



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT Expenditure Request

This fillable form is available on our website: www.leecountyil.com

SECTION 1: PROGRAM OVERVIEW/ELIGIBILITY

Lee County is the recipient of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. The Lee County Board established an ARPA Committee to make recommendations to the Board on funding allocations which meet eligibility guidelines and respond to local needs. Pursuant to the Act, funding objectives include supporting the COVID-19 Public Health Response, addressing negative economic impacts, replacing public sector revenue loss, premium pay for essential workers, and water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

For more information on U.S. Treasury's ARPA guidelines and eligibility go to: U.S. Treasury - ARPA Information. For information on the Lee County ARPA program, email Sara Leisner, Lee County ARPA Grant Coordinator at arpa@countyoflee.org.

SECTION 2: REQUESTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

Agency Lee Co. Fair Association Agency Phone (815) 857-2603
Agency Address 1574 Nachusa Rd., Dixon, IL 61021
Agency Representative Andy Pratt Title treasurer
Representative Email gpfarms@hotmail.com Phone (815) 739-4797

SECTION 3: REQUEST OVERVIEW

Brief Description of Project/Expenditure: Upgrades to main exhibit building, livestock barns, and grounds

Estimate of the Timeline for Project/Expenditure: 2022 - 2026

ARPA Category this Expenditure Falls Under:

- Support COVID-19 Public Health Response
Address Negative Economic Impacts
Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss
Premium Pay for Essential Workers
Water and Sewer Infrastructure
Broadband Infrastructure

Have you sought other funding or matching funds for this project? Yes No

If yes, from where: grants offered through various agribusiness

Total Project Cost: \$ 736,787.00 ARPA Funding Request: \$ 236,000.00 Other Funding/Match: \$ 6,500.00

SECTION 4: DETAILS OF PROJECT/EXPENDITURE (ATTACH TO THIS APPLICATION)

Please attach a narrative detailing the project, including an explanation of how this expenditure meets the ARPA eligibility guidelines, any additional details on the project costs (including if the cost is an estimate), other funding sources, and the project timeline. Attach the narrative along with all supporting documentation to this application.

SECTION 5: SIGNATURE

I hereby depose and say that I am an authorized representative of the Agency, that I have read this application, that I have personal knowledge of the contents thereof, that the same is true in substance and fact, and that I will comply with all grant and reporting requirements to Lee County on behalf of the Agency.

Signature of Agency Representative Date May 24, 2022

Email this application and all supporting documentation to Sara Leisner, Lee County ARPA Grant Coordinator at arpa@countyoflee.org.

American Rescue Plan Act Application for Lee Co. Fair Association

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The Lee Co. Fair Association is the volunteer board of directors tasked with maintaining and improving the physical footprint of the Lee Co. 4-H Center & Fairgrounds, and with managing the annual Lee Co. 4-H Fair & Jr. Show. Through generous donations of time and talent, many small projects are accomplished throughout the year. We rely on a network of local support from individuals and business to assist in keeping the 4-H Center & Fairgrounds a safe, welcoming environment for its users. However, several significantly larger and more expensive projects need attention.

Since 2007, the fairgrounds has become a popular rental option for private events like wedding receptions and quinceneras. Through the years we have invested rental income back into the building – installing LED lights, painting, and replacing the floor in the kitchen and conference room. Most recently, we built new bathroom facilities. Additional upgrades are necessary to achieve energy efficiency in this 42-year-old building. Upgrades include insulating, repairing the outer cinder block walls, wrapping the exterior in steel, repairing the concrete floor, adding interior steel to walls and ceiling, and upgrading the kitchen HVAC and lighting.

While the main exhibit building is used throughout the year for private events, the 13-acre fairgrounds, livestock barns, grandstand and show arenas are used for one very important week in July - the annual Lee Co. 4-H Fair & Jr. Show. The livestock barns need structural repairs to ensure the safety of exhibitors and fairgoers. Other updates and upgrades will only enhance the fairgrounds and its availability to the community as a site for a wide variety of activities.

The biggest hurdle to completing these upgrades is funding. The annual 4-H Fair & Jr. Show is a break-even event; that is our goal. State funding for reimbursement of jr. show premiums and capital investments in fairgrounds has been on a steady decline for almost 20 years. Our organization does not receive any local government funding. Rental income in 2020 and 2021 was lost due to COVID related cancellations. The fair association did not qualify for initial COVID relief funds because we do not have any employees and are a non-profit.

The generosity of 4-H families, the community, businesses, and individuals continue to play a vital role in our ability to maintain this facility. Compeer Financial offers a grant specific to county fairs. We have received grant funds in total of \$4,000.00 for the fiscal years of 2020 and 2021. We are awaiting receipt of \$2,500.00 from Bayer's America's Farmers Grow Communities program.

The requested \$236,000.00 in ARPA Funds would be used specifically for new insulation and exterior steel with gutters for the south room of the main exhibit building, new exterior steel and gutters for the north room of the main exhibit building, and repair of the main support posts in the swine/sheep livestock barn.

See attached for a detailed list of capital projects, estimated costs and projected timelines.

