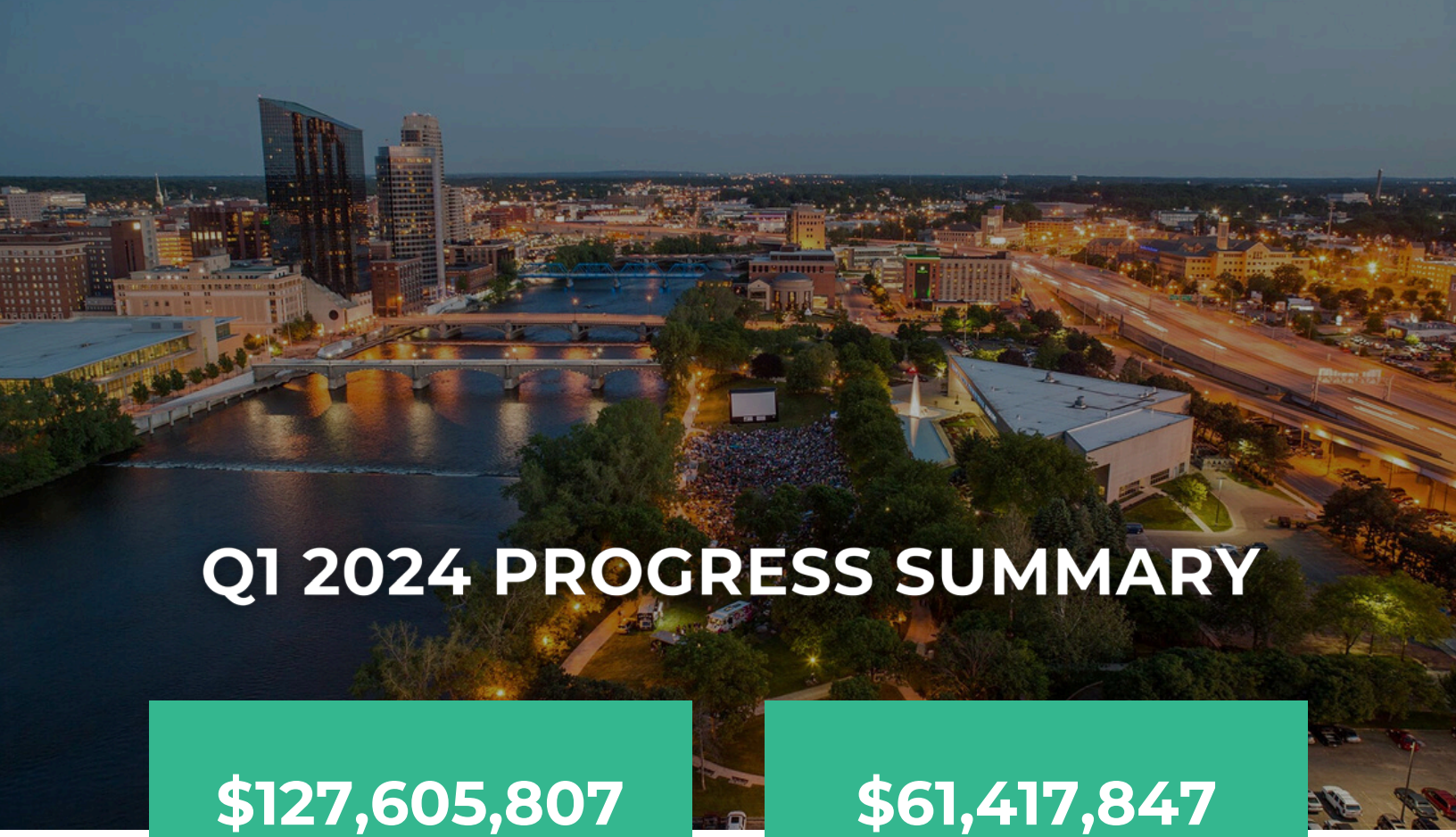


KENT COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

Progress Report

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter 1 of 2024



Q1 2024 PROGRESS SUMMARY

$127,605,807

Allocated ARPA Funds

$61,417,847

Spent ARPA Funds

48%

% of ARPA funds spent

Allocated: Total funds approved by the Board of Commissioners to initiatives that have project plans and budgets, identified partners, and clear outputs and outcomes.

Spent: Total ARPA funds expended - i.e. vendor invoices, personnel costs, sub-recipient payments, issued grants, etc.

BOARD RESOLUTION

1-27-22-13

$10,000,000

Fuller Campus Clinic Modification -$3,100,000

Organization: Kent County Health Department

Summary

The main Health Department clinic was last renovated in 2005. It has significantly outgrown its current footprint and no longer meets the needs to deliver services effectively and efficiently to County residents. These funds would support a portion of a renovation project to increase the size of the waiting room, clinic rooms, biologic rooms for vaccine storage and preparation, the clinic lab, and the number of client restrooms. Facilities have coordinated with the Health Department to plan and design the clinic modifications. To date, the work indicates that additional funds will be needed to cover the cost of the project.

Q1 2024 Update

The bid for this project will be posted in late April with the award of the contract expected by the first week of June. This project has been scoped appropriately to meet the goals of the County and budget. Renovations are expected to start in early October 2024 and be completed within four to five months. The timeline will be clearer once a contractor has been selected.

Knapp Corner Drain Project - $2,000,000

Organization: Kent County Drain Commission

Summary

The drain is not functioning properly and negatively impacting properties in the vicinity. The project is a partnership between Kent County, the City of Grand Rapids, and Grand Rapids Township. In addition to Kent County's $2 million investment, the Township will contribute $125,000 and the City will contribute the remaining balance (up to $8 million). The municipalities' investments will not result in an assessment on property owners.

Q1 2024 Update

The Drain Commissioner is collecting topographic surveys and geotechnical information to support the engineering design. Additionally, a grant proposal has been submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for a Sustain Our Great Lakes grant. The grant will provide for environmental and ecological improvements within the existing Knapp's Corner Drain detention basin.

