

County of Sonoma
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Preliminary Funding Request



INSTRUCTIONS

This is intended to be a preliminary proposal for departmental projects eligible for ARPA Funding. The Board will review all submitted proposals on September 14 and will select which proposals for which they would like a more detailed proposal. These more detailed proposals will be due in October 22; the CAO will be sending out the detailed proposal instructions as soon as possible.

ARPA funds are limited term in nature; they must be allocated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026. As such proposals should emphasize capital investments. Additionally, given the one-time nature of these funds, departments are encouraged to submit proposals that do not include adding limited-term positions unless the position is directly tied to a one-time effort or capital investment (e.g. project manager overseeing the construction of a building or development of new training materials).

- These preliminary funding requests are due on **August 3, 2021**.
- Please complete this form and save it to your department’s ARPA folder in the FY21-22 Budget Sharepoint Site; email your analyst when the request has been saved in that location.
- Please also complete the high-level overview form in Oracle Planning (No Cost Accounting -> Funding Requests (Use for ARPA) -> Funding Request Overview)

Department	Department Contact	Oracle Planning Fund Request #(s)
Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Reg of Voters / Information Systems Department	Deva Proto	CRA-FR-01

Project Title

Enterprise Level Consolidated County GIS Map

Summary of Project

It is anticipated that the Board of Supervisors will make ARPA funding decisions on December 14, 2021. Funds must be appropriated by December 31, 2024 and fully expended by December 31, 2026. ARPA projects must be completed within this timeframe.

Use this space to provide a summary of the project. Projects are to be clearly one-time in nature. For example, investing one-time resources to train staff/develop on-going training materials for the community/invest in capital projects or systems. Requests that include staffing are discouraged unless there is a clear explanation of how they will support a one-time, time-limited project. This summary will be what is presented to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

Responses should not exceed 3 single spaced pages

Please see the position detail form for additional information related to position changes.

The County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Registrar of Voters Department, in collaboration with other County departments, including Information Systems, Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, Permit Sonoma, Emergency Management, Economic Development, Transportation Public Works, Human Services, Health Services and the Office of Equity is proposing the creation of an enterprise level geospatial map for county data. The goal would be to increase and accessibility, and to provide data to inform both the members of the public and the institutions that serve them about needs, areas of opportunity, and current realities in our communities. The County would also achieve operational efficiency due to departments being able to load data into one enterprise level system, and some data would be able to be pulled live into the map.

The map would be a single location of information in a geospatial format for county residents and business. Instead of having to visit the websites or offices of multiple departments (which requires someone to know what departments and/or divisions have what specific responsibilities), the map would be a way to provide the information in an easy to access and understand format. Most of the data is currently available online, but members of the public are required to have a high level of governmental knowledge, as well as navigate numerous, different interfaces and technology, in order to access the data.

As an example, to locate the [permit history](#), [zoning](#), [most recent deed](#), [assessed value](#), [previous tax value](#), [school district](#), [elected representatives](#), and [county evacuation zone](#) for a specific property in unincorporated Sonoma County, a member of the public would have to visit four different department pages, seven different separate webpages, and search six different ways in different web interfaces. The lack of coordination and a consistent presentation view for geospatial data creates barriers for access, transparency and usage of data.

Making information easily available and accessible would also reduce the need for members of the community to come into the respective offices, reducing travel time, transit costs, and transportation emissions and ensuring that the people who do come in for assistance enjoy the benefits of coordinated multi-departmental and multi-jurisdictional information sharing. Adding government and other service information available to a resident would also benefit those searching for assistance, as they or a service navigator could more easily find what offices and what services are offered near them.

The website would need to be easily updated during an emergency, in order to provide comprehensive evacuation, disaster footprint and related information. The main portion of the page could be dedicated to emergencies during the duration of the event, and be linked to from several websites (county, sheriff, emergency management) to facilitate information sharing.

Making information easily available and accessible would also support data-informed decision making by local government. In King County, Washington, census data could be included to inform decision makers about a specific area's racial, ethnic, and gender demographics, education attainment, and languages spoken at home.

This, combined with information about assessed value, voter turnout, park access, and property sales, would also support equity in decision making.

