



## Skagit County Board of Commissioners

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*The Board of Commissioners are taking feedback on this document until July 1, 2021. To provide comment, email [commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us) ATTN: ARPA Spending or call 360-416-1300*

### **Guiding Statement and Principles on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending**

Skagit County is grateful to the federal government for prioritizing local government allocations in the ARPA. The County is also thankful for the additional ARPA dollars coming into the community via Cities, non-profit partners, and grant programs. As the Board of County Commissioners sets its spending priorities for this one-time injection of funds, it has established the following guiding principles (all principles and priorities are subject to finalized U.S. Department of Treasury guidance):

- A. The current health crisis is ongoing, and ARPA funding should be used to support ongoing public health and related response efforts.
- B. The pandemic will not be over this year and has highlighted the toll disasters can take on a community. Funds should be used to build long-term public health and emergency management response capabilities.
- C. County services have been impacted or delayed due to the pandemic. Funds should be used to support an expedited return to a pre-pandemic level of customer services.
- D. COVID-19 has devastated the Skagit community, local businesses, government and partner agencies. ARPA funding should help accelerate recovery from the pandemic.
- E. COVID-19 has revealed or exacerbated a number of systematic issues in our community, such as housing affordability, shortage of behavioral health workers, prevalence of domestic violence, and many others. ARPA funding should be used to improve systems or issues that have been exacerbated or revealed due to the pandemic.
- F. The pandemic has affected people across social, economic, racial, and ethnic groups differently; recovery will similarly be uneven, and spending should reflect that.
- G. Families have been particularly hard-hit by the pandemic. Parents have had to leave the workforce due to the gap in access to technology and lack of quality childcare. To the extent we can positively affect it, their recovery and return to the workforce should be a spending priority.

### **Spending Priorities**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners have adopted the following spending priorities. Final spending subject to Commissioner approval and U.S. Department of Treasury Guidance:

- Build Public Health's capacity for ongoing pandemic response (First priority)
- Ensure DEM has the facility, staff, and equipment needed for current and future emergencies

- Reinforce social safety net programs and the social determinants of health
  - As part of the Community Health Assessment (CHA), the Population Health Trust will evaluate which services and determinants most critically need funding to recover from or support recovery from COVID-19.
- Address the behavioral health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by expanding behavioral health resources and programming
  - As part of the Community Health Assessment (CHA), the Population Health Trust will evaluate which services and determinants most critically need funding to recover from or support recovery from COVID-19.
- Business and workforce support
  - The County has contracted with the Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County to assess what business and workforce support would make the most impact.
- Broadband
  - Supporting ongoing public projects working to expand broadband access in Skagit
  - Funding project complimentary to ongoing community efforts
- County organizational needs due to COVID-19
  - Including addressing the COVID-19 related court backlog
- Revenue replacement

Last updated: May 27, 2021