



## AGENDA

Eau Claire County ARPA Committee  
Monday, February 21, 2022, at 3 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Webex

**Dial In:** 1-415-655-0001 **Access Code:** 2594 346 8010

*\*please remain muted when not speaking*

### **Meeting Link:**

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=m96ed5e2040d4a4fe779a02937c4beee6>

**Password:** aUBnZ75xEF6

For those wishing to make public comment, please fill out and submit this form at least 60 minutes prior to the meeting: <https://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/Home/Components/FormBuilder/FormBuilder/809983158d2f4a7dbb0d7b9032cf95ef/12242#>

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1. Call Meeting to Order and Confirmation of Meeting Notice
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Review and approval of meeting minutes – **Discussion/Action**
  - a. February 7, 2022
5. Grant application/process update – **Discussion/Action**
6. Next Steps – **Discussion**
7. Adjourn

Please note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-6945 (FAX) 8391669 or (TDD)8394735 or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County

Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

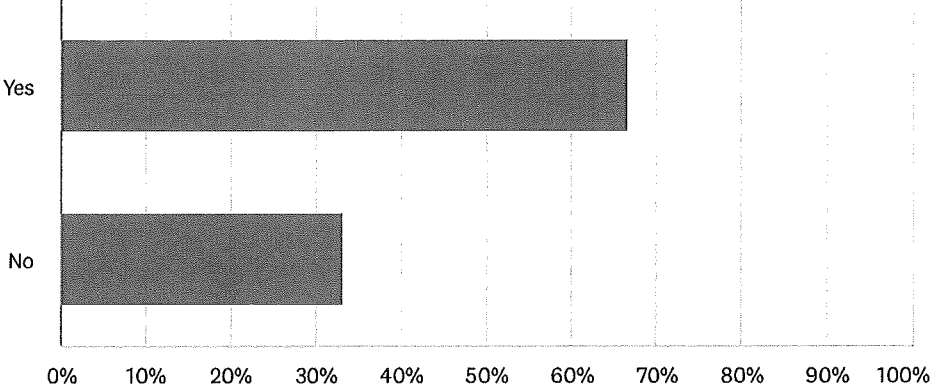
# Q1 Eau Claire County ARPA Committee Member Name

Answered: 12 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	100.00%	12
Company	0.00%	0
Address	0.00%	0
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	0.00%	0
State/Province	0.00%	0
ZIP/Postal Code	0.00%	0
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	0.00%	0
Phone Number	0.00%	0

# Q2 Do you agree with the two program components and the dollar amount set aside for each?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 0



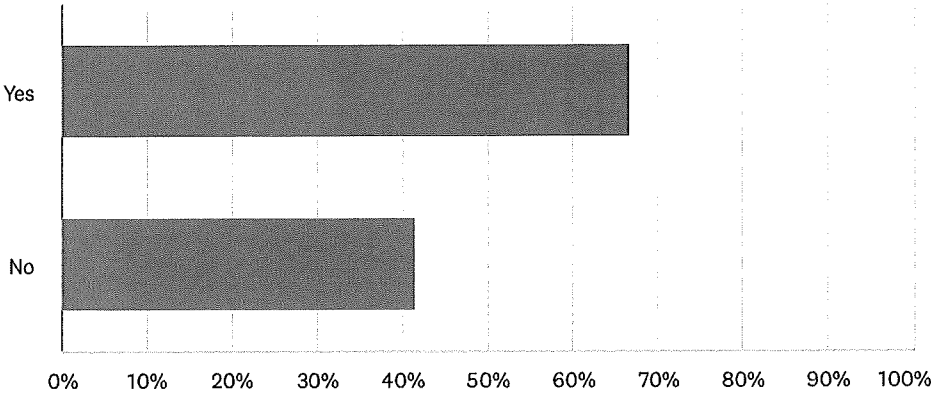
**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

Yes	66.67%	8
No	33.33%	4
<b>Total Respondents: 12</b>		

### Q3 Do you agree with the eligibility criteria for Component 1?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 0



