

# 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: Kurt Greivenkamp  
Adam Howard  
Bryan Norton  
John M. Stanton

Re: ARPA – Social Services Funding

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

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

Additionally, Kenton County 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 approved utilizing up to \$2,000,000 to mitigate negative societal impacts caused by COVID. To that end, Kenton County issued a Request for Proposals, capping individual requests at \$500,000 per application.

In response, Kenton County received 42 proposals totaling more than \$12,000,000 in requests. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann and County Administrator Joe Shriver tasked Kurt Greivenkamp, Adam Howard, Bryan Norton and John Stanton (“the Committee”) to review the forty-two proposals and submit recommendations to the Fiscal Court.

Deputy Treasurer Kurt Greivenkamp reviewed each proposal to determine whether it met federal regulatory requirements. Subsequent to this initial screening process, the Committee conducted on-site visits to selected applicants.

Considerations taken into account during the review process included whether the expenditures addressed impacts caused by COVID, sustainability, community impact, cost, etc.

After completion of the process, the Committee unanimously recommends the following applicants, and amounts, for approval and funding by the Kenton County Fiscal Court.

Be Concerned	\$180,000
Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky	\$242,500
Family Nurturing Center	\$500,000
GO Pantry	\$367,400
Master Provisions	\$415,000
New Perceptions, Inc.	\$18,000
Northern Kentucky Children’s Law Center	\$117,500
Notre Dame Urban Education Center	\$30,000
Transitions, Inc.	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,920,400</b>

In four cases, the Committee recommends funding part of or, in two instances, more than the original application requested.

**Be Concerned**, located in Covington, requested \$380,000 for (1) food and pantry staples (\$180,000 / \$5,000 per month for 36 months), (2) shopping carts for clients (\$50,000), and (3) new staff (\$150,000). In general, the Committee did not support funding new staff due to sustainability questions and the large number of applicants seeking staff funding. The Committee also perceived the shopping carts as a lesser priority in the context of the large number of requests for support received, but recommends funding food and pantry staples as part of a larger Kenton County food security priority. Based on the applications, and supporting data, it’s clear that the pandemic negatively impacted food security, and the Be Concerned, GO Pantry, and Master Provisions proposals all address this manifestation of COVID.

**Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky** (“CHNK”), located in Covington, sought (1) new staff funding (\$225,000), (2) facility renovations (\$187,500), (3) technology and telehealth equipment (\$55,000), and (4) community education funding (\$32,500). As with Be Concerned, the Committee made funding of new staff a low priority. The Committee also treated submissions for marketing funds similarly in the context of the large number of requests for support received. The facility renovations and technology/telehealth request, though, fit squarely within the overall goal of supporting sustainable and impactful projects. The CHNK, FNC, and CLC applications documented the impact on domestic violence and family fragmentation caused by the pandemic, and address the impacts directly.

**Family Nurturing Center** requested \$500,000 as part of a \$4,500,000 project to purchase and/or construct a new facility. Family Nurturing Center (“FNC”) works to end child abuse by nurturing and promoting healthy family relationships and, in 2022, served nearly 4,000 Kenton County residents representing 45% of their work. FNC has a solid facility plan, and retained Ignite Philanthropy to assist in executing a capital campaign. The Committee viewed assisting FNC build expanded service capacity as an ideal deployment of ARPA funds.

**GO Pantry** initially requested \$103,400 to provide weekly food boxes to children experiencing food insecurity during extended breaks from school (winter, spring and summer). Currently GO Pantry serves 235 Kenton County students, and the amount requested would only cover one year of this program. Based on the application review and on-site visit, the Committee recommends increasing GO Pantry's allocation from the level requested to \$367,400 to provide complete food security for Kenton County children through extended school breaks through December 2026, the end of the ARPA eligibility period.

**Master Provisions**, located in Elsmere, requested \$415,000 to acquire four refrigerated trailers and one container chassis to supplement / replace a fleet of current trailers that range in age from 19 to 27 years old. This will permit Master Provisions to continue distributing food within its network area, which ranges primarily from Erlanger to Covington, totaling 258 organizations in 2022, serving low-income individuals and families. The Committee saw this investment as a priority to sustain the backbone of the food security system in Kenton County.

**New Perceptions, Inc.**, located in Edgewood, requested \$18,000 to purchase a CAT Ride-On Sweeper to help maintain and clean its workspace. The request is a modest one to assist a facility with a tremendous record of assisting children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The Committee viewed funding this request as a good investment in an organization with a distinguished record of community service, and further assisting them overcome workplace operational complications that developed during the pandemic.

**Northern Kentucky Children's Law Center, Inc.** ("CLC"), located in Covington, requested \$117,500 to (1) provide legal services to at least 40 Kenton County children a year, and (2) provide group/community education workshops. Based on its history, CLC anticipates representing Kenton County children (1) who are victims of abuse and neglect, (2) who are victims or witnesses to crimes, (3) who have been denied educational rights, (4) who are harmed during high-conflict custody cases, (5) who seek protection orders against abusive relatives, etc. CLC serves a niche not otherwise addressed or funded by the judicial system, and the Committee judged it worth supporting.

**Notre Dame Urban Education Center** ("NDUEC"), located in Covington, requested \$10,000 to support its 2023-24 Homework Plus program which aims to assist 42 students next school year. Similar to GO Pantry, the amount requested would only cover one year of this program. Based on the application review and on-site visit, the Committee recommends increasing NDUEC's allocation from the level requested in its application to \$30,000 to provide full programming for Covington children through the 2025-26 school year. Significant education issues developed during the pandemic, and this investment will begin the process of recovering from them.

**Transitions, Inc.**, headquartered in Covington, requested one-time funding to assist in renovating an existing facility to support housing for individuals recovering from Opioid Use Disorder. Transitions has a solid plan for renovating this facility, a proven track record of performance, and the request is relatively modest. The Committee supports funding it as an

effective tool to help address the increased numbers of residents struggling with substance use disorder during COVID.

There are at least a half-a-dozen other proposals worthy of further consideration. If the Fiscal Court elects to allocate additional ARPA funds to this initiative, staff can bring forward projects for future consideration.