

**SPARK ROUND 1 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 REIMBURSEMENT & DIRECT AID REVIEW
 MEMORANDUM**

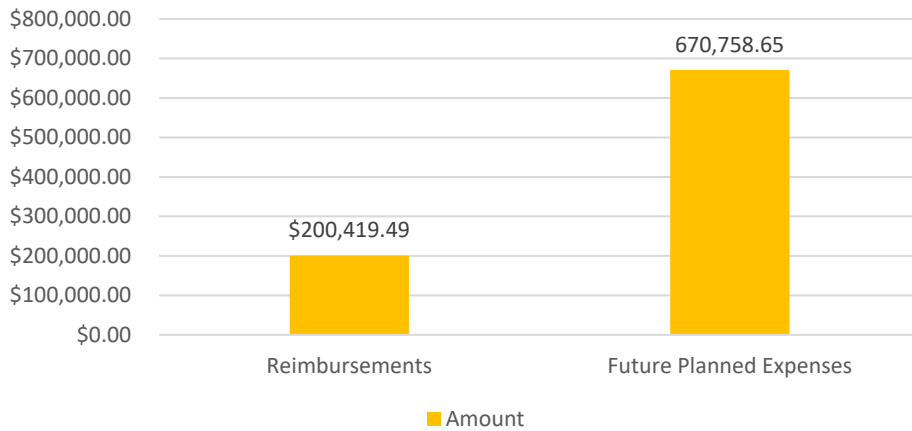
Date September 3, 2020
Re Review of Reimbursement and Direct Aid Spending Plan for Kearny County

General Information

Population: 3,838
 COVID-19 Cases 8/21/2020: 69

Total Allocation Amount: \$ 871,174.72
 Total Submitted for Reimbursement: \$ 200,419.49
 Total Submitted for Future Planned Expenditures: \$ 670,758.65

SPENDING PLAN OVERVIEW



Reimbursement Request Overview

Total Amount for County Expenditures: \$ 68,391.10
 Total Amount for Subrecipients: \$ 132,028.39

Subrecipients and Amounts

Subrecipient	Type	Amount
USD 215	Educational Institution	\$89,512.38
USD 216	Educational Institution	\$42,516.01
Total		\$132,028.39

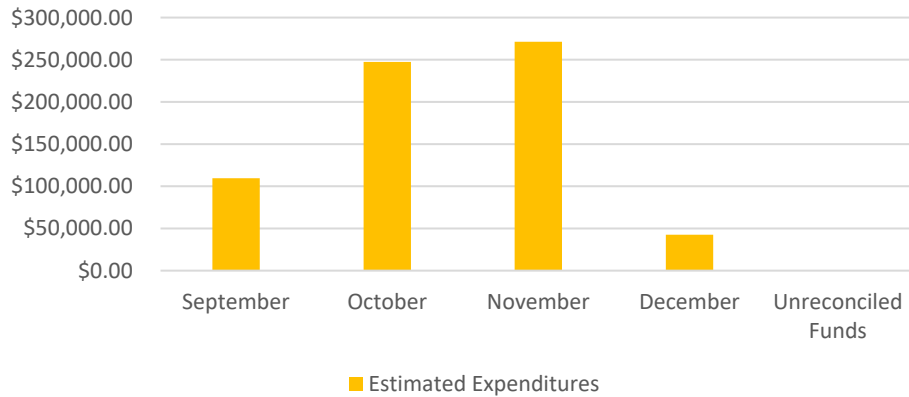
Direct Aid Overview – Future Spending Plan

Total Amount for County Expenditures: \$ 222,034.65

Total Amount for Transfers: \$ 298,724

Total Amount for Programs: \$ 150,000

PROJECT SPEND DOWN RATE



Subrecipients/Transfers and Amounts

Subrecipient	Type	Amount
USD 215	Educational Institution	\$167,849
USD 216	Educational Institution	\$130,875
Total		\$298,724

Proposed Programs

Program Title	Program Description	Program Budget Amount
Kearny County Small Business COVID Relief Program	This grant program will assist small businesses in Kearny County with expenses associated with re-opening measures as well as lost revenue / expenses incurred during the mandatory shut-down.	\$150,000.00
Total		\$150,000.00

Definitions

General Considerations – Summarizes county expenditure data.

Technical Understanding of SPARK Process – Assesses compliance of applicant expenditure information with SPARK guidance.

Identified Compliance Considerations – Highlights requested items that may present potential complications for CRF support eligibility.

Spending Plan Request for Additional Information – Specifies what information is still needed from the recipients.

