

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE  
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS  
LT. GOVERNOR

September 27, 2022

Representative Frank Garner, Chair, Legislative Finance Committee  
Representative Mary Caferro, Vice-Chair, Legislative Finance Committee  
Charles T. Brereton, Director, Department of Public Health and Human Services

Dear Director and Committee Members:

Thank you for the Healthy Advisory Commission's recommendations contained in your September 9, 2022 letter to consider American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).

Presently, the recommendations comply with ARPA and all applicable guidance. I approve the following recommendations for these recent programs and funds with no changes:

**1. Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Disability Network**

Allocate \$121,081 to support expanding the public health workforce within the Disability Network for Independent Living Part B services to cover wages and benefits for public health professionals; indirect costs; and costs associated with equipment, training, and supplies for these professionals.

**2. Expanding the Public Health Workforce with Aging Services Bureau**

Allocate \$866,000 to the Senior and Long-Term Care Division to evaluate Montana Senior Centers (\$286,000), provide Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) with funding (\$500,000 total with \$50,000 to each AAA) to update data, and create a framework for training and recruiting Native American SHIP counselors (\$80,000). There are no non-federal participation match requirements.

**3. Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure, Work Force, and Data Systems**

Allocate \$15,515,413 in ARPA funds for Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure, Work Force, and Data Systems Funding.

#### **4. ELC Enhancing State Public Health Laboratory Capacity**

Allocate \$1,260,521 in Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases – Enhancing State Public Health Laboratory Capacity funds to support enhancements to the State Public Health Laboratory's capacity.

#### **5. ELC Reopening Schools: Support for Screening and Testing to Reopen and Keep Schools Operating Safely**

Approve the allocation of the remainder of the ELC Reopening Schools: Support for Screening and Testing to Reopen and Keep Schools Operating Safely funds, totaling \$14,485,982, to support COVID-19 screening and testing for K-12 schools and early childcare facilities to support safe operations.

#### **6. Pandemic Emergency Assistance Funds**

Allocate all remaining Pandemic Emergency Assistance Funds, approximately \$2.5 million, to enable the state to support children involved with the Department's Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) who are placed in a family setting and are temporarily out of the home until a reunification with the child's parent(s) occurs in a safe, timely, and appropriate manner that is determined to be in the child's best interest.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the work before you. I look forward to continued collaboration with the Commission and Department as we work to make critical and lasting investments in Montana's infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Gianforte', is written over a printed name and title.

Greg Gianforte  
Governor