

# American Rescue Plan County Funding Request

## ODYSSEY HOUSE FURNISHING

Operational Priority:  1: Essential  
 2: High-Impact  
 3: Nice to Have

Timing Priority:  1: Urgent  
 2: 6 months – 1 year  
 3: 1 – 2 years  
 4: Long-term

Total Project Budget: \_\_\_\_\_ ARPA Funding Request: \$100,000

Yes  No Is there FEMA, State or other Direct or Grant Funding available? If Yes, please Specify below

Other Funding Source: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Funding Source: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Funding Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Source Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Source Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Source Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

## OTHER FUNDING INFORMATION

Provide any relevant additional information to explain other funding sources identified for the project.

The Odyssey House construction project is being funded with CDBG grant funds. These funds are not allowed to be spent on furnishings and other non-fixed assets. Because of the increasing demand for mental health services in the aftermath of COVID, the department wants to utilize the full expanded facility capacity which means growing the client base from 10 residents to 16 residents. To house this many residents, more furniture is needed, more expensive commercial grade appliances are needed, and some spaces need to be redesigned so that this maximum capacity can be accommodated. In addition, COVID has disrupted the supply chains for many needed items, which is resulting in increased costs to get critical furnishings in a timely way. Additionally, we are incorporating the more stringent COVID guidelines for congregate care facilities when possible. One example of this is that the administrative area needs low cubicle walls for staff to easily see clients while sitting at their desks but we are now working with the cubicle vendor to add tall Plexi glass extensions to the top of the cubicles to provide a droplet barrier between staff in communal areas. The department needs additional resources to absorb all of these expanded costs.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide a brief description of the project. Please be concise but provide an adequate explanation in order for the key decision makers to quickly understand the project.

Odyssey House is a critical component of the Adult Behavioral Health system of care. The adult residential facility, which is staffed 24/7, serves two primary functions. First, for individuals who have been in locked psychiatric care for an extended time (typically on conservatorship), Odyssey House is a step-down facility where we gradually introduce them back into community living in a highly supported environment. Secondly, it is used as the highest level of care for individuals at risk for becoming conserved, and often this includes individuals who are experiencing homelessness and struggling to sustain mental health stability in an unhoused situation. In both of these situations, the facility increases community-based treatment options for people with serious mental illness and allows the department to avoid more expensive and more invasive locked treatment placements. Odyssey House staff provide an array of mental health services to residents, including but not limited to independent living skills, individual rehabilitative interventions, group counseling, crisis intervention, vocational counseling, client advocacy, and case management.

As the lockdown from the pandemic is lifted, mental health concerns continue to be worrisome. In the month of May 2021 the department saw the highest number of crisis assessments we have seen in the past year. In addition, we are facing numerous requests for Competency Restoration services from the courts. Given this rising demand for intensive services, we have decided to expand the utilization of Odyssey House from 10 beds to 16 beds. The

facility is currently undergoing a renovation, and the original plan was to build space for 16 beds but operate the site at the old level of 10 beds until funding could be identified to support additional capacity and staffing. However, the current demands for care make clear that the 16 beds are needed now. In order to function at this higher level, additional furnishings are needed (more beds, couches etc.) In addition, kitchen equipment clearly needs to be commercial grade to support 16 residents plus numerous staff. Also, due in part to the pandemic and various disruptions to supply chains and material demands, many items are coming in over budget. ARPA funds would be used to cover the costs of adequately and appropriately furnishing and decorating this critical facility allowing the departments existing resources to go instead to funding the cost of treatment. In the long run, Odyssey House will save the department money in averted hospitalizations. In the short run, these one-time investments will ensure that the department is better able to address the mental health needs of the community in the aftermath of the pandemic.

## NEXUS TO ARPA GUIDELINES

<b>Support Public Health Response</b>	<b>Address Negative Economic Impacts</b>	<b>Equity-Focused Services</b>	<b>Infrastructure Improvements</b>	<b>Other</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> COVID Mitigation & Containment	<input type="checkbox"/> Assistance to Workers & Families	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & Social Svcs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe nexus to COVID-19 below</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing & homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Infrastructure	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Healthcare	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Relief Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Childhood health & welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> Broadband Infrastructure	
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Health & Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Impacted Industries	<input type="checkbox"/> Education		

Provide a brief description to justify how the project aligns with the ARPA-defined eligible uses of funds, and corresponding Treasury guidance (or to COVID-19 generally if "Other" Category selected).

## NEXUS TO BOARD OBJECTIVES & COUNTY PRIORITIES / COMMUNITY IMPACT

**Board Objectives** *(select any that apply)*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Stability / Core Svcs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Broadband
<input type="checkbox"/> Cannabis	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homelessness	

**County Priorities** *(select any that apply)*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Costs related to COVID-19 response	<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage economic recovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide long-term benefits to County
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Provide a brief description of the how the project will intersect with Board Objectives/County Priorities and what will be the broader community benefit. Helpful questions to consider are: How is this project important to the County? Whom does it serve? How many people does it serve? How will ARPA funding leverage other resources to expand impact?

This investment in Odyssey House will touch many of the Board and Department critical priorities. As a one-time investment in a critical piece of infrastructure, this project improves the financial stability of the department. In addition, as a key service for people with serious mental illness, many of whom are homeless, this project allows people who would likely otherwise be living on the streets and in the woods to be safely housed and supported with treatment services. There are clearly long-term financial benefits to the county and department, but more importantly, there are significant long-term benefits to the individuals who receive services in this facility.

## OPERATIONAL IMPACT

Will the funds be used to pay for a direct county cost or cost incurred by others?  County Cost  Other Cost

Provide a brief description of how the project will impact your operations in the near and long term. Are additional resources required or can existing resources be leveraged to accomplish the project?

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This funding will allow us to finish the current renovation project successfully. The funds will ensure that the facility is fully outfitted with the furnishings and appliances that are needed to successfully operate a 16-bed mental health residential program. Multiple funding streams are already supporting this project but ARPA funding will ensure that the quantity and quality of beds, chairs, sofas, tables, and other furnishings that are needed for the site are able to be purchased.

## PROJECT TIMELINE / READINESS

What is the project timeline? How far along is it? What steps remain before it is "shovel-ready"?  
The project is beyond shovel ready and is mid construction. Funding needs to be secured quickly to ensure that these items can be purchased before the anticipated construction completion date of 9/15/21.

## ORG CODE

In what Org Code will project expenditures be incurred?

Fund	SBU	Ofc2	Sub
1589	40110	493	8401

## PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name and title: Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director

Dept. Head Signature:     *Phebe Bell*