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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT 2021

RICHARD NICOLELLO,
Presiding Officer

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, June 21, 2021
10:15 A.M.

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2 A P P E A R A N C E S:3 LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO
4 Presiding Officer

5 9th Legislative District

6 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL
7 Deputy Presiding Officer

8 7th Legislative District

9 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD
10 Alternate Presiding Officer

11 4th Legislative District

12 LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS
13 Minority Leader
14 1st Legislative District15 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE
16 2nd Legislative District17 LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES
18 3rd Legislative District19 LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE
20 5th Legislative District21 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III
22 6th Legislative District23 LEGISLATOR VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA
24 8th Legislative District25 LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM
26 10th Legislative District27 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
28 11th Legislative District29 LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY (virtual)
30 12th Legislative District

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2 A P P E A R A N C E S (cont'd):3 LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT
4 13th Legislative District5 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER (Not Present)
6 14th Legislative District7 LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.
8 15th Legislative District9 LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER
10 16th Legislative District11 LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER (virtual)
12 17th Legislative District13 LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN
14 18th Legislative District15 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS
16 19th Legislative District17 MICHAEL PULITZER
18 Clerk of the Legislature

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2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I would
3 like to invite all legislators to the
4 chamber to start the hearing. I call the
5 hearing of the Nassau County Legislature to
6 order and ask Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel
7 to lead us in the Pledge.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Please join
9 me.

10 (Whereupon, the Pledge of
11 Allegiance was recited.)

12 Mike, would you call the roll,
13 please?

14 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you
15 Presiding Officer. Roll call. Deputy
16 Presiding Officer Howard Kopel?

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

18 CLERK PULITZER: Alternate
19 Deputy Presiding Officer Denise Ford?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
22 Siela Bynoe?

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
25 Carrie Solages?

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2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

3 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

4 Debra Mule?

5 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

6 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.

7 William Gaylor III?

8 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

9 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

10 Vincent Muscarella?

11 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

12 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

13 Ellen Birnbaum?

14 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

15 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

16 Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

18 Here.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

20 James Kennedy. We will come back.

21 Legislator Thomas McKeivitt?

22 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

23 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

24 Laura Schaefer?

25 (No verbal response.)

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2 Legislator John Ferretti?

3 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

4 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

5 Arnold Drucker?

6 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

7 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose

8 Marie Walker?

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

11 Joshua Lafazan?

12 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

13 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

14 Steven Rhoads?

15 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Let me come

17 back here to Alternate Deputy Presiding

18 Officer Denise Ford?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 Legislator James Kennedy?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 Legislator Laura Schaefer?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

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2 CLERK PULITZER: Presiding
3 Officer Richard Nicoletello?

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Here.

5 CLERK PULITZER: We have a
6 quorum, sir.

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Once the
8 other legislators join us, we'll note that
9 for the record.

10 Right now I would like to
11 welcome everyone to this hearing with
12 respect to the administration's plans in
13 terms of the relief monies coming as a
14 result of the American Rescue Plan Act.

15 We have a presentation obviously
16 by the administration. I see that Eric
17 Alexander and Rich Kessel were filling out
18 slips. So what we will do is do the
19 presentation by the administration and then
20 public comment and questions by the
21 legislators after that.

22 Eric, since you're in the
23 middle, maybe you can just lead us off and
24 tell for the record who the members of the
25 panel are.

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2 MS. TSIMIS: I'm Evlyn Tsimis.

3 Good morning, Presiding Officer, and members
4 of the Legislature. Thank you very much for
5 this time. The administration appreciates
6 the chance to outline for you the proposal
7 to allocate \$69.2 million of the American
8 Rescue Plan funding for a range of economic
9 recovery and community investment programs.

10 It's been a long road to
11 recovery, I think we can all agree, but
12 Nassau County is poised and ready to come
13 back stronger than ever.

14 Does everyone have a copy of the
15 presentation which I think will help to
16 guide us through this? We do expect
17 everyone on the panel here to say a few
18 words. We will try to run through it as
19 quickly as possible. Do you not have a
20 copy, Legislator Bynoe? Terrific. Thank
21 you. I'll wait a second.

22 We have a power point
23 presentation that was circulated to the
24 legislators this morning. Maybe we can get
25 that to everyone. Thank you.

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2 So, I'm joined by a number of
3 deputy county executives, county attorney's
4 office, budget office. Each of my
5 colleagues can introduce themselves when
6 they are speaking to you.

