

## **SUPPLEMENTAL 2 AGENDA**

**Suspension of the Rules Request  
ALC/Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER)  
Subcommittee  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022  
9:00 a.m. - Room A, MAC**

- A. American Rescue Plan Act Request
  - 1. Department of Commerce – Arkansas Economic Development Commission



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
**Department of Finance  
and Administration**

**OFFICE OF BUDGET**  
1509 West Seventh Street, Suite 402  
Post Office Box 3278  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-3278  
Phone: (501) 682-1941  
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[www.arkansas.gov/dfa](http://www.arkansas.gov/dfa)

June 13, 2022

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair  
Representative Michelle Gray, Co-Chair  
Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee  
Arkansas Legislative Council  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Supplemental Item

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request suspension of the rules by the committee for review of the item on the attached pages. This item was received after the deadline for submission to your Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review Committee, but we are requesting inclusion in this month's review.

Sincerely,

  
Larry W. Walther  
Cabinet Secretary

LWW

Attachment(s)



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Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: FY 23 American Rescue Plan Act Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Section 37 (02) of Act 199 of 2022, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

- Department of Commerce – Arkansas Economic Development Commission –  
AR Rural Connect Program \$5,000,000

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Larry W. Walther'.

Larry W. Walther  
Cabinet Secretary

LWW  
Attachment(s)

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION  
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST  
SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022**

FY23

Agency: Arkansas Economic Development Commission Business Area Code: 0790

Program Title: America Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Arkansas Rural Connect Program

Granting Organization: 117th Congress of the United States CFDA #: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date of Authorization Beginning: 07/01/2022 Ending: 06/30/2024

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):

To utilize funding provided under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, for continuation of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission's rural broadband program, grant awards, operations, purchase of equipment and construction expenses necessary to assist in the deployment or improvement of broadband infrastructure into unserved or improvement to unserved communities in Arkansas; cost of infrastructure equipment required to provide broadband network service; regular salaries and personal services matching for staff; fees for management consultants and strategic program design advisory services, including customizable software services and program management support; engineering costs for project design; legal costs related to the acquisition of real estate rights or easements; costs of media, electronics, cabling, and communications equipment; make ready costs for utility pole attachments; boring and splicing cost for infrastructure construction; educational related expenses to educate and teach citizens how to use and utilize broadband services; payroll for extra help staff or contract labor; to ensure timely and proper implementation of network construction, related equipment and material installation necessary to expand the broadband footprint in Arkansas. These funds will support essential infrastructure improvements that will allow Arkansans to compete in today's digital economy, enhance healthcare outcomes through telemedicine, and improve access to education. This appropriation will provide for three (3) growth pool positions established during FY22 for Broadband Office Operations

**American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding**

Func. Area: COMM Fund Code: New Direct Funding: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FC: New Internal Order/WBS Element: New Steering Comm. Approved: X  
 Continuation: \_\_\_\_\_

	Program Funding Amount
Regular Salaries	650,000
Extra Help	
Personal Services Matching	350,000
Operating Expenses	
Conference & Travel Expenses	
Professional Fees	4,000,000
Capital Outlay	
Data Processing	
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)	
Other: 590:00:46	
Other:	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,000,000</b>

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 06/30/2024


N/A

**DFA IGS State Technology Planning** Date  
 Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DFA IGS State Technology Planning.

**Positions to be established: (list each position separately)**

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Comt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.

Approved by:  06/10/22 Robert Brech 6/13/22  
 Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date JB Office of Budget Date Office of Personnel Management Date  
 Michael Preston, Arkansas Department of Commerce MTurner 06/13/22



Asa Hutchinson  
GOVERNOR

Michael Preston  
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

June 10, 2022

Mr. Larry W. Walther  
Secretary, Department of Finance and Administration  
Chair, Arkansas American Rescue Plan Act Steering Committee  
1509 W. 7<sup>TH</sup> St., Ste. 401  
Little Rock, AR 72201-3933

Dear Secretary Walther:

As you know, the State Broadband Office is adding full-time employees to address the need for broadband service in the areas of Arkansas that are still unserved and underserved. Additionally, due to the recent state broadband master plan's recommended changes to the ARC program to 1) implement competitive bidding and 2) make awards utilizing census block groups, it will be necessary to expand the scope of work performed by the ARC program's contractors. I am therefore requesting \$5,000,000 in ARPA funding to be used for administrative expenses associated with the broadband office. The funding is expected to be allocated as follows:

Broadband Office Staffing	\$1,000,000
Contractors (UAMS, CTEH, grant writer)	<u>\$4,000,000</u>
Total Request	\$5,000,000

The Department of Commerce is also seeking review and approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council for this funding request, as well as necessary spending appropriation. This requested amount will enable the Broadband Office to take the steps necessary to resume issuing broadband grants.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Preston".

Michael Preston  
Secretary