

VII
A-2

**AGENDA ITEM
REQUEST/JUSTIFICATION FORM**
(To be completed by requesting Department)
Forward all requests to Sharon Bourke, LC2 Civic Center
**DEADLINE SUBMITTAL IS 3:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY
BEFORE THE TUESDAY MEETING**

Agenda item: Finance Committee

(i.e. Consent/Recognition-Proclamation/Presentation/Public Hearing/Committee, etc.)

Date to be on agenda: 4/12/2022

Exact wording to be used for the agenda: ARPA Funding : Approval of Resolution authorizing an award of \$50,000 to Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance for a program which will provide healthy home education and resources to an at-risk group for health issues due to the condition of their homes, and \$50,000 to Generation Diamond Corporation for a program which provides food, clothing, temporary shelter, job training, clean-up facilities, and mental health referrals for people facing the challenges of homelessness.

Action requested:

Approval

Amount requested: \$100,000

Object Code: _____

Is item in current year's budget?

Yes X

No _____

Does this item commit funds in future years?

Yes _____

No X

If yes, explain: _____

Previous action taken on this item, if any: _____

Recommendations and rationale or action: Awards are consistent with the Guidelines issued by U.S. Treasury for utilization of ARPA funds.

Will anyone speak on behalf of this item, if so who? Commissioner Garcia

If this is a rush agenda item, please explain why: _____

Submitted by (Name & Dept.): Joe Lorenz, Director of Finance and Budget Ext. 444-6825

Date submitted: 4/6/2022

List Attachments: Resolution and Requests

(Attach resolution and all pertinent documentation; i.e. contract, agreement, memorandums, etc.)

Certified resolutions can be obtained at the County Clerk's website:
<http://www.douglascountyclerk.org/county-board-records/search-for-resolutions>

Completed by receiving office

Received in Administrative Office: Date 4/6/22 Time _____

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

Resolved,

WHEREAS, Douglas County received \$55.4 million from the federal government, pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and is scheduled to receive another \$55.4 million next year; and,

WHEREAS, this Board has been discussing the most appropriate ways to utilize those funds; and,

WHEREAS, this Board has decided to consider internal County government requests and requests related to improving mental health services across the County, and has also allocated \$2.5 million of the ARPA funding to each of the Commissioners to aid their districts; and,

WHEREAS, the Board received a request from Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance (OHKA) to assist in funding a Grassroot Leaders in Environmental Education program which will provide healthy homes education and resources to the most at-risk population for poor health outcomes due to the condition of their homes; and,

WHEREAS, this program is a first step to a family receiving healthy housing education and access to free construction services to improve the health of their home; and,

WHEREAS, the request from OHKA for \$50,000 will provide preventative solutions for diseases arising from substandard housing conditions and will give access to resources to complete healthy home improvements to clients' homes; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has also received a request from Generation Diamond Corporation for a project that will provide temporary survival needs for homeless, low-income people; and,

WHEREAS, the projects target population are people facing the challenges of homelessness and/or re-entry who are in immediate need for food, clothing, temporary shelter, jobs training, mental health referrals, showers, and clean-up facilities; and,

WHEREAS, this request for \$50,000 from Generation Diamond will help them to provide over 1,000 client encounters per month, primarily from Qualified Census Tract 32 in South Omaha; and,

WHEREAS, both of these aforementioned projects have been reviewed with the County's consultant, Deloitte, who has advised that both projects would be allowable expenses under the ARPA guidelines and the projects have been vetted by the County Board's ARPA Strategy Committee and are being sponsored by Commissioner Garcia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA that this Board hereby approves that these two requests for \$50,000 from the Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance and \$50,000 from the Generation Diamond Corporation are to be funded from the County's ARPA allocation as these projects meet ARPA funding guidelines. Also, the Chair of the Board is authorized and directed to execute whatever agreements or other documents necessary to effectuate this resolution.

DATED this 12th day of April, 2022.

Douglas County, Nebraska
Proposal Template for District 1 Discretionary ARPA Funds

COVER LETTER

Agency Name: Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance

Address: 1425 S. 13th Street Omaha, Nebraska 68108

Telephone Number: 402-934-9700

Tax ID Number: 20-5085175 **DUNS Number:** 789541146

Program Name: Grassroot Leaders in Environmental Education (GLEE)

Contact Person: Shomari Huggins

Title: Director of Community Engagement and Development

E-Mail Address: shomari.huggins@omahahealthykids.org

Fiscal Point of Contact: Kiernan Scott **Title:** Executive Director

E-Mail Address: kiernan.scott@omahahealthykids.org

Total Program Cost: \$483,000 **Request from ARPA:** \$50,000

Total Agency Budget for Fiscal Year in which Program will Operate: \$1,458,570

Fiscal Year(s) in which Program will Operate: 2022-2025

ARPA SECTION: SUPPORTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral health care and certain county public health, public safety, human services and other related staff