7 But, for the purposes of this
8 morning, as indicated on slide two, we
9 intend to kind of go over where we are in
10 terms of vaccinations, reopening, talk to
11 you how we have developed the program that's
12 before you as well as how we are developing
13 our program generally to push out our funds
14 to our county's residents and businesses;
15 how we are managing that through a series of
16 team members, consultants center, how we set
17 up a center to make sure that information is
18 fully available to our constituents and also
19 then the specifics of the plan before you.

20 As you know, the plan before you
21 is \$62.9 million, it's only one segment of
22 our proposals which are iterative and
23 ongoing.

24 So I will go through this power
25 point and turn it over to colleagues as

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 needed to present this to you.

3 We've made incredible progress,
4 I think we can all agree, in terms of our
5 ability to get our citizens vaccinated and
6 head towards reopening.

7 Nassau County has led the charts
8 in the number of our people who have been
9 vaccinated, 77 percent, highest large county
10 in the state.

11 Due to that progress we are in
12 very good position for the reopening that
13 was announced last week by the state of
14 New York. Virtually all restrictions have
15 been raised and lifted on commercial
16 activities. We are poised and ready to come
17 back for a strong recovery.

18 Many of our residents as all of
19 you well know are still struggling. We have
20 people struggling to pay their rent, to find
21 work, to get the assistance they need to
22 rebuild their lives and to get this economy
23 back on track.

24 Fortunately, we are extremely
25 well positioned to deliver much needed

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 resources through the American Rescue Plan
3 Act.

4 As you know, ARPA has directed
5 \$350 billion to eligible state and local
6 governments in order to respond to the
7 COVID-19 emergency. Nassau County will
8 receive approximately \$385 million in total
9 disbursed in two allotments. The first of
10 which has been received by the county on May
11 19th totaling \$192.5 million.

12 So we expect a second
13 distribution in May of 2022, no later than
14 12 months from the first allotment.

15 I'm on slide five now. Before
16 you is the County Executive's economic
17 recovery and community reinvestment package,
18 a proposal to deliver \$62.9 million of that
19 larger sum of \$192.5 million to much needed
20 assistance to small businesses, non-profits,
21 develop our workforce, revitalize our
22 downtowns and support our residents both
23 directly and through organizations that the
24 county partners with and potentially some
25 additional partners as well, so we can help

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2 our seniors, veterans, our youth and more.
3 We have a range of issues that are faced by
4 our people from mental health, social
5 service issues, that I think that we are
6 going to be discussing with you today.

7 We appreciate the chance to talk
8 to you about our plan and get your feedback
9 and input. We consider it an iterative
10 process given the significant funds
11 available. Again, only one allotment is
12 being asked for today.

13 We are working diligently to
14 ensure that funding is used wisely,
15 correctly and following the evolving federal
16 guidelines, and we are also expanding
17 existing programs with our nonprofit
18 partners, standing up new programs where
19 necessary, and creating a very important
20 record of all spending with the assistance
21 of our internal team as well as consultants
22 3PL and Haggerty and we also set up a
23 universal portal for application of all
24 types.

25 Last, but not least, we will

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2 ensure residents, businesses, nonprofits,
3 schools, special districts can act as the
4 available resources. So we can talk about
5 that a little bit more later.

6 But we are not only making sure
7 that our residents can take advantage of
8 what's already available through other
9 sources, whether it's rental assistance from
10 the federal government, or small business
11 assistance from the state of New York, but
12 also the programs as we roll them out and
13 everything will be on the one universal
14 portal.

15 We welcome your feedback on this
16 plan which has been developed with input
17 from the County Executive's Economic
18 Advisory Council cochaired by IDA Chairman
19 Richie Kessel, who is here in the room and
20 would like to address you directly, and
21 Hofstra president Steward Benowitz, with
22 leading members of our business, nonprofit
23 communities.

24 We truly appreciate the
25 participation of legislators McKeivitt and

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2 DeRiggi-Whitton who were named by each of
3 the leaders in this constructive and ongoing
4 effort.

5 We have engaged, aside from the
6 Economic Advisory Council, numerous
7 conversations with chambers of commerce
8 leaders and Eric Alexander is here in the
9 room. We have been very actively discussing
10 all ideas for how we can best direct this
11 money to a host of conversations and
12 discussions both through the IDA and
13 otherwise.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I just want
15 to interrupt you for a second, Legislator
16 Ford has joined us.

