

**2021**  
**American**  
**Rescue Funds**  
**Ellsworth County**

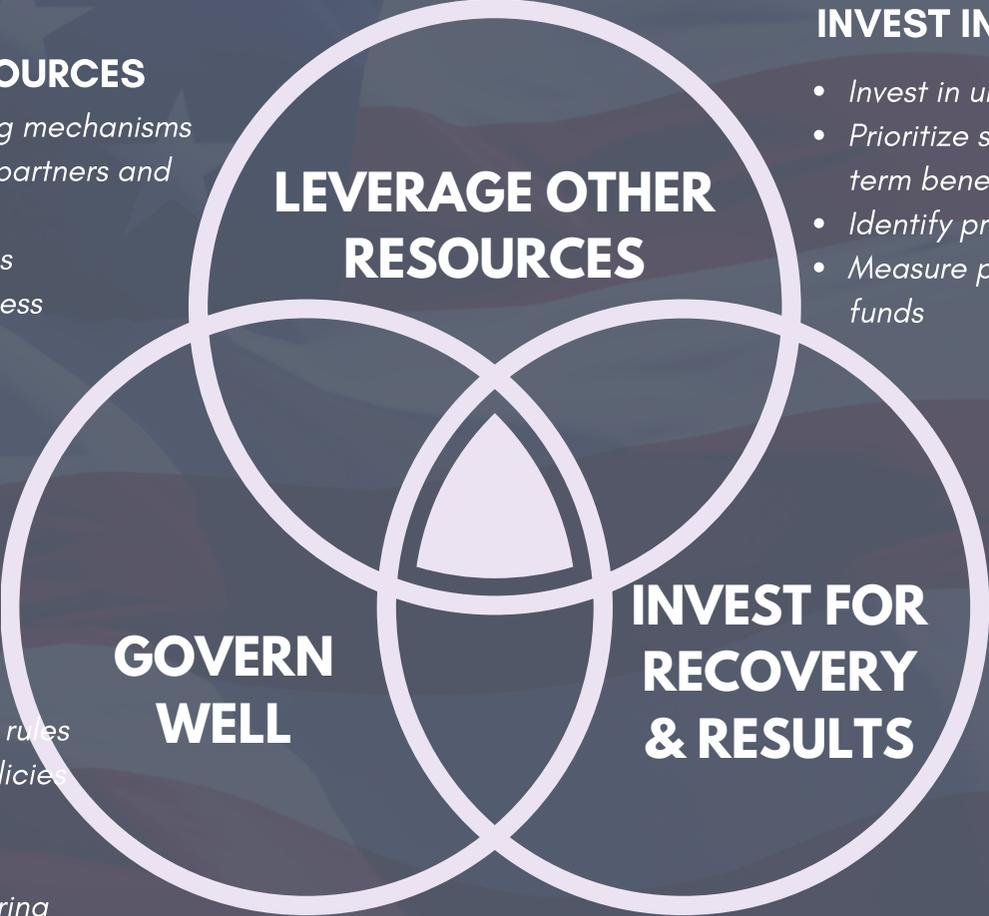
Guidance provided to Ellsworth County Commissioners by  
Ellsworth County Economic Development  
7/6/2021

Note: Treasury guidance subject to change

# BEST USE OF FUNDS

## LEVERAGE OTHER RESOURCES

- Coordinate with other funding mechanisms
- Collaborate with community partners and departments
- Using existing delivery systems
- Use thoughtful strategic process



## LEVERAGE OTHER RESOURCES

## INVEST IN RECOVERY & RESULTS

- Invest in urgent health & economic needs
- Prioritize short-term investments with long-term benefits
- Identify pre-COVID inhibitors to growth
- Measure progress and results for every use of funds

## GOVERN WELL

- Compliant uses of funds
- Meet reporting & accounting rules
- Comply with local & state policies
- Be transparent
- Covene stakeholders
- Thoughtful information gathering
- Don't create future budget deficits

## GOVERN WELL

## INVEST FOR RECOVERY & RESULTS

# PROPOSED TIMELINE

Public Notification of Funds  
\$592,621

Strategic Planning & Budgeting (should include metrics)