**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

Yes

66.67%

8

No

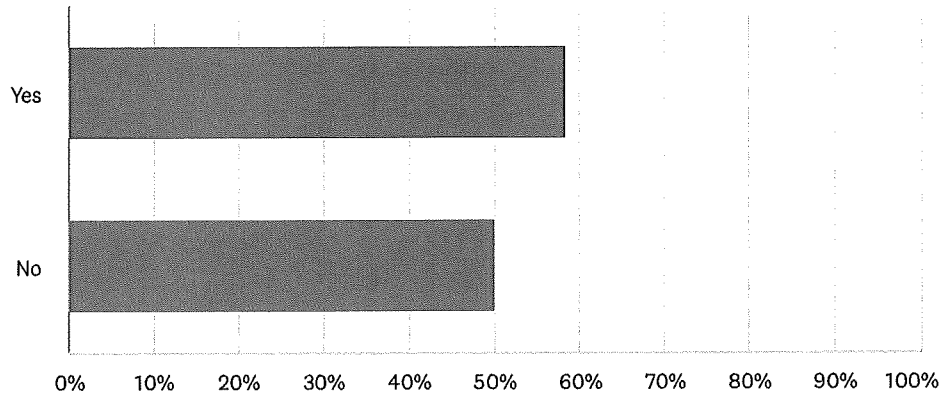
41.67%

5

Total Respondents: 12

### Q4 Do you agree with the eligibility criteria for Component 2?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 0



**ANSWER CHOICES**

Yes

No

Total Respondents: 12

**RESPONSES**

58.33%

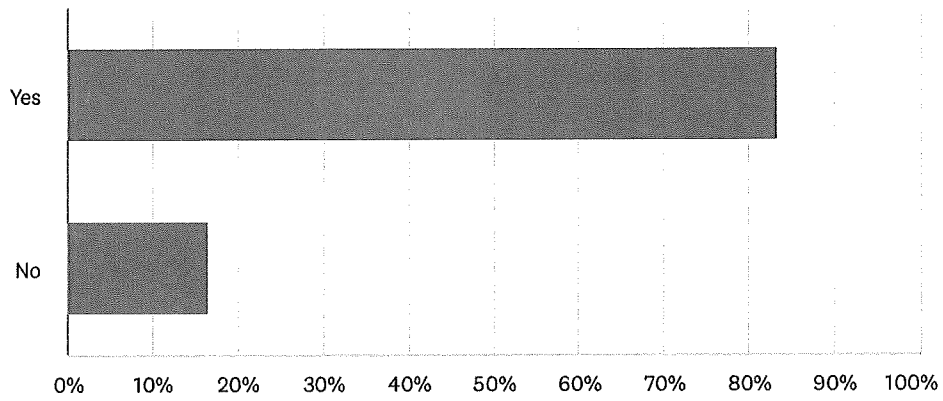
50.00%

7

6

### Q5 Do you agree with the application processing for each component?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 0



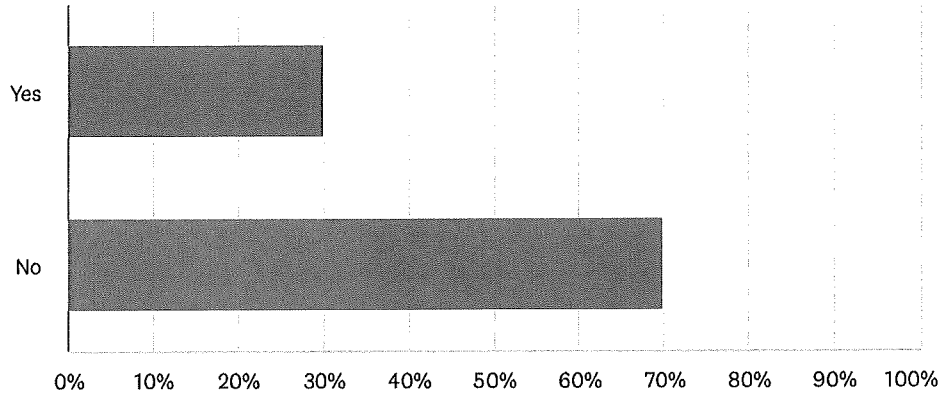
**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

