

Dodge County Board of Supervisors



Agenda Item # 25
Date 11/3/21

November 3, 2021

435 North Park, Fremont Nebraska 68025

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Fortenberry,

On behalf of the 37,167 residents of Dodge County, I respectfully urge you to immediately pass the bipartisan State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act (S. 3011), which will assist us in recovering from the devastating effects of COVID-19 within our local communities.

This legislation represents a bipartisan compromise forged by Senators Cornyn and Padilla that unanimously passed the U.S. Senate. It would provide Dodge County with the flexibility to invest a portion of our American Rescue Plan Act's (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funds) in transportation, infrastructure and government services. This flexibility is crucial to our Dodge County as we struggle to make necessary investments within our community in compliance with the existing guidance for these funds.

Dodge County is working to swiftly invest Recovery Funds in various county services using ARPA Recovery Funds on activities currently eligible under U.S. Treasury's Interim Final Rule. However, because of some current prohibitions on the use of these funds, we have been limited in our ability to invest into projects and programs that would promote economic recovery.

Under S. 3011, Dodge County would be allowed to use the projected \$7,000,000 of flexibility funds for transportation and infrastructure projects, economic development projects and government services within Dodge County.

Dodge County believes this legislation is imperative to leverage the full benefits of the ARPA's historic investments.

We thank you for your partnership and respectfully ask that you swiftly pass S. 3011.

Sincerely,



Bob Missel, Chairman
Lon Strand, Vice-Chairman
Pat Tawney
Doug Backens
Bob Bendig
Dan M. Weddle
Greg Beam



Bob Missel
Chairperson
Dodge County Board of Supervisors

Fred Mytty

From: Jon Cannon <Jon.Cannon@NebraskaCounties.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Larry Dix; Candace Meredith; Beth Ferrell; Elaine Menzel
Subject: ARPA Funds - ACTION REQUESTED

To all County Board Members, County Clerks, and County Board Administrators:

Good morning! As I have attended district meetings and individual county board meetings, the most frequent question I have encountered has been "How can our county spend these ARPA funds?" We have stepped through each of the eligible uses and been trying to figure this out together.

However, I need to inform you all of a recent development in Congress related to ARPA.

Last week, the Senate passed (by unanimous consent) the *State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act* ([S. 3011](#)), which would provide additional flexibility for the \$65.1 billion in county aid under the [Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund](#) (Recovery Fund) authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Last night, companion legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives with 32 bipartisan co-sponsors. The bill number is [H.R. 5735](#).

S. 3011/H.R. 5735 would impact America's counties in the following ways:

- Allows counties to allocate up to \$10 million in ARPA Recovery Funds for the provision of government services and \$10 million (or 30 percent) for infrastructure-related activities authorized under existing federal surface transportation laws (including local match for some programs) and projects eligible under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program
- Allows ARPA Recovery Funds to provide emergency relief from natural disasters and their negative economic impacts, including temporary emergency housing, food assistance, financial assistance for lost wages, or other immediate needs
- Clarifies an "eligible revenue share county" is the same as Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) counties and redirects 1 percent (or \$15 million) from the original \$1.5B for public lands "revenue share" counties to U.S. territories

The flexibilities described above are a tremendous opportunity to realize the original goals of the ARPA. With increased local control over the Recovery Funds, counties can make the investment decisions that are best for their local communities.

The National Association of Counties has developed this [template letter](#) to communicate with your Congressman to inform them about the potential impact of this legislation, sign on as a co-sponsor and urge them to quickly pass the bill.

If you already have a relationship with your Congressman, I would urge you to contact him directly.

The National Association of Counties has set up a [new resource hub on S. 3011/H.R. 5735](#), which includes county-by-county flexibility estimates, an overview of the bill and other helpful resources.

Please contact your Congressman and urge him to vote "yes" on H.R. 5735.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any one of us on the NACO staff. At the National Association, you may contact:

Eryn Hurley, Deputy Director of Government Affairs
Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs | Immigration
ehurley@naco.org | C: 571.262.9015

Thank you!

Jon

Jon Cannon
NACO Executive Director
1335 H Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Office: 402-434-5660 Ext 230
Mobile: 402-202-5759