17 MS. TSIMIS: Terrific. Welcome.
18 We also took input from --

19 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,
20 Presiding Officer.

21 MS. TSIMIS: Thank you. We also
22 had surveys and research done and help of
23 additional consulting resources. As I think
24 many of you know, Hofstra did a needs
25 assessment survey. They have been wonderful

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 throughout this pandemic with several
3 surveys throughout the way about how our
4 downtowns are doing, how our businesses are
5 doing.

6 This particular survey asked
7 residents and small businesses. We received
8 over 1,000 responses, a very good number for
9 one of these surveys; what do you think, how
10 should Nassau County direct this funding?
11 And the overwhelming response was to direct
12 assistance to small business, direct
13 assistance to households, and they felt it
14 was extremely important that there be an
15 easy way to get information about what's
16 available.

17 So we have taken those
18 suggestions and findings into account in the
19 development of our plan. I'm now basically
20 on slide 7.

21 The key aspect of the \$62.9
22 million plan is funding for our Boost Nassau
23 Research Center and portal. Extremely proud
24 of the effort that's going into this to get
25 this up and running very quickly.

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2 So our new Boost Nassau portal
3 is a one stop shop for figuring out
4 eligibility and applying for federal, state,
5 and county aid programs. Those already
6 available as well as the new ones that will
7 be coming online as we roll out new programs
8 throughout the ARPA funds.

9 The portal directs to specific
10 categories. So if you go to slide 8 you can
11 see those categories laid out. We have
12 economic impact, and those are programs
13 which support businesses and non profit from
14 county, New York State, federal sources,
15 directly or otherwise.

16 On the right we have community
17 resources which are programs to support
18 individuals and related human services. So
19 if you're looking for rental assistance you
20 would go into the community resources portal
21 and right now, even before ARPA money has
22 been allocated, you can find information on
23 how to secure rental assistance both from
24 the county home program that we laid through
25 the CDBGCB funds earlier this year which

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 provides three months of assistance for
3 renters.

4 You can also get information on
5 how to take advantages of the federal
6 program which provides another additional
7 year of assistance to renters which in turn
8 helps some of our landlords.

9 So we are very pleased that
10 right now you can get information on several
11 programs on the portals today.

12 There also will be a section for
13 the special districts meaning the school
14 districts and fire districts and others that
15 are directly eligible for ARPA assistance
16 and the county intends to assist those
17 special districts in securing the funding
18 that's available to them.

19 The final category is
20 infrastructure. So any of the programs or
21 infrastructure, whether it's sewer, water,
22 broadband, you will be able to get
23 information there.

24 And all applications, no matter
25 what you're applying for, from the county

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2 through ARPA will be available through this
3 very same portal.

4 For those needing additional
5 help, whether they're nonprofit
6 organizations, residents, businesses, we
7 have do have appointments available at our
8 new Boost Nassau Resource Center in
9 Eisenhower Park. It was opened about ten
10 days ago, staffed with temporary employees.
11 We have been bringing in very enthusiastic
12 and we're very excited to have been able to
13 onboard them quickly.

14 The center is being managed by
15 Dr. Regina Williams of the Office of
16 Minority Affairs and we're your support of a
17 \$500,000 allocation in order to cover those
18 temporary salaries and also to provide some
19 additional funding for the center.

20 We may need things like we are
21 going to need a language access line, we're
22 going to need -- we might be doing some
23 advertising. We are looking to promote the
24 fact that we have a resource center in
25 Eisenhower Park. It's not something you

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2 would know going to the park, so we might
3 place some ads in Newsday or run some radio
4 advertisements. We think the funding would
5 be used to do that.

6 The more people can find out
7 that we have a resource center at Eisenhower
8 Park the more successful it will be.

9 We have also created a flyer
10 that we will share with all of your offices
11 within the next several days that we urge
12 you to send out so we can start generating
13 more traffic to the site and more
14 appointments as needed. We are very pleased
15 about this.

16 I want to publicly thank the
17 heads of our outreach offices, Lionel
18 Chitty, Amy Flores, and Farah Mozzawalla,
19 and their teams who have embraced this Boost
20 Nassau concept and lead their support and
21 enthusiasm.

22 Essentially what we decided to
23 do was, all of our outreach offices have
24 been helping our residents throughout this
25 pandemic reaching the aid assistance that

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2 they need.

