

## Jefferson County, MT – American Rescue Plan Act

Upon review, the bill allocates \$65.1 billion in direct federal aid to all counties based on their share of the U.S. population. Allowable uses outlined in the bill include (but are not limited to):

1. Responding to or mitigate the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19 emergency or its **negative economic impacts**.
2. Providing government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue;
3. Make necessary **investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure**; and
4. Responding to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by **providing premium pay to eligible workers** of the county that are performing such essential work, or **by providing grants to eligible employers** that have eligible workers who perform essential work.

## SOCIAL SAFETY-NET SERVICES (1) (2)

1. **Plan Overview:** Childcare Support Jefferson County allocates \$100,000 of its first year sub-allocated CRF funds to support licensed childcare providers with sustainment of existing facilities and supporting new programs throughout the county. County has experience increase childcare demands during the pandemic to support working families as they adjust to school teaching models and making financial decisions about entering the workforce. Affordable quality childcare is an economic workforce enhancement that will assist the county on its path to the pandemic recovery by helping to ad to the available workforce. County will work in coordination with Community Connect which supports our region as a service of the Montana Department of Health and Human Services.
2. **Plan Overview:** Jefferson County Health Department Jefferson County allocates \$50,000 of its first year sub-allocated CRF funds and \$50,000 of the second-year allocation to support the Jefferson County Health Department with continued administration of pandemic vaccinations, maintaining adequate personal protective equipment, supporting mental health needs and conducting outreach throughout the county. The additional workload and challenges experienced by the health department during the pandemic have been met through the efforts and due diligence of the department and sustainment of services to support pandemic challenges will contribute to the high public safety standards expect by county residents.
3. **Plan Overview:** County Grants Administration Jefferson County allocates \$37,500 of its first year sub-allocated CRF funds and \$37,500 of the second-year allocation to create staffing for a County Grants Administrator position to support the financial management, expenditure tracking, reporting etc. of ARPA funds. The positions will work closely with the County's economic development organization and provide grant writing services for the county and citizens during this period of economic recovery from the pandemic.
4. **Plan Overview:** Assisted Living Support Jefferson County allocates \$25,000 of its first year sub-allocated CRF funds and \$25,000 of the second-year allocation as a grant to county long-term care facilities to support ongoing pandemic support. Long-term care facilities throughout the county have been doing a tremendous job servicing and protecting their residents during the pandemic using extra protocols, precautions, and personal; protective

equipment. This extra due diligence is expected to continue and a grant of \$3000 for facilities up to twenty-five residents and \$5000 for facilities over twenty-five residents for support of ongoing pandemic support needs will assist these businesses with their ongoing pandemic protocol efforts.

## **SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT (1)**

1. **Plan Overview:** Small Business County Revolving Loan Fund Jefferson County allocates \$200,000 of its CRF first year sub-allocation to establish a county wide small business Revolving Loan Fund to help support business development and expansion programs. Funds would be available to support economic development opportunities in the county focused on job creation and expansion to assist with county recovery operations from the pandemic. Funds would be allocated \$100,000 each and administered by Headwaters RC&D and Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC). Both are Certified Regional Development Corporations (CRDC). The County's unique geographical area is best supported by working with both of these regional entities.
2. **Plan Overview:** Business Improvement Grants Jefferson County allocates \$100,000 of its first year CRF sub-allocation to support small businesses improvement grant assistance up to \$2500 to businesses with under 10 employees to help support operations impacted by the effects of pandemic.

## **NONPROFIT SUPPORT (1) (2)**

1. **Plan Overview:** Nonprofit Organization Support Jefferson County allocates \$100,000 of its first year CRF sub-allocation to support Nonprofit organizations located in the county and formed earlier than 2018. The program aims to provide one-time grants up to \$5000 to nonprofit organizations to cover unanticipated expenses, revenue losses, and increased business expenses due to the pandemic. Program would be administered by the Jefferson Valley Community Foundation and Elkhorn Community Foundation and each would be allocated \$50,000.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (1)**

1. **Plan Overview:** Entrepreneurship & Incubation Development Jefferson County allocates \$125,000 of its first year CRF sub-allocation and \$125,000 of its second-year allocation to support small businesses assistance, development and sustainment opportunities throughout the county. Business assistance will incorporate gathering expertise to work directly with small businesses impacted by the pandemic to help improve and/or expand existing operations. Quarterly business education programs will be offered throughout the county to provide interested business assistance with financials, marketing, and operational support. Assisting area business entrepreneurs with a business incubation opportunity will help area economic growth and business development.

2. **Plan Overview:** Brownfields Matching Funds Jefferson County allocates \$150,000 of its first year CRF sub-allocation to support Brownfields grant matching funds for the remediation of historic buildings on the Boulder South Campus. These funds will supplement remediation grant(s) for potential redevelopment of buildings that will assist with expanded youth group home facility, addition of affordable residential housing and potential business incubation center at the site. These services and opportunities will help with pandemic recovery efforts by creating much needed housing and economic development opportunities.
3. **Plan Overview:** Land Development Support Jefferson County allocates \$150,000 of its first year CRF sub-allocation to support development of land for much needed workforce housing and business development. The pandemic has increased the number of new residents throughout the county impacting the ability for the local workforce to find adequate affordable housing. Jefferson County will partner with other organizations to help acquire and develop workforce housing throughout the county.

## **HOSPITALITY/TOURISM DEVELOPMENT (1)**

1. **Plan Overview:** Tourism and Business Incubation Support Jefferson County allocates \$150,000 of its first year CRF sub-allocation and \$150,000 of the second-year allocation to support the development of the Western Legacy Center (WLC) visitor center in Whitehall. The WLC will highlight our cowboy/cowgirl/rodeo culture and support tourism development by capturing some of the many travelers using the I-90 interstate. Providing these travelers information about regional area points of interest and outdoor recreation opportunities will help increase visitors traffic to hospitality and other area businesses that have been impact by the pandemic. The center will also act as an entrepreneur center for the many area small business manufacturers that develop products normally sold at events and activities that were impact during the pandemic with event cancellations. The opportunity to expand product visibility and sales for these small business operations with greatly assist with pandemic recovery operations.
2. **Plan Overview:** Tourism Support Jefferson County allocates \$25,000 of its first year sub-allocated CRF funds and \$25,000 of the second-year allocation as a grant in partnership with the Whitehall and Boulder Chamber of Commerce to support Discover Jefferson County tourism information center. This allocation will help increase tourism traffic to county hospitality businesses impacted by the pandemic and help to leverage other available funding resources that are available.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION (4)**

1. **Plan Overview:** Broadband Expansion Jefferson County allocates \$200,000 of its CRF first year sub-allocation to support broadband service and connectivity for support of rural areas in the county currently underserved for internet support. The pandemic has created a need for good internet connectivity to support remote work, school education and small business operations. Funds would be allocated and administered by the Jefferson Local

Development Corporation. It is anticipated that the funds will be used to leverage additional funds.

- 2. Plan Overview: Planning & Engineering** Jefferson County allocates \$100,000 of its first year CRF sub-allocation to assist communities with on-going design and planning costs associated with area growth due to pandemic support requiring expansion of infrastructure services. These funds will help leverage other available infrastructure funding opportunities through other agencies.
- 3. Plan Overview: Water & Sewer District Support** Jefferson County allocates \$75,000 of its first year CRF sub-allocation to support existing districts with infrastructure needs that have experienced growth due to population increases related to the influx of new residents in the county.