

AGENDA ITEM

June 28, 2022

Subject: ARPA Funds for Public Safety

Department: Administration

Sections 602(c)(1)(C) and 603(c)(1)(C) of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provide state and local governments with broad latitude to use the Fiscal Recovery Funds for the provision of government services, which specifically includes public safety services.

The City of Nevada is estimated to receive \$1,660,000.00 paid in two installments of \$833,475.30 with the first payment received on August 27, 2021 and the second payment to be made no earlier than 12 months after the date on which the first payment is made.

All ARPA fiscal recovery funds must be encumbered by December 31, 2024 and all projects must be completed and all funds expended by December 31, 2026.

Manager Notes:

- Healthy Nevada is proposing a Youth Diversion Program which would allow youth offenders with minor crimes an option to avoid prosecution in the court system.
- The R-5 school District, 28th Judicial Circuit Juvenile Division and Department of Correction

BILL NO. 2022-062

ORDINANCE NO. 8523

A SPECIAL ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEVADA, MISSOURI APPROPRIATING FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND EXPENDITURES FOR PURPOSES THAT FULFILL THE INTENT OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY.

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law by the President of the United States on March 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City of Nevada is estimated to receive \$1,660,000.00 paid in two installments of \$833,475.30 with the first payment received on August 27, 2021 and the second payment to be made no earlier than 12 months after the date on which the first payment is made; and

WHEREAS, ARPA funds may be used for Public Safety Initiatives according to the U.S. Department of the Treasury's final rule for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEVADA, MISSOURI THAT:

Section 1. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund balance of \$833,475.30 shall reduce by a not to exceed amount of \$80,000.00 for the purpose of funding a School-Based Diversion Initiative.

Section 2. To respond to the negative health and economic impact during the COVID-19 public health emergency, the following expenditures described in Exhibit A, attached hereto, are approved

Section 3. The City Manager and City Treasurer are hereby directed and authorized to make the appropriate notations in the budget documents and transfer funds so as to reflect the above changes.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Nevada, Missouri this _____ day of July, 2022.

George Knox, Mayor

(seal)
ATTEST:

Stephanie M. Martin, City Clerk



School-Based Diversion Initiative

June 7, 2022

Organization Information:

Healthy Nevada was established in 2012 between local stakeholders and the Cerner Corporation from 2012-2018 through a charitable contribution and shared rural health research. In January 2020, Healthy Nevada became a stand-alone 501c3; funded through grants, in-kind and monetary donations.

The Healthy Nevada Project seeks to define a rural public health model that reduces historically poor health outcomes by addressing social determinants of health through the leveraging of community collaboration and partnerships as the foundation for individual, institutional and community wellness. Our action involves the development and implementation of programs that are innovative, integrated, and responsive to the health needs of rural populations. Healthy Nevada is shifting from a single agency entity to become an incubator for ideas and a catalyst for systemic change within rural environments.

The challenge of enhancing health outcomes in a rural setting will be addressed through the implementation of evidence-based programming that connect and coordinate with established community partners. Programming will demonstrate through data driven analysis; the ability to replicate, as well as serve as a model for the provision of care and targeted cost containment strategies. Our future lies in solving complicated, multi-faceted social determinants of health that negatively impact health outcomes. Through collaboration, integration and a general concern for ourselves, concern for our neighbors, and a belief in the strength of community collaboration we seek to improve healthy behaviors.

Overview of Healthy Nevada:

Healthy Nevada currently holds contracts with four content specialists that address community mental health strategies, school-based health strategies, integrative care: obesity-nutrition prevention and intervention strategies, and a lead strategist/grant writer.

