

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE
SPRING LAKE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, 103 LAKETREE BLVD.
JULY 15, 2021 – 6:00 PM
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, ARP Committee Chairman
Commissioner Glenn Adams
Commissioner Charles Evans, Board of Commissioners Chairman
Amy Cannon, County Manager
Sally Shutt, Assistant County Manager
Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager
Angel Wright-Lanier, Assistant County Manager
Dee Taylor, Community Development Director
Mayor Larry G. Dobbins, Spring Lake
Candice H. White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Commissioner Toni Stewart

1. WELCOME REMARKS

Commissioner Keefe called the special meeting to order. The purpose of this meeting is to conduct a community meeting to provide a presentation on the American Rescue Plan and to gather public input. Commissioner Keefe provided opening remarks and introduced members of the ARP Committee, noting that Commissioner Stewart was unable to be present. Commissioner Keefe also recognized in attendance Spring Lake Mayor Larry Dobbins. Mayor Dobbins welcomed everyone to Spring Lake and thanked them for coming. Mayor Dobbins recognized Spring Lake Aldermen in attendance.

2. PRESENTATION BY COUNTY MANAGER AMY CANNON

Amy Cannon, County Manager, recognized county staff in attendance and stated the ARP Committee wants to get feedback from citizens as it relates to the use of Cumberland County's allocation of ARP funds. Ms. Cannon spoke to the effect COVID had financially and from a public health perspective and provided the following PowerPoint presentation about the ARP beginning with the agenda, photos of ARP Committee members and photos of the meeting facilitators.

American Rescue Plan Act

- President signed act on March 11, 2021
- Includes **\$350 billion** for state, local, territorial and Tribal governments (Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds)
- Cumberland County's allocation is **\$65 million**
- Funds delivered in two payments; first in 2021 and second in 2022

U.S. Treasury Guidance (Interim Final Rule)

- Funds can cover eligible expenses from March 3, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2024
- Funds must be expended by Dec. 31, 2026
- Reporting requirements include expenditures and performance measures
- Administrative costs allowable
- Must provide evidence of specific harm caused by COVID 19 and how projects will demonstrate meaningful impact
- Recipients with populations over 250,000 must submit annual spending plan to Treasury by Aug 31, 2021

Eligible Uses of Funds

A. Support public health response

- **Prevent and mitigate COVID-19.** Potential uses include vaccination programs, testing, contact tracing and many related activities
- **Enhance behavioral health services,** such as mental health treatment, substance misuse treatment, hotlines, crisis intervention, overdose prevention and related services
- **Improve the design and execution of health and public health programs** to address the COVID-19 emergency through planning and analysis, which may include improvements to technology infrastructure and targeted consumer outreach
- **Address disparities in public health outcomes**

B. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency

- **Assistance to households or populations,** preferably those most disproportionately impacted (food, rent, mortgage, utility, home repairs, job training, etc.)
- **Small business and non-profit support** with loans, grants, in-kind assistance and technical support
- **Aid to impacted industries,** including the tourism, travel, hospitality and other impacted sectors

C. Provide premium pay for essential workers

- Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors

D. Investment in water and sewer infrastructure

- Guidance allows for a broad range of necessary projects to improve access to clean drinking water and improve sewer infrastructure systems.
- Eligible uses are aligned to Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) project categories for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

E. Investment in broadband infrastructure

- **Focus on households and businesses** without access to broadband connectivity
- **Fund projects that deliver reliable service** with acceptable upload speeds

Replace public sector revenue loss

- Counties may use Recovery Funds for the provision of "government services" to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced **due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.**

Equity-Focused Services

- **Additional flexibility for the hardest-hit communities and families** to address health disparities, invest in housing, address educational disparities and promote healthy environments for children
- Broadly applicable to **Qualified Census Tracts** and other disproportionately impacted areas

Opportunities for Citizen Input

- Online survey at cumberlandcountync.gov
- In-person meetings:
 - July 15, 6 p.m. at Family Resource Center in Spring Lake
 - July 20, 6 p.m. at Godwin Community Building
 - July 22, 6 p.m. at J.D. Pone Recreation Center in Gray's Creek
 - July 27, 6 p.m. at Department of Social Services in Fayetteville
- Virtual input session on July 29 at 6 p.m.