Yes	83.33%	10
No	16.67%	2
Total Respondents: 12		

# Q6 Should application/project evaluation criteria for Component 2 remain as is or be updated?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 2



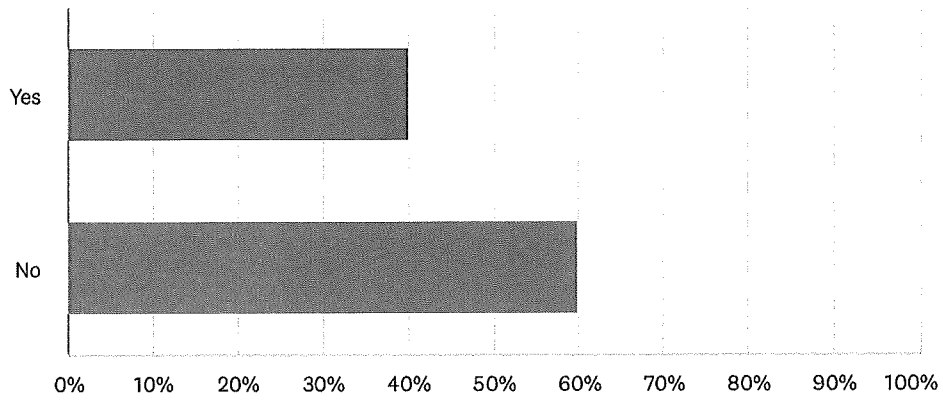
**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

Yes	30.00%	3
No	70.00%	7
<b>Total Respondents: 10</b>		

### Q7 Do you have additional input you would like to share?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 2



**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

Yes	40.00%	4
No	60.00%	6
Total Respondents: 10		



## Eau Claire County ARPA Committee Survey - SUMMARY OF WRITE-IN RESULTS

Do you agree with the two program components and the dollar amount set aside for each?

- After the comment regarding the 150 applicants of the smaller recovery award would be filled rapidly, it seems maybe we should do an even \$1M per program?
- I agree with the two components and the total dollar amounts assigned to each one.
- Yes, I think the two program components make sense. If we decide to be flexible with how much is allocated in each program based on community/need interest, as discussed yesterday, it would seem that the timing of both applications would have to line up.
- I like the idea of two components, but I think the second program dollar amount shouldn't be so big. I would make it \$5,000 to \$75,000 or even \$50,000. A program at \$100,000 may run into substantiality issues.
- It's not that I don't agree, but that perhaps we should give more consideration to the mix of dollar amounts for each. I think we should consider perhaps a 50/50 allocation or slightly more for the actual relief program, which is program 1. Since EC County has not yet allocated the majority of its ARPA funding, the programs that might come out of the second category for community benefit might be appropriate to come from those funds. It's been noted that the primary purpose of the \$2 million allocated for this category is for relief for business and nonprofits so its largest commitment should be there.
- However, adjust the dollar amount as necessary to have a broader reach in the community.
- \$5,000 is a good amount for Component #1; Component #2 should have grant amounts between \$5,000-\$50,000. Lesser amounts would be better so the funds can be stretched further (only \$2 million total).
- I believe no matter what the committee determines, some will think we did not get it right. What is important, in my opinion, is to have a thoughtful starting point for a program that gets money back into the community where it is needed in a timely manner. I believe the proposed program has been thoughtfully conceived. I am certain, however, we have inevitably missed something that will be brought to our attention. With respect to the total amounts earmarked for each program, I defer to the County Board. I believe it is their purview to determine how much of the ARPA funds should be directed at specific efforts. I am neutral on the amount granted per eligible project. Again, the appropriate level is difficult to determine until the committee knows what kind of projects will be proposed. Again, I think the proposed grant program is reasonable.
- The components are fine- however, the total amount allocated to business and nonprofits are limited- which limits how many business and organizations can be regranted these dollars.

Do you agree with the eligibility criteria for Component 1?