Modifications Required – Requests any changes still needed to a Reimbursement or Direct Aid plan for proper review.

Conclusion – Gauges whether the County's plan has sufficient information to move forward in the eligibility review process and highlights any remaining concerns.

General Considerations

Kearny County has prioritized its reimbursement requests for educational institutions. Total County reimbursements equal 34.1% of all eligible expenditures, while educational institutions requested 65.9% of the \$200,419.49 submitted for reimbursement review.

Kearny County's direct aid request prioritizes educational institutions expenditures, which amounts to 44.5% of the \$670,758.65 submitted for direct aid review. Transfers to subrecipients were increased from the reimbursements request, a total of \$166,695.61 more in the direct aid plan. The County's planned expenditures account for 33.1%, while programs account for the remainder of requests.

The County should ensure that all expenses, transfers, and programs respond clearly to purpose and intent of CRF funding, meets all eligibility criteria, and will be documented to the county file to support the expense incurred before December 30, 2020.

Technical Understanding of SPARK Process

Kearny County and its subrecipients demonstrate a generally proficient understanding of the intent of the SPARK committee and reporting expectations as exemplified by their detailed reporting of expenditures for reimbursements and direct aid.

Identified Compliance Considerations

1. Payroll Expenses

The matter of reimbursement for previously budgeted but substantially dedicated public safety and public health staff to COVID-19 related responsibilities remains an item of subjective interpretation. The Office of Recovery understands that many Counties and Cities are intending to utilize funding provided through CRF to account for this staff time. At this time, consistent with recently released guidance, the Office of Recovery has determined that the County may proceed with reimbursing the following payroll expenses:

- COVID-19 related FFCRA and FMLA leave costs
- Payroll for budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use than previously budgeted position (example: utility clerk re-assigned to support contact tracing)
- Previously unbudgeted staff hired to assist with COVID-19 related response or mitigation.
- Payroll for budgeted public safety and public health personnel that are considered substantially dedicated to preparing for, mitigating against or responding to COVID-19, and whose actions can be clearly documented. Public safety employees would include police officers (including state police officers), sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, firefighters, emergency medical responders, correctional and detention officers, and those who directly support such employees such as dispatchers and supervisory personnel. Public health employees would include employees involved in providing medical and other health services to patients and supervisory personnel, including medical staff assigned to schools, prisons, and other such institutions, and other support services essential for patient care (e.g., laboratory technicians) as well as employees of public health departments directly engaged in matters related to public health and related supervisory personnel.
- Overtime cost burden associated with public safety, public health, health care, human services, or other employees experienced by the County, Cities or Schools as a result of increased workload associated with mitigating or responding to COVID-19 -or- backfill coverage as a result of staffing shortages tied to COVID-19 (including as a result of staff out due to a qualifying FFCRA or FMLA leave).

The U.S. Treasury's Office of Inspector General recently released additional guidance on how payroll expenses should be documented (OIG-CA-20-028; #62, 69-71). The County should ensure that all payroll is documented compliant to the OIG Guidance.

2. Kearny County Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program

\$150,000

Direct Aid

As this is identified as a grant program, the County should have a well-qualified plan for how applicants will apply and be selected. Additionally, the County should ensure they have the appropriate level of administrative capacity to effectively administer the program and/or monitor any 3rd party entity responsible for administering the grant program.

Spending Plan Request for Additional Information

No additional information is requested at this time.

Modifications Required

There are no modifications needed at this time.

Conclusion

1. Based on the documents provided by Kearny County, it appears they have a good understanding of the eligibility requirements relative to CARES Act funding and have appropriately followed this process.
2. Kearny County should provide responses to all requests for additional information outlined in this memo.
3. Kearny County has an appropriate Project Spend Down Rate in accordance with program guidelines and eligibility.
4. Kearny County should ensure that all expenses, transfers, and programs respond clearly to purpose and intent of CRF funding, meets all eligibility criteria, and will be documented to the county file to support the expense incurred before December 30, 2020.
5. Kearny County should consider developing a templated sub-recipient monitoring plan to ensure consistent monitoring of subrecipients (cities, schools, non-profits) for compliance use of funds.
6. For the Small Business Grant Program, if not already in place, Kearny County should consider development of an application process and establish a review committee to ensure equal access to funds from potential qualified applications. The County should also appropriately advertise the program within the community.

Subject to review of the additional documentation requested and considerations regarding payroll expenses, Kearny County may proceed with implementation of its CARES Act funding allocation as outlined in its provided reimbursement and direct aid plan.