

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Nevada County

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY GRANTS PROGRAM GRANTEE REPORT GRANT RECIPIENT: SIERRA NEVADA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM DBA KIDZONE MUSEUM

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: \$50,000 ARPA Funding Request: \$50,000

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

Other Funding Source: _____ Other Source Amount: _____

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OTHER FUNDING INFORMATION

N/A

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The “Community Benefit Grants Program” will support community-serving institutions and organizations with macro-grants up to \$100,000. Entities that serve families, seniors, or the community at large would be eligible to apply.

Sierra Nevada Children’s Museum Community Resiliency Grant General Purpose, Focus, and Outcomes Report

- Mitigate financial hardship, such as declines in revenues due impacts of periods of business closures, and/or suspended business activities such as revenue generating fund raisers due to social distancing requirements or other public health orders;
- Support for normal operating costs, including payroll and benefit costs, costs to retain employees, mortgage, rent, or utilities costs, and other operating costs;
- Support for programmatic services that assist in addressing the economic hardship experienced by the Grant Recipient and/or the negative economic impacts experienced by its customers; and
- Implementation of COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, such as physical plant changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers, or partitions, etc.

To fund cost recovery and operational expenses from August 2021 onward, prepare for reopening with facility upgrades (HVAC/HEPA air purification systems, plexiglass shields, touchless toilets), and ongoing maintenance/professional cleaning.

NEXUS TO ARPA GUIDELINES

ARPA Reporting Category (from US Treasury Reporting Guidance, Appendix 1 – see pages 3-5 below):

- 1 – Public Health 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

- 3 – Public Health – Negative Impact: Public Sector Capacity 5 – Infrastructure
 6 – Provision of Government Services (Revenue Replacement) 7 – Administrative

Sub-Category (from US Treasury Reporting Guidance, Appendix 1 – see pages 3-5 below):

Please provide one Sub-Category designation: 34

This grant is intended to support organizations and institutions that provide services/ programs for the community. Locally, these entities tend to be nonprofits though some are also for-profit businesses. ARPA funds may be used to assist small businesses and nonprofits as they respond to the negative impacts of the pandemic and/or rebound from the downturn.

NEXUS TO BOARD OBJECTIVES & COUNTY PRIORITIES / COMMUNITY IMPACT

Board Objectives (select any that apply)

- Fiscal Stability/Core Svcs. Emergency Prep. Economic Dev Broadband
 Cannabis Housing Homelessness Recreation

County Priorities (select any that apply)

- Costs related to COVID-19 response Encourage economic recovery Provide long-term benefits to County

This project intersects with the Board’s Economic Development Objective. Our small businesses and nonprofits have been hard hit by the pandemic and need resources to resume operations to pre-pandemic levels.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

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

PROJECT TIMELINE / READINESS

Grant award agreement executed:	01/28/2022
First quarter report received:	N/A
Second quarter report received:	N/A
Project Completed:	05/26/2022

BUDGET DETAIL

In what SBU/Office 2/Account(s) will ARPA-funded project activity be incurred?

SBU	Ofc2	Account	Amount	Description
10902	272	532205	\$50,000	Community Benefits Grant Program
Total			\$50,000	<i>Note: Total should match ARPA Funding Request amount</i>

EXPENDITURE TRACKING/REPORTING

Total expenditures as of 6/30/2022: \$50,000.00

Narrative Report:

<p>First Quarter Report</p>	<p>April 2022</p>	<p>KidZone Museum applied for funds in 2021 and since that time, there have been shifts for the museum caused by new COVID strains and research. The next paragraph outlines the challenges we have faced and the third section speaks to how the museum resiliently compensated for these challenges.</p> <p>In 2021, we applied for a large sum of over \$300,000 to help repair our tent structure and other large projects that were left abandoned during the pandemic when the museum was closed. We also wished to install mitigation elements to help us reopen and limit exposure. Since then, studies show that the new Omicron variant is spread by droplets, highly contagious and not as deadly. It does not remain on surfaces as long as first predicted. We also encountered additional roadblocks due to COVID. Hiring staff and hiring maintenance contractors to do maintenance work has not been successful. It has been stressful and grueling. Finding available contractors to clean, install toilets and complete maintenance remains challenging.</p> <p>What we did</p> <p>Nevada County ARPA Community Resiliency Grant funds allowed us to re-open by hiring skilled contractors for Human Resource Management, Accounting, sanitizing services/cleaning and Messaging- all critical when opening during the pandemic with new rules and regulations. Grant funds supported staff time to develop our phased COVID reopening plans and new policies and procedures. During strategic planning our COVID advisory committee, staff and board made some amazing decisions that helped us with health and safety issues using a limited staff and limited available maintenance contract services. The grant funds allowed us to build our strength and serve hundreds of Nevada County children and their families.</p> <p>Due to the nature of interactive play in the museum and exposure risk to small unvaccinated children, our board decided the safest method is to mandate vaccination for visitors 12+ and mandate masks. We decided against the plexi-glass due to many reasons and also due to hearing. It is impossible to hear customers in our high noise environment. For the expensive building repair, we decided to use duct tape (we are in a tent) at the advice of the tent manufacturer. This is until we move to a new facility or raise \$120,000 to replace the tent shell.</p> <p>We found work arounds to help our staffing issues and reward our longtime existing staff. We offer generous stipends for staff to work weekends, and help clean. We found an amazing source for museum sterilization from a contractor CHEM DRY. They come every three months and use a nontoxic spray that kills COVID on surfaces for up to three months. We love this and will maintain this service for the next decade+ as it will also help mitigate diseases such as flu, and hand foot and mouth disease. These are issues kids' museum's everywhere must address</p>
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		<p>regularly. The Chem Dry service allows us to conserve our staff time on daily sterilization.</p> <p>Volunteers came to our rescue and helped us prepare to reopen by completing basic maintenance throughout the exhibits and in the art and science room, entry and restrooms. They installed no touch soap dispensers and faucets and hand sanitizing stations. They helped us research portable air filters we bought for each museum room.</p> <p>Since we have a small staff, our contractors for accounting, technology, website and marketing and human resources, and legal all helped us develop new Visitor and Employee Policies for health and safety regarding COVID, helped us build our accounting structure to account for a variety of federal accounting needs, and spend hours developing public messaging and announcements to our public through our website, social media and our electronic news. Our staff trained and implemented an online reservation system and a staggered visitation for the first phase of reopening.</p> <p>Who came to play!</p> <p>Nevada County ARPA Community Resiliency Grant provided the support we needed to developed a phased reopening plan starting with opening three days a week in September, to opening 5 days in January 2022. We strategically planned our resources really well by pausing all programs, and focusing our staff time on opening and helping customers. Basics first.</p> <p>The museum vaccine mandate makes our customers feel safe and has not impacted visitation. In fact, we are packed with people and at capacity many days. We were open special hours for vulnerable populations who cannot get vaccinated. However, no one in this audience signed up to visit in over 6 months. Our internal evaluation is that people who are truly vulnerable do not want to risk exposure to COVID. We offer special hours for underserved groups, and school groups, but the schools and other agencies only started to take field trips recently.</p> <p>With limited hours, we have welcomed 5,000 children and their caregivers from September 2021- May 2022. We were at capacity 10 days where we could not let people in. We bought masks for all guests, partnered with Tahoe Forest Hospital to help us distribute vaccine information to families who speak Spanish.</p> <p>Our community advocate continued to work with 20 education and social service partner agencies to reach 300 children and families in their neighborhoods, off site and in the museum. We made and delivered 500 hands-on kits filled with age appropriate books, puzzles, art or science activities families can use at home. We supported scholarships for families to visit the museum or participate in programs that equal a value of \$4000.</p> <p>Some of our projects are still on the back burner and we are ok with that. Things like touch toilets. We will address at a later date when local services become more available. The Families in Nevada County are so grateful to be playing and socializing at the museum again, thanks to support from Nevada County Resiliency Grant funding.</p>
Second Quarter Report	July 2022	Project fully funded on 05/26/2022

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name and title: Ariel Lovett, Project Administrator, County Executive Office

FOR CEO OFFICE ONLY:

Expense Item No:	ECON01.08
Final ARPA Category:	2.34
Approved:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No