BOARD RESOLUTION

1-27-22-13

$10,000,000

COMPLETED

2022 Food Service Licensing Fee - $1,300,000

Organization: Kent County Health Department

Summary

ARPA funds were used to support food service establishments that experienced hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During 2021, the annual license fee for approximately 2,300 restaurants was waived.

Update

This project is completed.

COMPLETED

Kent County Convention and Arena Authority Revenue Loss - $680,000

Organization: Kent County Convention and Arena Authority (CAA)

Summary

During the spring of 2021, the Kent County Health Department and hospital partners collaborated with the CAA on a vaccine clinic at Devos Hall. Making space for the clinic required the cancellation of multiple events secured at DeVos. This grant reimbursed the CAA for lost revenue due to canceled events. The Board allocated $680,000 to the Kent County CAA for revenue loss and $533,000 was determined by the Fiscal Services Department to be eligible. The Board approved shifting the remaining $147,000 to the broadband project.

Update

This project is completed.

BOARD RESOLUTION

1-27-22-13

$10,000,000

Organizational Improvement & Well-Being - $1,000,000

Organization: Kent County Administrator's Office

Summary

This line item contains several initiatives focused on staff development and improving internal processes. These investments include:

Kent County Futuring: Kent County selected the firm of Rebecca Ryan, nationally known for her work in futuring, NEXT Gen Consulting. Through a nine-month process, the firm is facilitating a process to identify current trends impacting the future of Kent County communities and engaging the community to identify common aspirations for the future. This work will be compiled into a report that will be used by Kent County and its partners to set organizational strategic directions.

Q4 2023 Update

NEXT Gen Consulting has completed the first round of community engagement, which included a community-wide survey, three in-person engagement sessions with key stakeholders, and targeted focus groups with local stakeholder groups. The Steering Committee met in February to review draft scenarios for the future of Kent County. They will meet again in March to identify core areas of focus that will advance our communities. Additional updates and a list of Steering Committee members can be accessed at the Kent County 2050 webpage at www.accesskent.com/Departments/CountyAdministrator/2050/.

Disney Way: The Customer-Centric Culture Workshop (aka "Disney Way") is a countywide training opportunity for Kent County employees. The training is less about the "how to and techniques" of providing better customer service and more focused on improving the culture of the entire organization where customer service is concerned. Employees will learn about the Disney method for customer service excellence, undergo various activities, work in groups with employees from other county departments, and practice storyboarding while also troubleshooting areas of the current culture of customer service.

Q1 2024 Update

To date, 700 employees have participated in the training. A Customer Service Team, comprised of representation from various County departments and offices, was formed and met at the end of April 2024. This group will analyze over 6,000 storyboard ideas and recommend customer service enhancements at Kent County.

BOARD RESOLUTION

1-27-22-13

$10,000,000

Organizational Improvement & Well-Being - $1,000,000, cont.

Organization: Kent County Administrator's Office

Kolbe Assessments: Kolbe A assessments are available for all staff. The Kolbe A assessment measures the instinctive ways individuals take action and approach productivity. The assessments help teams to better understand their conative strengths.

Q1 2024 Update

Departments such as Equalization, Circuit Court, Human Resources, Probate Court, Drain Commissioner, Facilities, Administration, and the Board of Commissioners have all completed Kolbe A assessments.

Robinson Brain Health: Robertson Brain Health is a 9-month program where participants learn about brain health and are provided a personal plan based on their current brain chemistry. The intent of this program is for participants to gain a better understanding of preventative actions for potential health conditions they may face based on their brain chemistry.

Q1 2024 Update

Over 50 employees have signed up for the next cohort of Robertson Brain Health participants. These employees will participate in five more seminars and complete the program in early 2025.

Toyota-Kata: Kent County partnered with Richard Flemming, a master kata coach and instructor/coach for the University of Michigan's "Toyota Kata" workshop, to work with various County departments to improve process efficiency.

Q1 2024 Update

Flemming has worked with Community Action to improve the Weatherization process. As a result of this work, Community Action now completes callbacks within 24 hours and 4-8 pre-inspections are completed per week. Work with the consultant is complete and the County is implementing improvements developed through the Kata Lean exercise.

BOARD RESOLUTION

1-27-22-13

$10,000,000

COMPLETED

COVID vaccinations, monoclonal antibodies, testing, contact tracing, outreach - $500,000

Organization: Kent County Health Department

Summary

The Kent County Health Department provided COVID-19 immunizations to residents within the KCHD clinic and community sites. ARPA funds were used to cover the cost of salary and fringe for staff involved in vaccinating residents from January 2022 to September 2022. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) over-allocated funds to local health departments for Fiscal Year 2022. To correct this, MDHHS moved all expenditures from the COVID-19 immunization funding to the Michigan State Police (MSP) FEMA grant. Due to the significant amount of documentation that would have been required for the MSP grant, Fiscal Services and KCHD Finance agreed to charge all the staff costs related to the administration of COVID-19 immunizations for January – September of 2022 to ARPA funding. All non-salary and fringe costs for this period were charged to the FEMA grant. ARPA funds were also used to cover the cost of courier services for COVID tests performed at the Health Department and sent to an outside laboratory for processing. The Health Department did not use any ARPA funding for monoclonal antibody therapies, contact tracing, or outreach as other COVID funding passed through from MDHHS could be used to cover these costs.

Update

This project is completed and the remaining monies were returned to the overall project fund.

COMPLETED

ARPA Consultant Support - $500,000

Organization: Kent County Administrator's Office

Summary

The County allocated funds to the administrative costs related to the use of ARPA funding. Ultimately, Guidehouse Consulting was selected to support the County in community engagement efforts, eligibility considerations, project data collection and reporting, and audit preparation. Guidehouse led Kent County through an extensive Community Engagement process as well as completed final recommendations to the Board of Commissioners, ultimately leading to a final investment strategy.

Update

This project is completed and the remaining monies were returned to the overall project fund.

