



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

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## **Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners Approves \$25 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding Requests**

**KALAMAZOO, Mich-** The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners voted to approve \$25,127,650 in [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#) during their Board of Commissioners regular meeting on Tuesday, August 16 for the sub-committees of Negative Economic Impact, Provision of Government Services, and Public Health. These funds were made available from the federal government to communities across the country to assist in recovery efforts from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Board’s intent is to make critical investments in building a stronger community with the ARPA funding to ensure a brighter future for Kalamazoo County,” stated County Administrator & Controller Kevin A. Catlin.

A full report of the awarded applicants may be found [HERE](#). The most significant awards to the sub-committee recipients include:

**Under Public Health**, recipients were awarded \$5,095,650. The largest award was given to I.S.K. to construct an 8,047 sq. ft. Behavioral Health Urgent Care and Access Center at 418 West Kalamazoo Avenue. This center will address the increase in suicide ideation the County is experiencing as well as the increases in opioid overdoses.

**Under the Provision of Government Services**, recipients were awarded \$14,182,000. The ARPA funding will make much needed repairs to the Sunset Lake Dam, fund a multi-employer funded health center for government employees, complete Phase I improvements to the Woollam Preserve and upgrade critical infrastructure in many county departments.

**Under Negative Economic Impact**, recipients were awarded \$5,850,000. The Can-Do Kitchen was awarded \$400,000 to grow their microenterprise and entrepreneurship hub. Milestone Senior Services was awarded \$818,858 to upgrade their commercial kitchen and enhance their home safety programming. The South Michigan Food Bank was awarded \$1,486,142 to address the food insecurity demands in the County. Funding was also allocated for senior affordable

housing, small business relief and a community resource navigator to assist people living with disabilities.

“This Board has and will continue to work diligently to maximize ARPA funding to ensure we are meeting our community's needs and actively assisting in the economic recovery of the pandemic,” stated Chair Mike Quinn. “We received funding requests beyond the amount we have available and there is value in each request, so the Board had to consider the most impactful options before recommending approval.”

In May 2021, Kalamazoo County was granted \$51,485,963 in ARPA Funding to use through 2026. The Commissioners formed six sub-committees to review application submissions and allocated funding to be used for each subcommittee of the remaining balance of the County's ARPA Award of approximately \$39 million. Those six sub-committees included Essential Worker Premium Pay, Negative Economic Impact, Provision for Government Services, Public Health, Services for Disproportionately Impacted Communities, and Water, Sewer, or Broadband.

The three remaining sub-committees, Essential Worker Premium Pay, Services for Disproportionately Impacted Communities, and Water, Sewer, or Broadband have met and are in the process of certifying their recommendations to the Board at their September meetings.

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