ARPA Sub-Section - ADDRESS DISPARITIES IN PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOMES

Treasury will presume that certain types of services are eligible uses when provided in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), to families and populations living in a QCT, or other households, businesses or populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

These ARPA approved services include:

- **Lead Paint remediation** or remediation of other lead hazards to reduce elevated blood lead levels in children
- **Childhood health or welfare**, including childcare, home visits by health professionals, parent educators and social service professionals, and services for child welfare-involved families and youth

1. Identify the basis of need or negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency to your organization.

The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the need for an organization that works directly with individuals, to improve the environmental health of their home and reduce health disparities. Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance (OHKA), provides education, supplies, and construction upgrades to reduce environmental hazards in the home and improve the health of children and families. Our work disrupts the cycle of poverty by ensuring a family's housing conditions do not prevent them from going to school, going to work, or engaging with their community. Finally, we reduce the economic and physical impact stemming from poor housing conditions for both families and healthcare systems.

Our primary service area in Omaha was named the largest lead superfund site in the United States, recognizing the overwhelming presence of lead in and around homes in northeast and southeast Omaha. As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, families are spending more time in their home environments, which may contain lead and other environmental hazards, such as mold, radon, and poor indoor air quality. Environmental hazards cause respiratory distress and exacerbate Covid-19 symptoms. Omaha also experiences more asthma related deaths than the national average (Nebraska Asthma Coalition), which has been identified as an underlying health condition related to Covid-19 deaths.

2. Very concisely describe the program or project including how it relates to the ARPA priorities stated in the above narrative and how this proposed project will respond to the coronavirus public health emergency or its negative impacts.

This request will help us provide healthy homes education and resources to the most at-risk population for poor health outcomes due to the condition of their home in Douglas County through our **Grassroot Leaders in Environmental Education (GLEE)** program. GLEE is an important first step to a family receiving not only healthy housing education but also free construction services to improve the health of their home. GLEE directly refers community residents to OHKA's other pillar program, **Championing Health and Energy Efficient Rehabilitation (CHEER)**, which provides free construction upgrades.

Our education programming and interventions serve as preventative solutions for disease arising from substandard housing conditions and the economic insecurity that results from frequent illness. Support from the Douglas County District 1 Discretionary ARPA Funds will go towards amplifying this message through GLEE and provide the resources to complete healthy home improvements in clients' homes. GLEE works in tandem with our CHEER program to make homes healthier for residents by first educating them about substandard housing conditions, evaluating their homes, and providing resources.

OHKA's programs reduce missed school days due to asthma by 54%, improve housing conditions from a D grade to a B grade on OHKA's proprietary Hazard Evaluation and Rating Test (HEART) Tool, and increase community awareness of lead poisoning by 600%. OHKA is currently experiencing an increased demand for our in-home services and community education materials due to the ongoing pandemic and worsening affordable housing crisis.

3. How is this need currently being addressed in the community? Is this a collaborative project and, if so, with whom? Describe how your organization is in a position to be a leading provider to address this need.

OHKA is the only organization in Nebraska that seeks to holistically improve families' health by providing tailored healthy home education, supplies, and construction interventions. No other organization in Nebraska provides the programs or extensive services that OHKA provides to Douglas County. Our programs, including GLEE, are unique to the Omaha community by not only providing education about healthy housing but providing resources to mitigate the risk of prominent environmental hazards of our area. Our home assessment tool allows us to identify triggers to illness and potential health and safety hazards in residents homes. OHKA has several community health partners that advise and assist in providing the connection of health and housing to OHKA's clients.

4. Who is your target population and why? How many estimated unduplicated people do you anticipate serving? Describe your programmatic focus on District 1 of Douglas County and your program's relation to serving individuals within Qualified Census tracts.

Our target population is residents of eastern Omaha who are primarily living in older homes, which may present a threat to children and families. The Federally designated Lead Superfund Site constitutes the majority of our service area, which is the northeast and southeast Omaha area. Based on information from families we served in 2020, 64% of the households served were receiving Medicaid. The plurality of OHKA's clients identify as Latino or Hispanic (37%), with the second-most-served population identifying as Black/African American (35%), and the third-most-served population identifying as White/Caucasian (19%). The remainder identify as either Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, or Multi-Racial. The average home that these families live in was built in 1938, and clients primarily reside in eastern Omaha in ZIP Codes 68111, 68108, and 68104. In 2021 we served 752 people through direct service programming (construction and supplies). District 1 lies within the Lead Superfund Site, which has been a focus area for our organization for a number of years. With this request, we intend to serve 100 households.