BOARD RESOLUTION

1-27-22-13

$10,000,000

COMPLETED

Isolation Shelter for Un-housed COVID-positive People - $335,000

Organization: Mel Trotter Ministries

Summary

Kent County supported Mel Trotter Ministries' Isolation Shelter between January 1, 2022 and March 31, 2022. The isolation shelter was one component of a County-wide effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community while continuing to provide services to the County's most vulnerable residents. The shelter housed 135 guests at a facility in downtown Grand Rapids near medical facilities and Mel Trotter Ministries from January 1 thru March 31. The shelter had a capacity of 24 individuals at one time.

Update

This project is completed.

COMPLETED

Winter Emergency Shelter to Accommodate Social Distancing - $165,000

Organization: Mel Trotter Ministries

Summary

Kent County supported an overflow space for Mel Trotter Ministries during the 2021-2022 winter months to increase shelter space for people experiencing homelessness. The City of Grand Rapids and Kent County each contributed $165,000 to the winter overflow shelter expenses as partners with Mel Trotter Ministries in the effort to ensure safe sheltering during the season of highest shelter use. Mel Trotter was able to provide 75 socially distanced spaces, housing a total of 24,000 visits through the winter months. From November 1, this breaks down to 157 scans per day.

Update

This project is completed.

BOARD RESOLUTION

1-27-22-13

$10,000,000

Administrative, contract services, general support - $200,000

Organization: Kent County Administrator's Office

Summary

These allocated funds support the administrative, contractual, and other general support associated with monitoring the ARPA spending and the individual projects and initiatives. To date, these funds have covered legal services associated with contracts.

Q1 2024 Update

To date, these funds have covered legal services associated with contracts and COVID leave staff costs.

COMPLETED

Broadband Initiative Consultant Support - $125,000

Organization: Kent County Administrator's Office

Summary

Kent County issued a Request for Proposals and selected Guidehouse Consulting and Merit Network to complete an analysis of access to broadband countywide and provide best practices and recommendations for broadband installation projects, models for partnering with local units and providers to fund projects and monitoring evolving broadband technology. Update: Merit developed and distributed a survey and completed an analysis of the 252,072 households that responded. The analysis examined access to broadband, speed of service, satisfaction with the internet service provider, affordability, and presence of children in the household. Merit shared the data with Guidehouse to inform their work on a road map for Kent County's broadband initiative. Guidehouse completed stakeholder interviews and workshops, a review of the broadband market and infrastructure, information on funding sources, and identification of priority geographic areas to expand service. Staff is using Merit's data and the Guidehouse recommendations to develop action steps to improve broadband in Kent County.

Update

This project is completed.

BOARD RESOLUTION

1-27-22-13

$10,000,000

Inclusion Strategic Plan - $55,000

Organization: Kent County Administrator's Office

Summary

Kent County is investing in the creation of a strategic plan to establish goals, strategies, implementation steps, and key performance indicators to integrate and align inclusion best practices across county departments and offices. Inclusive Performance Strategies (IPS) was selected as the consultant to lead this planning effort.

Q1 2024 Update

The County's Office of Inclusion team worked with IPS to develop and finalize the Inclusion Strategic Plan and Framework Document. The Chief Inclusion Officer is now working with the Cultural Insight Council to establish an Inclusion Strategic Plan Performance Review & Accountability Team to implement the plan.



BOARD RESOLUTION

4-21-22-48

$737,000

COMPLETED

Kent County Sheriff's Office - $737,000

Organization: Kent County Sheriff's Office

Summary

The Kent County Sheriff's Office received approximately $737,000 in ARPA funds to cover unanticipated overtime expenditures due to COVID-19. This funding was critical for the Sherriff's Office to maintain operations, modify operations in some situations, and catch up with training.

- **Maintain Current Operations**: Staff stricken with COVID-19, and those with signs and symptoms of COVID-19, had a devastating impact on staffing levels that have minimum 24/7 staffing requirements to meet public safety and contractual needs. The Sherriff Office's staffing model does not have sufficient numbers to absorb the increase in sick calls we experienced, which for a person that tested positive for COVID-19 could lead to a minimum of 10 days off. COVID-19 was extremely burdensome on the jail. Additional staff time, both on upper levels of management, as well as line staff, was demanded to: work with the courts to decrease the inmate population housed in the jail, level out the number of inmates assigned to each housing unit, adjust dayroom schedules to reduce the number of inmates out of their cell at any one time, and adjust the housing unit plan to accommodate an increased number of juveniles housed in the jail that occurred in this period.
- **Modify Operations**: Once the initial wave of COVID-19 hit, court operations began to pick up, but with a slight modification; the courts began to utilize video conferencing significantly more. The jail has two video courtrooms, which allow two Judges to hold sessions at the same time. This space was inadequate to meet the increased demands for video conferencing, thus the Sheriff's Office purchased video carts with monitoring equipment to be wheeled to the various housing units in the jail. This modification served two purposes, it allowed for some court functions to operate, but it also negated the need to transport the inmate to court, which significantly reduced the potential for additional exposure and spread of COVID-19 within the facility. Although this allowed the courts to maintain some level of operation, each cart required one deputy to bring the unit to the inmate and then stay with the inmate during their hearing. At its peak, four to five video carts were being utilized in the jail. The jail did not have sufficient staffing to absorb the increase in personnel, thus overtime was required to fulfill this function.
- **Training:** In the early stages of COVID-19, due to staffing levels and to reduce the possibility of spreading the virus and impacting more staff, the Sheriff's Office had to delay in-person training. Training that could be done remotely was completed, but training, such as de-escalation and use-of-force, had to be done in person. Once it was deemed safe, the Sheriff's Office brought staff together to train on these critical functions.

Update - This project is completed.

BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Kent County Equitable Housing Initiative - $500,000

Organization: Housing Next

Summary

The allocation was made to Housing Next to create a self-assessment tool for qualitative analysis of a community's housing priorities; create a zoning mapping tool to identify barriers and opportunities to increase housing supply; provide grants to municipalities to assist with zoning and land use changes to increase housing supply at all price points; and provide technical assistance to municipalities pursuing zoning and land use changes.

