

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

District-level American Rescue Plan Act Funds, Cuyahoga County Council District 2
Friday, September 23, 2022

Announcement

The purpose of this announcement is to request proposals for funding under the second round of American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funds that have been allocated for the benefit of Cuyahoga County Council District 2. The application process is further described below. Applications must be submitted to Trevor McAleer, Cuyahoga County Legislative Budget Advisor, at tmcaleer@cuyahogacounty.us no later than Friday, October 14, at 4 PM.

Background

Cuyahoga County has been allocated approximate \$240 million in federal ARPA funds. Of this amount, \$86 million has been allocated for community and economic development projects, including projects that will facilitate the delivery of health and social services. However, since this is one-time money, proposals should not be submitted that would fund operations for which there is no clear path to sustainability. Of the \$86 million, \$6 million has been informally allocated to primarily benefit Cuyahoga County Council District 2, which comprises all of Lakewood, Brook Park, and Cleveland Ward 17, and most of Cleveland Ward 16. On May 11, 2022, an announcement was made, requesting applications for the first round of this funding, with an application deadline of June 10, 2022. Thirty-three applications were received, totaling more than \$21 million in request received. Following review and scoring, six applications were recommended for funding, and legislation to approve the funding requests has been approved or is being considered by Council.

Areas of Focus

The Council will consider a wide range of potential projects, but proposals are expected to be for use of one-time money, as opposed to ongoing operations. Proposals beneficial in the areas of community development and place-making, economic development, environment, social services or cultural infrastructure, and technical innovation are encouraged. Projects for which other substantial funding streams are available, such as road and bridge projects, are less likely to be considered.

Project Proposal Review Committee

A Project Proposal Review Committee has been created to review and score proposals received through this request for applications.

Fund Availability

The Review Committee may make funding recommendations up to \$3 million, the amount of District 2 ARPA funds remaining to be allocated, but may choose to reserve some funds for a future round. Of the \$3 million, \$2.5 million shall be reserved for projects that are either located in Cuyahoga County Council District 2 or for which the project’s predominant impact will be in Cuyahoga County Council District 2. For the remaining \$500,000, projects having

county-wide impact, including significant benefits for Cuyahoga County Council District 2, may also be considered.

Maximum Funding Request

The maximum funding request that may be submitted is \$1.5 million.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants may be municipalities, Community Development Corporations, or non-profit organizations. For-profit businesses, proposing projects having major public benefits, may also apply.

Submission of Applications

Applications shall be submitted using the attached application form. All questions in the application form must be answered. Applicants may attach additional sheets to answer questions in more detail. There is no limit on proposal length, but a reasonably concise application is expected. Applicants who intend to work in partnership with other organizations should include letters of support from their proposed partners. Applications shall be sent to Trevor McAleer at tmcaleer@cuyahogacounty.us no later than Friday, October 14, at 4 PM.

Reconsideration of Proposals from Round 1

Proposals that were submitted in the first round but not recommended for funding may be considered in this round; however, the application must be resubmitted in response to this announcement.

Substantial Compliance

The County may allow minor deviations from the application process requirements or allow applicants to correct unintended errors. However, in fairness to all applicants, such allowances shall be handled consistently and shall be limited to errors or omissions that do not prevent the applicant from being in substantial compliance with the application process.

Procurement Process

Applications shall be selected for funding through a three-step process.

1. Proposals received will be reviewed and scored. If a very large number of applications is received, there may be an initial review to select a smaller number of applications for full scoring. The general approach to scoring will be as follows: applicant capability (15 points), proposal specificity and feasibility (25 points), timeline specificity and project readiness (10 points), cost-effectiveness and leverage (10 points), project impact (40 points).
2. Using the scoring results, a determination will be made on how much money to allocate in the first round and which projects to recommend. Some modest deviation from the ranking of applications may be considered to achieve a good geographic distribution of projects within the district.

3. Once a determination is made, legislation for contracts to implement the awards will be prepared and submitted to County Council for approval. All proposals funded under this announcement must be approved according to the regular Cuyahoga County government legislative process as described in the County Charter and the County Code.

Timeline

The timeline is designed to create the possibility that time-sensitive projects recommended for funding could receive final legislative approval by December 6, 2022, the date of the last Cuyahoga County Council meeting of the year. Projects that are not time sensitive but are favorably received in the legislative process should receive final approval by the end of the first quarter of 2023.

Contact Information

Please direct any questions regarding this application process as follows:

Trevor McAleer, Cuyahoga County Council Financial Policy Analyst

O: 216-698-6472

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Dale Miller, Councilperson, District 2

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Cuyahoga County Council

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COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.):	
Address of Requesting Entity:	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity:	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request:	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity:	
Email:	Phone:
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.:	Date:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

Project Start Date:

Project End Date:

IMPACT OF PROJECT:

Who will be served:

How many people will be served annually:

Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:

How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:

If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary:

If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:

If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project:

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name: