Nonrandom assignment to demographically equivalent groups	1995	MI	1	Pre-k versus no pre-k control	4	0	5	0	5
NJ Abbott Pre-K	Barnett, Jung, Youn, and Frede (2013)	High-quality preschool provided in private centers, Head Start centers, and public schools through public-private partnership overseen by public schools	Nonrandom assignment to demographically equivalent groups	2003	NJ	2	(1) 1 year of Abbott pre-k versus alternative care; (2) 2 years of Abbott pre-k versus alternative care	1	2	2	0	4
NLSY79 Head Start Regression Discontinuity Evaluation	Weinstein (2004)	Head Start programs reported in the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY)	Quasi-experimental (regression discontinuity design)	1965	National	2	(1) Head Start eligible children (born between 1961 and 1964) versus noneligible	1	0	1	1	2

Study Name	Citation(s)	Program Description	Study Design	Year	State	Contrasts		Time Points	Effect Sizes (N) High			
						N	Description	N	Special Ed	Grade Retention	School Graduation	Total
OEO Head Start Regression Discontinuity Study	Ludwig and Miller (2007)	Head Start funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)	Quasi-experimental (regression discontinuity design)	1965	National	2	controls (born 1957–1960); (2) Head Start eligible children (born between 1960 and 1964) versus noneligible controls (born 1957–1959)	2	0	0	3	3
Preschool Readiness Centers in St. Louis	Bittner, Rockwell, and Matthews (1968)	Year-long, part-time (half-day, between 2 and 4 days per week) preschool program for low-income children ages 2.5 to 6 and summer Head Start	Nonrandom assignment to demographically equivalent groups	1965	IL	2	(1) Full-year program versus no pre-k control; (2) summer Head Start versus no pre-k control	1	0	2	0	2
The Perry Preschool	Schweinhart and Weikart (2000); Schweinhart, Barnes, and Weikart (1993); Schweinhart et al. (2005); Schweinhart (2013)	Half-day, comprehensive preschool and home visiting program for low-income, Black 3- and 4-year-olds	Experimental	1962	MI	1	Perry pre-k versus no pre-k control	3	2	1	3	6
Third Even Start Evaluation	Ricciuti, St. Pierre, Lee, Parsad, and Rimdzius (2004)	Parent-child literacy activities, parenting education, adult education, and early childhood education for low-income families with children age 0 to 7	Experimental	1999	14 states	1	Even Start services versus no Even Start control	2	2	0	0	2
Tulsa CAP Head Start	Phillips, Gromley, and Anderson (2016)	Full-day Head Start program for low-income 3- and 4-year-old children	Quasi-experimental (propensity score matching)	2005	OK	1	Head Start versus no public pre-k program	1	1	1	0	2
Yale Child Welfare Research Program	Seitz, Rosenbaum, and Apfel (1985)	Home visits, pediatric care, developmental evaluation, and day care and toddler school for 0- to 30-month-old, low-income children	Nonrandom assignment to demographically equivalent groups	1968	CT	1	Yale Child Welfare program versus no program control	1	1	0	0	1
Total						34		41	19	39	17	75

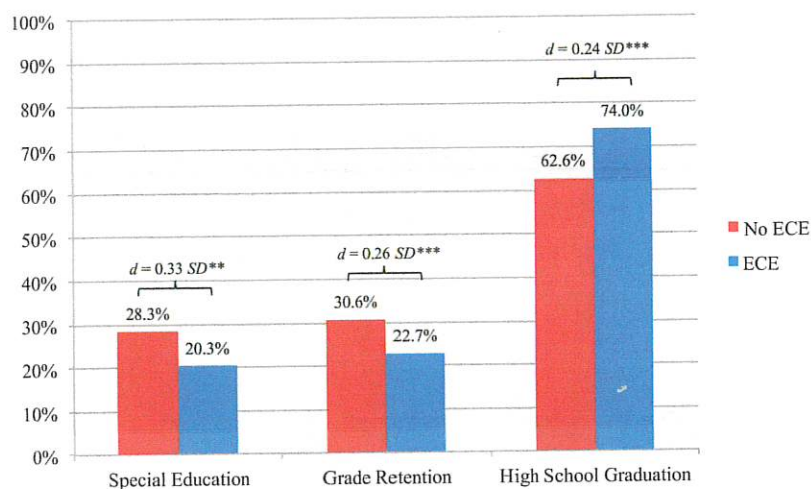


FIGURE 1. Average rates of special education placement, grade retention, and high school graduation for early childhood education participants versus nonparticipants
 Effect sizes (*d*) represent results from all available observations (*n* = 75). Percentage point data represent results from a subset of observations (*n* = 62) with available data.
 p* < .01. *p* < .001.

Table 1

Estimated Standardized Difference Between ECE and Non-ECE Children Observed From Two-Level Weighted Regression Analyses