The Board of Directors selected in January of 2022 are:

1. **Housing and Community Action:** Nevada Housing Authority, Community Leader: Carol Branham
2. **Medical:** Nevada Regional Medical Center, NowCare Rural Health Clinic: Angela Barrett
3. **Financial and Banking:** USBank- Carrie Mason
4. **Public Health:** Vernon County Health Department: Steve Durnell

5. **Education:** Nevada R-5 School District: Tyson Beshore
6. **Agriculture:** Crestridge Management: Michael Brown

Ex Officio:

1. Member of Vernon County Commissioners Office
2. Member of Nevada City Government/Mayor
3. Member of Nevada Public Library Board/Lease holder

Collaborative Partnerships and Stakeholders:

Healthy Nevada has a number of partnerships and stakeholder relationships. Some key entities are:

- EnVision Center-US Department of Housing (HUD) and ON My Own
- Nevada Regional Medical Center, NowCare
- Nevada R-5 School District
- Northeast Vernon County R-1 School District
- Sheldon R-8 School District
- Bronaugh R-7 School District
- Horizon Housing
- Vernon County Mental Health Court
- Cahmber of Commerce
- Vernon County Commissioners
- City of Nevada
- YMCA
- Community Outreach
- TruCharity
- MU Extension
- Nevada Housing Authority

The Problem and Strategy:

Nearly two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, we are beginning to identify locally some of the effects upon our rural community. We have found teens are especially vulnerable to the impact of COVID because they are in a developmental stage that is particularly sensitive to environmental stress. School closures and virtual learning distanced youth from peers, teachers, and other people they were close to and stripped them of opportunities for extra-curricular activities that are so crucial to a teen's development. As a result, adolescents are experiencing poor mental health, including anxiety, depression, and other psychological distress.

We know from experience it is not uncommon for youth who feel stressed or confused to lash out at others, arguing among friends and displaying risky behaviors. What we did not fully understand is to what extent school closures would cause students to experience loneliness and fragmented relationships. The poor infrastructure of rural internet has further complicated the impact of "at-risk" youth making many feel out of the loop within their own friends' group adding further stress. Unfortunately, Nevada R-5 School District has encountered an alarming number of physical altercations, cyberbullying, truancy, and mental health issues.

Disruptions in learning during the pandemic have also caused student attendance rates to lag significantly behind pre-pandemic levels. According to Curriculum Associates i-Ready Assessment data, while absenteeism rates seem to be leveling off, rates for “at-risk” students have continued to worsen despite the return of in-person school. If the historical correlation between absenteeism and high school graduation holds, this could translate nationally to an additional 1.7 million to 3.3 million eighth through twelfth graders dropping out of school due to the pandemic.

The Vernon County Juvenile Office statistics show a steady increase in referrals. Pre-COVID (2019) a total of 135 youths were referred for services. In 2021, 150 students were referred and from January 1 through May 25 of 2022, 70 youth have already been referred. The trend is increasing, and many of these referrals are coming from the school. Teachers and school counselors complain they have no time to teach as they are continually dealing with trauma. School administration is searching for a solution to provide “at-risk” youth an alternative to entering the juvenile justice system. After much research, Healthy Nevada has developed a program that builds upon the Trauma-Informed school-based program but provides one-on-one help to struggling adolescents.

The School-Based Diversion Initiative is a community-based effort in maximizing potential and instilling hope through a supportive partnership between the school, a student’s family, the judicial system, and the community for the purpose of strengthening each student’s readiness for the future. The goal is to divert students away from the justice system and delinquency by using a pro-active, non-punitive, and voluntary approach. The program focusses on the students and families that live in the community.

Traditional diversion programs hold offenders accountable for their actions while allowing them to avoid negative consequences associated with juvenile justice system contact. Individuals who are under the age of seventeen and who commit acts that would be crimes if they were older, are directed away from more formal juvenile justice system involvement. This is based on the belief that formal processing or incarceration has the potential to increase recidivism among youth, particularly low risk offenders.

By creating channels to navigate juveniles away from traditional processing, The School-Based Diversion Initiative serves as an opportunity to correct antisocial behavior and help the juvenile become a successful member of society. This program focuses on working with students individually to set goals, teaches self-awareness, self-regulation skills, and resilience while building trust and a strong support system. Partnering with parents, social workers, judges, community programs, juvenile officers, teachers, counselors, and school administrators allows the creation of individualized plans that work for families and the student. By involving students and families in community-based activities and peer groups, families and individuals find support for one another.