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LEE COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION REPAIR LIST
Estimated Costs and Projected Date for Completion

Project	Estimated Cost	Completed By
Main Exhibit Building (South Room)		
New insulation and exterior steel with gutters	\$96,287	2023
New interior steel on walls and ceiling	\$75,000	2024
Main Exhibit Building (North Room)		
New exterior steel and gutters	\$85,000	2023
Concrete floor repair	\$75,000	2025
New ceiling and lights in the kitchen	\$30,000	2024
New HVAC in kitchen	\$ 5,000	2024 / 2025
New interior steel on walls	\$50,000	2025
New banquet tables for renters	\$10,000	2026
Swine/Sheep Livestock Barn		
Repair main support posts inside building	\$55,000	2023
Horse Barn and Arena		
New announcers stand	\$15,000	2022
Repair arena with sand	\$ 5,000	2022
Show Barn		
New electrical service panel installed	\$ 5,000	2022
New LED lights installed	\$ 7,500	2022
New audio / speaker system installed	\$10,000	2025
Replace large sliding doors with overhead doors	\$20,000	2025
Fair Office / Food Stand Building		
Concrete patio for food preparation	\$ 5,000	2022
A/C unit for entire building	\$15,000	2024
Install walkout cooler to replace refrigerators	\$15,000	2023
Upgrade internet service	\$ 5,000	2023
Main Electrical Service		
Upgrade existing electrical panels to meet code	\$25,000	2024
Upgrade existing electrical hookups for vendors	\$40,000	2024
Grandstand and Parking		
Replace existing fence along Rte. 30 for safety	\$25,000	2023
Replace existing wood light poles and yard lights	\$25,000	2025
Repair driveways and parking lot with gravel	\$ 5,000	2025
Repair main entrance archway	\$ 5,000	2023
Plant new trees	\$ 3,000	ongoing
Electrical and water hookups installed for fair camping	\$25,000	2026

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ADDITIONAL REQUESTED INFORMATION

Narrative explaining the intended use of funds and describing the impact COVID-19 has had on the business.

In 2007, the volunteer board of directors (Lee Co. Fair Association) of the Lee Co. 4-H Center & Fairgrounds had been asked if the main exhibit building could be rented for a wedding reception. Prior to that, the main exhibit building was used six times a year for 4-H activities and the county fair. Other events like benefits or customer appreciation dinners happened once in a great while. Since that August 2007 event, the fairgrounds and its buildings has been rented for weddings and receptions, quinceneras, family reunions, benefits, company trainings, trade shows, vendor fairs, and livestock shows. Income from renting the fairgrounds during the year has allowed the board of directors to make significant improvements on the grounds.

We have installed LED lights, built new bathrooms, painted, installed water tile, new electrical panels, and lines, etc. In addition, we continue to coordinate and manage the annual 4-H Fair & Jr. Show, which serves as a showcase of talent for area youth and 4-H members and a gathering place for the community.

When March 13, 2020 dawned, the fairgrounds had a full calendar of private events and big plans for the 2020 4-H fair and jr. show. It didn't take long for all private events to cancel or reschedule. In May, the board of directors made the decision to cancel the 2020 4-H fair and jr. show. With that decision, we contacted sponsoring businesses and offered to return any funds collected for the now canceled 2020 fair. We returned \$1,250.00.

With uncertainty still ruling 2021, the rental schedule was sparse. Because of event cancellation during 2020 and 2021, the Lee Co. Fair Association lost \$18,250.00 in rental income. Lost revenue from the 2020 fair totaled \$65,000. Expenses continued, however, including utility bills and grounds maintenance.

The Lee Co. Fair Association did not qualify for initial COVID relief funds because we do not have any employees and are a non-profit.

The Lee Co. Fair Association is always working to improve the 4-H Center & fairgrounds. Our current project list involves several upgrades to the main exhibit building to gain energy efficiencies; for example: insulating, repairing the outer cinder block walls, wrapping the exterior in steel, repairing the concrete floor, adding interior steel to walls and ceiling, and upgrading the kitchen HVAC and lighting.

Additionally, the livestock barns used during the annual 4-H fair and jr. show and other livestock shows need structural repairs. Other upgrades will only further enhance the fairgrounds for use by the community and other organizations.

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Did the business incur a loss even after receiving any COVID related financial assistance?

We did not receive any COVID related financial assistance associated with early relief packages. We did not qualify for PPE funds because we do not have any employees. Also, as a non-profit organization, we did not qualify for some funds released in relief packages. We did apply for later released relief funds targeting entertainment venues but did not receive financial assistance.

Even though the fairgrounds and facility were not used for public events in 2020, utility expenses and grounds maintenance continued. We lost reimbursement funds usually received from the state for costs associated with the annual fair and yearly capital improvements.

Was the business required to close due to the Governor's order regarding non-essential businesses and/or due to quarantine of staff? If so, what were the closure dates?

The Lee Co. Fair Association worked closely with the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs and the Lee Co. Health Department to guide the decisions regarding rent of the facility for private and or public events. Our first canceled private event was scheduled for March 15, 2020. Renters quickly chose to cancel or reschedule their events during 2020 and 2021. The fairgrounds was not in use by the public from March 15, 2020 – February 27, 2021.

The decision to cancel the 2020 4-H fair and jr. show was guided by direction from the Lee Co. Health Department and the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs.

Project / Use Information containing start and end date and cost of project / intended use of funds.

Please see attached table titled "Lee County Fair Association Repair List". This table describes capital improvement projects listed in order of need, an estimated cost for said project and a projected completion year.

Specifically, the requested ARPA funds would be used specifically for new insulation and exterior steel with gutters for the south room of the main exhibit building, new exterior steel and gutters for the north room of the main exhibit building, and repair of the main support posts in the swine/sheep livestock barn.

Were any other funding sources sought for this project/use, including was funding sought from your local City/Village?

The Lee Co. Fair Association applies for grants periodically. Grinnell Mutual Insurance Company offers a fairgrounds face lift grant each year (\$3,000.00) for which we have applied, but not received.

Compeer Financial offers a grant specific to county fairs. We have received grant funds in total of \$4,000.00 for the fiscal years of 2020 and 2021.

We are waiting receipt of \$2,500.00 from Bayer's America's Farmers Grow Communities program, through which local farmers nominate a non-profit organization to receive a donation from the company.

No funds have been sought or received from city or county governmental entities in relation to COVID loss of income or prior to that.