5. Provide data demonstrating how the proposed target population was disproportionality impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

OHKA's target population is among those who were most severely impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. Clients primarily live in the zip codes **68111** (5,850 cases of Covid-19 since March 2020), **68108** (3,637 cases of Covid-19 since March 2020), and **68104** (7,884 cases of Covid-19 since March 2020), which also represents some of the areas of the highest concentration of poverty in Omaha. As of January 25, 2022 zip codes 68111, 68108, and 68104 represent over 17,000 positive Covid 19 cases in Douglas County since March 2020. These areas also have a higher concentration of older housing stock than most of the rest of Omaha. OHKA serves families who live in substandard housing and are living at or near the poverty line. Currently, Omaha has a poverty rate of 15%, which is 3% higher than the national average (welfareinfo.org). 85% of the families served by OHKA are considered to be low-to-moderate income, or making 80% or less than the Area Median Income (AMI).

Older homes are not only vulnerable to poor energy efficiency which leads to high energy bills for families, but also other environmental factors such as lead, radon, carbon monoxide, and

asthma triggers. These homes are also predominantly located in the Omaha Lead Superfund Site, the largest residential Superfund site in the nation for lead contamination. In 2018, Children's Hospital noted that pediatric asthma disparities are highest in Northeastern Omaha. Although Nebraska has a lower prevalence of asthma, the state has had consistently higher death rates than the U.S. as a whole for over 20 years and Northeast Omaha has the highest death rates in the state (Nebraska Asthma Coalition). Nearly 800 adults and children died from asthma in Nebraska between 1995 and 2016. Over the course of the Covid 19 pandemic, 26% of deaths in Douglas County had respiratory illness as an underlying health condition like asthma. Low income families with children that suffer from asthma are forced to choose between maintaining employment and tending to their child's healthcare needs and rising treatment costs. Childhood lead poisoning leads to difficulty with impulse control, anger management, and other behavioral challenges for young children. OHKA's programming is a proven preventative measure for these two pediatric illnesses that can be detrimental to a child's future success and their family's financial standing while already struggling economically during the pandemic.

6. What is your vision to continue to address this need in our community? What are you doing now to achieve long-term sustainability?

In order to continue to address hazardous housing in our community, OHKA is committed to growing our capacity to serve. The requested funds help OHKA scale quickly to meet the increased demand for services due to the Covid-19 pandemic as more long-term funding is established.

8. How many federal grants has the agency previously managed?

OHKA has been the sub-grantee for two federal grants and managed the healthy home portion of the City of Omaha's Lead Hazard Control grant awarded by HUD. OHKA has also managed two EPA grants focusing on education and community resources for childhood lead poisoning prevention. In 2022, OHKA was also awarded the HUD Healthy Homes Production Grant as the primary grantee.

9. Has there been changes in management or accounting control systems over the last year?

No, there have not been any significant changes in the past year to management or accounting control systems. OHKA's Executive Director has been leading the organization since 2019 and the organization has maintained an external accountant for 5+ years. The current board treasurer has also been on the Board of Directors for seven years. The Directors of Community Engagement and Programs were hired in the fall of 2021.

11. When was your last external annual audit or review? Were there any findings?

The organization's last external audit was conducted in April 2021. No findings were found.

Budget Form

Total Cost of Program: \$164,500 Request from ARPA Fund \$50,000

Describe other Funding Sources at this time:

Weitz Foundation: Committed \$20,000 and Hubbard Foundation: Pending \$75,000

Expense Categories	Year 1: Total Program January 2022 - December 31, 2022	Year 1: ARPA Funds
Personnel (Salary, benefits not included in this budget)	\$88,200	\$23,000
Administrative Costs	NA	NA
Contractual Services	NA	NA
Rent/Occupancy	\$29,000	\$6,000
Office Related Expenses	\$22,500	\$6,000
Transportation	NA	NA
Equipment	NA	NA
Client Services	\$24,800	\$15,000
Capital Outlay	NA	NA
Other - Specify	NA	NA
Total Budget	\$164,500	\$50,000

Budget Narrative

For each budget category (items A – J), please describe in detail all items requested in your budget. Your explanation should include how each item relates to the program being requested with this funding.