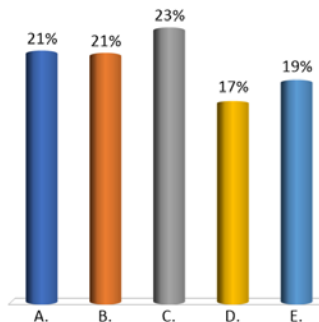
3. SURVEY SESSION

Sally Shutt and Angel Wright-Lanier, Assistant County Managers, guided attendees through the following survey, the results of which were displayed following each survey item.

Question 1

Please **rank** the funding categories in priority order of importance. Select the appropriate letter in the order you like, first keyed most important, last keyed least important.

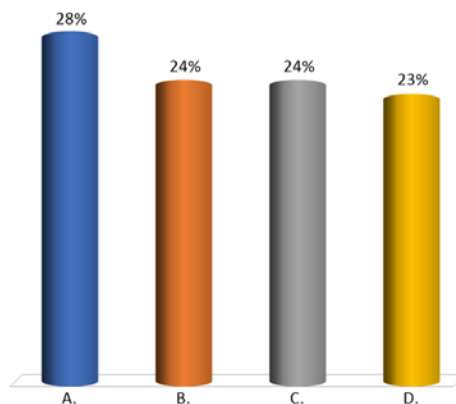
- A. **Support public health expenditures.** Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health, safety, human services and other related staff
- B. **Address negative economic impacts.** Respond to economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries and the public sector.
- C. **Provide premium pay for essential workers.** Offer additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
- D. **Investment in water and sewer infrastructure.** Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure
- E. **Investment in broadband infrastructure.** Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband service



Question 2

Please **rank** the following examples of programs and services designed to address the public health impacts of COVID-19 from 1-4 with 1 being the most important and 4 the least important.

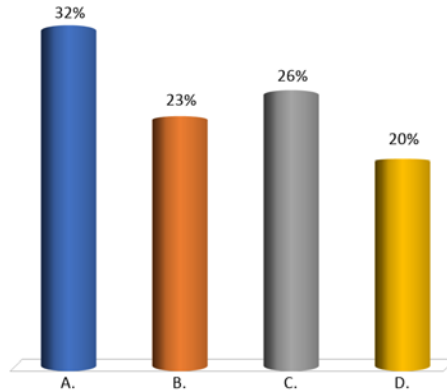
- A. Services and programs to prevent, mitigate and respond to COVID-19
- B. Enhance behavioral and mental health services
- C. Improve the design and execution of health and public health programs to address needs
- D. Address disparities in public health outcomes



Question 3

Please **rank** the following examples of programs and services designed to address the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 from 1-4 with 1 being the most important and 4 the least important.

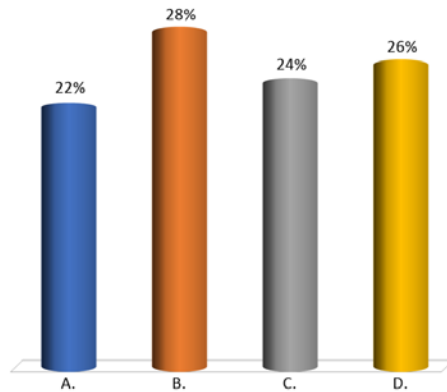
- A. Assistance to households (food, rent, utility, case management, home repairs, job training, etc.)
- B. Assistance to small businesses (loans, grants, technical assistance)
- C. Assistance to non-profits (loans, grants technical assistance)
- D. Aid to impacted industries (tourism, travel, hospitality and other impacted industries)



Question 4

Please **rank** the following examples of programs and services designed to address disproportionately impacted communities from 1-4 with 1 being the most important and 4 the least important.