- Yes, however I think the religious organizations should be considered IF and only IF they are funding a community needs program. Not used to make up lost donations from member.
- I think we should remove the reference to business franchises
- I don't have an opinion as much as what type of business/non-profit they are as long as they are focused on our priority categories.
- Please include property management companies to the ineligible category for landlords.
- I do not agree with making lessors of real estate and churches/religious organizations ineligible.
- Take out churches/religious organizations as ineligible.
- I am not sure what the magic number is in terms of number of employees maximum. 20 seems reasonable, but there will be those businesses with 21 employees that will find the number arbitrary. I do believe you should add the category outdoor recreation as eligible in the charitable organization categories unless it is already included in "animal/environmental" or "arts, culture and humanities."

- For qualifying business and organizations, leave broadly as 501(c)3 tax exempt organizations and business with less than 20 employees.

#### Do you agree with the eligibility criteria for Component 2?

- Yes, however I think the religious organizations should be considered IF and only IF they are funding a community needs program. Not used to make up lost donations from member.
- We should change the match percentage from 50% to 25%.
- I would suggest that a business doesn't have to be located in Eau Claire county as long as their service area is Eau Claire County. For example they may be located in Chippewa county and serve Eau Claire.
- Please include property management companies to the ineligible category for landlords.
- I do not agree with making lessors of real estate and churches/religious organizations ineligible.
- Please adjust the match criteria to reflect 75/25
- All OK (Although would also like to include churches/religious organizations).
- Again, I believe that outdoor recreation projects should be eligible for the funds.
- For qualifying business and organizations, leave broadly as 501(c)3 tax exempt organizations and business with less than 20 employees.

#### Do you agree with the application processing for each component?

- In general I agree with the processes explained. I would like to talk further about scoring and review committee for program 2
- I need clarification. As I read it, all those who apply for component one will get the 5,000 until the funds run out during a two week period of submission? But for component 2 there will be a scoring evaluation to receive funds? I would like to see an evaluation of some kind for both components. For the first component the evaluation does not need to be as restrictive as for component 2.
- Generally, yes. Consideration should be given to holding a portion of the funding back in case the pace of applications indicates that the mix between programs 1 and 2 should be adjusted.
- I am OK with the advertising plan; but concerned about how to market the program(s), especially to the eastern part of the County where I am located.
- I think the procedure for Component 1 could be difficult if you have more eligible applicants than money available. If grant awards are based on a first come, first served basis, there is going to be a mad rush to get applications in on day one, and then someone will be put into the position of choosing winners and losers. Also, what if there is money left over after awards go out to those organizations that have not received previous aid? How will the awards to the applicants that previously received aid be determined--is this also on a first come, first served basis. I think this could get difficult to administer.

#### Should application/project evaluation criteria for Component 2 remain as is or be updated?

- More weight should be given to #6 and less to #3...as long as their proposed program is completed by the deadline, shovel ready should have less consideration.
- remain as is.
- we should remove the reference to "shovel ready" and just say the proposed project will begin in 2022 and be completed by 12/31/24
- It should be updated.
- I would reduce the match to 20-25%. Remove "shovel-ready" language as we are not funding a building through this project that I am aware of and this may give applicants a false impression

that we intent to fund new buildings. I would also make the point level for the timing metric to a 10 points. I would increase the points for disproportionality impact communities or populations metric to 30 points. I would also remove Partnership from " Staff and Partnerships" as this component seems to be more focused on the staffing and how the program will be managed and not so much on partnerships.

- \* Further consideration should be given to the match amount. It's likely that it should be lower, perhaps in the 10-25% range. \* Consider rewording the timing item with a different term than "shovel ready" that still communicates that it should be able to be implemented quickly. Perhaps more emphasis on the completion date than the start date.
- updated with changes discussed in the meeting
- Please update to reflect feedback shared in meeting
- Do as much as possible for COVID-recovery as soon as possible. There is only \$2 million, and the funds should get out the door quickly to assist businesses/nonprofits who are gearing up for spring. The funds are not meant to just sit in County accounts.
- I don't think this is a yes or no question, it is option A or B. That being said, I think the process for Component 2 is reasonable. It will, however, be important to have the right people on the review committee. Has there been some thought into who that might be? Is it presumed that it is the ARPA committee members? County Board members/staff?
- I think the suggestion to increase the points for (6) and reduce the points for (3) was a good idea. Maybe 25 for Disproportionately Impacted Communities and 20 for Timing??
- Updated, higher score for project aiming at supporting Disproportionality Impacted Communities or Populations; zero % match- this is a barrier for many small-mid size nonprofits as well as culturally specific organizations who may not have the means or resources to provide match- additional, the paperwork to document match may be difficult.

