

## Potential Funding Initiatives - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)

### **BUSINESS RECOVERY / NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT**

*This category addresses an economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency.*

#### **Rental Assistance Program**

Emergency Rental Assistance program makes funding available to assist households that are unable to pay rent or utilities. This will include up to 12 months of rent and/or utility debt and up to three months of prospective rental assistance. These funds will be allocated to a subrecipient, the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs, with some funds being used in-house to administer the funds and data tracking.

#### **Grants for Disadvantaged Businesses**

Small businesses eligible under the federal rules applicable here must be responding to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. Funding may go toward loans, grants, in-kind assistance, technical assistance or other services that responds to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

#### **Nonprofit Grant Program Supplement**

Project would provide supplementary funding for the existing Community Partnership Grant program. This funding would be in addition to the existing program, but could be administered through the same application and review process. Nonprofits would need to submit for funding on a competitive basis. Minimum criteria for consideration would include revenue loss and increase demand for services due to COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Frederick Arts Council (Multiple Requests)**

**a. Grants to Arts Organizations** - It is imperative to get an influx of funding to arts organizations which were in a fragile state pre-pandemic due to high demand and too few resources. This funding will help organizations get back on their feet thereby allowing them to contribute not only to the economic vitality of Frederick but also to its sense of wellness and vibrancy.

**b. Grants for Emerging Arts Projects** - These creativity grants will, on average, be \$5,000 each for four projects per year over four years. Resident artists at nonprofits, for example, can work on projects such as social equity, a pressing concern in every community in our country.

**c. Arts Council Center Revenue Replacement** - Due to COVID, the Frederick Arts Council lost a significant amount of corporate donations and all of its earned income, including rental income from resident arts organizations at its historic property at 5 East Second Street.

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<p><b>d. Maker Space(s) for Artists</b> - Many of our community’s artists lost income due to COVID and could not afford their studio spaces. This funding will allow for leasing and renovating raw maker space and subsidize rents.</p>	
<p><b>e. Public Arts Master Plan</b> - Frederick County has an excellent public art master plan. The public art plan advances inclusivity, wellness, and future prosperity. ARP funding will be used to implement this plan. Funds will be utilized for artist fees, materials and administrative support for the program. There will be a jobs training component of every public art project and summer jobs mural program for Frederick youth. Public art projects will also include county parks and libraries.</p>	
<p><b>Deaf Community Center</b> Start-up costs for a new community center that will occupy the upper floor of an existing building near the airport. Offices will have counseling, job search, financial adviser, realtor, and other services to offer members of the deaf community.</p>	
<p><b>Mobile Career Center</b> Provide unemployed and underemployed individuals with access to technology and various other workforce development services based on their limitations on engaging in virtual services or existing transportation barriers. The goal is to increase direct support with re-employment assistance, career guidance and planning, and/or training or help in accessing other services that would allow individuals to be successfully employed.</p>	
<p><b>Foundations of Prosperity Child Care Market Initiatives</b> The pandemic’s disruption of the child care market showed how fragile the current child care system is and how essential it is to economic prosperity. There is a gap of 10,800 spots between the number of licensed child care seats and the number of children under age 5. <i>Foundations of Prosperity</i> is a three-year initiative that will improve capacity of and sustain the local child care market. This project will ensure that all Frederick County parents can access and utilize quality child care.</p>	
<p><b>Childcare Center</b> Funding to contract for the operation of a 24/7 childcare center inside a County owned facility. These childcare services will be prioritized to support first responders and other public safety employees who are routinely assigned to work non-traditional shifts.</p>	

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**Collective Impact Study**

Conduct Cradle-to-Grave study to determine the focus for an intentional collective impact strategy, followed by implementation phases based on study results. Phase 1 will concentrate on the collection and review of primary and secondary data, that will inform recommendations to the community. This will be followed with creation of a Planning Committee that will be authorized to generate an implementation plan.