

## Spirit Fund Project Funding Opportunities

**Background:** In March of 2023, the Winnebago County Board applied surplus dollars to a special revenue fund titled the Spirit Fund to invest in legacy projects for the county government and certain identified community projects. The fund totals just over \$33 million and is split roughly in half for county government projects and identified community projects. Spending proposals are sent to the county board after deliberation of the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission. The commission is putting out this funding opportunities request.

*This document was approved at the commission's May 3, 2023, meeting.*

**Minimum and Maximum Awards:** For planning purposes, a minimum award is \$50,000 with a maximum award of \$500,000. The commission upon review may choose to increase the maximum awards. Proposals seeking more than \$500,000 should include a section on why more funding is needed.

**Match Dollars:** Matching funds are required. No award may exceed 50% of the total project cost. Other government funds are eligible for match. All government funds should not exceed 75% of the total project unless the proposal is for a government project. Private and foundation matching dollars are preferred.

**One-time funds:** The commission is seeking ideas to fund legacy, one-time funds. At this time, pilot programs which require on-going or future costs will not be considered. Requests for operational dollars will also not be considered.

**Framework of Spirit Fund Spending:** All proposals should clearly articulate how the project complies with as many outcomes identified in the commission approved Framework of Spirit Fund Spending document.

**Broad Categories and Funding Available:** At this time, it is unknown how much total funding is available. The amounts included in the Spirit Fund planning document are below and are a best guess of allocation. In addition to the framework document, proposals should fit into three broad categories.

*Health and Human Services - \$2,500,000*

*Economic Development and Housing Initiatives - \$6,120,624*

*Veterans Transitional Housing - \$1,000,000*

**Project Completion:** It is expected that all projects which receive awards are completed by December of 2026.

**Other County Funding:** All proposals must identify any county funding, including pass through grants, received in the past ten years, and requested in 2023 and 2024 from all departments.

**Other Funding Opportunities:** Proposals which identify other funding or grant opportunities are encouraged even if the organization submitting is not requesting the funds. Ideas for using Spirit Fund dollars as a required match in other grant and funding opportunities are especially encouraged.

**Single-Audit:** All organizations receiving money may be required to submit a single-audit or other audit documents. Previous years' audits may be requested prior to awarding of Spirit Funds.

**Length of Application:** All proposals are limited to a word count of 2000.

**Attachments:** There is no limit to attachments; however, attachments may not be scored.

**Submission and questions:** All proposals and questions should be submitted to [spirit@winnebagocountywi.gov](mailto:spirit@winnebagocountywi.gov) by June 30, 2023. Question answers will be posted to the Winnebago County website.

**Review and Scoring:** All proposals will be reviewed and scored by a citizen member of the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission in July with staff support from the Office of the County Executive. The citizen member will be determined by a majority vote of the commission. With consent of the commission co-chairs, the citizen member may choose up-to three additional citizen reviewers. Each reviewer will represent one of the following areas: Oshkosh, Neenah/Menasha, and the rural areas. No additional reviewer may have a conflict of interest with any of the applications.

*The commission appointed Beth Oswald as the citizen member to lead scoring.*

**Ideas for County Government Projects:** This announcement of funding opportunities is intended for community projects. Ideas for County Government Projects could be submitted using the same email address and 2000-word limit.

**Advertising of this document:** This document will be posted on the front page of the county website, released with a press release to the media, emailed to all current partners of the county, emailed to all local governments in the county, and emailed to the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, United Ways covering the county & chambers of commerce covering the county to encourage those entities to email to potential applications.