Due to the level of expertise needed to work with the different departments and systems, and the time required to onboard and train staff, the CRA-ROV and ISD recommends that a vendor be procured to build the initial site and work with the specific subject matter experts in each department. A requirement of the project would be that the County of Sonoma hosts and retains ownership of all the data and code related to the system. Once the initial site has been built, the County would take on the ongoing maintenance as part of the regular duties of the ISD GIS division. To make this feasible, there would need to be a reduction in the number of separately maintained department specific webpages, so that the GIS team would be able to absorb the maintenance duties in their regular course of work. Once the initial site has been built, new data layers would be able to be added, as identified and needed.

As an initial project, the property data in the geospatial map could include:

- Assessor Parcel Number
- Assessed Value
- District/Elected Officials (for all districts in county)
- Election precincts
- Property Tax Value
- Breakdown of property tax funding (school, county, district, etc)
- Business Revenue, if any*
- Recent Sale History
- Last change in ownership (deed) document
- Permit History
- Zoning
- Affordable Housing Production*
- Housing Burden*
- Jurisdiction (unincorporated or incorporated city)
- Groundwater
- Evacuation Areas
- Census tract-level data (including income, race, gender, education and language)
- Prior disaster footprints (fire/flood/pandemic/vaccination GIS data)
- COVID case data
- Hospital Capacity
- Vaccinations
- COVID Testing Locations
- Epidemiology data

Other valuable data layers may include:

- Adopt-a-Road Program
- County-maintained bridges
- County-maintained roads
- Planned paving projects map
- Vegetation
- Tree canopy cover
- Regional Parks
- Open Space properties
- Williamson Act properties

- Government service locations (government/economic assistance)
- Nonprofit service locations (food pantry, social services, housing, rental assistance)
- Libraries
- Transportation/bus routes
- Voting history by precinct
- Election polling places
- Flood plains
- Road closures
- Geological hazard zones
- Law Enforcement use of force*
- Nativity/ancestry*
- College readiness*
- School attendance/disconnected youth*
- Social Determinants of Health
- Human Development Index by Census tract
- Prevalence of Communicable Diseases
- EMS Data
- Opioid Use/Overdose Data
- Behavioral Risk and Protective Factors for Noncommunicable Diseases
- Prevalence and Control of Chronic Diseases
- Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health
- Housing and Safety Net Usage Data
- Oral Health
- Alcohol
- Injury/death data
- Summary Measures of Health variables

Allowing all the data to be accessed via one portal would create greater transparency and access for the public, and create efficiencies and facilitate information sharing between County departments and other governmental jurisdictions. The data provided would allow geographic decision making to be considered within existing data to better inform decisions related to disadvantaged communities and equity. This approach will also be able to allow for improved consistency when developing offering online services and workflows that include data from multiple departments and systems.

Examples of existing webpages for other jurisdictions that combine enterprise level data in a consolidated GIS map format:

King County, WA: <https://localscape.spatalest.com/#kingcountyassessor/Tax>

Arriving at the data indicators is also an opportunity for an equity design process and could utilize the newly-created ARPA Equity Work Group to provide input on the indicators. Additionally, there are many different equity data collection and collaborative planning efforts that are currently happening within our County that can support the co-creation of data indicators to capture on this dashboard. This work will allow us to more deeply understand our current baseline or our best areas for creating new outcomes with people most disproportionately impacted. The update to the Portrait of Sonoma is an example of one of those opportunities for alignment with this project, with a goal to support a just and equitable recovery with APRA funds.

* Data from Bay Area Equity Atlas

Project Term

State the duration of the project including start and end date for the project. Earliest start date is 12/15/21; funds must be obligated by 12/31/2024, and all funds must be expended with work performed and completed by 12/31/2026.

The project would begin with a Request for Proposal in early 2022, with initial data gathering work projected to begin in mid-2022. The project would be completed in phases, with the first phase required to be completed and live to the public by the end of 2023, and the entire project completed by the end of 2025.

Estimated Project Costs and Funding Sources

Estimated Project Costs	
Salaries and Benefits (Extra help or time-limited* only)	\$0
Services and Supplies	\$450,000
Capital Costs	\$0
Other (describe)	\$0
Estimated Total Project Costs	\$450,000
Anticipated Alternate/Leveraged Funding Sources	
List here; provide a detailed description in the narrative below	\$0
Total ARPA Funding Request	\$450,000

Include a Statement of Special Funds Activities if proposing the use of Fund Balance

*Departments are encouraged to submit requests that do not require adding staff, even if time-limited, due to the limited term nature of ARPA funding.