3 I joke that Lionel Chitty is a
4 bit of a small business support staff of his
5 own and has given -- has helped dozens and
6 dozens of businesses secure assistance
7 through the various sources at the federal
8 and state levels and all of the teams have
9 been doing that through Amy's office and
10 Farah's office. They have all embraced this
11 Boost Nassau Center and have their teams
12 participating in the training we are doing.

13 Last Friday, for instance, the
14 state of New York offered our team a
15 training on their new ramp program, \$800
16 million state wide for small businesses and
17 we felt it important for everyone, not just
18 the Boost Nassau team, but the teams in all
19 of our outreach offices to have the lay of
20 the land on that program because it's
21 extremely important that Nassau County get
22 as many of those dollars into the hands of
23 our small businesses.

24 So I truly appreciate the effort
25 of the three offices and how enthusiastic

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2 they have been.

3 I'll just say in addition that
4 we really want to make sure our team is
5 multiple lingual so we have done a great job
6 so far. Regina has managed to find a
7 candidate who speaks Arabic and Spanish. We
8 are building that out. We have some
9 candidates that we are looking to bring on
10 that speak Mandarin and some of our other
11 top languages so we can make sure that the
12 team at Boost Nassau has the ability to
13 communicate to our population.

14 We're really very focused on
15 making sure that our hard hit communities
16 are able to access all the resources
17 available.

18 So before turning over to my
19 colleagues other aspects of the \$62 million
20 plan, I will just briefly outline some of
21 the economic development pieces in addition
22 to Boost Nassau and then we can come back to
23 it later if you have questions.

24 But, really, \$32 million of the
25 funding before you is in the economic

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 development area where we're looking to
3 direct new grants and loans and technical
4 assistance to our small businesses and our
5 nonprofits, mostly those with under 50
6 employees who have been hard hit by this
7 pandemic and who are committed to Nassau
8 County and looking to build their businesses
9 over the long term.

10 We will be looking for
11 partnerships with some of our local
12 educational institutions and other well
13 situated organizations to help us provide
14 technical assistance to our Chambers of
15 Commerce who have asked us to please direct
16 additional assistance to them so they can
17 help build back the downtowns.

18 As I mentioned, the studies, the
19 Hofstra study and Rouché Foundation, which
20 did a study on what's needed for the
21 downtowns, technical assistance to
22 businesses was a big part of that effort.

23 How do you do social media? We
24 know even before the pandemic our local
25 retailers were getting hit by the

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2 competition from Amazon and others, so the
3 idea is to use this pandemic funding to help
4 build these businesses back, build back our
5 downtowns which is so critical to our
6 economy.

7 We are also looking to do a
8 tourism initiative to bring visitors back to
9 Nassau County highlighting our cultural
10 organizations, our fabulous parks, and our
11 wonderful attractions here as a supplement
12 to what is already being done under the
13 county's contract with discover Long Island.
14 This is a separate pot of \$500,000 that
15 would be directed to bringing folks back to
16 Nassau County.

17 Then, lastly, another major
18 portion of this \$32 million economic
19 development program is \$10 million for a new
20 workforce development initiative or
21 initiatives. This is an area that Nassau
22 County I think has a lot of work to do in
23 workforce development. There is a lot going
24 on. BOCES are involved, Nassau Community
25 College is involved. We have unions that

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2 have to have apprenticeship programs, but
3 the ARPA allows the County to direct
4 resources for unemployed or underemployed
5 individuals who are having trouble getting
6 jobs following the pandemic.

7 What we are looking to do is
8 create new programs to make sure that Nassau
9 County residents have the skills and
10 training that they need to get the jobs and
11 we're looking specifically at health care
12 and other growing industry like wind.

13 So this is one where we are
14 asking for you to dedicate \$10 million
15 programs still to be developed. But we
16 think it's an extremely important area and
17 we're very excited about the partnerships we
18 think we can build here locally.

19 I'm now going to turn things
20 over to Paul Broderick and then two DCEs
21 will outline their specific programs as
22 well.

23 MR. BRODERICK: Good morning.

24 MS. TSIMIS: We are up to slide
25 ten.

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2 MR. BRODERICK: Thank you,
3 Evlyn. The American Rescue Plan is also
4 called the COVID 19 stimulus package signed
5 by President Biden on March 11 to assist in
6 the recovery from economic and health
7 affects of the pandemic. The allocations to
8 the various municipalities, state and
9 federal local governments was basically the
10 same allocation methodology used for the
11 CARES Act.