Do you have additional input you would like to share?

- I think you are doing a great job creating this grant program!
- Component #1, instead of limiting it to \$5000 make a range of \$5,000-\$10,000. Employers or business with 0-10 employees would qualify for 5,000, 11-20 employees would qualify for 10,000. You are still giving out between 75-150 grants. Component #2 lower the match to something less than 50%. Component #2 Consider changing the grant size. If all the applications are for \$5,000 then there are 250 grants, If all are for \$100,000 then there are only 12.5 grants. I would suggest changing the limits to \$10,000 to \$100,000. If a business or nonprofit only wants \$5000 they are probably going to apply under Component #1. If they want \$10,000 then they would use #2.
- I do still wonder if there are organizations or businesses who missed out from previous relief programs because of technicalities and whether there is a way to identify them and provide potential eligibility.
- As noted above, I believe no matter what the committee decides, the structure of the program will be imperfect. That being said, I wonder if it makes some sense to withhold a portion of the funds to be granted after we become aware of any needs that we may be missing.
- I think we can cover a broad range of services with these plans.
- I'll like to see larger impact project for nonprofits beyond the \$100K limit. Again, I believe the \$2 million designated is limiting.



# COMPONENT #1

## EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

### American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Recovery Assistance Grant Program

## Grant funds for businesses and nonprofits to assist with pandemic relief.

#### *Program Description*

The Eau Claire County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Recovery Assistance Grant Program is designed to assist **businesses and nonprofits** impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic by assisting with grant relief.

#### *Grant Size*

**\$5,000**

#### *Funds Available*

A total of \$1,000,000 is available within Component #1.

#### *Eligibility*

\* To be eligible, a **business or nonprofit** must:

- Be located within Eau Claire County
- Have been in operation in Eau Claire County on or before March 25, 2020, and still in operation
- Have suffered an economic loss because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and provide documentation of COVID-19 pandemic impact

\* **Businesses** must employ less than twenty (20) employees, including the owner(s); and the business cannot operate within one of the categories listed under *Ineligible Entities*

\* **Nonprofit organizations** must have a 501(c)(3) charitable status and operate within one of the following categories:

- Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Animal / Environmental
- Arts, Culture, and Humanities
- Early Childhood Education / Education
- Health
- Family, Children, and Human Services
- Low Income
- Mental Health and Addiction
- Underrepresented Populations / Minority Persons

### ***Ineligible Entities***

The following businesses or nonprofits are ineligible:

- Lessors of real estate (landlords) and property management companies
- Political organizations

### ***Eligible Activity***

Grant funds can be used for any business or nonprofit operating cost, including but not limited to wages and salaries, rent, mortgage payments, utilities, inventory/supplies, and/or for health and safety improvements.

Eligible entities will need to clearly define how the funds will assist with pandemic recovery.

### ***Application Procedure***

Advertising of the program and funding availability will occur over a one-month period. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first-serve basis over a two-week period.

Applicants who have not received any previous pandemic relief assistance will receive priority.

Questions regarding the application and eligibility can be directed to the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC).

Interested applicants should submit applications, and required attachments, to the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission prior to or by 5:00 p.m. on the application due date.

# COMPONENT #2 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Recovery Assistance Grant Program

**Grant Funds for businesses and nonprofits for new or continued projects, programs, or efforts that will assist the greater community with recovery from the pandemic.**

### ***Program Description***

Component 2 of the Eau Claire County ARPA Recovery Assistance Grant Program provides funds for forward-thinking and innovative projects, programs, or efforts provided by a business or nonprofit organization that will assist the greater community in recovering from the pandemic. The funds can be used for continuation of an existing project or a new project, program, or effort. Applicants can apply for both Components 1 and 2 if applicable.

