

Memo

To: Kris A. Knochelmann, Kenton County Judge/Executive
Dr. Jon Draud, Kenton County Commissioner
Joe Nienaber, Kenton County Commissioner
Beth Sewell, Kenton County Commissioner
Stacy Tapke, Kenton County Attorney

Date: May 9, 2023

From: John M. Stanton
Kurt Greivenkamp

Re: ARPA – Enzweiler Building Institute / Life Learning Center

Through ARPA, Kenton County received \$32,437,404. Of this, \$10,000,000 was reserved for county revenue replacement pursuant to federal regulations.

Another \$10,800,000 was deployed through a contract with altafiber to extend high speed broadband throughout Kenton County to every single family home and all multi-family developments who accepted it. That project will be complete by July 2023.

Additionally, the Fiscal Court allocated \$5,000,000 for employee compensation, and \$160,000 to assist in the development of a wastewater treatment plant on Catalina Drive in the City of Independence.

There remains approximately \$6,480,000 of restricted ARPA funds available for further distribution by the Kenton County Fiscal Court.

In February, the Fiscal Court discussed allocating \$4,640,000 toward a specific initiative mitigating the negative economic impacts caused by COVID. To that end, Building Industry Association of Northern Kentucky (“BIA”) submitted a proposal to support work skills development at the Enzweiler Building Institute in Latonia for \$3.616 million to help rebuild the skilled workforce negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Deputy Treasurer Kurt Greivenkamp worked with BIA’s Vicki Berling to identify which components of the BIA proposal met federal requirements.

Post-vetting, the BIA proposal calls for (1) \$150,000 in infrastructure improvements at the Enzweiler Building Institute, (2) \$256,250 for staffing at the Institute, (3) \$683,400 to train 240 Kenton County high school students in carpentry, facilities maintenance, masonry, restoration, and welding, and (4) \$2,500,000 to train 400 Kenton County adults in carpentry, facilities maintenance, masonry, restoration, and welding.

All total, the BIA component of this initiative would require \$3,589,650 in ARPA funds to complete work skills training with industry-recognized credentials for 240 high school students and 400 adults by December 2026.

In addition, staff worked with the Life Learning Center (“LLC”) to adjust an existing wrap-around life skills training program already contracted for by Kenton County to supplement the BIA work skills training program. At \$2,327.30 per adult student, it could potentially add \$934,920.00 to the total cost of the initiative.

At this time, Staff recommends approval of **\$150,000** in infrastructure improvements at the Enzweiler Building Institute, and **\$256,250** for staffing, while additional details of the BIA / LLC programmatic elements are further refined. The infrastructure and staffing components are prerequisites to the success of the workforce initiative, so funding them as soon as possible while continuing work on the program is advisable. The remaining programmatic elements may be before the Fiscal Court as soon as at the May 23rd meeting.