The primary goal of the School-Based Diversion Initiative is to assist and intervene in the lives of students before they require the services of the Vernon County Juvenile Office. The program deals mostly with status offenses which are not subject to detention except in extreme cases. This is a collaborative program that includes Nevada R-5 Schools, Vernon County Juvenile Office, the Vernon County Prosecuting Attorney, the Juvenile Judge, local Law Enforcement, and community members. The benefit of a collaborative program is the potential to bring together people with diverse backgrounds and training who can use their experience to benefit the youth by holding them accountable and responsible for their actions providing the best chance of successful completion of the program.

The School-Based Diversion Initiative is primarily for students who are identified as “heading down the wrong path”. The target population this first year is any youth in grades six through nine who has committed a status offense, is failing three or more classes, has an attendance record of eighty percent or less, has had two office referrals in the last two months, or brags or talks about risky behaviors. A student does not need to meet every criterion; however, this provides a synopsis of behavior that leads to dropping out of school or becoming a juvenile offender. A student will qualify for the program if he meets three or more of these criteria. The program will expand over the next couple of years to include youth under the age of 17 and will serve students in the rural county schools.

Another entry point into the program is pre-arrest diversion which prevents youth from being formally processed by the juvenile justice system. This type of diversion occurs when police choose not to arrest youth or when schools decline to involve police when youth engage in minor acts of lawbreaking that occur within the school. Additionally, referral from juvenile officers, prosecutors, or judges may also qualify for diversion opportunities. A student who has been referred to the School-Based Diversion Initiative may choose the program or to go through the juvenile justice system. By completing the Diversionary program, issues are kept off their record.

Once a student enters the program, he meets with the Diversion specialist weekly for about thirty minutes. Due to transportation issues, the student is taken out of an elective class rather than meeting before or after school. During this time, the Diversion Specialist assists the student in accomplishing academic goals and partners with teachers to gain insight to behaviors and participation in classrooms. Students will also learn about respect, responsibility, safety and why they matter; an introduction to trauma and how it affects the brain; self-regulation and self-management; conquering negative thinking; and building resilience. Each participant has a behavior concern sheet that his teachers must fill out on Fridays. This keeps the Diversion Specialist informed of how the student is participating in class and allows the Specialist to discuss with the student so he may make necessary changes.

Each participant is assigned an accountability team made up of a juvenile officer, school building administrator or principal, a judge, a local law enforcement representative, the parents of the student, and the Diversion Specialist. Every other week the student’s accountability team meets to discuss his progress. The Diversion Specialist will meet with the judge, juvenile officer, law enforcement, and school officials first to update on the student’s progress and challenges. Then, students and their parents spend about 10 minutes in front of the judge who will ask both student and parents questions as the Diversion Specialist offers support. Once completed, the judge will determine next steps. Next steps could be referral for mental health support, assistance acquiring needed services and supplies such as glasses, dental support, or the student may be continue working with the Diversion Specialist with no changes. When the judge feels the student is making good progress toward his goals, he will move the student to Phase 2.

During Phase 2 students only see the Diversion Specialist once every two weeks and meet with the accountability team once a month or as mandated by the judge. Once the judge feels the student has satisfactorily completed Phase 2, the student has completed the program. However, the Diversionary Specialist will continue contact and meet individually with the student at least once a semester or as necessary. Completion time for students will vary and is left to the judge’s discretion based on reports he receives from the Diversionary Specialist. These reports include teacher concerns and feedback.

Participation of parents is an integral part of the program, so parents and students will be required to sign an agreement that outlines each parties' responsibility for completion of the program. For instance, parents must commit to meet with the student's accountability team and assist the student with completing his or her individual plan. A parent may pull a student out of the program at any time. Legal ramifications regarding student behaviors will be clear. Juveniles can still be charged for their acts for up to two years if they do not successfully complete the program or commit a status offense within two years of completion. Frequent communication between all parties and transparency between youth and parents is imperative.

Sometimes youth do not meet the criteria for the School-Based Diversionary Program but they need a little direction in making good choices; or perhaps parents are not willing to participate or allow their youth to participate. Schools will offer an alternative by providing an elective course called *A Better Way Forward*. By proactively identifying and intervening in the lives of students who need additional support, *A Better Way Forward* is designed to build relationships with students providing direction and offering them mentorship. Students are given the opportunity to learn lifetime healthy hobbies and skills that will help them be successful in life. Students can only participate with school administration permission. The curriculum is specifically developed for students who are at-risk and will benefit from understanding why they become dysregulated according to their psychology and physiology.