	Composite (All Outcomes)			Special Education			Grade Retention			High School Graduation		
	b	SE	p	b	SE	p	b	SE	p	b	SE	p
Primary models												
Intercept	0.236	0.042	0.000	0.326	0.107	0.002	0.259	0.056	0.000	0.242	0.068	0.000
N = 22 studies, 34 contrasts, 75 ES												
N = 9 studies, 11 contrasts, 19 ES												
N = 19 studies, 28 contrasts, 39 ES												
Sensitivity models: Nesting in studies												
Intercept	0.239	0.039	0.000	0.295	0.114	0.010	0.234	0.045	0.000	0.272	0.070	0.000
N = 22 studies, 34 contrasts, 75 ES												
N = 9 studies, 11 contrasts, 19 ES												
N = 19 studies, 28 contrasts, 39 ES												
Sensitivity models: Controlling for time since treatment												
Intercept	0.159	0.057	0.005	0.171	0.107	0.145	0.258	0.068	0.031	0.205	0.076	0.007
Time	0.013	0.002	0.000	0.022	0.003	0.000	0.020	0.001	0.000	0.002	0.002	0.277
N = 22 studies, 34 contrasts, 75 ES												
N = 9 studies, 11 contrasts, 19 ES												
N = 19 studies, 28 contrasts, 39 ES												
Sensitivity models: Reduced sample with limited outcomes												
Intercept	0.278	0.054	0.000	0.374	0.052	0.000	0.290	0.067	0.000	0.100	0.015	0.000
N = 19 studies, 30 contrasts, 41 ES												
N = 5 studies, 6 contrasts, 6 ES												
N = 18 studies, 26 contrasts, 27 ES												
N = 7 studies, 8 contrasts, 8 ES												

Note. All models (with the exception of the first set of sensitivity analyses) weighted by the inverse variance of the ES estimates times the inverse of the number of effect sizes per contrast. Primary models include all time points and both current and cumulative representations of special education and grade retention. The first set of sensitivity models nests effect sizes in studies rather than in contrasts. The second set of sensitivity models controls for time (in years) since the end of treatment. The third set of sensitivity models includes a reduced sample of effect sizes reflecting only the latest time point per contrast and only cumulative representations of special education and grade retention. All effect sizes coded such that positive coefficients indicate more desirable outcomes (i.e., lower special education placement, lower grade retention, and higher graduation rates). ECE = early childhood education; ES = effect size.

Long-term effects of an early childhood intervention on educational achievement and juvenile arrest: A 15-year follow-up of low-income children in public schools

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Affiliations expand

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Erratum in

- JAMA 2001 Sep 5;286(9):1026

Abstract

Context: Most studies of the long-term effects of early childhood educational interventions are of demonstration programs rather than large-scale public programs. Previous studies of one of the oldest federally funded preschool programs have reported positive effects on school performance, but effects on educational attainment and crime are unknown.

Objective: To determine the long-term effectiveness of a federal center-based preschool and school-based intervention program for urban low-income children.

Design, setting, and participants: Fifteen-year follow-up of a nonrandomized, matched-group cohort of 1539 low-income, mostly black children born in 1980 and enrolled in alternative early childhood programs in 25 sites in Chicago, Ill.

Interventions: The Chicago Child-Parent Center (CPC) Program (n = 989 children) provides comprehensive education, family, and health services and includes half-day preschool at ages 3 to 4 years, half- or full-day kindergarten, and school-age services in linked elementary schools at ages 6 to 9 years. The comparison group (n = 550) consisted of children who participated in alternative early childhood programs (full-day kindergarten): 374 in the preschool comparison group from 5 randomly selected schools plus 2 others that provided full-day kindergarten and additional instructional resources and 176 who attended full-day kindergartens in 6 CPCs without preschool participation.

Main outcome measures: Rates of high school completion and school dropout by age 20 years, juvenile arrests for violent and nonviolent offenses, and grade retention and special education placement by age 18 years.

Agenda Item #3.2.

Results: Relative to the preschool comparison group and adjusted for several covariates, children who participated in the preschool intervention for 1 or 2 years had a higher rate of high school completion (49.7 % vs 38.5%; $P = .01$); more years of completed education (10.6 vs 10.2; $P = .03$); and lower rates of juvenile arrest (16.9% vs 25.1%; $P = .003$), violent arrests (9.0% vs 15.3%; $P = .002$), and school dropout (46.7% vs 55.0%; $P = .047$). Both preschool and school-age participation were significantly associated with lower rates of grade retention and special education services. The effects of preschool participation on educational attainment were greater for boys than girls, especially in reducing school dropout rates ($P = .03$). Relative to less extensive participation, children with extended program participation from preschool through second or third grade also experienced lower rates of grade retention (21.9% vs 32.3%; $P = .001$) and special education (13.5% vs 20.7%; $P = .004$).

Conclusions: Participation in an established early childhood intervention for low-income children was associated with better educational and social outcomes up to age 20 years. These findings are among the strongest evidence that established programs administered through public schools can promote children's long-term success.

Comment in

- [Extended childhood intervention prepares children for school and beyond.](#)

Zigler E, Styfco SJ. *JAMA*. 2001 May 9;285(18):2378-80. doi: 10.1001/jama.285.18.2378.PMID: 11343487 No abstract available.

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Palfrey JS, Hauser-Cram P, Bronson MB, Warfield ME, Sirin S, Chan E. *Pediatrics*. 2005 Jul;116(1):144-52. doi: 10.1542/peds.2004-2515.PMID: 15995045

Agenda Item #3.2.

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- [\[What support of young presenting a first psychotic episode, when schooling is being challenged?\].](#)

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Agenda Item #3.2.

- Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't
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- Research Support, U.S. Gov't, Non-P.H.S.
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- Research Support, U.S. Gov't, P.H.S.
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MeSH terms

- Adolescent
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- Chicago / epidemiology
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 -
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- Child
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 -
 -
- Crime / statistics & numerical data*
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- Early Intervention, Educational*
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- Educational Status*
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- Female
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- Follow-Up Studies
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Agenda Item #3.2.

