



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT Expenditure Request

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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 County Agency Phone 815-288-3024
Agency Address 112 E. Second Street
Agency Representative Wendy Ryerson Title Administrator
Representative Email wryerson@countyoflee.org Phone 815-288-3024

SECTION 3: REQUEST OVERVIEW

Brief Description of Project/Expenditure: Remediation of unsafe Abandoned Properties

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 will be pursued to contribute towards the project

Total Project Cost: \$ 100,000 ARPA Funding Request: \$ 100,000 Other Funding/Match: \$ unknown

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.

Wendy Ryerson Digitally signed by Wendy Ryerson Date: 2022.06.30 07:09:16 -05'00' 6/30/2022
Signature of Agency Representative Date

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

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the Illinois Counties Code 55 ILCS 5/5-1121 (Demolition, Repair or Enclosure) the county board of each county may demolish, repair or enclose, or cause the demolition, repair or enclosure of dangerous and unsafe buildings within the county, but outside the territory of any municipality.

The county is also authorized to file a lien for the costs incurred, including court costs, attorney's fees, and other costs related to the enforcement of this section.

BACKGROUND

The Public Safety Committee initiated discussions regarding abandoned properties to address citizen complaints. An informal group consisting of Mike Koppien (Board member) John Nicholson (Board member), John Simonton (Sheriff), Dee Duffy (Zoning Admin.), Jennifer Kolb (Health Dept.) and Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney) began initial discussions. The goal is to identify and address those abandoned properties that are dangerous to life, safety, health, or other property.

State's Attorney Boonstra has appointed Tim Zollinger as Special Assistant State's Attorney to pursue legal action on abandoned properties (identified by the County) pursuant to 55 ILCS 5/5-1121. Attorney Zollinger has represented other jurisdictions on this issue including Dixon and Sterling.

The property commonly known as 122 Cherry Street, Compton, IL was selected as the initial subject. The unoccupied residential structure on this property is substantially deteriorated and deemed to be a dangerous and/or unsafe building. The property has been vacant for a considerable period and taxes are delinquent for the years 2018 - 2021. The Health Department condemned the property on Nov. 23, 2021.

Special ASA Zollinger has filed the required court documents and is anticipating a Judgment deed on or about August 3, 2022, at which time the County will be authorized to take possession and remediate the unsafe conditions.

ARPA FUNDING REQUEST - PROJECT

This funding request would provide the start-up dollars to fund Lee County's ABANDONED PROPERTIES project, including the Special Assistant State's Attorney fees, and demolition, repair or enclosure costs. It will allow Lee County to immediately begin addressing those properties which jeopardize the life, safety, and health of its citizens.

Other potential funding sources are abandoned property grants and the subsequent sale of a property following remediation. We are in the initial phases of researching grants which may be available to support and continue the project.