



# Board Agenda Background

**Date:** 3/1/2022  
**To:** Board of County Commissioners  
**Through:** Brian D. Bosshardt, County Manager  
**From:** Amy Saxton, Strategic & Community Planning Division Director  
**Subject:** Consideration of an Allocation of ARPA Funding in an Amount Not to Exceed \$50,000 as Match to a Department of Local Affairs Innovative Housing Opportunity Planning Grant

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## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of an allocation of ARPA funding in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 as a match to a Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Innovative Housing Opportunity Planning Grant.

## BACKGROUND

Staff is seeking action from the Board on pursuing an Innovative Housing Opportunity Planning Grant from DOLA. This program provides funding for local governments to review and update their zoning codes to create more attractive and sustainable environments for affordable housing that strengthens community and meets the goals of residents and leaders. Such action was a recommendation of the Clear Creek Housing Strategy Report adopted by the Board at the February 1, 2022 meeting.

One outcome of the project is to adopt certain predefined “qualifying strategies” that will qualify our community for future funding incentives. Examples of qualifying strategies include:

- The use of vacant publicly owned real property within the local government for the development of affordable housing;
- The creation of a program to subsidize or otherwise reduce local development review or fees, including but not limited to building permit fees, planning waivers, and water and sewer tap fees, for affordable housing development;
- The creation of an expedited development review process for affordable housing aimed at households the annual income of which is at or below one hundred twenty percent of the area median income of households of that size in the county in which the housing is located;
- The creation of a land donation, land acquisition, or land banking program; and,
- Other novel, innovative, or creative approaches to incentivize affordable housing development.

The State provides sixteen different examples of potential qualifying strategies but as evidenced by the last bullet above, they are open to other considerations.

Additionally, the opportunity is potentially available to coordinate and approach this project collaboratively and join an application likely to be underway within the County, initiating a regional approach, which would serve as precursor to the multijurisdictional housing authority. An additional outcome would include a system of codes across multiple entities in the County that are coordinated, integrated and/or the same; thus, taking marked action on two of the four high-level recommendations of the Clear Creek Housing Strategy Report.

## CONCLUSION



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The grant requires a 25% match. Staff is asking for approval of an allocation of ARPA funds not to exceed \$50,000 to support this application. At the time of this writing, the exact amount is unknown, as are the specifics of the best approach for a successful application and what that will mean for our approach regarding partnering with other entities. This round of funding has an application due date of March 14<sup>th</sup>.