



**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**  
**Focus Groups & Nonprofit Recommendation**  
**Update**  
**January 23, 2023**

# Discussion Items 1/23/23

- **Quick Glance at ARPA spending nationally**
- **Update on Focus Groups**
- **New ARPA webpage**
- **Housing Rehabilitation and Demolitions**
- **Discussion of Nonprofits**
- **Direction from City Council**

# ARPA Quick Glance

According to the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker, as of December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 1,492 Tier 2 Local Governments reported:

# of Projects

**13,642**

Total \$ Tracked

**\$10.3bn**

# ARPA At a Glance

- Sioux City, IA: \$2.62M for a water main replacement project
- Fargo, ND: \$1.25M for new financial software
- Peoria, IL: \$400,000 for Housing Rehabilitation
- Covington, KY: \$2.5M for improvements to City parks, pools and playgrounds
- Akron, OH: \$150,000 for the purchase and installation of license-plate reading cameras
- Evanston, IL: \$2.45M for the purchase of new vehicles for police, fire and public works.

# Focus Group - Homelessness

Name	Profession & Organization
Jenni Swanson	Fourth Ward Alderwoman
Ron Lund	Project Now
Ashley Velez	Humility Homes and Services, Inc.
Tom Tarnow and Parris Brandy	Prairie State Legal Services
Michael Glanz	Executive Director, The Arc of the QC
Cathy Jordan	Executive Director, DeLaCerde House
Karrah Kuykendall	Director of Reference Services, RI Library Downtown
Frank Roe	Christian Care, Executive Director
Rachel Pitchford	QC Housing Council, QC Housing Cluster; former case manager at Christian Care
Jack Cullen	Director of Downtown Rock Island

# Focus Group - Homelessness

**Key Information and Findings:** Homelessness continues to be a concern across the Quad Cities region. In Rock Island, Christian Care houses the men and women's shelters, however they do require sobriety, which can be a barrier to some. Humility Homes in Davenport, Iowa provides the only regional low-barrier shelter as well as the only winter shelter. Illinois-side agencies assist with transportation to the Iowa side during the cold winter months to access the shelter.

Participants discussed various barriers in addressing homelessness including: "red tape" with access to funding (i.e.: does not cover operating costs and requires rigorous reporting); lack of affordable housing options; limited shelter space; need for showers and lockers; more collaboration with federal and state governments; need for preventive funding; need to address the gap in eviction diversion; and better communication and collaboration among the various agencies that provide services, including a pocket-sized list of resources.

# Focus Group – Mental Health

Name	Profession & Organization
Randy Hurt	Second Ward Alderman
Anne McNelis	Transitions Clinical Director & Co-CEO
Ty Wakefield	LCSW Psychotherapist & Downtown Rock Island resident
Sara Ellet	Arc of the Quad Cities – Program Manager Behavioral Health
Tom Bowman	Community Health Care, Inc. CEO
Paul Phares	Robert Young (UnityPoint)
Brienne Lonergan	Rock Island Police Officer
Simone Collins	Mental Health Professional and RI resident
Karen A.	Family Resources, RIPD Liaison

# Focus Group – Mental Health

**Key Information and Findings:** Access and availability to mental health resources continues to be a challenge in the Quad Cities region. Specifically, the decline in the number of mental health professionals and services coupled with an increase in the need has made it very difficult for many to access resources.

Participants discussed gaps and barriers including: a broken system with lots of layers and programs that make access to mental health difficult to navigate; many are leaving the mental health field for several reasons, including low pay and the need to pay off student loan debt; the mental health system is currently reactive and needs to be preventative; there is a need for a more collective approach with schools, families, and other agencies; no readily accessible resource list; there are not many options with getting an individual with immediate need care after 5:00 p.m. other than the emergency room; need for a partnership with police department; lack of crisis and trauma training in the community; and the need for more beds at mental health facilities.

# Focus Groups – Homelessness & Mental Health

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the ARPA Program Manager continue to explore options including potential partnerships.

# Focus Group - Tourism

Name	Profession & Organization
Judith Gilbert	Third Ward Alderwoman
Dylan Parker	Fifth Ward Alderman
Julie Heber	RI Resident
Minda Powers-Douglas	QC Haunt and History Tours
Ryan Willie	Executive Director, QC Botanical Center
Brett Hitchcock	Circa 21
Gaye Shannon Burnett	RI African American Coalition and artist
Roger Ruthhart	Rock Island Grand Prix
Charlotte Morrison	Vice President of Marketing, Visit Quad Cities
Kevin Maynard	Executive Director, QC Arts
Ben Leischner	Executive Director, Quad Cities Airport
Lisa Huntsha	Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center – Augustana College
Bryan Schmid	Bi-State Regional Commission
Bill Nelson	Retired RI Parks & Recreation Director

# Focus Group - Tourism

**Key Information and Findings:** Tourism is a regional approach and visitor information is tracked by Visit Quad Cities through Datafy, a geo-location data analytics and marketing software program. Focus Group participants suggested the continuation and growth of a staple event(s) or attraction(s) that draws people to Rock Island such as Ya Maka My Weekend; package several Rock Island attractions together; tell a story about the uniqueness of Rock Island (e.g. John Looney, history of NFL, rivers, industry); hire a part-time person for peak tourism hours and days that can assist with packaging and marketing attractions specifically for Rock Island, among other things; provide a studio and/or art venue similar to what Bucktown was in Davenport; and create a Tourism Task Force.