A. Personnel -

Director of Community Engagement - Shomari Huggins, .60FTE to GLEE, this position is responsible for creating and implementing the community education plan for the GLEE program, provides supervision of Outreach and Digital Content Coordinators, and completes community education presentations. This position is also responsible for all education grant reporting and financial tracking. Direct Cost: \$7,666

Outreach Coordinator - Sophia Quintero, .60FTE to GLEE Program, this position is responsible for all social media education posts, provides in person and virtual training for individuals and organizations, and plans and attends community events. Direct Cost: \$7,666

Digital Content Coordinator - Natalia Macias Correa, .60FTE to GLEE Program, is responsible for all graphic design, design and printing of educational materials, inventory of outreach supplies, and ordering as necessary. This position also maintains OHKA's websites that provide online education and resources. Direct Cost: \$7,666

B. Administrative Costs – NA

C. Contractual Services – NA

D. Rent/Occupancy - OHKA offices provide community training spaces and workstations for the GLEE staff. Direct Cost: \$3,600, Admin Cost: \$2,400

E. Office Related Expenses (telephone, insurance, printing, postage, supplies) - OHKA provides all infrastructure required to operate workstations and a community training center. Admin Cost: \$6,000

F. Transportation (mileage, vehicle rental) – NA

G. Equipment – NA

H. Client Services - This line includes printed educational materials in various languages common in the focus area and healthy housing supply kits. These supply kits reduce VOCs, encouraging positive behavior (such as vacuuming and wet dusting), as well as lead dust cleaning supplies. All education materials and supply kits are focused on reducing health hazards and respiratory irritants. Direct Cost: \$15,000.

I. Capital Outlay - NA

J. Other – Specify - NA

Program Goal: Educate individuals on healthy home principles and the services OHKA provides to help remove health and safety hazards from their homes.

Please submit one page for each goal.

Objective	Activities	Responsible Party	Documentation / Outputs	Measurement
Educate those most at risk for negative economic impact and housing disparities due to Covid-19 about healthy housing principles and available resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a community education plan, including culturally relevant strategies• Implement community education plan• Begin providing community training classes regarding housing hazards and their relation to respiratory illness	Director of Community Engagement	Tracking recipients of information and services via digital software (via excel or Apricot360)	Increase in OHKA program enrollment by 20%

Objective	Activities	Responsible Party	Documentation / Outputs	Measurement
<p>Provide healthy housing resources (supplies and printed materials) to community residents in order to maintain their housing and health during the Covid-19 pandemic. Especially those residents at risk for severe Covid illness and complications (asthma).</p>	<p>Assist in planning and execution of community outreach/ education opportunities</p> <p>Follow up with families to extend programs and services</p>	<p>Digital Content Coordinator & Outreach Coordinator</p>	<p>Tracking data of outreach efforts in person and virtually (via excel or Apricot360)</p>	<p>Increase distributed materials to clients by 20%</p>

Please mark that you have the following (upon request):

A. Completed 2020 audit or financial review on file **Yes** No

B. Most recent completed fiscal year Profit & Loss Statement **Yes** No

Any additional comments on Items A & B above (optional): No

Attachment 1: Please attach a list of your current Board of Directors.

Attachment 2: Please attach your latest IRS determination letter.

Signature of Sponsoring Commissioner via Discretionary Funding (District 1)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Garcia', written in a cursive style.

Roger Garcia
Douglas County Commissioner
District 1

Date: March 3rd, 2022



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

P.O. Box 2508, Room 4010
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 4077552845
Apr. 30, 2009 LTR 4168C 0
20-5085175 000000 00 000
00030555
BODC: TE

OMAHA HEALTHY KIDS ALLIANCE
% KARA H EASTMAN
5006 UNDERWOOD AVE
OMAHA NE 68132

Employer Identification Number: 20-5085175
Person to Contact: Mrs. Jones
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your request of Mar. 13, 2009, regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that a determination letter was issued in February 2007, that recognized you as exempt from Federal income tax, and discloses that you are currently exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our records also indicate you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Cindy Westcott
Manager, EO Determinations

Board Member	Board Position	Year Joined	Term Ends	Employer					
Nick Thielen	Secretary	2018	2023	EHPV Management Group					
Jason Hagan	Treasurer	2016	2023	Sunshine Bank					
Jeremy Maske		2018	2025	Omaha Public Schools					
Kiley Petersmith		2020	2025	Nebraska Methodist College					
Jeffery Cooper		2015	2023	UNMC					
Rami Hanash			2025	Union Pacific Railroad					
Megan Connelly	Chair	2017	2024	Children's Hospital & Medical Center					
Kyle Hofeldt		2020	2025	Lutz					
Sarah Stanislav		2020	2025	Alegent Health					

Review of Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance (OHKA) ARPA Funding Request

Purpose: To provide operational funds to Grassroot Leaders in Environmental Education (GLEE).

Program description: GLEE is an important first step to a family receiving not only healthy housing education but also free construction services to improve the health of their home. GLEE directly refers community residents to OHKA's other pillar program, Championing Health and Energy Efficient Rehabilitation (CHEER), which provides free construction upgrades.

Amount Requested: \$50,000.00

What the cost covers: \$50,000.00 – Program general operations.

About Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance (OHKA):

We are a children's environmental health nonprofit whose mission is to improve children's health through healthy homes. Our main goal is to raise awareness in the city about environmental hazards in the home, and how these hazards can impact our health. We believe that education is fundamental for empowering people and creating change, and we provide construction upgrades to eligible clients that improve the health of their homes and families.

We strive to create environmental equality in Omaha for all by offering education on health hazards in the home, tenant legal rights, environmental testing, construction upgrades, and information on other available community resources in the city.

How does this initiative relate to COVID-19?

The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the need for an organization that works directly with individuals, to improve the environmental health of their home and reduce health disparities. Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance (OHKA), provides education, supplies, and construction upgrades to reduce environmental hazards in the home and improve the health of children and families. Our work disrupts the cycle of poverty by ensuring a

family's housing conditions do not prevent them from going to school, going to work, or engaging with their community. Finally, we reduce the economic and physical impact stemming from poor housing conditions for both families and healthcare systems.

Recommendation: **We recommend approval of this request.**

We recommend the approval since requested funds align with the ARPA Strategy Committee's recommendation to prioritize support initiatives for struggling communities and families when considering how to spend ARPA funds.

Additionally, this request fits into the first statutorily eligible use of ARPA funds - to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.

The Interim Final Rule identifies a non-exclusive list of eligible uses that address the disproportionate negative economic effects of the public health emergency including the building of stronger communities through investments in neighborhoods. The economic impacts of covid-19 are generally more acute in lower income neighborhoods or qualified census tracts (QCT) that include concentrated areas of high unemployment, limited economic opportunity, and housing insecurity.

In its response to FAQ 2.11, published November 15, 2021, Treasury presumes that certain types of services are eligible uses when provided in a QCT, or to families living in a QCT. In this instance, the purchase of food to support the low-income families especially the refugees, immigrants, and their families, will be an eligible use.

Douglas County, Nebraska
Proposal Template for District 1 Discretionary ARPA Funds

COVER LETTER

Agency Name: Generation Diamond Corporation

Address: 4829 S. 25th Street

Telephone Number: 402-813-7153

Tax ID Number: 81-2162843 DUNS Number: 089154925

Program Name: Temporary Survival Needs for Homeless, Low-Income people

Contact Person: Mrs. Blanca Mejia Title: Executive Director/Founder

E-Mail Address: generationdiamondcorp@gmail.com

Fiscal Point of Contact: Wendy Cooley Title: Seim Johnson, LLP

E-Mail Address: generationdiamondcorp@gmail.com

Total Program Cost: \$ 415,000.00 estimated Request from ARPA: \$ 50,000.00

Total Agency Budget for Fiscal Year in which Program will Operate: \$500,000.00

Fiscal Year(s) in which Program will Operate: Starting Date 1/1/2022 thru 12/31/2022

THE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND WAS ESTABLISHED TO HELP TURN THE TIDE ON THE PANDEMIC, ADDRESS ITS ECONOMIC FALLOUT AND LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A STRONG AND EQUITABLE RECOVERY.

There are five primary ways – outside of the “lost revenue allowance” – that a county may invest Funds. However, the two relevant to external nonprofit partners, and that will be considered for funding, are as follows:

SECTION 1: SUPPORTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral health care and certain county public health, public safety, human services, and other related staff

Sub-Section 1.a - ENHANCE BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Funding new or enhanced services that meet behavioral health needs exacerbated by the pandemic, as well as related public health needs, such as:

- Mental health treatment
- Substance misuse treatment
- Hotlines and/or warmlines
- Crisis intervention services
- Overdose prevention
- Infectious disease prevention
- Behavioral/physical health primary care services

Sub-Section 1.b - ADDRESS DISPARITIES IN PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOMES

Treasury will presume that certain types of services are eligible uses when provided in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), to families and populations living in a QCT, or other households, businesses or populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

These services include:

- **Community health workers** who will help residents access health services and resources that address the social determinants of health
- **Public benefits navigators** that help residents navigate and apply for federal, state, and local public benefits or services
- **Housing services** that support healthy living environments and neighborhoods that are conducive to mental and physical wellness
- **Lead Paint remediation** or remediation of other lead hazards to reduce elevated blood lead levels in children
- **Evidence-based community violence intervention programs** that will prevent violence and mitigate the increase of violence during the pandemic
- **Housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing or homelessness**
- **Impacts of COVID-19 on education**, including new or expanded learning services, assistance to high-poverty school districts, needs of students
- **Childhood health or welfare**, including childcare, home visits by health professionals, parent educators and social service professionals, and services for child welfare-involved families and youth

SECTION 2: ADDRESSING NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Responding to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries and rehiring of public sector workers (including county staff)

