

AUSTIN KNUDSEN



STATE OF MONTANA

March 18, 2021

Dear Senator Keenan,

Thank you for asking the Department of Justice to weigh in on aspects of the ARPA funding categories that Justice either has sole or joint jurisdiction over. We appreciate the legislature considering the public safety and public access aspects of COVID recovery.

Please consider this memorandum an initial evaluation of the areas Justice believes may be relevant to your discussions. As I am sure is true with other agencies, Justice has not had time to fully evaluate current or prior guidance for use of the funds and we may not have analyzed everything with complete accuracy. The funding sources listed in the parenthesis may not be the most ideal funding source available for the listed activity. We will continue our evaluation of the ARPA and provide additional information as we have it. We will also be in discussions with the legislative fiscal and OBPP budget analysts regarding these items.

With those qualifications, please consider the following:

Section B:

1. \$500,000 OTO to stockpile pandemic-related PPE for law enforcement and fire marshall (CDC funds).
2. \$1 million OTO to increase crime lab capability to respond to mass casualty events by expanding morgue freezer and refrigeration space (CDC funds).
3. \$1 million OTO to increase crime lab facility space to prepare for mass events.
4. \$500,000 each year for three years to increase crime lab response times; 2 modified FTE scientist/analysts (CDC funds).
5. \$500,000 OTO to increase crime lab testing kit and equipment stockpiles in the event of shortages (CDC funds).
6. \$500,000 OTO to clear crime lab backlog to ensure lab has the capability to respond to pandemic-related needs for testing services (CDC funds).
7. Expand child abuse prevention services to respond to isolation-related upticks in abuse cases: 1 modified FTE attorney; 1 modified FTE investigator; \$400,000 per year for 3 years (Child Abuse and Prevention funds).

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8. Expand family violence response services to respond to isolation-related upticks in violence cases: 2 modified FTE attorneys; 1 modified FTE investigator; \$600,000 per year for 3 years (Family Violence Prevention funds).
9. \$7 million Victims of Crime Act from Board of Crime Control operations (Family Violence Prevention funds).
10. Expand Medicaid Fraud response capability to respond to COVID-related upticks in cases: 1 modified FTE attorney; 1 modified FTE investigator; \$400,000 per year for 3 years (Medicaid Policy funds).
11. \$500,000 OTO for Department of Justice outreach for community-based child abuse prevention (Community based child abuse prevention funds).
12. \$500,000 OTO for Department of Justice outreach for community-based elder abuse prevention (Protection of Vulnerable Older Americans funds).
13. \$500,000 OTO for Department of Justice outreach for community-based substance abuse prevention (SAMHSA funds).
14. \$400,000 each for three years to expand Indian Child Welfare Act enforcement capability; 1 modified FTE attorney and 1 modified FTE investigator (Public Safety in Indian Country funds).

Section D

1. Defense of lawsuits against the state, expenses and attorneys' fees: \$1 million per year for three years.
2. Consumer protection from products liability for COVID-related injuries: 1 modified FTE attorney; 1 modified FTE investigator; \$400,000 per year for 3 years (Consumer Product Safety Commission funds).
3. Consumer protection from fraudulent conduct, identity theft, and COVID-related scams against Montanans; 2 modified FTE attorneys; 1 modified FTE investigator; \$600,000 per year for 3 years (Federal Trade Commission funds).
4. \$100,000 OTO to upgrade Fire Marshall training capability for future pandemic response (Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant).
5. \$150,000 per year for 3 years for 1 modified FTE additional Fire Marshall from the (Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant).
6. \$500,000 per year over three years to provide additional law enforcement training scholarships to tribal law enforcement officers dealing with COVID-related upticks in public safety calls. Currently the Law Enforcement Academy provides basic academy

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- training to some tribal law enforcement entities, but cannot provide enough training slots to meet the demand. (Public Safety in Indian Country funds).
7. \$500,000 OTO to stockpile vehicle-based testing equipment that became scarce during the pandemic supply shortages (CDC funds).

Section F (Technology, Broadband, and Cybersecurity funds)

1. \$51 million OTO for modernization of drivers license system to accommodate COVID-related demand for tele-registration options—the existing system cannot be modified to fully address tele-access (Technology, Broadband, and Cybersecurity funds).
2. \$1 million OTO to upgrade crime detection technologies for all of the foregoing expanded investigation capability (Technology, Broadband, and Cybersecurity funds).
3. \$1 million OTO to upgrade JITSD crime information network capability and cybersecurity protocols (Technology, Broadband, and Cybersecurity funds).
4. \$53 million OTO to fully build-out the statewide emergency response radio system; including grants to local law enforcement and emergency response entities to connect to the system (Technology, Broadband, and Cybersecurity funds).
5. \$9 million OTO to build the Law Enforcement Academy indoor firearms training facility. The Montana Highway Patrol does not have a firearms training facility and has to borrow other agencies' facilities when available. During the pandemic, access to borrowed facilities became difficult, seriously impacting officer training capability. (Coronavirus Capital Projects funds).

Sincerely,

Kristin Hansen,
Lieutenant General
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