# Focus Group – Tourism

**Recommendation:** Based on feedback from the Tourism Stakeholder Focus Group, it is recommended that the City explore the feasibility of establishing a Destination Management and Marketing Organization (DMMO) through the RFP process.

# ARPA Webpage/Dashboard

The objective is to be as transparent as possible while providing the most updated and accurate ARPA information including: status of each project, link to each YouTube video with all Council ARPA discussions, visual graphs, and additional ARPA information.

## Public Engagement Efforts



[ARPA Presentation: Special City Council Meeting 06/15/2022](#)



[ARPA Plan Presentation to City Council 02/28/2022](#)

Additional ARPA Information: Reports and Presentations >

## Additional ARPA Information

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- [American-Rescue-Plan-Fact-Sheet](#)
- [SLFRP-Quick-Reference-Guide-FINAL-508a](#)
- [CORI ARPA Overview\\_06-25-2021](#)
- [American Rescue Plan Act Update 5.25.22](#)
- [City of Rock Island ARPA Plan- Proposed Recommendations 08.22.22](#)
- [ARPA Funding Recommendations Presentation 082422](#)

# ARPA Webpage/Dashboard

Infrastructure Projects >

## Recommended Projects (WIDGET: TABLE)

Project	Expenditure Category	Amount	Justification	Project Status
Augustana Slough Sewer Repair	5.18	\$400,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The sewer main underneath Augustana Slough needs replacement. The pipe had a previous failure that allowed all of the water from the slough to inundate the pipe and create sewer backups into different facilities at Augustana College. In order to prevent future failures and liability, the pipe needs to be replaced as soon as possible.</li><li>• Infrastructure (water and sewer) scored the highest among stakeholders who completed the survey.</li><li>• Project meets Council goal of Financial Sustainability.</li></ul>	<a href="#">Click to edit</a>
Mill Street Anaerobic Digester Rehabilitation	5.18	\$1,400,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The plant has two digestors that are used to stabilize sludge that is generated by the wastewater treatment process. These digestors were part of the original plant in 1940 and in need of repair.</li><li>• Infrastructure (water and sewer) scored the highest among stakeholders who completed the survey.</li><li>• Project meets Council goal of Financial Sustainability.</li></ul>	<a href="#">Click to edit</a>

Community Needs >

Tangible and Intangible Return on Investments >

 Select Language

# Non-Profit Information

- **In September 2022, 4 nonprofits were discussed for potential ARPA funding. City Council directed the ARPA Program Manager to provide additional information and data on the 4 nonprofits:**
  - *Botanical Center*
  - *Backwater Gamblers*
  - *MLK Fun Day*
  - *QC Arts*

# Non-Profit Information – Botanical Center

**Proposed Funding amount: \$150,000** (*funds would be used to pay off \$91,000 mortgage and remaining funds would be invested into exhibits*)

- 50,000-60,000 (3-year range excluding 2020) on-site visitors, tourists, learners or private party guests annually.
- 8,000-10,000 school aged children on-site for formal programming through school district.
- Scholarships for Rock Island/Milan School youth for Title 1 schools.



# Non-Profit Information – Backwater Gamblers

**Proposed Funding amount: \$100,000** (funds would be used towards partially funding two projects: update two boats and site improvements including a new dock, boat storage unit and bleachers)

- **Estimated annual economic impact: \$900,000. Potential for greater economic impact of hosting national and regional tournaments.**
- **Free Water Ski Shows – there is no charge for admission.**
- **Attract approximately 30,000 to 35,000 visitors annually.**



# Non-Profit Information –MLK, Jr. Center

**Proposed Funding amount: \$90,000** (\$40,000 would be used for MLK Day and an additional \$50,000 is needed for the West End Renaissance Project for a total of \$90,000)

- The MLK Center has proudly served as a community anchor in Rock Island since 1975. It is located and focused in an area that is 57% black, facing exceedingly high poverty rates.
- The MLK Center serves 20,000 people annually, including over 2,300 youth
- The King Center provides various services including after school youth programs, healthcare clinics, Thanksgiving meals, computer classes, among other services.



# Non-Profit Information –Quad City Arts

**Proposed Funding amount: \$50,000** (Funds could be used towards a new Rock Island event, materials and artist fees, or a maintenance plan for public art such as murals)

- **Gallery and retail space in Rock Island - sees an average of 5,000 visitors annually.**
- **Metro Arts Youth Apprenticeship Program – Projects in the City of Rock Island vary based on funding, but every year the program includes students from Rock Island. In 2022, we had 14 students in the program, all of which were paid.**
- **According to the Americans for the Arts Economic Prosperity Calculator, Quad City Arts has an economic impact of \$4.4 Million.**



# Housing Rehabilitation

**\$250,000 allocated ARPA funds for Housing Rehabilitation will be incorporated into the existing owner-occupied housing for LMI households**



# Demolitions

**\$250,000 allocated ARPA funds for Demolitions will be incorporated into the existing demolition process.**



# Moving Forward

- **Tourism Recommendation**
- **Housing Rehabilitation**
- **Demolitions**
- **Nonprofits Recommendation**

# Thank You!

## Discussion & Questions