Report #1 to Treasury

June 14  
Tranche #1 deposited

7/6 - 8/23

8/23-10/1

10/15

Spending deadline  
December 31, 2024

Tranche #2 will come in approx 12 months

Information Gathering & Public Input  
45 days

Identify Stakeholders  
Invite Experts  
Identify Key Team Members

Assure policy & regulatory compliance, applications, program budgets, subrecipients

- not inclusive**
- Policy & Process Notes:
- Internal Controls
  - Procurement
  - Criteria for applications & grants, if any
  - Conflict of interest
  - Subrecipient versus vendor
  - Risk assessments
  - Objectives and metrics
  - Written policy how funds will be awarded and other eligible parties
  - Identify ways to communicate

# ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS

## SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE



- Services to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID 19
- Behavioral health services (mental health, substance abuse, crisis intervention)
- Payroll and covered benefits for public health and related services to the extent that they work on COVID 19 response

## REPLACE PUBLIC SECTOR REVENUE LOSS



- Ensure continuity of vital government services by filling budget shortfalls
- Treasury provides a methodology to establish and identify a revenue number, which can be covered with broad latitude to support government services, up to this amount of lost revenue
- May NOT be used to reduce mill levy or to offset a reduction in net tax revenues

## WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE



- Improvements including building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems
- Eligible uses aligned to EPA for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

## ADDRESS NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS



- Deliver assistance to individuals, families, unemployed due to COVID19 losses
- Support small business with loans, grants, programs (must exhibit a business loss due to COVID19)
- Speed the recovery of impacted industries, such as travel, tourism, and hospitality
- Rebuild public sector capacity through economic relief programs

## PREMIUM PAY FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS



- Directly and indirectly through grants to third party employers
- Prioritize low and moderate income workers who face the greatest mismatch between risk and compensation
- Key sectors: grocery, healthcare, education, childcare, sanitation, transit
- Must be fully additive to a worker's wage

## BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE



- Focus on households and businesses without access to broadband and those with connections that do not provide acceptable speed
- Reliable service with minimum 100 Mbps download/upload speeds
- Complement broadband investments

# WHAT ARE OTHER COUNTIES DOING?

*Largely, it is too early to say. Most counties are still in the process of obtaining the funds through Treasury or in the early stages of strategy and policy. Here are a few ideas:*

- *Paying health department's COVID related budgetary expenses (forward-facing only), which frees up the regular budget for unrestricted funds*
- *Positive mental health services, such as telehealth services*
- *Public communication improvement with regard to health and safety*
- *Capital investments in public health facilities to meet pandemic operations*
- *Workforce training programs to help unemployed return to work with marketable and high demand skills*
- *Hiring additional staff to mitigate public health risks*
- *At-risk population assistance, such as housing vouchers, tutoring, after school programming*
- *Broadband investments (underserved areas are defined as those facing a wireline connection with minimum speed of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload)*

# POSSIBLE STAKEHOLDERS (not inclusive)

## SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE



- Health Department, Sheriff's Office, EMS, ECMC
- Central Kansas Mental Health Services

## REPLACE PUBLIC SECTOR REVENUE LOSS



- All department heads and agencies funded by the County budget

## WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE



- Municipalities
- Post Rock Rural Water District

## ADDRESS NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS



- Public at large
- Senior Centers, NC Flint Hills AAA
- Businesses within county
- Hospitality sector businesses
- Employers
- Schools, Childcare Centers, Daycare Providers

## PREMIUM PAY FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS



- Employers (third party source)
- "Essential workers"

## BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE



- Public at large, especially those in underserved areas of county
- Providers
- Kansas Dept of Commerce

# NEXT STEPS?

- 1 Identify public notification process and process for gathering information from public and stakeholders
- 2 Get informed on ARPA here: <https://covid.ks.gov/arpa/>  
Webinars, Federal Guidance, Fact Sheets, FAQs
- 3 Begin information gathering per recommended timeline

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Treasury provided a deadline of December 31, 2024 for strategic use of funds with a more deliberate approach. The timeline suggested is a best case scenario with the limited resources we have available and no precedent for following Treasury guidelines for an audit of this magnitude. I recommend a deliberate pace and high emphasis on compliance, transparency, and best practices.