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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

The Klamath County Board of Commissioners will open a second round of grant funding using the American Rescue Plan Act funds in November 2022.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, known as Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds consists of \$350 billion to be distributed to state, local territorial and tribal governments nationwide. State, local and tribal governments across America have been under an unprecedented strain in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. While the need for services has increased, state and local revenues have plummeted as a result of the economic fallout from the crisis. The ARPA provides dollars to state, local, and tribal governments to enable them to continue to support the public health response and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable economic recovery. In addition to helping these governments address the revenue losses they have experienced as a result of the crisis, it is intended to help them cover costs incurred due to responding to the public health emergency and to provide support for a recovery – including through assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits, aid to impacted industries, and support for essential workers. It also provides resources for state, local, and tribal governments to invest in infrastructure, including water, sewer, and broadband services.

Board of Commissioners Chair, Kelley Minty said, "We want to get these dollars into the community for maximum impact. We also believe in a transparent process, people should easily be able to learn how these monies are spent." Klamath County received 6.6 million dollars in ARPA funds in 2021 and an additional 6.6 million dollars in ARPA funds this year. During the County's first round of grant funding in 2021, the Board of Commissioners awarded grants to 30 local agencies totaling over 6 million dollars.

"County Commissioners and staff will be undergoing a process to evaluate the impacts of dollars previously awarded through this program. Results of that analysis will inform the County on what types of projects we will be funding early next year. It is important that future generations of our community be able to see the impacts of these once in a generation investments" said, Commissioner Derrick DeGroot.

The Board of Commissioners will release grant criteria and the grant application in November and plan to review applications and hear presentations from applicants in early 2023.

More information can be found at www.klamathcounty.org.