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- Humans
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- [R01HD34294/HD/NICHD NIH HHS/United States](#)

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- **Full Text Sources**
 - [Ovid Technologies, Inc.](#)
 - [Silverchair Information Systems](#)

Natalie Green

From: Sam PetersCarolElder <ptrseldr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 5:17 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Funding from American Rescue Plan Act - Los Amigos Project

Dear City Councilors,

I urge you to prioritize the funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to alleviate the housing shortage in Las Cruces. Specifically, I am writing to endorse the Los Amigos project which helps individuals re-enter from jail and prison. This population is one of the most vulnerable because if they don't have a place to live that provides intensive support, they will likely continue the revolving door cycle of justice involvement. Without stable housing, this population is also vulnerable both to getting and spreading COVID. Please help to alleviate criminality as well as the spread of the virus by supporting the Los Amigos project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol B. Elder
2055 Pinetrail Street
Las Cruces, NM 88012
ptrseldr@yahoo.com
575-382-3351

Natalie Green

From: Paul Dulin <pdulin@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 6:32 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Input to the Mayor and Council on the use of funds provided under the American Rescue Plan Act

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Councilors,

I am writing you to urge that the resources provided under the American Rescue Plan Act be used to provide additional subsidized and affordable housing in the City. Specifically, an important part of the funds under the Act should be used to provide transitional housing for those that are released from jails and prisons and thus contribute to reducing the rates of recidivism, treating this cohort with needed services, medications and care, as well as lower the costs of providing for the security of the public (e.g., police, emergency response, and incidents related to mental and behavioral health needs).

The Los Amigos Project provides an important first step and base for assisting individuals to reenter society from jail and prison. This population is one of the most vulnerable and least stable as they do not have a place to live (thus the recidivism and the number of homeless in our community). Without stable housing, this population is also vulnerable both to getting and spreading the Coronavirus, becoming both a conduit for, and a burden with, the disease. This is an area that has enjoyed only very limited funding and has put an inordinate weight on the police and emergency response personnel.

Please help to alleviate criminality and the security and economic costs for dealing with this population and support the Los Amigos Project.

Thank you!

Paul Dulin
3247 Executive Hills Rd.
Las Cruces NM 88011

Cell: 575 343-2324

Natalie Green

From: Caroline Barr <cbarr2418@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 6:38 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: American Rescue Plan Act funds

I support two specific projects, one is the guaranteed income project proposed by Councilperson, Johanna Bencomo and the second is a proposal to provide housing for persons reentering society from jail, the Los Amigos project. We have a shortage of housing for lower income folks and no programs that offer support to help folks transition back into society.

Statistically both of these programs have shown success in other communities in the US. I support both programs because they would offer support to populations who are struggling in our community.

Sincerely,

Caroline M. Barr, Retired Mental Health Therapist
713-724-7322

Natalie Green

From: Rorie Measure <rmeasure@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 9:38 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: public comment in favor of Family Prosperity Guaranteed Income Pilot Project

Family Prosperity Guaranteed Income Pilot Project gives Las Cruces an opportunity to again lead in our commitment to our poorest neighbors. Our generous and inclusive community is the perfect place to stage our own experiment in promoting equity and opportunity for all.

Rorie Measure
3116 Dyer Street
LC NM 880111
575 522 4804

Natalie Green

From: Lizz Taylor <gurlene64@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 10:45 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA Funds for Housing

Dear City Councilors,

Please prioritize the funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to alleviate the housing shortage in Las Cruces.

Specifically, I am writing to endorse the Los Amigos project which helps individuals reenter from jail and prison.

This population is one of the most vulnerable in that if they don't have a place to live that provides intensive support they will likely continue the revolving door cycle of justice involvement. Without stable housing, this population is also vulnerable both to getting and spreading the Coronavirus. Please help to alleviate criminality as well as the spread of the virus by supporting the Los Amigos project.

Regards ~ Lizz Taylor, District 3

Natalie Green

From: Robert Crecelius <recrecelius@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Los Amigos Project

07/29/2021

Robert E. Crecelius
2244 Sedona Hills Pkwy.
Las Cruces NM 88011

Dear City Councilors,

Having served nearly my entire career developing alternatives to incarceration I can without reservation testify to the necessity of stable housing and support for our at risk populations. The provision of same without fail is a win win for both at risk individuals and the community in which they reside, as such:

Please prioritize the funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to alleviate the housing shortage in Las Cruces. Specifically, I am writing to endorse the Los Amigos Project which helps individuals reenter from jail and prison. Said population is one of the most vulnerable in that if they don't have a place to live that provides intensive support they will likely continue the revolving door cycles of both the justice and mental health systems. Your support of the Los Amigos project would be much appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert E. Crecelius
(Retired Chief Probation Officer)

Natalie Green

From: v quevedo <plantforthat@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 4:40 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Supporting the GBI pilot with the ARPA

Economic Development Dept Director & LC City Staff,

I'm excited to support a pilot Guaranteed Basic Income project, and think that the American Rescue Plan Act relief funding is an ideal way to support the project.

GBIs have been working across the country since before the pandemic, and I'm grateful for the chance to implement it here in Las Cruces.

I grew up in a family that was food insecure. Food scarcity and hunger followed me into adulthood, and I'm grateful for the quick fixes like SNAP. Being a SNAP participant meant that I didn't go hungry -- but it didn't get me out of poverty. It wasn't until I found a full-time, living-wage job that I was able to pay all my bills and keep a roof over my head. GBI enables folks to make ends meet until they find that job. No one should have to go through these scary, stressful, painful cycles. I'm in full support of Las Cruces spending money to take some of the burden off the shoulders of families in our community.

Things were tough here before the pandemic -- but poverty and hunger have now increased even more. A recent **Voices for Children** report shows that food security in Doña Ana County went from 1 in 3 to 1 in 4 children. I'm sure you agree that this is inexcusable. I hope everyone at EDD and the City of Las Cruces is ready to get this GBI pilot off the ground and get that federal ARPA relief money into the hands of the people who need it the most, no strings attached.