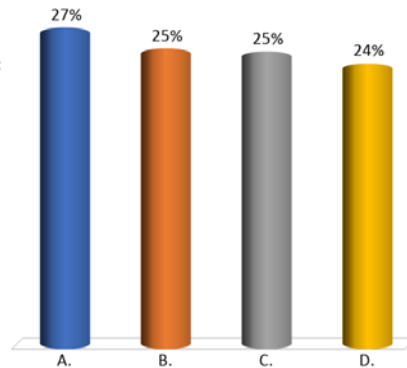
- A. Services to address homelessness
- B. Affordable housing development
- C. Addressing educational disparities magnified by the public health emergency
- D. Promoting healthy environments for children (new or expanded high-quality childcare, home visiting programs for health, parent education and other programs)



Question 5

Rank the following types of infrastructure projects or programs in order of priority. Select the appropriate letter in the order you like, first keyed highest priority, last keyed lowest priority.

- A. Public water projects to improve access to clean drinking water
- B. Provide public sewer to address septic tank problems
- C. Projects to improve resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events
- D. Broadband infrastructure to unserved or underserved communities



Question 6

Are there any additional programs, services or projects that the County should consider for ARP Funding?

Attendees were given note paper on which to write their responses. The responses were read aloud.

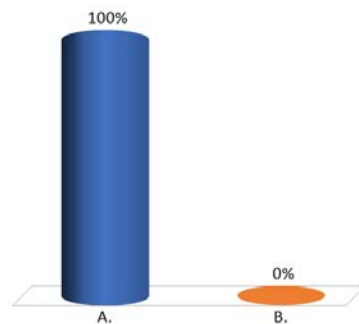
1. Make sure information and services are available in Spanish

2. Look at funding medication for behavioral health people that do not have insurance since IPRS does not cover it
3. Health Department station in Spring Lake
4. Assist with transportation
5. Child care subsidy
6. Transportation assistance (repair)
7. Child care assistance (shift workers)
8. Fresh Start Program (may be referring to IRS Fresh Start Program for tax debt)
 - a. Employer
 - b. Mental health
 - c. County collaboration
9. Parent program for school age children to assist in getting them back on track from the remote learning pandemic
10. Provide COVID health education program to address vaccine fears and concerns to communities of color
11. Long term Social Security for people who were affected by COVID-19-long term sickness; help from SSI
12. Funding for minority businesses impact by COVID and general disparities
13. Increase funding to non-profits to address needs and disparities
14. Transportation to enable town residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, health resources
15. Enhance availability and access to behavioral health services
16. Some additional funds from the county's allocation to assist the small municipalities that are more stressed
17. Child care
18. Road and street repair

Question 7

Are you a Cumberland County resident?

- A. Yes
- B. No

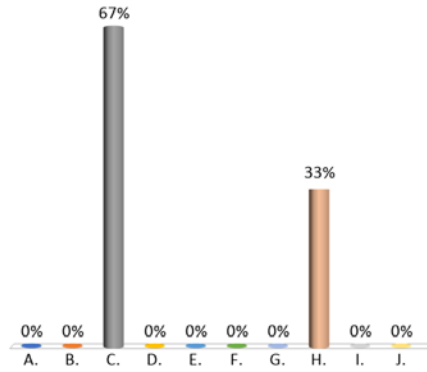


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Question 8

If you live in the City of Fayetteville, please select your Zip Code

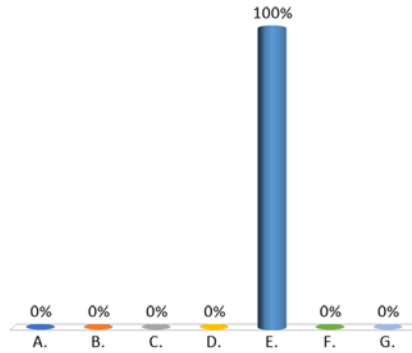
- A. 28301
- B. 28303
- C. 28304
- D. 28305
- E. 28306
- F. 28307
- G. 28310
- H. 28311
- I. 28312
- J. 28314