Program support under this category can include:

Sub-Section 2.a – ASSISTING LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS & POPULATIONS

Preferably those most disproportionately impacted by the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency with programming such as:

- **Food assistance**
- **Rent, mortgage or utility assistance**
- **Counseling and legal aid** to prevent eviction or homelessness
- **Internet access** or digital literacy assistance
- **Job training** related to a worker's occupation or level of training impacted by COVID

Sub-Section 2.b - SMALL BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT SUPPORT

State, local, and Tribal governments may provide assistance to small businesses to adopt safer operating procedures, weather periods of closure or mitigate financial hardship resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, including:

- **Loans or grants** to mitigate financial hardship, such as declines in revenues or impacts of periods of business closure, for example by supporting payroll and benefits costs, costs to retain employees, mortgage, rent, or utilities costs, and other operating costs
- **Loans, grants, or in-kind assistance** to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, such as physical plant changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers or partitions, or COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or contact tracing programs
- **Technical assistance**, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs

Section 2.c - ASSISTANCE TO UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

This includes services like:

- **Job training** to accelerate rehiring of unemployed workers
- **Workers unemployed due to the pandemic** or the resulting recession
- **Workers who were already unemployed** when the pandemic began and remain so due to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic
- **Individuals who want and are available for work**, including those who have looked for work sometime in the past 12 months or who are employed part time but who want and are available for full-time work

Please answer the following questions. Responses are limited to 500 characters.

Note: These questions parallel closely the questions utilized for ARPA funding applicants in Lancaster County, Nebraska.

1. **Identify basis of need or negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency to your organization.** We face an increased crisis during cold weather providing our usual services of a warming/day shelter, food and clothing, showers and computer access, as well as other types of services for homeless and needy people in our neighborhoods. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened this crisis for everybody, including those in our community who are most needy. Our shelter has also suffered a setback because of plumbing damage so we may have to find temporary quarters until repairs are done.

2. **Very concisely describe the program or project including how it relates to the ARPA priorities stated in the above narrative and how this proposed project will respond to the coronavirus public health emergency or its negative impacts.**

This project addresses both priority sections through Sub-Sections 1a (crisis intervention), 1b (housing insecurity, education), 2a (food and rent/mortgage assistance, internet access, job preparation) and 2c (helping the unemployed).

We offer warming/day shelter, food, hygiene kits, showers, bathroom, clothes/shoes, internet access, job referrals, transportation and bus tickets, education (GED, critical thinking, stress reduction) and documentation like driver's licenses and state IDs – the most basic needs facing persons experiencing homelessness and/or re-entry.

3. **How is this need currently being addressed in the community? Is this a collaborative project and, if so, with whom? Describe how your organization is in a position to be a leading provider to address this need.** Generation Diamond collaborates with like-minded organizations who also offer their skills in addressing the needs of homeless and/or re-entry populations. Our physical location gives us the opportunity to serve as a community hub for a variety of services from several nonprofits. Among our partners are Bailey Counseling, Stephen Center, St. Vincent de Paul and Saint Francis House for in-kind help, especially meals and clothing. Salvation Army, MAACH (warming shelter support), Together Inc. (housing referrals) and Whispering Roots (food) have also provided support.

4. **Who is your target population and why? How many estimated unduplicated people do you anticipate serving? Describe your programmatic focus on District 1 of Douglas County and your program's relation to serving individuals within Qualified Census Tracts.** Our target population are people facing the challenges of homelessness and/or re-entry who are in immediate need for food, clothing, temporary shelter, jobs, training, mental health referrals, computer access, showers and clean up facilities. We are currently serving over 1,000 client encounters per month for an estimated 500 unduplicated clients annually. The overwhelming majority of these individuals come from our neighborhood in QCT 32.

5. **Provide data demonstrating how the proposed target population was disproportionality impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.** Before COVID we were focused on cycles of 50 persons or so each quarter from the homeless/Thre-entry population. The need of people who were without basic resources to face COVID challenged us to reconsider our reach, and the numbers of people we served increased dramatically. At the outset of 2021, we served 278 client encounters per month. Last month we served over 1,000 clients. Overall, in 2021 we served an average over 800 client encounters per month. These numbers are incrementally increasing each month.
6. **What is your vision to continue to address this need in our community? What are you doing now to achieve long-term sustainability?** Our vision is simple: to help those who are most in need and for whatever reason are presently unable to help themselves. As long as the need exists, we will be here to serve them. We have plans to expand by renovating our basement to accommodate more clients. Our long-term goal is to grow and continue to expand our services to meet the needs of homeless and/or re-entry populations in our community. The classes and services we provide equip individuals to help themselves and to foster an attitude of competence and self-reliance to achieve a successful transition from homelessness to a life independent of "the system." At the same time, we are working to broaden our giving base and deepening our relationships with donors as appropriate and mutually agreed upon to continue with measured growth from year to year.
7. **How many federal grants has the agency previously managed?** Generation Diamond is currently managing a grant for mental health services from DHHS. We have our DUNS number for federal grants. During the COVID emergency we managed CARES grants from the state of Nebraska for mental health support and shelter staff funding.
8. **Has there been changes in management or accounting control systems over the last year?** No.
9. **When was your last external annual audit or review? Were there any findings?** Wendy Cooley of Seim Johnson, LLP, is responsible for our 990. Our most recent update/review was in early February, 2022. 990 and current report per GD P&L Budget vs Actual 12-2021 pdf are readily available.