After the two years of ARPA money has been spent, I encourage the city to put GBI as a recurring line item in our budget. Our taxes should go to positive programs with high impact, like GBI. If this city is serious about reducing crime, our government should fund poverty alleviation, mental health, and other community-building programs. Safety means investing in community well-being and self-determination. GBI does just that.

Thank you for the work you do every day in service of our community.

Sincerely,
V. Quevedo
42 Linda Vista Rd
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Natalie Green

From: Lorenzo Alba <lo.albajr@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 5:05 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA Funding Priorities

I am in support of funding addressing: Food Insecurity Infrastructure, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty.

I firmly believe that transparency is key to this process and projects that involve proven NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations should take priority.

Partnerships and collaborative efforts are also important in addressing these social economic issues. Community impact is what should be strived for in this process.

Lorenzo Alba

Natalie Green

From: Heather Q <quirozheather@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 5:58 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Good insecurity

I am in support of funding addressing: Food Insecurity Infrastructure and Support, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty.

I firmly believe that transparency is key to this process and projects that involve proven NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations should take priority.

Partnerships and collaborative efforts are also important in addressing these social economic issues. Community impact is what should be strived for in this process.

--

Thank you,
Heather Quiroz

Natalie Green

From: Pattie H <nadazonie@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 2:41 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA Funding Comments

I attended the public input meeting today, and was extremely disappointed by the lack of specific data-based presentations showing exactly where the needs are. The city should have been gathering information from every sector that has been affected by covid, and at least have people from those areas present us with fact-based information about their industry. I expect to hear from business leaders, healthcare professionals, residents who were truly impacted by covid, schools, mental health and substance use treatment professionals, social service providers and agencies, Community of Hope, homeless shelters, domestic violence agencies and shelters, etc. What i expect from each of these groups was a clear understanding of how and who has been affected ALONG with their perspectives on the solutions needed to address the damaging effects of the pandemic on their industries in terms of the specific groups of people who were disproportionately affected and in what way. I expected details of the types of actual plans that would help people in a measurable way.

This is A LOT of money we are talking about. Las Cruces is already a poor town, and people were seriously affected, and you invite me to give input on what i dont know the facts about. Shame on you. It essentially tells me youre not really interested in my input, and i suspect this is just a formality to receive the funds.

What ive seen in Las Cruces is reckless spending on pet projects without solid plans, and NO accountability to show the public you can be trusted with the citys funds. Generally, ive seen failed systems be propped up without any specific thought through plans that tell us what benefits will come from it for THE PEOPLE, not those in power whose interests are truly ignored here.

The process itself is being rushed in an irresponsible way. Just because people are hurting now does not justify reckless spending on the usual nonprofits who have failed to produce any meaningful improvement here to date. I absolutely oppose handouts to the same people for business as usual. This money is intended to help people RECOVER from the effects of a worldwide Pandemic.

I expect to see detailed plans and proposals, and then see REAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH to the public who have a right to be part of ensuring this money is well spent. I have not seen this so far, and the quick timeline here almost guarantees the public interest will not be well served. Its time to show some respect to the people in this community, and allow us to know EXACTLY where this money will be spent, and a public presentation of progress with measurable outcomes that allow us, the people to see the evidence of success before you simply tell us to trust you. You do not have a good track record, and this process is evidence that the city continues to be uneducated on how to spend money. Show me evidence of some well thought out plans, and only then can i support the city. The public has a right to expect results from solutions that justify the money spent on pandemic related damage.

Pattie Hartman
928-345-4500

"There's really no such thing as 'voiceless'. There are only the deliberately silenced or the preferably unheard." Arundhati Roy

Natalie Green

From: Fuentes, Antoinette <Antoinette.Fuentes@dal.frb.org>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 7:41 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA funding

PERSONAL/NONWORK // EXTERNAL

Dear ED Department:

As a Las Cruces resident, I am in support of funding addressing: Food Insecurity Infrastructure and Support, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty.

I firmly believe that transparency is key to this process and projects that involve proven NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations should take priority.

Partnerships and collaborative efforts are also important in addressing these social economic issues. Community impact is what should be strived for in this process.

Sincerely,

Antoinette J. Fuentes



Antoinette Fuentes

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

Senior Human Resources Business

Partner

Human Resources

Office: 915-521-5368

Antoinette.Fuentes@dal.frb.org

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

El Paso Branch

301 E. Main St., El Paso, TX 79901

dallasfed.org

Natalie Green

From: bernie <tajikbernie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 8:53 AM
To: Economic Development
Cc: lo.albajr@gmail.com
Subject: American Rescue Plan Act

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on the City of Las Cruces Economic Development Department proposed use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury. **I am in support of funding addressing: Food Insecurity Infrastructure and Support, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty.**

As noted in the Interim Final Rule for the potential uses for ARPA, "A severe recession—and its concentrated impact among low-income workers—has amplified food and housing insecurity, with an estimated nearly 17 million adults living in households where there is sometimes or often not enough food to eat and an estimated 10.7 million adults living in households that were not current on rent" ARPA funds granted to the City of Las Cruces presents an excellent opportunity to begin to address this disparity.

Sincerely,

Nancy Ryan

Natalie Green

From: sonja.jamilla@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA Funding Priorities - Input

Good morning,

I understand that the City is requesting input on funding priorities for the use of ARPA funding. I reviewed the list of potential priorities presented on the website and the first item caught my attention, "Programs or services that facilitate access to health and social services." As a board member and vice-chair of Casa de Peregrinos, I am an advocate for addressing food insecurity in the Las Cruces area and hence the first item resonated with me.

