



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS URGE SPEEDY PASSAGE OF AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN ACT SPENDING PLAN**

Approval of the ARPA plan will result in federal resources flowing to hospitals, mental health needs, and the County's social safety net.

Shelby County, TN – Members of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners have worked collaboratively with Mayor Lee Harris' administration to produce an American Rescue Plan Act Spending Plan to see Shelby County into the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Key members of the Commission effort include, Commission Chairman Willie F. Brooks, Hospitals and Health Committee Chairman Van Turner, and Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Michael Whaley.

The ARPA plan uses federal funds to continue the County's COVID response programs and direct relief to county residents. The ARPA plan will be discussed during the Shelby County Commission's Budget and Finance Committee meeting today, Wednesday, October 6, 2021.

Shelby County Commission Hospitals and Health Committee Chairman Van Turner:
"COVID-19 continues to affect every aspect of County Government and almost every aspect of daily life. The pandemic has not let up and neither can we. We must pass the ARPA spending

plan without delay to continue our response, support our hospitals, and improve access to healthcare.”

Shelby County Commission General Government Committee Chairman Reginald Milton:

“The pandemic has made painfully obvious our community’s greatest challenges. We need to answer the call and expand mental healthcare resources and invest in Regional One Health. I am pleased to see that our ARPA plan makes these critical investments and urge my fellow Commissioners to join me in support of speedy approval.”

Shelby County Commission Education Committee Chairman Tami Sawyer:

“I have advocated for these critical federal funds to be used where they’re needed most, to support schools, families, and community organizations. I believe our ARPA spending plan lays the groundwork to get support to our community, including free masks, access to vaccinations, and investments in underserved neighborhoods.”

Shelby County Commission Economic Development and Tourism Chairman Mickell Lowery:

“American Rescue Plan Act funds make it possible to continue Shelby County’s COVID response and fund new programs to address considerable needs that have been exposed by the ongoing pandemic. It is critical that we get these resources into our community without delay.”

Shelby County Commission Conservation Committee Chairman Mick Wright:

“While I differ with the administration on some COVID policies, I am happy to support this unified plan to restore the county’s general fund balance, address public safety needs, and make a historic investment in our local hospitals. We can all get behind this critical support for the hospitals and healthcare workers who have been our heroes throughout this pandemic.”

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris:

“Thanks to President Joe Biden’s administration, funds from the American Rescue Plan Act make it possible to continue programs developed over the last 18 months to meet the needs of residents. With Commission approval of our ARPA plan, we can use federal funds to continue our response and fund new programs to address considerable needs that have been exposed by COVID-19.”

(End of Release)