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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kankakee County Launches American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Social Services Funding Program

Kankakee, Illinois (December 13, 2022) — At its Full Board meeting, the Kankakee County Board authorized the release of a \$2m *Notice of Funding Opportunity* (NOFO) for targeted Social Service efforts in Kankakee County.

“The first two years of ARPA funding have been centered on impacted small businesses, not-for-profits, and small government units that did not receive funding directly,” said Chairman Andy Wheeler. “Our goal was to get funds in the hands of those individuals and entities that were most at-risk due to the pandemic. We are now entering the phase where we will strategically deploy funding in areas that address future impacts. We are looking to build connectivity between service providers and begin a coordinated, data-driven approach to addressing these areas identified as community needs.”

Interested applicants will be required to submit a request for proposals (RFP) addressing one or more categories gleaned from the Kankakee County’s Community Needs Assessment. The County Board is encouraging applicants to collaborate with other providers by giving higher scoring weight to community partnerships that demonstrate a cooperative approach in the following categories:

- Mental Health
- Housing
- Workforce skills development
- Youth development and programs

“I encourage all providers to carefully read the NOFO and get creative with their approach, and above all, build a coalition,” concluded Wheeler. “The initial funding to launch and support this effort will end in 2026 when federal ARPA funding ends. Our

goal is to have a model that works for our community, one that can continue into the future.”

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Kankakee County operates under the township form of government, and is the governing body for Kankakee County outside of municipal jurisdictions. For more information on Kankakee County, visit <https://www.k3county.net/>. Please note that the following information is strictly a news release. We do not wish to pay for publication.