12 As was previously mentioned,
13 \$192.5 was receive by Nassau County on May
14 19th. The ARPA funds are used to cover
15 eligible costs as incurred from March 3,
16 2021.

17 The use of the funds, the
18 deadline is to obligate the funds by
19 December 31, 2024, and to spend those
20 obligated funds by December 31st, 2026.

21 Currently, the federal guidance
22 is an interal final rule which was released
23 on May 10th on guidance as to how these
24 funds can be utilized and the interal filing
25 period ends on July 16th.

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2 So, as we know similar with the
3 CARES money and FEMA funds went through the
4 federal government, they usually change the
5 eligibility and more so than not relax them
6 as opposed to restrict them as time goes on.

7 The investment plan. The
8 initial phase of the \$62.9 million is
9 allocated \$17.9 million towards health and
10 human service programs. \$9 million to
11 Department of Public Work programs, 32 and a
12 half million to economic development
13 programs, and 3 and a half million to
14 assistance to special districts.

15 These monies we will talk about
16 later on. This is the initial phase and
17 phase two will come later on when additional
18 items come through the Legislative body
19 through additional feedback through the
20 portal and through the community to say what
21 those needs are and match that up with the
22 eligibility criteria as set forth by the
23 federal government.

24 The resource center, the online
25 portal, the whole idea as Evlyn had

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2 mentioned is to gather information from the
3 communities and have one port of entry.
4 This is not only for what's possibly what
5 gets allocated from the county through the
6 ARP plans but the numerous other federal
7 programs that are out there.

8 So instead of people getting
9 confused and going to this website and that
10 website. If they come to our website we
11 will address them in the appropriate way so
12 they are not confused. The ARP funding
13 right now is not open on the portal because
14 it hasn't gone through the legislative
15 process here.

16 However, other programs that
17 availability is out there for federal and
18 state grant funds, that information is
19 available through the portal. What we are
20 asking for is the applicants -- to place
21 their applications on there to give us,
22 pulling in information from them saying what
23 are the needs in the community, do they
24 adhere to the current programs that we have
25 or maybe they don't conform with what we

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 currently have or maybe something can get
3 developed.

4 The application process, the
5 phase one is just developing the criteria,
6 reviewing and evaluating those applications
7 and trying to build upon existing programs
8 to leverage what existing resources we
9 currently have.

10 Part of that process is
11 information vetting and working with our
12 vendors to evaluate criteria whether or not
13 the individuals fit that criteria to ensure
14 that we are complying with the federal
15 guidance.

16 Assistance to special districts.
17 Initially the county was looking to assist
18 school districts because working with FEMA
19 and the federal government can be kind of
20 confusing.

21 Our consultant was essentially
22 assisting the school districts to go out and
23 tap into the federal funding to leverage
24 that. Initially there are funds out there
25 to assist in PPE and some of the expenses

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2 that the school districts have borne but
3 sometimes they're resonant into not seeking
4 those federal funds, it's easier to just
5 absorb those cost.

6 But our position was, if they
7 can tap into the funds with a consultant
8 that can assist them in that process, we are
9 not getting involved and we're not
10 submitting on their behalf, we're providing
11 them with guidance to tap into those funds
12 to further relieve Nassau County taxpayers
13 from absorbing those costs.

14 In the future down the road, the
15 school districts, they have the FEMA funds
16 available, and elementary and secondary
17 school relief funds available to them.

18 So if they reach out to us or
19 the consultants to ask what is eligible and
20 what is ineligible, the consultants will be
21 able to guide them as to how to tap into
22 those additional funds instead of the
23 taxpayer bearing it or just assuming it in
24 their operation expenses.

25 Additional programs might be

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2 forthcoming that might be eligible for the
3 ARPA funds. That's why the two and a half
4 million was allocated to something that
5 those other funding streams wouldn't
6 necessarily cover.

7 For slide 15, I am turning it
8 over to Deputy County Executive Rose Louder.

9 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: Good morning.
10 In health and human services program, we are
11 asking for \$17.9 million, up to, to fund and
12 grant to many of the agencies that our
13 departments work with every day. In the
14 veterans service agency, our director Ralph
15 Esposito and Deputy Director Paul Vista,
16 that agency, that department is a unique
17 department in that we do not have any direct
18 contracts with the veteran agencies that
19 support our veterans.

