



Health Advisory Commission

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Representative Frank Garner, Chair
Representative Matt Regier
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Adam Meier, DPHHS Director, Vice Chair
Anita Milanovich, General Counsel
Charlie Brereton, Policy Advisor

January 13, 2022

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

Dear Director Meier,

The Health Advisory Commission met on January 6, 2022 to consider American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). Pursuant to HB 632, the Commission makes the following recommendations:

1. Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases: Additional Components

Allocate \$6,092,014 in the following categories:

- \$449,760 for detection and mitigation of COVID-19 in homeless service sites and community-based residential facilities.
- \$2,749,578 to strengthen healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance (HAI/AR) activities to detect, mitigate, and prevent the spread of COVID-19, other health care associated infections, and the development of antibiotic resistant microorganisms in the health care setting.
- \$1,373,292 for licensed skilled nursing facilities projects and \$1,319,384 for other nursing home and long-term care facilities projects to assess the baseline needs of facilities, increase the CNA workforce, provide ongoing infection prevention/control training to facilities, and provide funding to facilities to implement infection control projects.
- \$200,000 for the detection, prevention, and mitigation of COVID-19 through domestic and international travel.

The Advisory Commission certifies the programs as an eligible use under ARPA and all applicable guidance to the extent subsequent actions follow all necessary applicable laws, regulations, and guidance.

2. ELC: Strengthen Public Health Laboratory Preparedness

Allocate \$142,473 to purchase specialized laboratory equipment and technology necessary for Montana's continued participation in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Laboratory Response Network. The Advisory Commission certifies the program as an eligible use under ARPA and all applicable guidance to the extent subsequent actions follow all necessary applicable laws, regulations, and guidance.

3. Child Care Stabilization Grants, Remaining Funds

Allocate the remaining \$30,021,405 to be administered by DPHHS for purposes outlined by federal regulations for child care stabilization subgrants. The Advisory Commission certifies the program as an eligible use under ARPA and all applicable guidance to the extent subsequent actions follow all necessary applicable laws, regulations, and guidance.

Sincerely,



Representative Frank Garner
Health Advisory Commission Chair