



# Monroe County Legislature

**VICE PRESIDENT  
MERCEDES VAZQUEZ SIMMONS AND  
LEGISLATOR  
RACHEL BARNHART**

June 18, 2024

***Via Electronic Mail***

County Executive Adam Bello  
Monroe County Office Building  
39 W. Main St.  
Rochester, NY 14614

County Executive Bello,

We are seeking to understand the status of Monroe County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) program.

Specifically, we would like to know how much money remains available to allocate and reallocate, how that sum was calculated, and which programs have stopped or are not starting. We respectfully suggest creating a spreadsheet of each award authorized to date by the legislature, how much money is left and whether the grantee is expected to continue programming.

We also understand that leaders of both caucuses agreed to a spending package for remaining ARPA funds, detailed in an email from Adrienne Green ("the Green email")<sup>1</sup> forwarded by Majority Leader Michael Yudelson to the Democratic Caucus, about which we have numerous questions.

As the Legislature faces a deadline to obligate funds, the lack of transparency surrounding the ARPA program is an ongoing concern. We urgently need answers to the following questions.

- How much money remains to be allocated plus reallocated in ARPA funds? The Green email said there is \$28,518,982 remaining plus an additional \$8,500,000 for inclusive playground, splash pad, and trail projects and \$10,00,000 for sewers.
  - Please explain how these figures were calculated, including which projects would have their balances reallocated to these initiatives, which projects have had their awards reduced and which projects will not be moving forward.
  - Both the FLPPS Complex Care and Monroe County Vaccination programs are marked ended in the latest State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) report.<sup>2</sup> Are the

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<sup>1</sup> June 11, 2024. Email from Adrienne Green.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aVoBsiid3K19kl9pe2K3cwunFCXbgtb9/view>

<sup>2</sup> State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Report, Quarter 1, 2024.

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/files/communications/CRC%20Documents/p2-4/SLFRF%20Compliance%20Report%202024%20Q1.pdf>

remaining funds (\$2,396,176.39 for FLPPS and \$14,109,851 for Vaccination) included in what the Legislature can reallocate?

- In her May 6, 2024 letter<sup>3</sup> to the administration inquiring about the status of internal ARPA projects, Legislator Tracy DiFlorio asked about the status of the Monroe County Virtual Co-location Workforce Plan (\$4,000,000) and Monroe County Child Care Capacity Building (\$1,600,000). In its June 7, 2024 response,<sup>4</sup> the administration did not answer.
  - What is the status of these two projects?
- We have heard from several nonprofits that the administration has conducted audits of their ARPA funds and programs.
  - Please provide all audits, financial reviews, and regular compliance reports performed by the administration on ARPA grants to date.
- In the Green email, the administration only identifies \$4,250,000 in housing-related projects yet announced a \$7,800,000 package<sup>5</sup> back in March. Why have the administration's expected allocation to the housing crisis been reduced by nearly half?
- The Green email referenced a deal for ARPA funds that would allocate \$6 million for Municipal Senior Center / Youth Center Funding.
  - What analysis was done to determine the need for this dollar amount?
  - Will municipalities have to apply for this funding? How will it be distributed? Is it for capital projects?
- The Green email referenced a deal for ARPA funds that would allocate \$3 million for a "senior and veterans services access pilot." We have been given information that this would create Eastside and Westside Service stations.
  - What analysis was done to determine the need for these service centers, their location and the dollar amount?
  - Who would run the centers and when would an RFP be issued, as we are running up to a deadline to obligate ARPA funds?
  - How would these centers be funded after ARPA funds run out?
  - How many people does each pilot plan to serve?
- Several proposals should have been included in the March 22, 2024 release of documents<sup>6</sup> requested by the media and legislators: URMC Behavioral Health/RCSD, Villa of Hope, Compeer and HCR Home Care.
  - Please provide these proposals.