### ***Grant Size***

**\$10,000 to \$100,000**

As part of the application, applicants will provide their requested funding amount as well as justification for the request.

### ***Funds Available***

**Up to \$1,000,000 is available within Component 2.**

### ***Eligibility***

To be eligible, **a business or nonprofit** must be located within Eau Claire County

\* **Businesses** must employ less than twenty (20) employees, including the owner(s); and the business cannot operate within one of the categories listed under *Ineligible Entities*

\* **Nonprofit organizations** must have a 501(c)(3) charitable status and operate within one of the following categories:

- Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Animal / Environmental
- Arts, Culture, and Humanities
- Early Childhood Education / Education
- Health
- Family, Children, and Human Services
- Low Income
- Mental Health and Addiction
- Underrepresented Populations / Minority Persons

## **Ineligible Entities**

The following businesses or nonprofits are ineligible:

- Lessors of real estate (landlords) and property management companies
- Political organizations

## **Eligible Activity**

Grant funds can be used to fund an innovative project, program, or effort that will assist with pandemic relief to the greater community.

## **Application Procedure**

Funding availability will be advertised over a two-month period.

Questions regarding the application and eligibility can be directed to the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWPRC).

Interested applicants will submit applications to the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission prior to or by 5:00 p.m. on the application due date.

Additional information may be requested.

Applications will be scored by a committee based on pre-determined scoring criteria.

Applicants may be required to participate in interviews to support and clarify their applications, if requested.

## **Implementation Timeline**

Funded activities must be complete by December 31, 2024.

**Evaluation Criteria** – Maximum score is 125 points.

- 1) **Need for the project** – Describe the issue or need the project will address and why the grant funding is necessary. Provide documentation that clearly identifies the need for the project. The need must be related in whole or in part to one or more negative economic or health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. (25 points possible)
- 2) **Meeting the need** – Projects must meet an identifiable, quantifiable, community or county need. Describe how this project will meet the need/issue described in Question #1. State the estimated number of people expected to be served by the project. (25 points possible)
- 3) **Timing** – Proposed projects will begin in 2022 and be completed by December 31, 2024. Provide a narrative and timetable that describes the current status of the project, and future steps to implement the project. (15 points possible)
- 4) **Staffing and Partnerships** – Staff capacity to deliver and complete the project within the identified timeline is important. Identify what entity or organizations will be responsible to oversee implementation of the project, provide required reporting, and oversee all aspects of the project to completion. Identify staff, consultants, or contractors who will be key team members in the successful completion of the project. Partnerships with other



organizations are encouraged. (10 points possible)

- 5) **Budget & Matching Funds** – Provide a detailed budget with all funding sources identified. A minimum of 25% in matching funds is required. Matching funds can include cash, in-kind donations, or other funding sources. Outline the status of all matching funds. Projects that have funding secured will score higher than projects with “proposed funding sources”. (20 points possible)
- 6) **Disproportionality Impacted Communities or Populations** – Projects that serve a community or population disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic will receive additional points. Describe the geographic or demographic community the project will serve and how it has been impacted by the COVID 19- pandemic. (30 points possible)

### **Awards**

Awards will be made based upon the highest scoring applications. Eau Claire County reserves the right to negotiate, limit, or amend awards in accordance with objectives of the program and funding availability.

### **Grant Agreement Term**

The Grant Agreement shall be effective on the execution date and shall be in force until all eligible activities are completed and all required documents are submitted to Eau Claire County. Expenses must be incurred between xxxx and xxxx and all projects completed by December 31, 2024.

### **Reports Required**

Grantees will submit quarterly reports summarizing the use of funds and describing recovery impacts from the pandemic. Eau Claire County will supply a reporting document for completion by grantees and prescribe the dates upon which the quarterly reports are due. Subsequent reports will be required beyond the grant agreement term.