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PROPOSED: EXECUTIVE
INTRODUCTION DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2023

ORDINANCE NO. _____

Establishing a Community Priorities Fund and Establishing an Initial Budget for the Community Priorities Fund

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2021 Whatcom County established the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund (Fund 138) through Ordinance 2021-036; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County received \$44,528,542 in federal ARPA funds from the United States Department of the Treasury pursuant to Whatcom County Contract 202105020, which were deposited into Fund 138; and

WHEREAS, this funding must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026 to support response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County received \$2,706,868 in funding under the Department of the Treasury’s Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF); and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council has approved expenditures for a range of activities eligible under ARPA and LATCF guidance issued by the United States Department of the Treasury, including but not limited to childcare capital, childcare stabilization, housing capital, homeless services and shelter capital, criminal justice staffing, public health, broadband, food security, and general government services; and

WHEREAS, many of these priorities can be accomplished within the authorized uses of the General Fund

WHEREAS, the County Council wishes to utilize a portion of unobligated ARPA and LATCF funds to pay for eligible activities commonly funded by the County’s general fund; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these ARPA and LATCF eligible General Fund payment, the County Council will achieve general fund savings; and

WHEREAS, the County is experiencing pressing community needs including but not limited to a housing crisis, county infrastructure improvements, behavioral health services shortages, and childcare shortages; and

WHEREAS, the County Council wishes to direct general fund savings toward these and other emerging needs; and

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WHEREAS, creating a special revenue fund for this purpose will increase visibility that these general fund savings are available for community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established titled Community Priorities Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and expenditures related to general fund savings achieved through use of ARPA and LATCF for eligible general government services; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the fund is approved with an initial revenue budget of \$5,100,000, with expenditures to be budgeted at a later date, as presented in attached Exhibit A.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Approved by email/C. Quinn/A. Tan
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____

Supplemental Budget Request

Executive

<i>Suppl ID #</i> 4106	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Cost Center</i>	<i>Originator: Kayla Schott-Bresler</i>	
		Year 1 2023	Add'l FTE <input type="checkbox"/>	Priority 1

Name of Request: *Establishing a Community Priorities Fund*

X

Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission) Date

<i>Costs:</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Object Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
	8301	Operating Transfer In	(\$5,100,000)
	<i>Request Total</i>		<i>(\$5,100,000)</i>

1a. Description of request:

This request is to establish a Community Priorities Fund using General Fund savings.

This request is related to supplementals 4243, 4245 and 4246.

On June 15, 2021 Whatcom County established the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund (Fund 138) through Ordinance 2021-036. Whatcom County received \$44,528,542 in federal ARPA funds from the United States Department of the Treasury pursuant to Whatcom County Contract 202105020, which were deposited into Fund 138. This funding must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026 to support response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Whatcom County Council has approved expenditures for a range of activities eligible under ARPA guidance issued by the United States Department of the Treasury, including but not limited to childcare capital, childcare stabilization, housing capital, homeless services and shelter capital, criminal justice staffing, public health, broadband, food security, and general government services. The County Council wishes to maximize flexibility under the ARPA program by investing a portion of unobligated ARPA funds into activities commonly funded by the County's general fund.

1b. Primary customers:

The community through childcare capital, childcare stabilization, housing capital, homeless services and shelter capital, criminal justice staffing, public health, broadband, food security, and general government services.

2. Problem to be solved:

Flexibility and ease of administration will be applied to the facilitation of ARPA funds for identified County objectives which are based in community need.

3a. Options / Advantages:

ARPA revenue loss is the most restrictive funding source available for these objectives. ARPA funds must be obligated by 12/31/24.

3b. Cost savings:

By using ARPA revenue loss funding, we will save less restricted funding sources (general fund, etc.) for other uses.

4a. Outcomes:

The County will devote designated funding to identified objectives stated above based on program timelines established during planning phases of the projects.

4b. Measures:

The County will identify metrics of success associated with planned programs under this fund and will measure success as programs progress.

Supplemental Budget Request

Executive

Suppl ID # 4106

Fund

Cost Center

Originator: Kayla Schott-Bresler

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

For the Community Priorities Fund project, the Health Department will assist in the administration and management of projects.

5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:

Ann Beck, Health Department

6. Funding Source:

General Fund 001.