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<sup>3</sup> May 6, 2024 DiFlorio Letter. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/19hnVmRlJlBep2jqpmkIFqboRC5BF-fUr/view>

<sup>4</sup> June 7, 2024 Response to Legislator Questions.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SHpDYW6zD7LD1zMZtUbPpoaTXbkGBYKK/view>

<sup>5</sup> March 12, 2024. County Executive Adam Bello Announces \$7.8 Million Plan To Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities. <https://www.monroecounty.gov/news-2024-03-12-housing>

<sup>6</sup> March 22, 2024. DRAFT - Forensic Review & Requested Documents Concerning Community Resource Collaborative. <https://www.monroecounty.gov/crc-documents>

- What is the status of these four projects, as none have expended funds, and the contracts for Villa Hope, Compeer and HCR Home Care are not in the contract portal.
- Why did Lifespan's award reduce from \$800,000 that the Legislature authorized to \$777,777 that was contracted and \$577,777 that was reported in the latest SLFRF report?
- Please explain why the Big Brothers, Big Sisters award was lowered from the \$655,688 that the Legislature authorized to the \$491,766 in the contract? Why doesn't this award not appear in the SLFRF reports?
- Please explain the funding structure for the \$11 million award for Transformational Community Care Coordination (TC3) as reported in the SLFRF reports.
  - Did this \$11 million combine the \$5.5 million each awarded to FLPPS and MCC's \$5.5M in Resolution 22-342?
  - If these awards were combined, with FLPPS as the prime contractor for MCC's award, why wasn't the Legislature informed when we voted?
- In its June 7, 2024 letter, the administration says it informed the legislature of ESL's grants to ARPA awardees via the second round funding referral. The way the referral is written implies the grants were awarded to the **second-round awardees only**. No one would ever guess they **offset grants we had already awarded**. *Awards the Legislature had already made were reduced without telling us*. The administration did not answer the question in our May 6, 2024 letter<sup>7</sup> asking for a list of which grantees received this offer from ESL, and how much ARPA money these charitable donations allowed the county to "save."
  - Again, what was the arrangement with every nonprofit?
- Willow and Providence each applied for ARPA funding. In its application,<sup>8</sup> Willow never once mentions any collaboration with Providence or offering housing to deaf victims of domestic violence.

The Legislature voted to give Providence its own award, as specified in the chart given to us as part of the resolution. The public was also told<sup>9</sup> Providence would be getting its own ARPA award.

However, compliance reporting and the records in the contract portal indicate Providence did not get its own separate ARPA award. Willow appears to be the pass-through for Providence's grant. Indeed, Willow has a contract for an ARPA award that equals the sum of both its own award and Providence's award, minus what may be a \$500,000 charity offset.

- Did the County join these two grantees as a condition of both receiving funding?

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<sup>7</sup> May 6, 2024 Barnhart and Vazquez-Simmons Letter. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/12-oREIGCS69\\_S-dyia1BnwVqa7zToIVi/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12-oREIGCS69_S-dyia1BnwVqa7zToIVi/view)

<sup>8</sup> Willow application for ARPA funds.

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/files/communications/CRC%20Documents/foi/Proposals/Willow%20Domestic%20Violence%20of%20Greater%20Roch%20inc/1-Proposal-157-Print.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> October 22, 2022. Monroe County Executive Adam Bello Announces Proposed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for Willow Domestic Violence Center & Providence Housing Development Corporation.

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/news-2022-10-27-arpa>

- If the County directed Willow to issue a subcontract with Providence for its Scope of Services, how did this not violate procurement laws? (Willow would have had to make a determination through an analysis of whether it needed to competitively bid Providence’s services.)
- Why wasn’t the Legislature told about this arrangement of Willow being the pass-through for Providence’s award when we voted on these awards?
- Monroe County is holding “DHS Connects”<sup>10</sup> events at two of the former ARPA subrecipients of the Neighborhood Collaborative Project – Father Tracy Advocacy Center and Cameron Community Ministries.
  - Please provide the contracts with each of the DHS Connects locations for rent for their spaces or any other agreement pertaining to this pilot. Please include any dollar amounts paid to the host agencies.

The Legislature and our constituents have a right to know the answers to all these questions. In the spirit of transparency and a commitment to spend ARPA dollars in accordance with the law and for the benefit of the community, we request an answer as soon as possible. We will accept questions being answered separately if it speeds up the process.

When it comes time for Legislators to vote on what appears to be significant remaining funds, we must have all information necessary to our jobs. The public is watching.



Mercedes Vazquez Simmons  
Vice President

Sincerely,



Rachel Barnhart  
Legislator – District 17

cc: Monroe County Legislature President Yversha Roman  
Monroe County Legislature Majority Leader Michael Yudelson  
Monroe County Legislature Minority Leader Steve Brew

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<sup>10</sup> DHS Pilots. <https://www.monroecounty.gov/cii-pilots>