In *A Better Way Forward*, the Diversion Specialist works with parents, school administration, counselors, and students to give direction and assist in making goals regarding their grades, office referrals, and attendance. Students are encouraged to explore way to overcome adversity in addition to learning coping strategies and how to use insight and wisdom from past challenges to prepare for future challenges. The goal is for students to become college and career ready as productive members of the community.

As mentioned earlier, parental involvement is vital to success of this program. Every family undergoes its own set of experiences and situations making the family unit unique. Often parents find themselves at a loss as to how to handle the difficulties they face and need support. Many diversion programs require parents to participate in parenting classes. This practice has not been shown to be too terribly successful. Most parenting practices focus on behavior control and do not cultivate the freedom of expression that is so necessary for developing teens. A new program called Parent Café is receiving good reviews and tends to help parents evaluate different parenting techniques. Parent Café fosters conversation, connection, and community by covering a range of topics that all come back to parenting and family. Every voice is valued, and everyone has the opportunity to learn and to lead. Through reflection and peer-to-peer learning, parents explore their strengths and can create strategies to strengthen their families. Participants will leave the Café feeling inspired, energized, and excited to put into practice what they have learned. To ensure participation, the local culinary class will prepare a meal and childcare will be provided.

Program Method Overview:

School-Based Diversion Program: As an alternative to traditional processing, the School-Based Diversion program is designed to reduce the risk of criminal socialization by providing role models and positive peers, instilling discipline, improving school engagement, and increasing levels of overall youth functioning.

Collaborative Partners	Target Population	Activities to be conducted	Staffing, facilities, equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vernon County School Districts • Vernon County Juvenile Office • Juvenile Judge • Diversity Specialist • Local Law Enforcement • Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth ages 17 or under • Status offenders • Failing 3 or more classes • Attendance of 80% or less • 2 office referrals within a 2-month period • Conversation flags • Information flags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with Diversionary Specialist weekly to set goals and learn about building resilience • Meet with accountability team and Juvenile Judge every other week • Provide <i>A Better Way Forward</i> curriculum for students who do not qualify for diversion • Develop Parent Café 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time Diversion Specialist • .5 FTE School-based health strategist- 20 hrs • Parent Café facilitator training • Childcare stipend • Community education materials

Program Outcomes:

Demonstrate a replicable model through evidence-based strategies to decrease the number of “at-risk” students referred to the juvenile justice system for status offenses.

Performance Indicator	Goal
Number of families involved in Diversion Program	25
Number of Students involved	25
Number of students with attendance of 90% or better	25
Number of office referrals	0
Number of Students completing Diversion Program	20
Number juvenile office referrals	5
Number of parents participating in Parent Cafe	25
Number of students raising GPA	20

Provide additional supports to “at-risk” students by building resilience and providing mentorship.

Performance Indicator	Goal
Number of students in <i>A Better Way Forward</i>	25
Number of students with attendance of 95% or better	20
Number of office referrals	0
Number of students raising GPA	20
% of individuals that report they can better self-regulate	90%
% of students who believe they can overcome adversity by building resilience	90%

Program Budget:

Description		Amount
School-Based Diversion Program	School-Based Diversion Specialist	\$43,000
	Materials- education, fidgets, office supplies	\$2000
	Administrative Costs (Court filings, summer program costs, etc.)	\$10,000
A Better Way Forward	Curriculum Materials- field trip transportation, class materials	\$2500
Parent Café	Parent Café Training	\$5000
	Food costs	\$7500
	Childcare stipend	\$3000
	Parent Incentives	\$2000
Total		\$75,000

An estimated \$75,000 is needed for one year of the program. Its success and sustainability are dependent on the procurement of funds to support the program for three years to collect data. Once three years of data is available, the program will be eligible for possible funding through Missouri State Division of Youth Services as well as Law Enforcement grants. With proven outcomes the school district will also be encouraged to support this effort through their annual budget.

Additionally, the program will extend out into Vernon County schools the second year. Healthy Nevada anticipates one Diversion Specialist would be able to provide services to those area.

