



Snohomish County
Dave Somers
County Executive

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Executive Dave Somers Releases Community-Led Spending Proposal for \$85 Million in Federal American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Plan Makes Substantial Investments in Community Priorities, Including \$29 Million for Housing and Behavioral Health and \$12 Million for Child Care

Snohomish County, Wash., September 22, 2022 – Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers today put forward his proposal for the County’s remaining \$85 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which are federal dollars designed to address the public health, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Executive’s proposal is reflective of [community pandemic recovery priorities](#) identified during a four-month engagement effort that took place earlier this year.

“Snohomish County communities asked us to make substantial investments to help working families, and with this proposed ARPA spending package, we’re delivering on their needs,” said Executive Somers. “These programs will allow us to increase needed resources for communities across our county, from affordable and accessible behavioral health services, to high-quality child care, to jobs programs that support workers and employers. I’m grateful to all the community members who took time to share their ideas. By working together, we can create a better future for all who call Snohomish County home.”

The spending breakdown in the second \$85 million ARPA allocation is as follows:

Focus Area	Recommended Budget	Percent of Total
Housing, Homelessness and Behavioral Health	\$29 million	34%
Youth, Family and Senior Supports	\$21.8 million	26%
Economic and Workforce Development	\$16.6 million	20%
Emergency Response, Law, and Justice	\$10.6 million	13%
Government Services and Operations	\$6.6 million	8%
Grand Total	\$84.6 million	100%

“Hearing directly from our community about impacts of the pandemic, and centering their stories and perspectives into our recovery will put the county’s best foot forward as we recover from a tumultuous past two years,” said Council Chair Megan Dunn ([District 2](#)). “The County has one chance to spend our

ARPA dollars and I'm proud of the work being done to allocate funding as equitably as possible. I look forward to working with Council on the final allocations."

Executive Somers is proposing a strategic spending plan with large appropriations across community priority areas. Within each high-level appropriation, the Executive is recommending programmatic areas of focus, and, in some cases, more granular appropriations based on community feedback.

Housing, Homelessness, and Behavioral Health

The spending plan includes nearly \$29 million additional ARPA dollars to increase and preserve housing units and behavioral health services across Snohomish County. Estimated budgets and programming within this \$29 million include at least \$8 million for behavioral health and substance use treatment efforts, with a focus on increasing available services through the expansion or development of capital projects, and an estimated \$2.5 million to expand public health services across the county targeted at behavioral health supports.

"We applaud Executive Somers's targeted approach for the use of these funds. While the impacts of Covid-19 will be felt for years to come, these investments in our county will provide meaningful solutions for those hardest hit by the pandemic," said Brian Smith, Chief Operating Officer, Volunteers of America Western Washington.

Youth, Family, and Senior Supports

The spending plan includes nearly \$22 million additional ARPA dollars for youth, family, and senior supports. Estimated budgets and programming within this \$22 million allocation include approximately \$12 million to increase the availability of high-quality child care across the county through the creation and expansion of child care facilities, efforts to stabilize and boost the child care workforce, and programs to support child care affordability for families, and approximately \$8 million for youth programming and facilities that could include recreation and violence interruption, behavioral health supports, and community-led efforts to address COVID-related learning loss.

"Access, quality, and affordability are the hallmarks of a healthy child development and care system," said Elaine Larson, Regional Coordinator of Quality Child Care, who heads Opportunity Council's Lynnwood and Everett offices. "The Executive's vision is spot on for what our field needs as we not only put the pandemic in the rearview mirror, but also level the playing field for working families in this county. I'm confident the area's child care and early learning providers will use these funds to support the early learning workforce and expand child care resources that benefit both families and our business community."

Economic and Workforce Development

The spending plan includes an additional \$16 million ARPA dollars to support economic and workforce development efforts. Estimated budgets and programming within this allocation include approximately \$8 million to support workforce development efforts directed toward highly impacted sectors like social services, behavioral health, child care, and manufacturing, as well as roughly \$5 million to continue efforts to expand broadband access, which includes affordability, gap-filling, and cybersecurity.

The spending plan also includes approximately \$10.5 million for emergency response efforts as well as staffing to address the law and justice case backlog and pandemic-necessitated adjustments in law and justice offices. Additional staffing is needed along with capital facilities upgrades to help ensure courts

can accommodate remote trials more efficiently and effectively. Emergency response funding includes efforts to support firefighters and paramedics.

An additional \$6.5 million is allocated toward the Human Services Department and the Office of Recovery & Resilience (ORR) to ensure the departments can distribute ARPA funds quickly, equitably, and in compliance with U.S. Treasury requirements. All staffing allocations will be reevaluated at the end of each fiscal year to determine if unspent dollars can be reallocated into other community priorities.

The Snohomish County Council will consider the Executive's ARPA proposal as part of the 2023 budget process, and ORR will present the ARPA plan to the Council on October 11, 2022. If approved, funding from this \$85 million appropriation would then be available for expenditure on January 1, 2023.

Executive Somers established the Office of Recovery & Resilience to guide the County's recovery work by ensuring federal pandemic relief is administered quickly, effectively, and equitably. Information on the County's recovery work can be found at www.snohomishcountywa.gov/recovery.

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