

Imperial County Board of Supervisors
940 W. Main Street, Suite 209
El Centro, CA 92243-283

Chairman of the Board, Jesus Eduardo Escobar, District 1
Chief Executive Officer, Miguel Figueroa

[Sent via e-mail]

July 28, 2022

RE: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Government Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) Fund – Follow-up memo on Imperial County Presentation Topics for Board of Supervisors Meeting on August 16, 2022

Dear Miguel Figueroa and Chair Escobar,

To summarize some topics from the discussion yesterday and correspondence sent to the CEO and Board of Supervisors on June 9, 2022 (also attached), the following is a list of the topics, details, and plans that should be included in the County Board of Supervisors presentation taking place on August 16, 2022. To clarify, I don't know the answers to these questions so it's on the County to add that content to describe how the County will commit.

1. **Transparency:** Include where all the \$35.2 million in ARPA funds are allocated and spent, including the intended strategies and outcomes, the timing of programs, itemized expenditure reports, planning meetings and reports, and public workshops. *How do we know you aren't just cooking up the numbers retroactively?*
 - a. What is the amount of ARPA funding each department is responsible for overseeing?
 - b. What autonomy do department directors have as to how the ARPA funds are spent?
 - c. How much ARPA funding will reach each City compared to Unincorporated areas in the County?
 - d. What are your plans to keep the public informed regularly of the ongoing ARPA expenditures?
2. **Assessment:** What is the County of Imperial going to do to assess the people's needs (not just the County) related to the four priorities stipulated by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (see four priorities below)? *Assessment of priorities must be current and relevant to the context of the pandemic. Expenditures to address socioeconomic and health disparities are missing from the County's allocation plan.*
 - a. **Support the COVID-19 public health and economic response** by addressing COVID-19 and its impact on public health as well as addressing economic harms to households, small businesses, nonprofits, impacted industries, and the public sector.
 - b. **Provide premium pay for eligible workers performing essential work,**

offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors.

- c. **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, to support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand affordable access to broadband internet.
 - d. **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue loss due to the pandemic.
3. **Who informs priorities:** What steps has the County of Imperial taken to ask community organizations, who continue to be on the front line of responding to this pandemic, how their organizations can use COVID-19 relief funds to address the four priorities outlined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury? How have everyday people that have been most impacted by the pandemic helped inform the priorities? *It is important not to only ask County departments about their needs, it's necessary to engage to learn the needs of those that were critical in the response to this pandemic.*

Respectfully,

Daniela Flores, MPH
Community Organizer and Advocate
Imperial Valley Equity and Justice Coalition
City of Calexico