Q1 2024 Update

Housing Next has been working with the University of Michigan team and the Michigan Association of Planning to finalize the Zoning Atlas which is on track for a June launch. This project was slightly delayed due to the complexity of coding for the municipality's unique zoning requirements. The organization also continues to promote the Kent County Municipal Grant Program and the state Housing Readiness grant program that mirrors the local program. Finally, Housing Next has structured its work around a corridor strategy that identifies key development areas with existing infrastructure and local priorities for revitalization and redevelopment. This strategy will launch in June in tandem with the Zoning Atlas.

Nourish Tomorrow Advancement Campaign - $2,000,000

Organization: Feeding America West Michigan

Summary

Feeding America is renovating a 120,600-square-foot warehouse in Kentwood to address the limitations of its current warehouse and expand its services regionally. The organization estimates that, by moving into the Kentwood facility and expanding its programs and services, it can increase its distribution of nutritious food to West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula by 30% within five years and 50% overall.

Q1 2024 Update

In the last quarter, there was a lot of progress. All internal demolition and all internal concrete work have been completed. This includes the completion of utility infrastructure within the building (electrical, plumbing, etc.). The interior office framing is also completed. The exterior entrance structure is 80% complete. The parking lot has been fully renovated, and new curbing has been completed. All refrigeration paneling has been received, and these will begin to be erected in May.

BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Boston Square Hub - $4,000,000

Organization: Amplify GR

Summary

The Boston Square Community Hub will be a two-story, 45,000-square-foot multi-purpose community facility dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of neighbors. The facility will be completed in two phases. Kent County funds will be dedicated to Phase I of the project (total of 33,011 square feet) which includes a 9,000 square foot early childhood center, a co-working space to be operated by a bank partner, a 240-person community event and performance space, a community café, and 6,000 square feet of wellness spaces (e.g., fitness classes, after school programming, and arts enrichment).

Q1 2024 Update

Phase I of the building is enclosed, interior framing is complete, stairwell and elevator shafts are installed. Final design and permitting for the Phase II new construction was completed after a delay due to the discovery of a buried foundation and water mitigation plans to account for the proximity of Silver Creek. Concrete for the new foundation is being poured.

Designs were completed by Pure Architects for the interior Co-Lab suite. This suite will include four dedicated offices for smaller nonprofits with a shared meeting/program room, shared kitchenette, lounge, and printer room. We are actively securing Letters of Intent from Co-Lab potential tenants. Based on interest, we are evaluating designing a second Co-Lab space to accommodate partners who desire a shared classroom and dedicated office/storage space. Amplify GR is also talking with two potential afterschool partners and working toward an LOI for that space.

As an update on the early childhood education center, our partner IFF re-released an RFP seeking a new operator after the dissolution of the Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative. They have received three qualified applications and are in the final interview/vetting stage right now. We expect an announcement in May. The early learning center will be complete in September but opening of the center will be dependent on the selected operator and their capacity/timeline.



BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

The Junior Achievement Free Enterprise Center · $1,000,000

Organization: Junior Achievement

Summary

Junior Achievement (JA) is establishing a 35,000 square foot Center in Grand Rapids. This new facility will house three unique, state-of-the-art learning labs. Consistent with all JA programing, trained volunteers will guide the student experience in three labs: the JA BizTown, JA Finance Park, and JA Entrepreneurship Incubator.

Q1 2024 Update

Construction has been completed, and the labs are open for school groups/programs. Last quarter, 1,393 students participated in JA Capstone events. Also, the first pilot of the new JA Finance Park began on February 7, 2024, with Hudsonville and Spring Lake High School both sending students to participate in the first-ever day of a fun, interactive, and comprehensive financial literacy and career readiness education. Over 200 students have attended JA Finance Park since the first day, and currently, over 1,000 students are expected to have gone through a full JA Finance Park experience by the end of May 2024. JA BizTown continues to enjoy significant success with participating students, with over 1,100 students attending JA BizTown in the first quarter of 2024.

Meijer Sports Complex · $1,000,000

Organization: West Michigan Sports Commission

Summary

The West Michigan Sports Commission is planning an expansion to the Meijer Sports Complex. The $11 million project will include four new softball fields, 20 new pickleball courts, improvements to existing fields, and infrastructure improvements.

Q1 2024 Update

Installation of turf on the Championship Field is in progress. Despite some weather-related delays, improvements will be completed in Spring 2024.

BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Behavioral Health Crisis Center - $3,923,356

Organization: Network 180

Summary

Kent County is funding three new crisis behavioral health programs: Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Unit, Peer Respite, and a Co-Response with Kent County Sheriff.

Q1 2024 Update

Behavioral Health Crisis Center, including Crisis Stabilization Unit

- The joint Trinity Health/Network180 project steering committee – focused on clinical, technology, space, compliance, and communications planning.
- Network180 worked closely with leadership at the MDHHS to provide a timely certification solution for the Crisis Stabilization Unit. On March 12, 2024, MDHHS informed Network180 that it would support a provisional certification process that would allow the Crisis Center to open by its spring target date.
- Network180 continues to work closely with the State of Michigan's CSU Pilot Workgroup as the State finalizes its draft rules and standards for CSUs.
- Construction is completed on the CSU Space and a Certificate of Occupancy was issued by the City of Grand Rapids on 4/3/2024.
- Network180 received approval from its Board of Directors to enter into an after-hours telepsychiatry contract.
- Network180 hired a Crisis Center Director of Psychiatry, Dr. Umer Farooq, and has been actively recruiting and hiring for all needed positions. To date, 30 of the 36 necessary staff have been hired.

Sheriff's Office Mobile Crisis Pilot

- Work continued around finalizing a Memo of Understanding between Network180 and the Sheriff's Office regarding the 988 Crisis and Suicide line and the intent to imbed a master's level clinician in the Kent County 911 dispatch center.
- A 911 Crisis Call Diversion Clinician position will be posted in early April 2024.

BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Behavioral Health Crisis Center - $3,923,356, cont.

Organization: Network 180

Peer Respite Project

- Work on this component of the grant is slated to begin at a later date. Activities related to the peer respite project occurred under an alternative funding source during the calendar year 2023.