I am in support of funding addressing Food Insecurity Infrastructure and Support, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty. Transparency is key to this process and projects that involve proven NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations that have proven themselves effective in addressing social challenges, should take priority.

Thank you for your time.

Sonja Jamilla

Natalie Green

From: Eric Walkinshaw <ej.walkinshaw65@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 9:34 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA Support

I am a volunteer and board member of Casa de Peregrinos (CdP) the food pantry serving Dona Ana County.

I am in support of using ARPA funding to support NGOs such as CdP as well as other NGOs providing housing for the underserved in our community such as the Tents to Rent program providing low cost housing for the homeless.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Walkinshaw
Mesilla, NM

Natalie Green

From: Yolanda Silva <yasilva6@nmsu.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA funding

"I am in support of funding addressing: Food Insecurity Infrastructure and Support, Income Support for Families Negatively Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis, Low-Income Housing/Rental Assistance and Addressing Child Poverty.

I firmly believe that transparency is key to this process and projects that involve proven NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations should take priority.

Thank you for your investment in this important development in our Community!

Yolanda A Silva, LMSW
575-649-0003

Yoli

Natalie Green

From: Dawn Hommer <dawnh@caasnm.org>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 11:50 AM
To: Economic Development
Subject: guaranteed basic income demonstration project
Attachments: GI LOS.pdf

Attached is a letter of support from nonprofits and organizations who serve the residents of Las Cruces in support of a guaranteed basic income demonstration project.

Thank you

Las Cruces Mayor and City Council
700 North Main
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Mayor Miyagishima and City Council:

The undersigned nonprofits and organizations, who operate in the City of Las Cruces, are submitting this letter in support of appropriating \$2 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for a Guaranteed Income (GI) demonstration project.

As per ARPA 2021 SEC. 602. C. 1A., a municipality may use funds “to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households¹. The Interim Final Rule on *Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds* issued by the United States Treasury provides even further guidance, “Assistance to households or populations facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19. This includes: [...] cash assistance [...]. A cash transfer program may focus on [...] low- and moderate-income families, which have faced disproportionate economic harms due to the pandemic”²

A City of Las Cruces GI project would not only follow the Congressional intent of ARPA funding, but also address economic harms to families who were disproportionately affected by COVID-19. COVID-19 has intensified the economic insecurity of low-income people in a variety of different ways, from job loss, to educational adjustments, to unanticipated costs, to struggles to meet basic needs, and unforeseen medical expenses. Instead of targeting just one of those problems, GI seeks to address them all by awarding the funds directly to families.

The need for an anti-poverty program in the region is well known. New Mexico has the second highest poverty rate in the country, after only Mississippi. One out of every four children live in poverty in the State. In Las Cruces, the poverty rate is over 26.4%. More alarming is that 38.30% of children under 18 live in poverty and for those under 5, it is as high as 39.8%³.

GI has been widely studied in the U.S. and world-wide as an innovative way to curb or eliminate poverty. Unrestricted cash payments are given monthly to participants. Families determine how to spend the money, but research has shown participants tend to pay for such basic needs as food, shelter, healthcare and transportation. The payments help them plan for the future, including attaining better employment and education and creating stability for themselves and their families. They address the core causes of poverty, which is a lack of income, as opposed to its symptoms, which range from hunger to poor health. For the community, a reduction in poverty rates can mean higher grades and graduation rates, increased employment prospects, and a reduction in crime, homelessness, and other societal and economic impacts.

Recently, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded a group of local nonprofits a \$200,000 research, program design, and evaluation grant to study the impacts of a GI project. We respectfully request

¹ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. <https://bit.ly/2Vj7Xa1>

² Department Of The Treasury 31 CFR Part 35 RIN 1505-AC77 <https://bit.ly/3i8RjTm>

³ U.S. Census. Las Cruces, NM Metro Area <https://bit.ly/3IbXKqR>

Agenda Item #3.2.

that if appropriations are made for a GI project that the administrator(s) of the funds work with the nonprofit partners and the NMSU Crimson Research group to assist with the evaluation and design of the demonstration project in order to leverage this important resource.

We firmly believe that this project has the potential to materially benefit our citizens and local economy. We appreciate your consideration.

Michelle Adames <i>Chief Executive Officer, Jardin de los Niños</i>	July 28, 2021
Kenneth Ferrone <i>Executive Director, Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico</i>	July 28, 2021
Carrie Hamblen <i>Senator, District 38, New Mexico Legislature</i>	July 28, 2021
Carrie Hamblen <i>CEO/President, Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce</i>	July 28, 2021
Robert Reno <i>Operations Manager, We Are IT</i>	July 28, 2021
Jennifer Alvarado <i>Director, Children's Reading Alliance</i>	July 28, 2021
Dawn Hommer <i>CEO, Community Action Agency of SNM</i>	July 28, 2021
Sharon Finarelli <i>Executive Director, New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils</i>	July 29, 2021
Lori Martinez <i>Executive Director, Ngage New Mexico</i>	July 29, 2021
Nicole Martinez <i>ED, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope</i>	July 29, 2021
Ashley Echavarria <i>CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces, Inc.</i>	July 29, 2021
Brian Kavanaugh <i>CEO, Families and Youth, Inc.</i>	July 29, 2021
Angela Townsend <i>Chief Operating Officer, Ben Archer Health Center</i>	July 29, 2021
Tony Marin <i>Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs, New Mexico State University</i>	July 29, 2021
Mariá Zuniga <i>Community Schools Coordinator, Las Cruces Public Schools</i>	July 29, 2021
Krysten Aguilar <i>Co-Executive Director, La Semilla Food Center</i>	July 29, 2021
Rose Garcia <i>Executive Director, Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation</i>	July 30, 2021
Daisy Maldonado <i>EC Director, Empowerment Congress of Doña Ana County</i>	July 30, 2021

Natalie Green

From: Kari Bachman <dacukari@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA input

Thank you for holding a comment period related to the City's ARPA funding. I attended the second public input session last night, and would like to elaborate in writing on three topics here: the timeline, the process by which funding decisions are made, and funding priorities. These points relate primarily to the portion of funds the City plans to allocate to nonprofits, but many are also relevant to the ARPA funding the City will spend on its own projects.