NEVADA R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT
DR. TYSON BESHORE

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
811 WEST HICKORY STREET
NEVADA, MISSOURI 64772

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
MRS. JODIE McNELEY

TELEPHONE: 417-448-2000
FAX: 417-448-2006

June 13, 2022

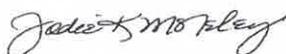
To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to express my support of Healthy Nevada's partnership with the Nevada community and specifically with the Nevada R-V School District.

The most recent opportunity to grow a Diversion Program may be the most exciting and impactful, for our youth, to date.

I was fortunate enough to hear another school district's presentation of their Diversion Program. I immediately began brainstorming how such a program could benefit so many of the students in our school. We foresee this program being a "game changer" for our at-risk population. The program is pro-active and provides the opportunity to literally divert youth from the juvenile court system. Perhaps one of my favorite criteria of the program is the inclusive side for the parents. By organizing time for parents, students and the school district's Diversion Specialist to meet and collaborate about student needs sounds very promising, in my opinion. These are the parents who are consistently getting the negative calls and communication from the school. To work alongside them for the good of their children could be powerful in curbing behaviors. On behalf of the Nevada R-V School District, it is with great anticipation and desire that I ask for your serious consideration for funding the Diversion Program.

Respectfully,



Jodie McNeley



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Wednesday, June 08, 2022

Dear Patterson Family Foundation

I would like to express my support of Healthy Nevada and their Youth Diversion Project. The City of Nevada has been an active member of Healthy Nevada since its conception in 2012.

Along with our R5 School District, 28th Judicial Court, and Community partners the City of Nevada acknowledges that youth offenders with minor crimes may not be best served going through the regular court process or, in the case of a not-guilty plea, a trial.

The Youth Diversion program will benefit our area youth, which commit a misdemeanor offense, by providing:

- Instruction on how to think before you act
- Motivation to set and reach personal goals.
- Reduced likelihood of committing future crimes.
- The knowledge to build a beneficial lifestyle.

Our community desires to offer qualified juveniles the opportunity to avoid prosecution in the court system. Which in turn will reduce the number of youth referred to the criminal justice system and detour delinquent or criminal activity by youth.

The City of Nevada ask for your consideration of the Healthy Nevada Youth Diversion Project

Sincerely,

Mark Mitchell

Mark Mitchell, City Manager

BARTON COUNTY
CEDAR COUNTY
DADE COUNTY
VERNON COUNTY



Twenty-Eighth Judicial Circuit of Missouri
Juvenile Division

100 West Cherry, Suite 9 • NEVADA, MO 64772
(417) 667-5015, FAX (417) 667-3857

LISA ABBOTT
JUVENILE OFFICER

MANDA BROWER
JUVENILE OFFICER

JAY SMITH
JUVENILE OFFICER

JENNIFER THOMAS
JUVENILE OFFICER

KYLA MOORHOUSE
CHIEF JUVENILE OFFICER, JD

June 7, 2022

Ms. Dana Redburn
Healthy Nevada
212 W. Walnut St, Suite B
Nevada, MO 64772

RE: Youth Diversion Program

Ms. Redburn,

As the Chief Juvenile Officer of Vernon County, I look forward to hopefully working with Healthy Nevada and other community stakeholders in the Youth Diversion Program. The goal of our office has always been to help rehabilitate our school-aged children through programming and treatment. Unfortunately, our office is small and there is only so much a Juvenile Officer can do.

What I respect about the Youth Diversion Program is the ability to have services wrap around the juvenile and family. This program would provide an extensive support network for kids and families that could be utilized extensively. We certainly have a need for this program.

The Juvenile Office completely supports the Youth Diversion Program and is willing to be involved in any way necessary.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K Moorhouse".

Kyla Moorhouse MoBarNo 57984
Chief Juvenile Officer



May 26, 2022

Dear Ms. Redburn,

Thank you for taking the time to discuss the future Juvenile Diversion program you hope to initiate in our community. I wanted to let you know the Department of Corrections Probation and Parole team in Vernon County fully support this program and are happy to assist where needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cassie Garwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Cassie Garwood
District Administrator (Serving Bates, Cass, Cedar, Henry, Johnson, St Clair, and Vernon counties)
330 S Prewitt Ave
Nevada, MO 64772
Cell: (417) 684-2902