Question 9

If you live in other areas of Cumberland County, please select your Zip Code

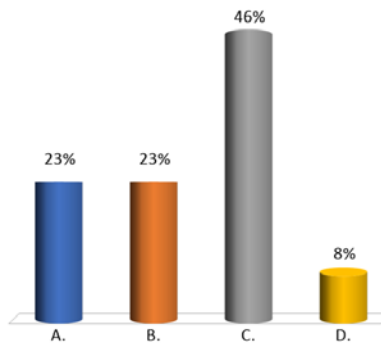
- A. 28312
- B. 28342
- C. 28348
- D. 28356
- E. 28390
- F. 28391
- G. 28395



Question 10

Has the COVID-19 crisis negatively affected your family financially?

- A. Not at all
- B. Very little
- C. Somewhat
- D. Severely

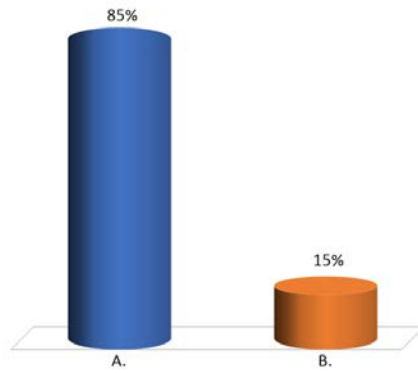


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Question 11

Do you have access to affordable high-speed broadband at home?

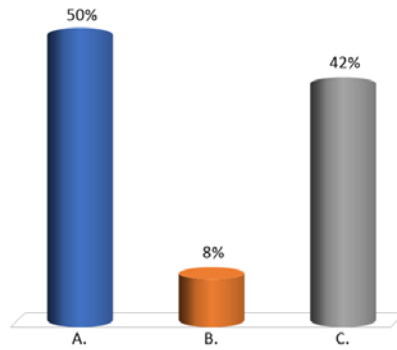
- A. Yes
- B. No



Question 12

What is your relationship to Cumberland County?

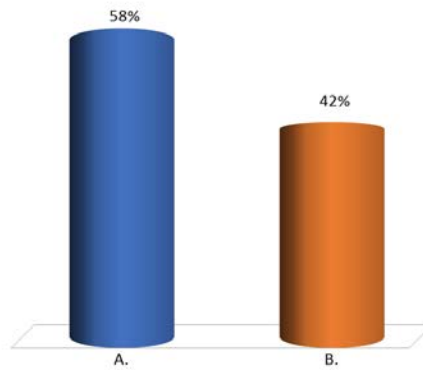
- A. Live in Cumberland County
- B. Work in Cumberland County
- C. Both



Question 13

Do you own or operate a small business in Cumberland County?

- A. Yes
- B. No

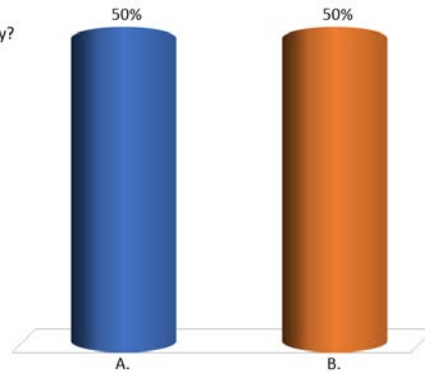


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Question 14

Are you connected in some way to the military?

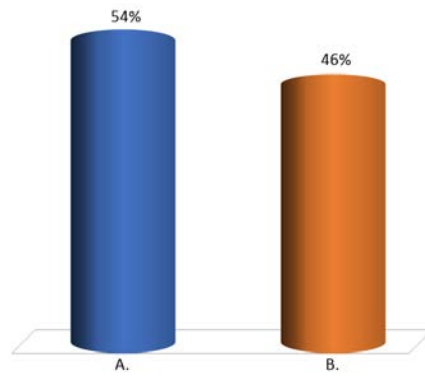
- A. Yes
- B. No



Question 15

Are you a veteran or spouse of a veteran?

