

Okaloosa County
FY 2023 ARPA and County Non-Profit Grant Recommendations

Non-profit organizations play an important role in our community. Their ultimate purpose is to improve the quality of life of others. Okaloosa County recognizes these organizations touch every citizen in one way or another and has provided financial support to those entities through an annual application process. The budget for the County's Annual Non-Profit application process is \$250,000.

This year provided more than one non-profit funding opportunity. The Federal Government recognized non-profit organizations faced significant challenges due to the pandemic's increased demand for services, changing operational needs, as well as declines in donations. Support for non-profits is an eligible use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and \$1.5 million was approved for non-profits.

The county received 35 ARPA non-profit applications and 36 Annual County non-profit applications. An evaluation committee evaluated and ranked the applications. The minutes of each selection committee meeting is attached.

The recommendations for the ARPA and Annual County non-profits grants will be presented for approval at the September 6th Commission Meeting at 3:00pm. The agenda for that board meeting is available Friday, September 2nd at <http://okaloosacountyfl.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx>.

Based on available funding, recommendations are as follows based on ranked order.

ARPA Operating Grants Recommendation	
Bridgeway Center, Inc.	\$ 50,000
Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida, Inc.	\$ 50,000
Chautaugua Healthcare Services of Lakeview Center, Inc.	\$ 50,000
Feeding the Gulf Coast	\$ 50,000
Fresh Start for Children and Families, Inc.	\$ 50,000
Gulf Coast Kids House	\$ 50,000
Healing PAWS for Warriors	\$ 50,000
Horizons - Arc of the Emerald Coast	\$ 50,000
Legal Services of North Florida	\$ 50,000
Mental Health Association of Okaloosa Walton Inc	\$ 50,000
Okaloosa Aids Support and Informational Services	\$ 50,000
Shelter Housing, Inc	\$ 50,000
United for a Good Cause	\$ 50,000
The Pearl Project	\$ 10,000
Total ARPA Operating Grants Recommendation	\$ 660,000

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ARPA Capital Grants Recommendation	
Sharing and Caring	\$ 17,469
Safe Connections	\$ 433,701
Healing Hoofs	\$ 124,430
Crestview Shelter for Homeless	\$ 180,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 70,700
Boys and Girls Club	\$ 13,700
Total ARPA Capital Grants Recommendation	\$ 840,000

With regards to the County Annual non-profit application process, two funding options will be brought to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration. Recommendation A uses this minimum level of funding which allows for 10 grant awards at a total funding of \$250,130. Recommendation B uses the original requested funding amount which allows for 8 grant awards totaling \$250,000. The 8th ranked applicant's request for \$37,500 was reduced to \$27,000 to stay within budget.

Recommendations A & B for the county annual non-profit grant funding are shown below:

County Non-Profit Grant Applicants	Recommendation A	Recommendation B
Legal Services of North Florida	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Sharing and caring	\$ 10,000	\$ 18,000
Crestview Shelter for the Homeless	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Safe Connections	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
United Methodist (Embrace Florida Kids)	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000
Elder Services of Okaloosa County	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Gulf Coast Kid's House	\$ 20,000	\$ 50,000
Early Learning	\$ 37,500	\$ 27,000
Healing Hoofs Steps Corporation	\$ 11,150	\$ -
Youth Village	\$ 20,480	\$ -
Total County Non-Profit Grant Recommendation	\$ 250,130	\$ 250,000