20 However the director and deputy
21 director rely on a number of veteran
22 agencies nonprofit agencies that support the
23 veterans. They know who they are. They have
24 strong working relationships with the
25 executive directors.

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2 So these are the agencies that
3 have been supporting the VSA all along.
4 Many of them are the agencies that both the
5 director and deputy director and their staff
6 refer our veterans to every day.

7 So with \$1 million, we would
8 like to start supporting those agencies. We
9 know who they are. We know that they have
10 been unable to fundraise and get the
11 donations that they usually get every year
12 that helps them to support the VSA and our
13 veterans and so this funding will be a way
14 of putting them back on track, restoring
15 them, and making sure that they are able to
16 continue and expand on some of the services
17 that they are already doing.

18 We had a very successful stand
19 down just on Friday for the veterans and
20 many of those agencies were involved in that
21 and supported despite the fact that they
22 have suffered significant losses during the
23 pandemic.

24 So we would like to be able to
25 restore them, replenish their coffers and

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 enable them to expand those services.

3 So through the VSA, our plan is
4 to reach out to them and have them apply to
5 recoup some of their losses and put them
6 back on track. Some of the services that
7 many of them do are educational counseling,
8 mental health counseling, food pantry,
9 clothing.

10 They really do support our
11 veterans in almost all aspects of life. So
12 we look to be able to support them with this
13 allocation.

14 In behavioral health support, we
15 are looking for \$3.4 million and these are
16 agencies that we do contract with a number
17 of agencies in human services and behavioral
18 health is one of them. We had about 40 some
19 odd agencies we contract with and we know
20 who they are. We work with them all the
21 time. We are looking to support them and
22 give them back some of their losses.

23 One of the things that we've
24 done in health and human services all during
25 the pandemic is to have communications with

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 our executive directors of the agencies, the
3 contract agencies.

4 So they have been telling us
5 what they're doing, how they have been
6 pivoting and being able to modify their
7 existing programs, and also what their
8 losses are and what they need.

9 So it's through that
10 conversation that we developed, that we
11 formulated the \$60,000 for mental health and
12 substance abuse.

13 The behavioral health agencies,
14 they overlap many other agencies. Many of
15 them provide -- the different agencies do a
16 number of different things within behavioral
17 health and within social services.

18 So many of them that we have
19 relationships with will be getting funding
20 through a number of avenues.

21 For example, in mental health
22 and substance abuse, we have started -- we
23 have an initiative that overlaps into public
24 safety in the probation department. We are
25 looking to combat the recidivism among

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 probationers. So obviously when you start
3 looking at that population, what the
4 problems are, what the needs, why do these
5 individuals continue to involve themselves
6 in the criminal justice system, there are
7 gaps that need to be addressed and haven't
8 been able to be addressed; some of them are
9 substance abuse, some of them are workforce
10 development and educational support.

11 That overlaps in the behavioral
12 health and so while there is some funding in
13 behavioral health for the mental health and
14 substance abuse, there is also funding in
15 the other bucket so to speak for mental
16 health and substance abuse that will be
17 funneled into some of these same agencies
18 that we already have relationships with, and
19 we have identified the agencies that will be
20 able to help with the probation recidivism
21 initiative and combat that.

22 So in our youth services, we
23 have, again, about 40 agencies that we
24 support that we contract with every year.
25 We have had lots of conversations with them

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 during at pandemic because they really were
3 on pause at the very beginning and trying to
4 figure out how they could continue to do
5 what they do, and they really listened, they
6 worked together. They came up with some
7 wonderful ideas on how to continue their
8 services.

9 They also suffered losses
10 because they too rely heavily on fund raises
11 so they were unable to do some of that. So
12 they had to adjust and communicate it with
13 us what their losses were and what their
14 needs are.

15 Based on that, we decided -- we
16 came up with the formula to support them to
17 give 20 percent, an increase of 20 percent
18 based on the value of their existing
19 contract to enable them to restore,
20 replenish, these are agencies that do after
21 school programs, academic programs, and we
22 know there is a tremendous need for remedial
23 work, many of our young people suffered
24 greatly under remote learning. So these are
25 the agencies that support our families in

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 that regard so we're looking forward to
3 being able to support them in that way.