Budget Form

Total Cost of Program: \$415,000.00 estimated **Request from ARPA Fund \$50,000.00**

Describe other Funding Sources at this time (indicate committed or pending, including if any other Commissioners have pledged support):

Sherwood Foundation (Pending); Omaha Community Foundation (Applying); United Way of the Midlands (Active & Pending); DHHS (Active & Pending); other smaller grants pending.

Expense Categories Below will be submitted separately via PDF or Office.

Expense Categories	Year 1 (January – December 2022)
Personnel & Contract Services	\$69,194 (ARPA funding requested would go toward this personnel category)
Rent/Occupancy	38,292
Office Related Expenses	19,454
Transportation	10,800
Equipment	2,660
Client Services (less Volunteer hours-in-kind)	240,227
Capital Outlay	Not determined
Other – Added Personnel	96,000
Total Budget w/ added personnel	550,452

Budget Narrative

For each budget category (items A – J), please describe in detail all items requested in your budget. Your explanation should include how each item relates to the program being requested with this funding.

A. Personnel & Contract Services. The \$50,000 in ARPA funding would be spread across the personnel positions below in order to enhance programming capacity and client support, combined with other revenue sources that support our personnel expenses.

1. Executive Director. The executive director provides daily guidance for the programs, operations, and development of Generation Diamond. The executive director understands and provides oversight for Generation Diamond staff and volunteers. (70% of hours to Program)

2. Intake Coordinator. The intake coordinator greets every person entering the Generation Diamond building, identifies each guest's purpose for coming to Generation Diamond, and directs each guest to the program and person best suited to address their specific need. (95% program)

3 and 4. Case manager – mentor. The case manager-mentor functions as a liaison between program participants and the Generation Diamond staff. The Peer Support Specialist stays in frequent touch with participants to encourage, coach, and sometimes offer constructive criticism to promote the participants' success in every area of the Generation Diamond program. The case manager – mentor also establishes and maintains longer-term client files. (100% program)

5. Receptionist. The receptionist greets every person entering the Generation Diamond building and determines whether a guest requires long-term attention that should be directed to the intake coordinator or not. The receptionist receives and routes telephone calls and general emails. The Receptionist also receives and directs deliveries. (40% program)

- B. Rent/Occupancy.** The annual rent and maintenance for the facility at 4829 S. 25th Street, Omaha, NE 68107 is \$38,292. The space features a large reception and warming area, an office, two showers, a kitchen and dining area, a large meeting/classroom, a computer area, and a basement yet to be refurbished for more multiuse rooms.
- C. Office Related Expenses (telephone, insurance, printing, postage, supplies).** Office-related expenses for typical office activities (copying, office supplies, postage, bank service, etc.) are projected to be \$19,454 in 2022.
- D. Transportation (mileage, vehicle rental, bus tickets).** Total vehicle and bus ticket expenditures are set for 2022 at \$10,800, the same amount as last year.

- E. **Equipment.** Program equipment expenditures will likely cover another printer, up to two projectors, and related wall mounts or stands. Projected total is \$2,660.
- F. **Client Services.** Costs to cover food and distribution, clothing and distribution, hygiene supplies, shower linens, class materials, bill payment assistance, 1099 staff, internet and computer access, job search and referral, housing search and referral, and documentation (state ID, driver's license, birth certificate) is set at \$240,227 to handle an estimated 9,600 client encounters (800 per month).
- G. **Capital Outlay.** We will face a capital outlay for basement repairs. This is not figured into the budget at this point while we gather bids for the work and have a more definitive idea of costs and anticipated results.
- H. **Other – Added Personnel.** The amount of \$96,000, if and when raised, will cover the onboarding of three additional personnel during Q2 or Q3 @ \$32,000 per staff member. It is an optional but very important line item if Generation Diamond is to keep services flowing (and likely growing). We simply need more hands on deck.