Timeline:

I appreciate that the City recognizes that many in our community have been overwhelmingly impacted by the pandemic and therefore desires to spend ARPA funds in an expedient manner. I agree that the City should not dawdle.

If I understood correctly last night, the City must obligate its ARPA funds by 12/31/2024 and funds must be expended by 12/31/2026. This time frame gives the City an opportunity to be more deliberate than the City's hurried timeline that was presented last night.

Recommendations: 1. Allocate one additional month to develop the RFP guide and application; 2. Extend by two additional months the deadline to submit proposals.

Rationale: The City's ARPA process to date has been rushed and not fully transparent. It was clear at the first work session (June 14, 2021) that funding recommendations from staff had been requested with little lead time and that they were not based on agreed upon priorities or with the input of Council. To my knowledge, staff's recommendations were not accompanied by a rationale for recommending the projects they did, nor by a list of other projects that had been considered. This left Council to haggle over dollar amounts without first engaging in substantive discussions about what types of internal projects should even be prioritized for ARPA funding.

Continuing this breakneck pace will have similarly suboptimal consequences for the portion of ARPA funds that the City plans to distribute to nonprofits. The pace will tax staff, frustrate councilors, and keep community members from participating fully.

Process by which funding decisions are made:

It is not enough to gather input on what projects should be funded, nor is it optimal to gather individuals' opinions in isolation from each other. The current 10-day public input period might check the box of community engagement, but it will be unlikely to yield innovative, cross-sector, multi-partner proposals that have the power to move the needle on systemic inequities.

Slowing the timeline can enable our community to take advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to gain practice in engaging in collaborative and participatory processes between community members, nonprofits, and the City.

Recommendation: Task City procurement/grant staff with facilitating a dialogue with City grantees to inform the development of the RFP guide and application.

The RFP guide and application could be helpfully informed by input from past and current grantees. A conversation between them and the City procurement/grant staff would help eliminate ambiguities in the RFP

Agenda Item #3.2.

language as well as result in a streamlined application that would be faster to fill out and faster to review. In addition, this dialogue would be a chance to develop scoring criteria that encourage innovation and collaboration between nonprofits on cross-sector work.

Recommendation: Task a City staff person skilled in facilitation with facilitating a series of design thinking workshops that yield innovative potential projects.

I encourage the City to move beyond its normal public engagement processes which tend to privilege analytical and verbal ways of engaging. An alternative exists: bring community members affected by the pandemic, the City, and nonprofits into conversation with each other. An iterative design thinking approach could yield creative, out-of-the-box possibilities for cross-sector proposals that a regular RFP would never elicit. Extending the submission deadline will provide time for these workshops to occur and for nonprofits to craft joint proposals.

Recommendation: Task a City department with developing a participatory budgeting process.

Though it is too late to change the process by which the first tranche of City-administered funds are allocated, participatory budgeting is routinely utilized by municipalities around the world to engage residents in making such decisions. I suggest that the City begin planning now so it is ready to conduct a participatory budgeting process so residents can decide how a portion of the second tranche of funding is allocated.

Funding priorities:

As I stated above, I don't believe the best proposals come from the mind of one person or one nonprofit. That said, I do have some suggestions of projects that would be multi-sector, would engage affected community members as full partners, and would address systemic health inequities.

1. Train community members to retrofit homes to withstand extreme heat events. This could include planting trees as well as modifications to housing construction.
2. Develop a cottage industry for residents impacted by health inequities that utilizes materials that are normally recycled or landfilled by the City. (Patrick Peck has expressed interest in the past)
3. Develop a co-housing community that brings together residents from all walks of life, enabling students to help elders and others with daily tasks in exchange for a break on their rent. (This was pioneered in Denmark and there are many examples in Europe)
4. Create a community kitchen that employs and trains impacted community members who prepare simple meals using locally grown ingredients when possible. Meals are sold on a pay-as-you-can basis.

Thank you for accepting my input. Kari Bachman | 575-496-4330 | 737 Indian Hollow Road

Kari Bachman (she/her/hers)

Se habla español

Director, Doña Ana Communities United

Las Cruces, New Mexico USA

575-496-4330

[Email](#) [Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#)

[Link to Zoom events](#)

Natalie Green

From: Ashley Echavarria <ashley@bgclascruces.org>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 1:21 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: Public Comment ARPA
Attachments: ARPA Public Comment Letter.pdf

Hello,

Please see attached letter for public funding regarding the ARPA funding. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ashley Echavarria
Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces
330 W Las Cruces Ave
Las Cruces, NM 88005
Club – 575.526.1519
www.bgclascruces.org

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July 29, 2021

Mayor Miyagishima and City Councilors
City of Las Cruces
700 N. Main
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Dear Mayor & City Council,

This letter is regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury. While the interim final rules states multiple recommended priorities, we would like to request that the City of Las Cruces considers allocating a portion of these funds to address the following recommended priorities:

- Addressing Educational Disparities
- Promoting Healthy Childhood Environments
- Equity

Now more than ever, children are in need of support to address the effects of the pandemic. Since 1963, Boys & Girls Club has provided thousands of kids and teens with a safe and fun place, positive adult mentors, educational enhancement, guidance on healthy living and life-changing programs during the out-of-school time. While our services have always been critical, the pandemic has only brought on a more critical need for expanded services for more kids. Focusing on the above priorities will help organizations like ours to continue to fill the gaps that our children are facing, providing much needed equitable support to families, as we all work together to rebuild our community.