4 In aging, we have proposed
5 funding to our nonprofit contractors serving
6 our seniors in health, counseling, legal
7 services, home care, transportation,
8 nutrition and recreation.

9 Many of our agencies and our
10 senior centers as well really stepped up to
11 support our seniors during the pandemic.
12 The meals, Meals on Wheels, getting food to
13 our seniors was a tremendous effort during
14 the pandemic and we look to restore and fund
15 our agencies that are supporting our
16 seniors.

17 In health and social services,
18 once again in social services we have a
19 number of contract providers that we know
20 very well that we will be looking to fund
21 with some of these ARP funds and, again,
22 based on conversations that we've had with
23 them all along, we know who they are, we
24 work well with them, we know what their
25 deliverables will and what their losses are

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 that they suffered.

3 We are looking to restore them
4 and continue that relationship and make sure
5 they are able to continue to provide the
6 services for our people.

7 In health equity which we know
8 has been we've been -- we've been able to
9 shine a big light on the disparities. We
10 have plans to reach out to those agencies
11 that are addressing the issues that are in
12 health disparities.

13 Our director of health equities
14 is in communication with many of these
15 agencies and will be inviting them all, we
16 don't have any existing contracts with them
17 but we will be inviting them all to the
18 portal to apply for funds so they can
19 continue to address the issues that have
20 been revealed throughout the pandemic.

21 So those are the areas in health
22 and human services that we are looking to
23 support. We know that there are a number of
24 agencies out there that we do not have
25 existing contracts with. Many of them we

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 come to know through our regular RFP
3 process. Many of them are agencies that
4 have partnerships with our contract
5 agencies, they work as subcontractors and
6 consultants to some of our contract
7 agencies. And so we are going to be
8 inviting all of them to the portal to make
9 application to get some of the funding into
10 the health and social services grant
11 program. We have \$10 million that we have
12 set aside there to assist those agencies
13 that are more supportive of our regular
14 contract agencies and some that are unique
15 and have some innovations and have been
16 assisting residents in ways that we have not
17 been able to do so up to know.

18 So we are looking to make sure
19 that those non funded agencies, they're not
20 contracted agencies, that they are also able
21 to be supportive to be restored,
22 replenished, and continue to provide the
23 services for our contract agencies and our
24 residents and get back on track themselves.
25 Because all of these nonprofits as we know

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 have not been able to do the regular fund
3 raisers that they hold, that they rely on,
4 that bring them more funding. We want to
5 make sure that every one there has an
6 opportunity there as well. Who is next?
7 I'm going to kick it over to Brian
8 Schneider, Deputy County Executive for
9 Department of Public Works and Parks.

10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Before you
11 do, Legislator Walker and Kennedy are
12 participating virtually.

13 MR. SCHNEIDER: Good morning.
14 Thank you members of the Legislature for
15 this opportunity. I wanted to pivot to
16 speak about the next category which is the
17 investment in water and sewer
18 infrastructure.

19 There are two initiatives that I
20 would like to talk about this morning; first
21 one is a septic system replacement fund
22 program and program administration.

23 As you know, the county
24 currently has a program to reimburse
25 property and small business owners to

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 replace their aging and failing on-site
3 cesspools and septic systems which is the
4 single largest cause of degraded ground and
5 surface water quality on Long Island with an
6 upgraded nitrogen removing septic system.

7 This program is already
8 supported by a \$2 million grant from the New
9 York State Environmental Facilities
10 Corporation and, as recently at the
11 beginning of May, I came to this body and
12 asked you to pass the amended agreement and
13 I appreciate the body passing that grant.

14 So that grant caps the award for
15 each property owner at \$10,000 for
16 reimbursement and, based on a similar
17 program in Suffolk County, we know that
18 these upgraded systems can cost anywhere
19 between 22 and \$25,000 for each unit with
20 complete installation and design.

21 The resulting out of pocket
22 expense is viewed as a deterrent to moving
23 forward with these upgraded systems.

24 Suffolk County, however,
25 provides additional grant funds through

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 their half percent sales tax which makes it
3 much more attractive to upgrade their
4 systems so they provide almost a full
5 reimbursement to property owners which
6 covers almost the entire cost of these new
7 systems.

8 So our proposal is to use ARPA
9 funds as a match to the EFC grant which
10 would increase the total award to \$20,000
11 per property owner which will make, we
12 believe, the program much more appealing.