School Radio Network - $2,837,500

Organization: Kent County Sheriff's Office (KCSO)

Summary

The KCSO will implement the installation of an 800 MHz radio system in *all* K-12 school buildings in Kent County. This system will connect schools directly to the Sheriff's central dispatch, increasing the speed and accuracy by which officers can gather information and respond to emergencies.

Q1 2024 Update

Radios have been installed in 283 schools which accounts for 93% of all Kent County schools. Staff within those schools have also been trained in the operation of the equipment. The radios have been live in each school since installation and are being monitored by the Kent County Sherriff's Office 24/7. The Sherriff's Office has been working with the City of Grand Rapids to install radios in 20 more schools, which should be done in early May.





BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Wyoming City Center Bridge and Trail Activation - $6,000,000

Organization: City of Wyoming

Summary

The Wyoming City Center project is a multi-phased, public-private development that includes public investment in non-motorized infrastructure and private investment in a mixed-use development. The public investment will provide two new pedestrian bridges, 4.6 miles of new trails, and civic space. The private development will offer workforce housing, market rate housing, Class A commercial space, and office space. The total project budget is $14.4 million for the bridge and trail.

Q1 2024 Update

Consumer's Energy is expected to start the next phase of utility work soon on 28th Street. Private utilities are mostly complete (about 90% complete) on undergrounding their lines. Once done, Consumer's Energy will remove all utility poles. The bridge over 28th Street has received the Michigan Department of Transportation permit. The bids were released for the bridge project and for the Hook Avenue and Weller trails. The City Council was expected to award the bids on April 15, 2024.

John Ball Zoo Expansion & Enhanced Community Engagement -- $6,000,000

Organization: John Ball Zoo

Summary

The John Ball Zoo is using the County's investment to complete two projects: The construction of three new classroom buildings, built from shipping containers, that are each 1,029 square feet; and the installation of a new otter exhibit near the entrance of the zoo. The otter exhibit will be 12,500 square feet in total and include animal space, guest interaction areas, water conservation, education components, and parallel play components.

Q1 2024 Update

The classrooms are completed and regularly being used for zoo programming. The Otter habitat is complete through schematic design and has moved to the design development phase. The habitat is on track to be certified as a Zero Carbon project with the International Living Future Institute. Construction on this exhibit is likely to occur in 2025.

BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

The Grand Agricultural Center of West Michigan - $6,000,000

Organization: Kent County Youth Agricultural Association

Summary

The Kent County Youth Agricultural Association planned a $36 million campaign to repurpose a former golf course located in Lowell Township into a multi-purpose public space and premier youth, family, and visitor entertainment and educational venue with agriculture, arts, and cultural opportunities. The project will include a campground with amenities and regional trailway connections for pedestrians and equestrians. The first phase of the project will include infrastructure improvements, campground sites, and seven exhibit buildings. Phase two will include a multi-purpose, all-season facility that will be heated, insulated, and ventilated with stalling and arena space to meet the needs of livestock and equestrian competitions and exhibitions at a statewide, regional, and national level.

Q1 2024 Update

In August 2023, the organization met its goal to host the Kent County Youth Fair at The Grand Agricultural Center of West Michigan. With priority buildings completed, they showcased over 700 exhibitors and nearly 50,000 visitors with an exciting week of agriculture experience activities for youth and the community. The auctions transacted over $1.2 million into the hands of area youth working hard in agriculture.

Good fall weather allowed the organization to begin early site work for relocating wetlands with the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, replacing topsoil and shaping the wastewater treatment lagoons. The Board has officially moved its assets from the old fairgrounds and closed the site at Recreation Park in the City of Lowell.





BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Transforming Kent County's Road Network - $8,500,000

Organization: Kent County Road Commission

Summary

The Kent County Road Commission is partnering with at least 12 local units of government to complete a minimum of 19 road improvement projects. The participating local units of government are all matching the funds invested by Kent County for a total project of at least $17 million. Projects will be completed in 2023 and 2024

Q1 2024 Update

Work has been completed on all projects planned except three projects slated for 2024. The three projects are:

- 68th St. from Thornapple River Dr. to Whitneyville Ave. (a primary road in Caledonia Township)
- MacClain St. from Wabasis Ave. to Hentzelman Ave. (a local road in Oakfield Township – the township is participating at 55% match to the Road Commission's 45%)
- Wiersma St. from Simmons Ave. to White Creek Ave. (a local road in Solon Township – the township is participating at 55% match to the Road Commission's 45%)

Capital Enhancements for Facilities Serving Older Adults - $500,000

Organization: Senior Neighbors (Kent County/Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan)

Summary

The funds were allocated to Senior Neighbors to support the relocation of the organization's Lowell Senior Center and the creation of a new senior center in Walker. The Lowell Senior Center will be relocated to the First Congregational UCC. Kent County funds will be used to complete a $53,783 renovation of a space within the church. The Walker Senior Center will be located within the former Walker Fire Station 3 which will be renovated with Kent County funds. The total budget for the Walker project is $292,025 with Kent County's contribution at $167,025.

Q1 2024 Update

The Lowell Senior Center has been open since May 2023 and continues its daily operations. The project has progressed with the installation of the new senior member check-in technology and completed the signage updates with our partners. The Walker Senior Center is operating as expected three days/week and hopes to grow in its numbers over the next year. The project has progressed with the installation of the new senior member check-in technology. Senior Neighbors is evaluating the need to update the facility's HVAC system to improve temperature control.

BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Fuel the Movement: Innovative Workforce Development for Economic Mobility -$1,000,000

Organization: Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation

Summary

The Center for Community Transformation will implement programs focused on workforce development and small businesses/entrepreneurs who reside in southeast Grand Rapids neighborhoods. Workforce Development programs include new job placements, training opportunities, and partnerships to target youth and under-employed community members with focused project activities. Small business owners and entrepreneurs will have access to training, coaching, and supports through Transformational Executive Coaching (a two-year training system that helps leaders learn to be better, more efficiency leaders for city transformation) and Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS, a set of business tools and concepts that help leaders and organizations grow in vision, traction, and health).

