



Department Source: Economic Development

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: December 20, 2021

Re: Report: The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funding for Columbia's Recovery and Economic Stimulus Plan

Executive Summary

City staff recommends funding three workforce development programs utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that have been identified to address the following initiatives: prepare future workers, re-train dislocated workers, and encourage entrepreneurs who want to start their own business.

Discussion

The City of Columbia has received approximately half of the expected \$25.2 million from The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 which is intended to be used for Columbia's Recovery and Economic Stimulus Plan. At the Pre-Council meeting on October 4, 2021, City Council identified these dollars as an opportunity to use these limited, one-time funds to make catalytic investments in Columbia to transform the local economy and make us even stronger in the future by addressing disparities exposed by the pandemic, supporting workforce development for those who may have been laid off, experienced reduced hours, or whose job may have changed, and stimulate economic activity.

There are three programs requesting funding under the Workforce Development initiative that is intended to prepare future workers, re-train dislocated workers, and encourage entrepreneurs who want to start their own business. These three programs, MACC, Job Point, and CoMo Cooks are currently providing these services and training opportunities to the community, and additional ARPA funds will allow them to expand their offerings and ability to reach and train more citizens, especially those who are traditionally under-represented in post-secondary education and/or are impacted by racial, social, and economic inequality.

The MACC proposal includes the expansion of the Mechatronics and Makerspace programs, as well as customized training and early college career and technical education scholarships. The CoMo Cooks shared commercial kitchen proposal is for the purpose of purchasing additional equipment, renovating space in a new permanent location, and increasing program offerings for marketing, retail, business coaching, workshops and training. The Job Point proposal is for the purchase and renovation of a new training facility and purchase of software and a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) simulator. All three proposals are attached to this Staff Report.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: One-time funding for all three proposals is approximately \$1,670,339.00.

Long-Term Impact: Enter the cost of proposed legislation to the city for years **beyond two**.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Resilient Economy, Secondary Impact: Inclusive Community, Tertiary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
Manually enter dates in this format: MM/DD/YYYY. Use hard returns to get to the next line of action entry.	None

Suggested Council Action

Direct the City Manager to negotiate agreements with the three organizations (MACC, Job Point, CoMo Cooks) for the expansion of their current workforce development programs utilizing eligible ARPA funds.