Thank you for all of the support that the City has given to our organization over the years, and your consideration for further support through these funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Echavarria".

Ashley Echavarria
Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces
(575) 526-1519

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330 W. Las Cruces Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88005 ♦ (575) 526-1519

Natalie Green

From: Roberto Lozano <robeloza@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 4:53 PM
To: Economic Development
Cc: Roberto Lozano
Subject: Support for Pilot Program

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my support for the proposal to pilot a guaranteed basic income program. As a longtime resident of Las Cruces I have seen first-hand the negative impact poverty has in our community. The time is now for our city officials to try innovative ways to give our most marginalized members in our community the means to improve their living conditions. I believe the proposal would give our local community sufficient data to later determine whether this program should be sustained and expanded. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Roberto Lozano
Las Cruces Resident, District 6

Natalie Green

From: Maegan Honey <maeganhoney@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: GBI support.

I full support a basic income program for the city of Las Cruces. I would hope that the city would see its benefit as well as many of the city's citizens do.

Maegan Lauturner
575-650-0750
1217 Lea Ranch Dr, Las Cruces, NM 88012

Natalie Green

From: Lorrie Meeks <lmmeeks@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 10:33 PM
To: Economic Development
Subject: ARPA Funding Comments

These funds should be use to create support structures that will be useful now and well into the future. Priorities should include spending for 1) affordable housing now (stop waiting to "see how it's going"); 2) increase mental health services; 3) subsidize an increase in minimum wage for small businesses over a period of time 4) offer grants to high school graduates for vocational training.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Respectfully,
Lorrie Meeks

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

July 28, 2021

Following are the summary minutes of the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Hearing held on July 28, 2021.

Staff Present: Natalie Green
Jan Lauterbach
Kevin Wilson
Raymond Burchfield
Cynthia Villanueva
Elizabeth Teeters
Irene Parra
Ray Fajardo
Amy Johnson-Bassford

Interpreter: Armida Hernandez

Public Present: Greg Shervanick

Richard Lemons
Victor Zamora
Stacy Christiano-Allen

Natalie Green gave a PowerPoint presentation of the American Rescue Plan Act Funding for the City of Las Cruces. The following questions and/or comments were made:

Greg Shervanick stated there was discussion about \$10.4 million and asked if that was the only section of the ARPA distribution.

Natalie Green stated that this public comment is really for the \$10.4. And that Council has already had a full work session on the other items, but not voted yet. A second work session has been planned and depending on how that work session goes on all of the items, probably September for a vote.

Greg Shervanick asked where is the revenue from interest of the \$12.4 going now.

Amy Johnson-Bassford stated the money is in an interest-bearing account, unlike many other federal funds it is allowed to be in an interest bearing account. The money per federal regulation will go back into the programing for any projects that have been approved by Council. And this would be done at the end of the spending period.

Agenda Item #3.2.

Greg Shervanick asked if under the eligibility constraints of the money could the interest bearing revenue be used to pay off debt now that the City has incurred.

Amy Johnson-Bassford stated that none of the ARPA funding can be used to pay off debt incurred by a municipality.

Greg Shervanick stated the City is going to pay off debt when they pay off other programs that are listed for the distribution that the City Council had looked at in work session. GO Bond projects are going to be paid off with this money.

Amy Johnson-Bassford stated that no, GO Bond projects will not be. And stated the GO Bond projects discussed at Council work session are the cost increases due to the COVID impacts on the materials, labor, and supplies for the construction projects. No debt can be paid back with ARPA funding.

Greg Shervanick asked how the budget department will account for the money revenue, interest, as well as baseline of the original.

Amy Johnson-Bassford stated the funds are currently in the City budget. And as projects are approved by Council, the funding will go into those projects to pay for ongoing expenses of those projects. Debt is not an ongoing expense.

Richard Lemons stated he is here for himself and Scott Russell. They support funding for early childhood development. They have been active in the Resilience Leaders Program. Studies are indicating that 50% of the kids that could be in early childhood programs actually are. And there are some studies which he has attached to a document he will share indicating the impact of early childhood education on outcomes and academics and in juvenile arrest rates.

Meeting ended at 2:45 p.m.



Minutes Approved by Staff

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

July 29, 2021

Following are the summary minutes of the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Hearing held on July 29, 2021.

Staff Present: Natalie Green
Jan Lauterbach
Kevin Wilson
Amy Johnson-Bassford
Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC

Interpreter: Armida Hernandez

Public Present: Greg Shervanick
Rose Garcia
Al Galves
Kari Bachman
Pattie Hartman

Natalie Green gave a PowerPoint presentation of the American Rescue Plan Act Funding. The following questions and/or comments were made:

