
From: Terence Mulligan <terence@napavalleycf.org>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 6:42 PM
To: Dillon, Diane; Pedroza, Alfredo; Gregory, Ryan; Ramos, Belia; Wagenknecht, Brad
Cc: PublicComment; Teresa; danac; joelle@first5napa.org; Whitmer, David; Julia DeNatale; Tran, Minh
Subject: Letter from Napa County philanthropy orgs in support of ARPA allocations to safety net and childcare
Attachments: AmericanRescuePlanAct_LettertoBOS_July2021_encrypted_.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Supervisors Dillon, Gregory, Pedroza, Ramos and Wagenknecht:

Attached please find a letter signed by several of the Valley's leading philanthropic organizations, including the one I lead, Napa Valley Community Foundation.

I look forward to speaking about this letter with you next Tuesday 7/20 during public comment, along with my Board Vice Chair, Dave Whitmer.

Thank you very much in advance for the opportunity to raise our voices in support of the idea that a material portion of ARPA funds be invested to bolster the social safety net and the childcare sector in our community.

Sincerely,

Terence

Terence Mulligan | President
Napa Valley Community Foundation
T. 707.254.9565 x 11 | F. 707.254.7955
terence@napavalleycf.org | www.napavalleycf.org

A Prosperous Community Rises from a Strong Foundation

July 16, 2021

Supervisors Diane Dillon, Ryan Gregory, Alfredo Pedroza, Belia Ramos & Brad Wagenknecht
Napa County Board of Supervisors
1195 Third Street, #310
Napa, CA 94558

Dear Napa County Board of Supervisors:

We would like to begin by thanking you for your leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand that the last 16 months have been incredibly challenging for all, and we thank you for your partnership with the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors as we all work to serve the increased needs of our community.

We are writing today to express the strong support of the Napa County philanthropic sector for the recommendations by our nonprofit social service partners regarding the County's allocation of American Recovery Plan Act (ARP) resources.

Together, we provide at least \$10 million in funding to support Napa County nonprofit programs each year.

In the last 16 months, Napa Valley Community Foundation's Disaster Relief Fund, which was established with a lead gift of \$10 million from Napa Valley Vintners following the 2014 South Napa Earthquake, has disbursed more than \$8 million to help thousands of local people affected by the pandemic and the 2020 wildfires; and to protect the broader community in the event of future disasters.

More than \$200,000 of this amount has gone directly to support County programs like COVID testing and the purchase of the Zonehaven Emergency Management platform. An additional \$600,000 has provided rental support for 300 families under Isolation & Quarantine orders from Napa County Public Health, approximately \$200,000 has supported our ag workforce in Napa County congregate farmworker housing and \$265,000 has built the capacity of Napa Communities Firewise Foundation, so that it may execute critical fuel mitigation projects in partnership with the County.

Through and alongside our nonprofit partners, even as the suffocating grip of the pandemic wanes, we see the increased needs of Napa County residents.

From our collective and extensive experience supporting the community after multiple disasters in recent years, we've learned that it can take between three and four years for a family to stabilize and recover. As a result, we believe that the successful rebound of our economy will be dependent upon continued support for working families as they put their lives back together.

Napa Valley Community Foundation is currently working with Bay Area Legal Aid, Fair Housing Napa Valley, On the Move and UpValley Family Centers to construct and fund a robust system to help Napa County tenants and landlords successfully access approximately \$9 million in Emergency Rental Assistance from the state of California.

This investment, of \$500,000 to \$600,000 over one year to provide navigation services for tenants and landlords, represents the remaining balance of the funds we raised to address the health and economic impacts of the pandemic.

We invest in such programs because the nonprofit social services sector is efficient, accountable and trusted by members of the community who need assistance.

However, philanthropy is always a minority investor in nonprofit safety net programs, which derive between one-half and two-thirds of their yearly revenues from government grants and contracts.

This is particularly true now, because some local funders have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, and others have announced plans to scale back their giving.

We respectfully ask you to co-invest in the social safety net for local families by giving serious consideration to the specific requests of our nonprofit partners.

With your continued support and leadership, we can accelerate economic recovery in Napa County by keeping our residents housed, healthy and working in our community.

We have attached, for reference, portions of the letter sent to you recently by various local nonprofit organizations. Thank you in advance for your consideration. We would be happy to discuss this with you further at any time.

Sincerely yours,

Terence P. Mulligan
Terence P. Mulligan
President, Napa Valley Community Foundation

Teresa Smith
Terri Smith, Programs Manager, Community Health Investment
Providence Queen of the Valley Medical Center

Joelle Gallagher
Joelle Gallagher, Executive Director
First Five Napa

CC: Minh Tran, County CEO

ENCLOSURE:

July 16, 2021

Dear Honorable Napa County Board of Supervisors,

First, we would like to thank you for your on-going leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we can appreciate that it has been a challenging 16 months. As community leaders from the non-profit sector, we write this letter to the Board of Supervisors with our recommendations for you to consider when determining how to allocate the \$26.7 million received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Act.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations across Napa County and has exacerbated inequities in our community. There are elevated needs with a diminished social safety net.