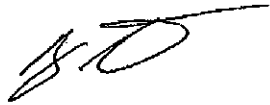
Please mark that you have the following (upon request):

- A. Completed 2020 audit or financial review on file Yes X No
- B. Most recent completed fiscal year Profit & Loss Statement Yes X No

Application submitted by: Ben Salazar, grant writer

Signature of applicant: *Ben Salazar*

Date: 1/24/2022

Signature of Sponsoring Commissioner via Discretionary Funding (District 1)

Roger Garcia
Douglas County Commissioner
District 1

Date: 3/4/22

GENERATION DIAMOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022

James Prouty	President	(712) 308-0315	Generationdiamondcorp@gmail.com	Retired
Eros G. Mejia-Hernandez	Vice-President	(402) 591-1527	erosgmh@gmail.com	Help Systems Associate
Rigoberto Perez-Fuentes	Treasurer	(402) 578-8429		Banker
Blanca Mejia	Executive Director	(402) 813-7153	Generationdiamondcorp@gmail.com	Executive Director, Generation Diamond
Oscar Ortiz	Secretary	(402) 609-0361	oscaromaha77@hotmail.com	Legal Assistant
Pierre Sagitteh	Board director	(402) 612-5200	pierres@hicnebraska.org	Executive Director, Heartland Integration

Review of Generation Diamond Corporation ARPA Funding Request

Purpose: To provide operational funds to the Temporary Survival Needs for Homeless, Low-Income People program.

Program description:

Program offers warming/day shelter, food, hygiene kits, showers, bathroom, clothes/shoes, internet access, job referrals, transportation and bus tickets, education (GED, critical thinking, stress reduction) and documentation like driver's licenses and state IDs –the most basic needs facing persons experiencing homelessness and/or re-entry.

Amount Requested: \$50,000.00

What the cost covers: \$50,000.00 – Program general operations.

About Generation Diamond Corporation:

Generation Diamond was founded by Blanca Mejia in 2016. Having become involved with young people seeking to re-establish their security and future after significant intervening events in their lives, Mejia recognized their primary need for a stable environment and resources that allow for necessary changes in behavior and habits. This work soon expanded to include anyone in unstable social and economic crises, regardless of age or circumstance, helping to build a foundation for a stable, secure, and productive future.

Generation Diamond exists to empower adults who are 19 and older through transitional programs and services to succeed in building a secure and stable future. We assist with immediate needs after significant disruptions and offer longer-term programs that provide intentional support, direction, and hope. We believe everyone deserves a chance. And then another.

How does this initiative relate to COVID-19?

We face an increased crisis during cold weather providing our usual services of a warming/day shelter, food and clothing, showers, and computer access, as well as other types of services for homeless and needy people in our neighborhoods. The COVID-19

pandemic has worsened this crisis for everybody, including those in our community who are most needy. Our shelter has also suffered a setback because of plumbing damage so we may have to find temporary quarters until repairs are done.

Recommendation: **We recommend approval of this request.**

This request fits into the first statutorily eligible use of ARPA funds - to respond to the Covid-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.

The Interim Final Rule (IFR) identifies under **Section 2, Sub-Section 2.a**, Assisting Local Households & Populations. Preferably those most disproportionately impacted by the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency with programming such as:

- Food assistance
- Rent, mortgage or utility assistance
- Counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness
- Internet access or digital literacy assistance
- Job training related to a worker's occupation or level of training impacted by COVID

Sub-Section 2.b – Small Business and Non-Profit Support

State, local, and Tribal governments may aid small businesses to adopt safer operating procedures, weather periods of closure or mitigate financial hardship resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, including:

- Loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship, such as declines in revenues or impacts of periods of business closure, for example by supporting payroll and benefits costs, costs to retain employees, mortgage, rent, or utilities costs, and other operating costs
- Loans, grants, or in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, such as physical plant changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers or partitions, or COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or contact tracing programs
- Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs

Section 2.c – Assistance to Unemployed Workers

This includes services like:

- Job training to accelerate rehiring of unemployed workers
- Workers unemployed due to the pandemic or the resulting recession
- Workers who were already unemployed when the pandemic began and remain so due to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic
- Individuals who want and are available for work, including those who have looked for work sometime in the past 12 months or who are employed part time but who want and are available for full-time work

IFR identifies a non-exclusive list of eligible uses that address the disproportionate negative economic effects of the public health emergency including the building of stronger communities through investments in housing and neighborhoods. The economic impacts of covid-19 are generally more acute in lower income neighborhoods or qualified census tracts (QCT) that include concentrated areas of high unemployment, limited economic opportunity, and housing insecurity.

In its response to FAQ 2.11, published November 15, 2021, Treasury presumes that certain types of services are eligible uses when provided in a QCT, or to families living in a QCT. In this instance, the use of ARPA funds will be to help build a stronger neighborhood.