Narrative Explanation of Estimated Project Costs

Provide a high level explanation of the estimated project cost (bulleted list is sufficient). If additional staff are being requested (extra help or limited term only) please explain how they are time-limited in nature and will not be used in an on-going capacity.

Describe additional funding sources that will be leveraged. If this request is being paired with a grant explain whether ARPA funds can be used if the grant is not awarded; provide details on the status of the grant (i.e. awarded; application pending. If pending, explain the status of the application process and note if funds have been received from this source previously).

Explain any funding sources that can be leveraged if ARPA funds are awarded (i.e. if ARPA funds can be used as a grant match).

Estimated costs for the project include \$250,000 for the vendor contract, \$100,000 for Information Systems labor costs, \$50,000 for Information Systems hardware/software costs, and \$50,000 for department subject matter experts and system costs for integration.

Once the initial site has been built, the County would take on the ongoing maintenance as part of the regular duties of the ISD GIS division. To make this feasible, there would need to be a reduction in the number of separately maintained department specific webpages, so that the GIS team would be able to absorb the maintenance duties in their regular course of work. Once the initial site has been built, new data layers would be able to be added, as identified and needed.

ARPA Eligibility

Explain which element(s) of ARPA the project aligns with.

Please site the specific item (and page) from one of these two resource documents:

- [NACo Guidance](#)
- [Funding Fact Sheet](#)
- Other resource found by department (include the link/page number)

If you are uncertain about how a project aligns with ARPA, please contact your CAO analyst.

NOTE: projects that do not align with an ARPA category may still be submitted as some amount of the award will have a more flexible use under the "revenue replacement" category.

Support public health response (pg 3): Inclusion of health data can support longer term public health areas of investment and service provision, as well as continue to support COVID emergency response efforts

Expenses to improve efficacy of economic relief programs (pg 10): The creation of a new platform allows for improvement in the efficacy of programs addressing negative economic impacts, via data analysis and improvements to data and technology infrastructure.

Having a single website that links COVID case data, hospital capacity, vaccinations, and testing locations would be an enhancement to our public data systems and public communication efforts. It provides the public opportunity to locate resources on the map (vaccination sites, testing) which would support mitigation & prevention efforts. Linking case data and hospital capacity identifies which areas are the hardest hit, which would then inform decisions related to economic relief programs.

The response to COVID-19 has been data driven. The Department of Health Services has received multiple requests from the public for more complete access to this data. Access to public health data around COVID-19 and related health issues ensures transparency and will empower the public to understand public health policy decisions and the reasons for mitigation measures.

COVID-19 has impacted the economic, physical, and mental health of Sonoma County community members through business closures, lay-offs, social isolation and deferred care. Part of the path to recovery will be understanding the full extent of these impacts. A searchable database of community health will help to inform leadership and community members of the areas of greatest need/focus moving forward.

Sonoma County is fortunate to have unique and collaborative community partnerships such as Health Action (a coalition of community health and business leaders) and its neighborhood chapters which are focused on taking action to improve community health. For these chapters to be effective and evaluate the impacts of their efforts, they need access to up-to-date community data such as that proposed here.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Please indicate which Strategic Plan **OBJECTIVE** will be furthered by this project. Note: if listed, item must tie to a specific objective, and not simply be in alignment with a general pillar or goal.

Link to the Strategic Plan: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Board-of-Supervisors/Strategic-Plan/PDF/Five-Year-Strategic-Plan-2021-26-English/>
[Strategic Plan 1 Pager](#)

Pillar: Organizational Excellence

Goal 1: Strengthen operational effectiveness, fiscal reliability, and accountability

Objective 2: Establish a master list of technology needs that support operational/service improvements by mid-2022, identify enterprise solutions, and develop fiscal strategies to fund and implement improvements.

Goal 2: Increase information sharing and transparency and improve County and community engagement

Objective 4: Develop a new website that is more customer friendly, community focused, and supports County and community needs by 2022.

Department Lead for this Objective: County Administrator's Office and Information Systems Department

Pillar: Resilient Infrastructure

Goal 1: Invest in County buildings and technology to enhance service delivery and improve employee mobility

Objective 3: Develop and implement technology tools that enhance employees' ability to work remotely and promote virtual service delivery models in order to reduce County facility space needs.