It is important to recognize that recovery takes time when considering how ARP funds should be allocated. From our collective experience supporting the community in recovering from multiple disasters over the last few years, it takes between 3-4 years for a family to stabilize and recover. We cannot yet predict all of the unmet needs that we will see in the year(s) to come as a result of the pandemic layered onto existing inequities and fire recovery.

As community needs emerge daily, nonprofits are actively responding to the crisis. Some of the current trends being reported by CLC members include:

- **Quality child care:** The COVID pandemic highlighted the essential role that child care plays in our economy. As employers resume in-person operations, the many people seeking to reenter the workforce are left with an impossible choice as they are unable to find full- time child care for their children. This is happening across many industries in Napa County, not just with lower-wage jobs. While the supply of child care was already shrinking in Napa County prior to the pandemic, since January 2020, our community has lost at least another 126 slots; 7 private sites have closed or are planning to close (4 moved out of State, 3 for other reasons). Using a conservative estimate, a loss of 126 slots likely equates to 189 adult workers struggling to take new or retain existing jobs. As reported by Community Resources for Children, in Napa County, there are currently an estimated 601 children in need of a child care slot; including 325 children who are registered on the Child Care Centralized Eligibility List (CEL). These are children who are eligible (low-income) and are waiting for a subsidized child care slot to become available to them. These estimates do not include the number of children not eligible for a subsidy but who are also unable to secure child-care.
- **Mental Health:** Pre-pandemic, mental health was identified as a top unmet health need in all of the community health assessments. Over the last 16 months, providers have cited a significant increase in mental health issues as a result of the pandemic: increased symptoms of depression, self-medication, and suicidal ideation due to isolation; increased anxiety from fear of COVID exposure, fear of being in public, fear of unknown future; and loneliness due to isolation and increased episodes of angry outburst, “the world does not feel safe for our elderly and medically vulnerable clients.”

- ***Student Mental Health:*** Young people are struggling with their mental health. Throughout the pandemic, youth ages 11-17 have been more likely than any other age group to score for moderate to severe symptoms of anxiety and depression. We project this need will continue and possibly increase, as students return to school in the fall and manage the learning loss experienced from remote learning and sheltering at home.
- ***Rebuilding Financial Stability:*** The successful recovery of Napa County's economy and residents' financial stability is inextricably linked. Small businesses and families have been squeezed by high rent and living costs that have made it hard to get ahead and difficult to save—even before COVID-19. As our county and state 're-open', employers are struggling to hire sufficient staff due to high housing and transportation costs. With regard to housing, the state is allocating considerable resources to rental subsidies in advance of the end of the eviction moratorium in September. Unfortunately, due to systemic challenges, people in our county are struggling to access these funds. Landlords, management companies and renters are expressing frustration with the process. Without support, many tenants are likely to lose their housing if they cannot access these resources.

The pandemic also adversely affected many of the industries and businesses that have provided support to the non-profit community over the years and organizations will now need more resources to maintain existing services. Through ARP, local government is now in a unique position to support non-profits as efficient, effective, and accountable distributors of relief funds to vulnerable individuals and families. We have demonstrated that we can get funds to those who need them quickly, in their neighborhoods, and in their languages. Additionally, we have already demonstrated that we have the systems and resources to manage data tracking in alignment with funding restrictions and evaluate the impact of the programs/services.

The undersigned organizations request that the Board of Supervisors adopt the following recommendations in regard to the allocation of ARP funds:

- An investment of \$3 million for safety net and unmet needs, allocated through the MSA process over the next three years (\$1 million per year). The previous FY21/22 additional \$1M investment grant cycle provided essential support for ongoing health related services. The recommendation of a consistent increase in funds, coincides with the time needed for recovery and will allow for addressing emerging needs - both ongoing and one time infrastructure supports. We recommend utilizing this existing effective process to guide decision making on how funds are specifically allocated in order to ensure that funds reach the community as quickly and efficiently as possible.
- An investment of \$2 million to specifically support the development of the early care and education workforce as well as expand the supply of available and affordable quality child care across the County. Pre-pandemic, Napa County only had enough preschool and licensed child care slots for 1 in 4 children with a working parent. The impact of the pandemic has made it even more challenging for working parents to secure child care and stay in the workforce. This investment would leverage additional resources from the state, private sector and philanthropic community to develop a multi-year plan addressing systemic challenges that were highlighted by the pandemic. Examples of best practice models that are being reviewed include: employer based child care in partnership with the business community, workforce development opportunities including housing stipends in partnership with the Workforce Alliance Board of the North Bay and the private sector.

The recommendations outlined in this letter are part of a shorter-term strategy to address the undeniable and urgent needs in the community. Through ARP our county is also presented with the opportunity to meaningfully invest in a longer-term strategy and together with, multiple sectors including nonprofits, the opportunity to leverage and align regional resources toward building a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future.

With this longer-term strategy in mind and to best serve the people of Napa County, we request that the Board partner with us to identify a strategy and timeline for further engaging the community beyond the discussion on July 20, 2021.

Signature: *Teresa Smith*
Teresa Smith (Jul 16, 2021 15:45 PDT)

Email: teresa.smith@stjoe.org

Signature: *Joelle Gallagher*

Email: joelle.gallagher@gmail.com

Signature: *terence mulligan*

Email: terence@napavalleycf.org