

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 31, 2022

THROUGH: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

FROM: Kristin Daniels, Director, Management & Budget

SUBJECT: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – Small Business & Non-Profit Grant Program Update

BACKGROUND:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The American Rescue Plan, ARP as it is normally referred to, is a COVID-19 stimulus package that was intended to speed up the United States' recovery from the negative health and economic impacts of COVID-19. Indian River County's ARP allocation is \$31,063,168, of which 50%, or \$15,531,584 was received in May 2021, with the remaining 50% estimated to be received in May 2022. The County has until December 31, 2024 to encumber the funds, and until December 31, 2026 to fully exhaust all funding.

On August 17, 2021, the Board approved the initial ARP Spending Plan with \$1,000,000 allocated to Small Business Grants and \$500,000 allocated to Non-Profit Grants. In addition, the Board also allocated a portion of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to the Small Business Grant Program in 2020, for a combined total of \$3,720,000 for Small Business Grants and \$500,000 for Non-Profit Grants.

On November 16, 2021, the Board approved the Small Business Grant application deadline of November 19, 2021 and the Non-Profit Grant application deadline of December 15, 2021 with both programs to sunset on December 31, 2021. An exemption was granted for any applicants waiting on supporting documentation such as SAM.gov registration, to have through January 31, 2022 to submit a completed application. The Board requested Staff return with a program update on February 8, 2022.

ANALYSIS:

As of November 16, 2021, the County had provided assistance totaling \$2,841,000 to 287 small businesses and \$200,000 to 20 non-profit agencies. Since then, an additional \$115,187 has been provided to 12 small businesses and \$130,000 to 13 non-profit agencies. The grand total for the programs is as follows:

Program	Total Expended	Total Entities
Small Business Development Grants	\$2,956,187	299
Non-Profit Assistance Grants	\$330,000	33
Grand Total Small Business/Non-Profit Aid	\$3,286,187	332

County Staff is in receipt of three Non-Profit Grant Applications and one Small Business Grant application that have been deemed incomplete, as none contain an active SAM.gov registration. The non-profit applications were submitted before the December 15, 2021 deadline, while the small business application was submitted prior to the November 19, 2021 deadline. All agencies have had a minimum of six weeks after submitting their application to provide SAM.gov registration. This process takes approximately two weeks to complete. Both the SBDC and the Chamber have reached out to these applicants in an effort to finalize the applications, albeit unsuccessfully.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board approves no further processing of either Small Business Grant or Non-Profit Grant applications.