



Health Advisory Commission

Senator Bob Keenan
Senator Carl Glimm
Senator Mary McNally

Representative Frank Garner, Chair
Representative Matt Regier
Representative Terry Moore
Representative Mary Caferro

Adam Meier, DPHHS Director, Vice Chair
Anita Milanovich, General Counsel
Charlie Brereton, Policy Advisor

October 4, 2021

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 September 28, 2021 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. Montana Veterans' Home, Columbia Falls, MT

Allocate \$1,004,788 to cover the Wander System upgrade, the urgent sewer pipe project, the purchase of vehicles, and the improvements to the HVAC system to increase protection against air borne pathogens and improve air and facility humidity at the Montana Veterans' Home. 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.

2. Eastern Montana Veterans' Home, Glendive, MT

Allocate \$546,723 to resolve citation issues at the Eastern Montana Veterans' Home resulting in improved infection control and improve the safety of the resident environment. 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. Supporting Older Americans and Families, Newsline

Allocate \$120,000 to the Montana State Library for Newsline from the previously approved funding of \$7,304,925 for Supporting Older Americans and Families, in accordance with HB 632 Section 23 (3). 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.

The Advisory Commission further passed the following motions:

1. That this Advisory Commission certify that all programs, as set forth in the program proposals recommended at all prior meetings of this Advisory Commission are eligible uses under the American Rescue Plan Act and all applicable guidance.
2. For any program previously recommended by this Advisory Commission that receives additional federal funds for the same program and to meet substantially similar purpose(s), and the additional funding is less than \$1 million for the program, this Advisory Commission authorizes a continuing recommendation and certification of eligible use for approval of the additional federal funding.
3. Notwithstanding the \$1 million limit on the continuing recommendations of previously approved proposals, for any program previously recommended by this Advisory Commission that receives additional federal funds to continue a previously approved recurring benefit program such as SNAP or WIC, and the additional total recurring benefit amount provided by such funding is within 25% of the total recurring benefit amount previously recommended by this Advisory Commission, this Advisory Commission authorizes a continuing recommendation and certification of eligible use for approval of the additional federal funding.

Sincerely,

Representative Frank Garner
Health Advisory Commission Chair