



Health Advisory Commission

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Sept 9, 2022

Director Charles Brereton
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59602-0801

Dear Director Brereton,

The Health Advisory Commission met on Sept 9, 2022, to consider American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Pursuant to HB 632, the Commission makes the following recommendations:

1. Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Disability Network

Allocate \$121,081 to support expanding the public health workforce within the Disability Network for Independent Living Part B services to cover wages and benefits for public health professionals; indirect costs; and costs associated with equipment, training, and supplies for these professionals.

2. Expanding the Public Health Workforce with Aging Services Bureau

Allocate \$866,000 to the Senior and Long-Term Care Division to evaluate Montana Senior Centers (\$286,000), provide Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) with funding (\$500,000 total with \$50,000 to each AAA) to update data, and create a framework for training and recruiting Native American SHIP counselors (\$80,000). There are no non-federal participation match requirements.

3. Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure, Work Force, and Data Systems

Allocate \$15,515,413 in ARPA funds for Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure, Work Force, and Data Systems Funding.

4. ELC Enhancing State Public Health Laboratory Capacity

Allocate \$1,260,521 in Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases – Enhancing State Public Health Laboratory Capacity funds to support enhancements to the State Public Health Laboratory's capacity.

5. ELC Reopening Schools: Support for Screening and Testing to Reopen and Keep Schools Operating Safely

Approve the allocation of the remainder of the ELC Reopening Schools: Support for Screening and Testing to Reopen and Keep Schools Operating Safely funds, totaling

\$14,485,982, to support COVID-19 screening and testing for K-12 schools and early childcare facilities to support safe operations.

6. Pandemic Emergency Assistance Funds

Allocate all remaining Pandemic Emergency Assistance Funds, approximately \$2.5 million, to enable the state to support children involved with the Department's Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) who are placed in a family setting and are temporarily out of the home until a reunification with the child's parent(s) occurs in a safe, timely, and appropriate manner that is determined to be in the child's best interest.

The Commission certifies that this proposal presently qualifies for funding pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act and all available guidance.

Sincerely,



Representative Frank Garner
Chair, Health Advisory Commission