Department Lead for this Objective: Information Systems Department

Pillar: Race Equity & Social Justice

Goal 3: Ensure racial equity throughout all County systems and services.

Objective 1: Establish a racial equity analysis tool by 2022 for departments to use for internal decision-making, policy decisions and implementation, and service delivery.

Objective 2: Establish regular and publicly available reports on racial equity in County policies, programs, and services.

Goal 4: Engage key community stakeholders in developing priorities to advance racial equity.

Objective 3: Begin implementing strategies for regular community engagement to guide racial equity efforts

Racial Equity and Social Justice

In January of 2021, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors adopted a five-year strategic plan that included a Racial Equity and Social Justice pillar. The ARPA guidance specifically calls out how the pandemic has disproportionately impacted low-income families and communities of color. Please answer the questions below to describe how the project supports the Racial Equity and Social Justice pillar.

For additional resources please refer to the [Racial Equity Tool Kit](#), which the Board adopted on November 17, 2020.

- 1. Describe how your project advances racial and economic equity and/or reduces or eliminates disparities and improve outcomes for low-income communities and communities of color Countywide.*
- 2. Identify potential negative impacts of your project on communities of color and low-income communities, and describe what strategies your Department recommends to mitigate any potential adverse impacts.*
- 3. Does this project address specific racial and/or economic inequities in Sonoma County?*
- 4. Does the estimated project budget and timeline include resources and time to ensure sufficient community engagement, accessibility (i.e. translation, interpretation), outreach, etc?*

Generally, those who would find accessing data via the disparate departments, divisions and systems would have a high level of technical and government structure knowledge, in order to know where to look as well as how to retrieve information. Community members who experience underservice and/or structural and institutional marginalization tend to have a harder time accessing or leveraging available information. This enterprise level

website would allow for easier access not only for those community members, but for all people who are looking for easily accessible data.

It is not uncommon for citizens to visit government offices to meet their needs when they experience difficulty attempting to complete their tasks online. As government offices are typically only open during routine business hours this results in citizens needing to take time off from work and travel to the County government complex in Santa Rosa. What should be a routine visit is typically more complex under pandemic restrictions, and clients increase their risk of contracting COVID when congregating in public places (public transit, lobbies, clinics, waiting rooms, etc.).

Improving access to services not only streamlines common service requests, but it increases the ability of all citizens, including those from disadvantaged communities, to conduct business from any location they desire without the need for traveling. This reduces the communities carbon footprint due to fuel, paper waste, etc. and also helps manage the size and costs of public facilities designed as customer service centers.

Additionally, the data provided would allow governmental agencies to view spatial data through an equity lens, in order to better make equitable decisions for the community. Government agencies, such as the cities of Tacoma, Austin and Oakland have leveraged GIS data similar to what would be available via this portal to visualize racial inequities related to housing, tree canopy and accessible bike lanes.

Articles Related to GIS & Equity:

<https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/arcuser/using-geography-to-apply-an-equity-lens-to-projects-and-policies/>

<https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/blog/austins-map-of-tree-equity/>

<https://www.esri.com/en-us/ig/industry/government/city-of-tacoma-to-address-affordable-housing-and-housing-inequalities-with-gis>

Describe how this will project lead to future efficiencies or cost savings (indicate n/a if not applicable)

Services streamlined to improve self service online are consistent with digital transformation desired at all levels of government. Results include increased accuracy and responsiveness, flat or reduced personnel costs, lower volumes of paperwork, and reduced manual effort necessary to assist clients with process requests due to

Does the project support a community need based on COVID-19, if so, describe.

This project supports the increased community need for accessible, online, understandable enterprise level data. Due to COVID-19, there has been an increase in requests for remote services, as well as an interest in data that can be used to inform equitable policy decisions.

Does this meet a known unmet community need? If yes, please provide a link to a report/study/etc.

N/A

Is your project included in the County's 5-year Capital Plan?

If so, please indicate which project

N/A

Is your project included in the County's Recovery & Resiliency Framework?

The Framework can be found [here](#).

N/A

Will your proposal leverage community partnerships? If yes, explain?

N/A

Describe which community groups you have or will engage with in developing this proposal or to create an implementation plan

N/A