Q1 2024 Update

The Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation is in the final planning stages for several events designed to provide workforce development support, job placements, and other support. The organization's Director of Strategic Partnerships and Training and Culture Project Manager established new partnerships and expanded others to maximize the reach of the Center and to identify new ways in which they can support the community. A new cohort of executive coaching sessions has launched, prioritizing minority- and women-owned businesses. Finally, the Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation has continued to hold networking and collaboration-focused meetings and events.



BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

SMB & Workforce Development Support & Training - $138,000

Organization: South Kent Chamber of Commerce (formerly Wyoming/Kentwood Chamber of Commerce)

Summary

The South Kent Chamber of Commerce is launching a new monthly series that offers networking events as well as Lunch & Learn and Happy Hour trainings on topics pertinent to the region's small businesses, entrepreneurs and start-up businesses, business leaders, and employees. This series will launch in 2023 and run through 2026 with the support of Kent County.

Q1 2024 Update

The South Kent Chamber of Commerce awarded three new business scholarships for Chamber membership. The organization is working with local municipalities to provide services for more small businesses, and we expect to provide more chamber member scholarships. Chamber events focused on small businesses have continued, targeted toward underserved and adversely affected community individuals and businesses. Monthly Luncheon, morning networking sessions called Connect over Coffee, and late afternoon sessions called Chamber Happy Hour.

The first Quarterly Business Forum was a success, held at University Michigan Health West. The topic for the last forum was Health Services. The forum included CEO of Catherine's Health Services, University of Michigan Health West's Foundation Director, regional manager for Health Markets, and County Commissioner Monica Sparks. The South Kent Chamber of Commerce is planning the next Quarterly Business Forum. The topic of the next forum will be alternative business financing and financial services. The Forum is being financially supported by the West Michigan Opportunity Resource Fund which will allow the organization to invite more content area experts.

Through partnerships with Spring GR, SBDC, and other local business partners, the South Kent Chamber of Commerce was able to assist 20 participants in the "Pitch Black" event. The organization partnered with Detroit based B2 Elevate to reach 43 black and brown businesses in the south Kent County. Finally, nine established businesses received coaching and mentorship through a partnership with Spring GR.

BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Community, Economic and Workforce Development Through A Community Development Financial Institutions Fund in Kent County's Hispanic Community - $2,000,000

Organization: The Hispanic Center of West Michigan

Summary

The Hispanic Center of West Michigan will establish a revolving loan fund dedicated to providing capital for the County's Latinx micro/small businesses

Q1 2024 Update

The Hispanic Center engaged VeraCruz Advisory and 2LC to complete a market assessment documenting the need for accessible loan funding in West Michigan, particularly among the Hispanic community. This market assessment has been completed and has been widely shared with community members, leaders, and partners. Anonymous feedback was solicited from key community stakeholders to identify additional potential partners and program innovative ideas.

Survey respondents highlighted the importance of partnering with established home ownership and small-businesses programming and lending institutions to create access to programs already in our community. There were also comments about the need for innovative approaches because sometimes we are too aware of the gaps that exist in the community, but we have not been able to "move the needle". Organization leadership is in the process of taking community feedback to finalize the design of the program that will be funded under the next Kent County agreement.



BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

A Place-Based Approach to Reducing Health Disparities in Kent County's African American Community -$1,000,000

Organization: Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI)

Summary

GRAAHI is launching the Heroes for Life Sickle Cell Disease Blood Donors Initiative to address the disparate impacts of Sickle Cell Disease on Kent County's African American community. This initiative includes a Sickle Cell Blood Donation Campaign to address the low rate of Black blood donors in our community. GRAAHI will also establish the African American Health Disparities Transformation Alliance which will host trainings and workshops for healthcare workers, community organizations, and other stakeholders. The Alliance will also design and develop a best practice Sickle Cell Disease toolkit, based upon local research on emerging interventions, for transformative change in the Black community that can be replicated in other communities. Finally, GRAAHI will develop educational materials to inform Kent County residents with Sickle Cell Disease how to seek treatment and how to live a healthy lifestyle.

Q1 2024 Update

This quarter, GRAAHI focused on researching and disseminating 12 white paper articles on topics such as smoking, exercise, and alcohol within the sickle cell community. We hired a firm to create 25 mini-commercials aimed at raising awareness about the benefits of exercise, mental health, and nutrition while highlighting the risks of smoking and alcohol consumption. Additionally, we conducted two successful blood drives (33 donors to date; 3 first timers); refreshed our website to include a Wellness Academy (a comprehensive initiative offering four distinct programs to promote health and well-being), and created a dynamic searchable database of medical providers of color. This database empowers users to filter results based on their specific needs, effectively eliminating barriers to accessing skilled and culturally relevant healthcare providers.

Our Sickle Cell Taskforce has been busy developing an action plan for the next six months, focusing on surveying the community, creating commercials, partnering with healthcare systems, and coordinating forums and panels. These efforts are aimed at increasing awareness, access to resources, and ultimately decreasing the number of crisis episodes within the sickle cell community. By actively working towards these goals, we aim to make a tangible impact on the lives of individuals affected by Sickle Cell Disease, empowering them to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.

BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Live. Work. Thrive - $2,000,000

Organization: AYA Youth Collective

Summary

The AYA Youth Collective is expanding their Comprehensive Health Initiative aimed at addressing the social determinants of health for youth who are experiencing homelessness. This initiative focuses on four core areas: social determinants of health, behavioral health, physical health, and wellness. Funding from Kent County will allow the AYA Youth Collective to expand its capacity to serve youth at its drop-in center located in Grand Rapids.