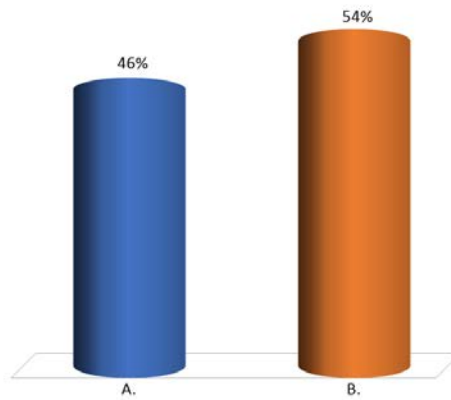
- A. Yes
- B. No



Question 16

Are you affiliated with a non-profit organization that provides services to citizens who have been negatively affected by COVID-19?

- A. Yes
- B. No

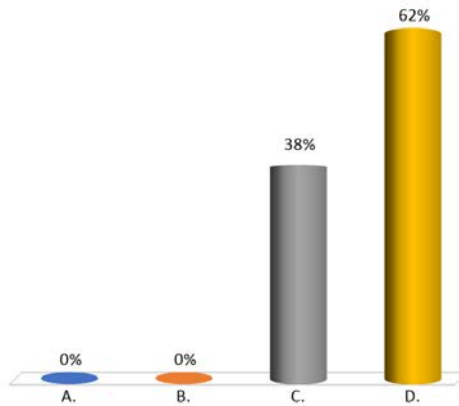


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Question 17

How old are you?

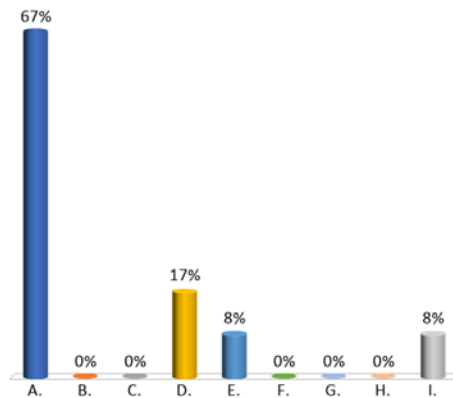
- A. Under 18
- B. 18-34
- C. 35-54
- D. 55 or older



Question 18

Most people think of themselves as belonging to a particular ethnic or racial group. How do you identify yourself?

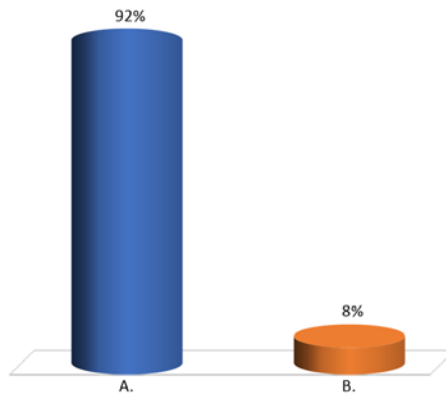
- A. African American/Black
- B. Asian or Asian American
- C. Caucasian/White (not Hispanic)
- D. Hispanic/Latino
- E. Multiracial or multiethnic
- F. Native American
- G. Pacific Islander
- H. Other
- I. Prefer not to answer



Question 19

Would you like to receive information through a newsletter or emails about Cumberland County government activities, services and programs?

- A. Yes
- B. No



4. WRAP UP

Ms. Cannon reviewed the upcoming opportunities for citizen input and the email address for questions below. Ms. Cannon asked if there were questions. No questions followed.

- Online survey at cumberlandcountync.gov/ARP
- In-person meetings:
 - July 15, 6 p.m. at Family Resource Center in Spring Lake

- July 20, 6 p.m. at Godwin Community Building
- July 22, 6 p.m. at J.D. Pone Recreation Center in Gray's Creek
- July 27, 6 p.m. at Department of Social Services in Fayetteville
- Virtual input session on July 27 at 6 p.m.
- Email questions to arp@co.cumberland.nc.us

5. CLOSING COMMENTS

Commissioner Keefe provided closing comments and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board