Rose Garcia with Tierra Del Sol. She is very pleased this has come locally as it has taken a long time for resources to come locally. She is proposing what is consistent with the City's consolidated plan of 2021-2025 and the strategic plan. The proposal for new construction of affordable multifamily rental housing the Las Cruces market would help with the recovery. This would be family housing with children, which are the workforce of Las Cruces in various sectors of employment. Affordable housing is a way to stabilize families to stay in place and work on their future. They are proposing about a 100-140 unit apartment complex, rental housing that would be available to families of Las Cruces an average 60% of their median income based on HUD income limits. They are hoping to be able to collaborate with others in Las Cruces or outside that could make available a few units for special needs. The set up for the total development is quite large and so it would take several partners of funding, financing, etc. Most would come from the low-income housing tax credits either 4% or 9%. They really need the City to be a partner in this. They will have a firm proposal with actual set up of leveraging of money soon. The property would have supportive services, customized to the needs of the families. It will be a campus with multiple buildings and playgrounds. The feasibility would be based on the market study they conduct through a professional that is hired. They have developed 26 apartment complexes throughout New Mexico as well as El Paso. In Las Cruces they own several various multifamily rental properties, some for workforce, agriculture workers and families, as well as several properties for seniors. They do homebuyer education every other weekend. They also have the homeownership program, housing counseling, and

housing renovation throughout several counties of southern New Mexico and El Paso. Also have a CDFI which is a revolving loan fund that they capitalize from various sources and lend to small business as well as home buyers for down payment assistance.

Natalie Green verified that Ms. Garcia would prefer funding for multifamily housing.

Al Galves, a psychologist. On the board of directors of the Community Service Corps. He is asking the City to consider using this money to provide the initial investment for Los Amigos supportive transitional housing program which is a 32-unit apartment. These are for people who are coming out of jail, in a jail diversion project, coming out of mental hospitals, coming off of homelessness, people who are frequent users of behavioral health services and the jails and criminal justice system. The apartments would be for individuals that would be provided for up to a year during which the individuals would receive intensive support, coaches/case managers, and they would help the residents get jobs, volunteer work, education, recreation, support groups, therapy. They will help the residents get access to services in the community that help the individual begin to live their lives in healthy ways. Community Service Corps has submitted to the City a request for \$2.5 million as part of the City's capital improvements project program to purchase and renovate a property at 2729 Los Amigos Court and 2731. This is a property which is just east of Telshor Boulevard and north Missouri. This project meets two of the priorities for providing access to health and social services, and addresses the need for affordable housing, and helping people with housing insecurity. An emergency medical technician for one hour in Las Cruces costs \$225. The cost per person per day at Los Amigos would be about \$59, and \$40 would be covered by Medicaid. This project is one of three projects that has been identified by the Las Cruces Behavioral Health Collaborative in its strategic plan to for building the ideal behavioral health system.

Patty Hartman stated that is a lot of money and Las Cruces is a very poor community. She wanted to verify that his money is spent effectively and specifically on strategies that have an opportunity to succeed and have measurable results. She states that domestic violence and abuse have gotten much worse because COVID. She read that the justice system is not holding dangerous people unless they are very extremely dangerous because they just don't have the staff, time, whatever. She does not want to see this money put into existing programs unless it can be documented and presented to the public that it is a result of COVID and it a new and effective strategy to specifically address the programs that have been made worse by COVID. Not put into programs that have been failing for a long time due to existing weaknesses in the current systems that are not being addressed. Preventing criss is a huge need in Las Cruces. Also job training programs rather than charity, get them back on their feet and have a sense of pride.

Kari Bachman stated a work session is coming up, initial review of ARPA RFP guide and application and does that mean the City itself staff is putting together that guide and application, or who is involved in doing that and what opportunity is there to provide input into how that is developed.

Agenda Item #3.2.

Natalie Green stated there is a draft right now that is attached to the work session packet when the agenda goes out which will be available for review and public comment. Council will also review that packet and making recommendations for how that process should go. There is some flexibility within the process and it is federal pass-through funding so there is some items with no flexibility. A new program, cost effective, community impact are all important.

Kari Bachman asked if at the next meeting on August 9th review of the draft RFP, will the public have opportunity to provide input to be considered in revising or redrafting that guide? Her concern is the fast timeline.

Natalie Green stated that a work session with Council usually includes input, but Council will review the determine the next steps. If it is liked then it will go to Council for approval which will be an additional opportunity for public comment/participation.

Kari Bachman stated in the process she would encourage the City to not rush through. She feels there seems this sense of urgency in the City to get this money out to organizations so that they can spend it. What does it mean that the funds need to be obligated by 2024?

Natalie Green stated that it would be under contract. Amy Johnson-Bassford stated it is obligated which means it is under contract through the City's procurement process by December 31, 2026. All funds have to be expended by that date. The reason for the urgency is this funding is specifically intended to respond to the negative impacts of COVID on those members of our community that have been disproportionately affected by COVID. There is a sense of urgency not only the federal government who has distributed this money, but our local government, that there are individuals in need in our community now and that need to be assisted now.

Kari Bahman stated that it seems the process by which the money will be allocated has not really been thought through in huge detail and she believes that is one of the critical things. If the money is to go for things that are really going to make an impact and also be new and innovative, we can't just say here's the RFP and it's due in a couple of weeks as that does not give organizations time to really work together in a creative manner. Otherwise we see people going to their boilerplate, this is a project already thought of, normal way to do things, and it's just business as usual. This is windfall money, but not to spend frivolously, but look really creatively at out of the box solutions. This would be things that are bringing different sectors of the community together around issues. Need to connect some of the needs throughout the community in ways that maybe haven't been connected before. Examples: we do have housing issues, but also have community members that cannot stay in their homes because they don't have the ability to care of themselves in their homes, and can they be brought into these spaces where we look at perhaps co-housing, multigenerational housing such as Europe. Bring the university into the conversation to get care from students who then get a break on paying for housing. Looking at bigger

Agenda Item #3.2.

perspective issues.

Meeting ended at 6:20 p.m.



Minutes Approved by Staff