Q1 2024 Update

The Comprehensive Health Initiative is in operation. AYA has released an RFP to select a research partner that will conduct a year-long study that will study the health impacts of homeless youth and disseminate best practices. In the past quarter, a youth alumnus of AYA's services joined the team and has already provided great ideas and feedback on the Comprehensive Health Initiative. AYA completed an "Ask the CEO", listening session, and youth participant survey to engage the client's voice and seek feedback on overall program delivery and staff. These feedback loops are implemented with fidelity to a national model called Listen for Good, which supports nonprofits and best practices in measuring organizational change. Alongside the micro health suite, on-site Department Health and Human Service workers are processing eligibility and removing barriers to qualifications almost immediately and HealthNet is providing Case Management. This trifecta of partners in combination with AYA staff is providing never-seen barrier removal and access to life-changing resources. In partnership with Arbor Circle, AYA is currently onboarding two additional youth advocates who will provide additional outreach, prevention, and diversion to youth at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Kent County Affordable Housing Loan Fund - $17,500,000

Organization: Kent County/IFF

Summary

This funding was allocated to address the shortage of affordable housing throughout Kent County by reducing the cost of capital for housing developers.

Q1 2024 Update

The Advisory Committee approved by the Board of Commissioners held its first meeting in November 2023. IFF has been tracking projects in the pipeline. IFF announced the first project to complete the application process and receive funding through the loan fund. Dwelling Place received $8.5 million to create 42 affordable housing units for sale in the City of Grand Rapids. Additional projects are in the pipeline with more approvals expected in Q2 of 2024.

BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

PFAS Remediation - Water Main Extension in Cascade Township - $3,000,000

Organization: City of Grand Rapids/Cascade Township

Summary

The proposed project will install water main lines in the public right-of-way and service lines to each home and abandon residential wells within a Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) Area of Interest. An estimated 30,000 feet of water main will be installed, and 481 homes will be connected in two phases. Phase I, which has already started, will install approximately 12,000 feet of water main and connect 260 homes to the municipal water supply. Phase 2 will install about 18,000 feet of water main and connect 221 homes.

Q1 2024 Update

PFAS Remediation of the Burger-Goodwood neighborhood in Cascade Township is complete through phase 1. The design and specifications have been finalized and a contract award is expected early April 2024 for phase 2. Construction will be ongoing through the end of 2024 and into early mid-2025. Ongoing restoration efforts including tree replanting will accompany construction. Residences newly connected to public water total 126 and counting to date.

Four Star Theatre Renovation - $500,000

Organization: Friends of Four Star, Inc.

Summary

The Friends of Four Star, Inc. is renovating the Four Star Theatre located at 1944 Division Avenue South. When completed, the Theatre will serve as a cultural arts venue supporting multiple uses for arts, entertainment, and community events. This project includes replacement of the roof, restoration of the historic marquee, selective interior renovation, and equipment upgrades if budget allows. The project is conceived in phases. County funding will be directed to the replacement of the roof, renovation of the marquee, and HVAC upgrades.

Q1 2024 Update

The old roof has been removed and the new roof has been installed, this included structural repairs and new structural accommodations for future mechanical equipment, as well as gas line relocation and installation of new roof drains. The organization continues to explore additional funding sources that can be leveraged to complete the full scope of renovations planned for the Four Star Theatre.

BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Kent County Parks/Greenway - $15,000,000

Organization: Kent County Parks Department

Summary

Grand River Greenway: The Kent County Parks Department will complete a 23-mile trail section that runs through Plainfield, Cascade, Cannon, Ada, and Lowell Townships. This project will also include trailheads at Johnson Park, Chief Hazy Cloud Park, and Lowell Regional Greenspace.

Q1 2024 Update

The draft final routing plan and updated project estimates have been delivered and are under review. The County selected Land and Resource Engineering to assist with preliminary engineering for the park-to-park bridge between Chief Hazy Cloud and Roselle Park to assist with fundraising.

The first phase of the trailhead expansion project at Johnson Park was bid and is underway, with completion expected in early summer. Additionally, an architect for the restroom renovation at the trailhead was selected and design is underway. The Parks Department applied for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for this project hoping to leverage the ARPA funding into additional funding for the project.

Plainfield Township has agreed to be the project lead (including funding) for the section of trail on Rogue River between the White Pine Trail and Northland Drive. Additionally, the Parks Department has bid and awarded engineering contracts for several sections of the project, including the tunnel under Northland Drive at Rouge River, trail sections from Rouge River/Northland Drive to Pettis/Cannonsburg Road, trail sections from Pettis/Cannonsburg Road to Pettis/2 Mile Rd and a separated pedestrian bridge on the Knapp Street bridge over the Grand River.





BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Kent County Parks/Greenway - $15,000,000, cont.

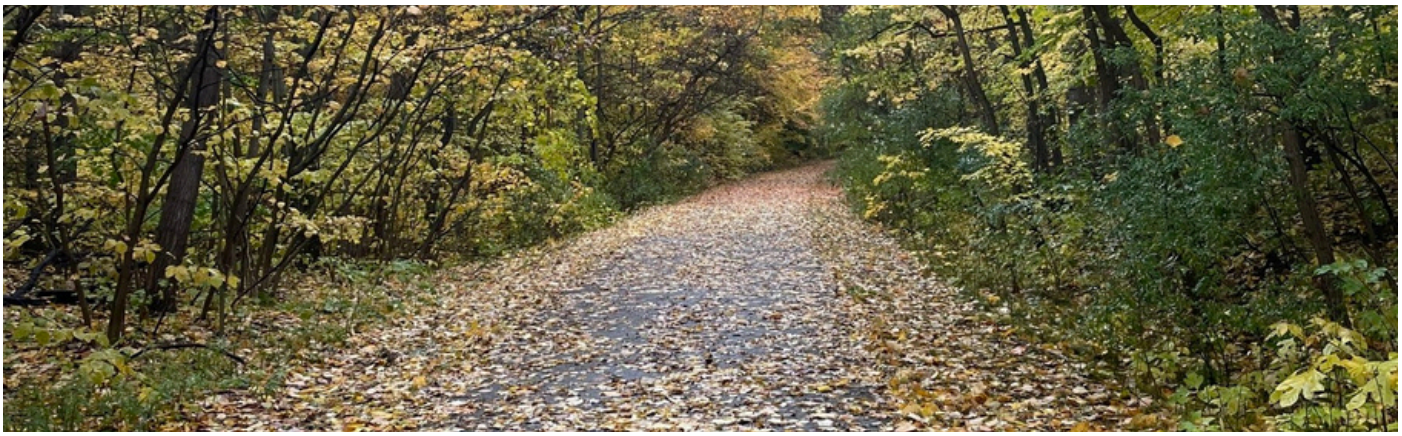
Organization: Kent County Parks Department

Summary

Greenspace Development/Acquisition - $5,000,000: The following projects were indicated in the resolution to share $5 million in funds.

