

It is important to share the steps the Commission took before making any recommendations. This was done to ensure the County Board members understand there was a thorough review of each project to make recommendations that fit with the Winnebago County's Mission Statement and the intent of the Federal Government for use of APRA funds.

*Taken from the Winnebago County website:

The mission of Winnebago County is to economically and efficiently provide and manage delivery systems for diverse programs and services to meet basic human needs.

To carry out this mission, the following roles are required:

- To serve as an agent for the Federal and State Government to fulfill mandated programs.
- To provide optional community services as determined by the County Board.
- To provide programs and services in the most cost-effective manner.
- To encourage citizens awareness, participation, and involvement in county government.
- To encourage cooperation among business, government, labor, and education to solve common problems.
- To utilize community resources as a vehicle for good government.

The Commission worked through the process as follows:

1. Understanding the components of the Winnebago County mission – "...to provide and manage the delivery systems... to meet basic human needs" (the commission defined basic needs as food, shelter, medical and safety)
Supervisor Cox commented that the county needs to look at each individual no matter if they are aging or indigent and how the Co. ensures all are served without defining WHO is doing the work (ie: it doesn't have to be the County and implies that other "delivery systems" will provide services).
2. Reviewed the resolution (167-012023) from April 5th, 2023, clarifying again that the categories were solely not to augment the county budget AND to do things the County wouldn't have been able to do without funding.
 - a. No where was it determined that non-profit orgs would be excluded from consideration.
 - b. **It is important to note:** exclude any Non-Profit from receiving funding would have eliminated the ability to fund our local fire, police... since they are, according to IRS standards, also non-profit organizations. Non-profit is simply a tax status stating that the entity does not have share holders that are able to benefit financially from any revenue.
 - c. Line 29 even states: to improve the resiliency in our community as permitted by the ARPA Law & regulations.
 - d. It was determined that all funding requests should serve some type of county function, duties that the County has determined as a need but does not currently employ or utilizes to enhance or is an essential need to support current services.
 - e. The reason to fund outside organizations would be to offer services in the most "cost-effective manner".

3. We reviewed the definitions of the 2 categories the resolution dictated. Since Govt. Identified Community Projects listed “Collaboration” we talked through what that looked like and determined it:
 - a. Helps a Co. department accomplish their goal/have a county function.
 - b. Makes it easier to do the work to help individuals so the county doesn’t have to do it all.
 - c. Projects that could be run through a county department.
 - d. Could simply be offering a space that allows the county access so services can be provided in rural or other areas in the county.
4. We then reviewed why the Commission chose the 4 overarching requirements:
 - a. Legacy: have a long lasting, easily identified impact, that would improve quality of life for generations.
 - b. One-Time funding: not a quick or short-term fix, not to create a fiscal cliff once \$ is spent, projects that have operational aspect that will allow the project to continue.
 - c. Geographic assortment: to impact a broad range of individuals throughout areas of the county.
 - d. Match/enhancing funds: to allow & to go further and so the Co. was not funding the full project (ie: in the case of funding the full purchase of a building).

This allowed the Commission to have all the information fresh in their minds as we were working through the list of projects, so we were able to ask the right questions to make informed recommendations that follow the Spirit of ARPA and following the mission of Winnebago County.