Q1 2024 Update

- Thornapple Riverbend Greenspace (acquisition/development): Negotiations for acquisition and planning for the development are ongoing.
- Two Rivers Greenspace (acquisition/development): The acquisition was approved by the Commission in 2023 and has been completed. The Two Rivers Greenspace is now over 291 acres. Kent County was able to leverage an additional $430,000 from Caledonia Township for the acquisition. Planning for development is ongoing. Staff is working on design in anticipation of a 2025 construction project including enhanced parking, renovation of an existing structure into a livery/restroom facility, accessible access to the river, and a natural surface trail network.
- Millennium Park –Sietsema parcel (acquisition): Negotiations for this acquisition are ongoing.
- Wahlfield Park (development): An architect for the design of the restrooms has been selected and design is underway in preparation for 2025 construction.
- 12 Mile Greenspace (acquisition/development): The acquisition was approved by the Commission in 2023 and has been completed. The Greenspace is now 42 acres. Planning for the development is ongoing.



BOARD RESOLUTION

12-01-22-121

$108,698,000

Kent County Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team - $4,000,000

Organization: Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team

Summary

The Domestic Violence Action Network (DVAN) takes a collective impact approach to address barriers and develop strategies to address the issue of domestic violence in Kent County. Kent County ARPA funds will be used to finalize the organization's collective impact framework, develop a comprehensive data collection and evaluation effort, and support DVAN staff. The major initiative that will be supported through Kent County funds is the launch of the Domestic Violence Court model within the 61st District Court and 62-B District Court which will include supporting positions embedded in the Kent County Prosecutor's Office as well as the 61st District Court and 62-B District Court.

Q1 2024 Update

DVAN's collective impact framework has been submitted to Kent County and an amendment to the funding agreement was completed that accounts for the investment strategy submitted for 2024. An Action Request is being advanced in Quarter 2 to create two DVAN Advocate positions within the Kent County Prosecutor's Office.

West Michigan Construction Institute Phase II Expansion - $1,000,000

Organization: West Michigan Construction Institute (WMCI)

Summary

The West Michigan Construction Institute (WMCI) lab expansion project will accommodate the addition of at least two new construction labs, as well as the relocation of office space for staff. The expansion project will include a 4,740 square foot addition and renovation of 1,204 square feet.

Q1 2024 Update

WMCI held an official groundbreaking on April 23, 2024. The project is underway and expected to be completed and ready to welcome students by January 2025.

BOARD RESOLUTION 12-01-22-121

PROJECTS WITH EXECUTED AGREEMENTS - NOT YET STARTED

Krause Memorial Library - $2,000,000

Organization: City of Rockford

Q1 2024 Update

The Administrator's office has received information from the City of Rockford confirming that the required binding commitments for all funding for the project and the agreement has been executed. The project has not yet started.

United Methodist Community House 900 - $1,000,000

Organization: United Methodist Community House

Q1 2024 Update

The Administrator's office has received information from the United Methodist Community House confirming the required binding commitments for all funding required for the project. An agreement is being finalized as of the date of this report.

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund for Kent County's African American Community - $1,000,000

Organization: Urban League of West Michigan

Q1 2024 Update

The Urban League of West Michigan is partnering with the National Urban League's Community Finance Development Institution (CDFI). The Urban League is in the process of launching the fund as the organization finalizes agreements with project partners and the National Urban League CDFI.

Preventative Animal Control by Increasing Pet Owner Access to Veterinary Care - $1,000,000

Organization: Community Spay Neuter Initiative Partnership (C-SNIP)

Q1 2024 Update

C-SNIP has secured a site and is finalizing the scope of the project.

BOARD RESOLUTION 12-01-22-121

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

Medical Examiner Facility - $6,000,000

Organization: Kent County

Q1 2024 Update

This project is in the design phase.

Lead Remediation - Paint, Pipe and Training - $3,800,000

Organization: Kent County Health Department

Q1 2024 Update

Development of the Kent County program launched in December 2023. Budgets and plans are still being finalized.

Grand Rapids Public Museum West Entry and Gathering Space - $1,000,000

Organization: Grand Rapids Public Museum

Q1 2024 Update

Kent County funds will support construction of a west entry which is scheduled to begin in Spring of 2024.



BOARD RESOLUTION

12-07-23-141

$9,319,075

Kent County Facilities - $9,319,075

Organization: Kent County

Summary

Fallasburg Dam Renovation - $4,000,000: Kent County is completing a renovation of the hydroelectric dam located in Vergennes Township within the Flat River. Kent County has owned, maintained, and operated the Fallasburg Dam and surrounding areas since 1966 which serves as a regional park, enhanced by the 220-acre Burroughs Pond created by the dam. The proposed renovation will include improvements to embankments, spillway, tainter gates, and concrete repairs.

Q1 2024 Update

Barr Engineering was hired via an RFP process to design sheet pile cutoff walls and additional earth embankment to strengthen the dam. In the coming months, Barr will coordinate permitting reviews with EGLE and FERC to bid the work out in the fall of 2024 for implementation. Barr Engineering will also be working on a separate design to reinforce and rehabilitate the concrete spillway and improve the tainter gate system. This design is anticipated over the upcoming fall and winter with permitting and construction tentatively planned to follow via a separate bid process in the spring of 2025.

Summary

Fuller Campus Clinic Modification - $800,000: Description and update included previously under Board Resolution 01-27-22-13.

Summary

Medical Examiner Facility - $4,519,075: Description and update included previously under Board Resolution 12-01-22-121.