13 Additionally, Nassau County has
14 contracted with the Nassau County Soil and
15 Water Conservation District in administering
16 the grant program for the next three years.
17 So that total ask is \$3 million out of the
18 total of nine that we are asking for in the
19 investment in water and sewer
20 infrastructure.

21 The second initiative is a
22 multiyear groundwater conservation pilot
23 program. This proposal requests funding to
24 develop and implement a multiyear
25 groundwater conservation program for Nassau

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 County and the Long Island region. We are
3 calling it Water Vision.

4 It's a groundwater conservation
5 program for Nassau County to address policy
6 and practices that will lower regional water
7 demand, lay the foundation to change the
8 water use culture on Long Island and advance
9 needed technology and water infrastructure
10 to conserve groundwater.

11 Long Island's past groundwater
12 use is no longer a safe guide for
13 sustainable water use in the future. This
14 plan will establish goals and metrics to
15 track change.

16 The program will expand each
17 year with the success of steps to
18 successfully achieve a sustainable water
19 supply for Long Island.

20 Because Long Island has such a
21 large population and broad geographic
22 expanse, there's an ingrained belief that
23 it's water supply is unlimited.

24 This program will emphasize
25 collaboration, piloting new strategies and

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 making necessary adjustments as the plan is
3 warranted.

4 It relies on the expanded
5 understanding that the groundwater system
6 that is currently being generated by the
7 United States Geological Survey's Long
8 Island Groundwater Sustainability Study
9 which basically is three years into its
10 process.

11 Progress right now is showing
12 that the salt water interface located along
13 the south shore along the western portion of
14 Long Island has advanced further inland in
15 the Magathy and Lloyd aquifers than
16 previously believed.

17 These findings have been
18 instrumental in New York City's recent
19 decision to decommission their Queens
20 Jamaica wells.

21 These early findings also
22 indicate that Long Island no longer has a
23 luxury of waiting to implement strategies to
24 reduce groundwater demand.

25 This program will lay out a five

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 year pilot program to allow for expansion of
3 current programs such as the smart sprinkler
4 rebate program which was passed by the
5 legislature last year, incredibly
6 successful. We basically sold out of these
7 smart sprinkler rebates in a matter of days
8 and we need to expand that.

9 We need to make sure that we
10 county residents who have a complete
11 understanding of where their groundwater
12 comes from and how it's used and how it
13 should be saved and really cherished moving
14 forward.

15 So, on Long Island our per
16 capita water use continues to increase even
17 though nationwide water use is decreasing
18 even as populations increase.

19 We need to change the narrative
20 here in Nassau County because obviously the
21 past is telling us that we are not doing the
22 right thing.

23 So, with this initiative, we
24 have a number of program elements besides
25 the smart sprinkler rebate program expanding

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 that. We want to utilize LICAP to assist
3 water suppliers to meet the 15 percent
4 summer peak reduction goal.

5 We are also looking to assist
6 our public water suppliers who are doing a
7 good job but we believe there are other
8 opportunities to expand the use of, say,
9 automatic meter readings and link detection
10 programs to preserve our resource. There
11 are automatic meter reading software
12 upgrades and smart phone customer access
13 systems that can be implemented in the going
14 years, and also we want to make sure there
15 is a training and education program for
16 sustainable lawn practices including low
17 maintenance, drought resistance grasses and
18 plantings that reduce the need to
19 continually supplement yards and landscapes
20 with water.

21 So we want to build a
22 sustainable lawn showcase at several of our
23 parks in the years going forward, not just
24 to tell people to save water, but show
25 people how they can save water. We also

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 want to implement a municipal building pilot
3 program for surveying and retrofitting old
4 fixtures with new low flow fixtures, not
5 just in county buildings, but all municipal
6 buildings throughout Nassau County.

7 We want to issue water demand
8 challenges that facilitate conservation
9 through collaboration of water use in the
10 same categories, such as parks, golf
11 courses, institutional and industrial
12 facilities, universities, wastewater
13 treatment plants and hospitals.

14 Finally, we want to assist the
15 Nassau County Department of Health in
16 preparing and socializing the groundwater
17 public water supply fax report that clear
18 and readable information is provided to the
19 residents throughout the county so they can
20 make sure they have a complete understanding
21 of water demand, not only water quantity but
22 water quality issues that are impacting
23 every water supplier in Nassau County.

24 MS. TSIMIS: That actually
25 concludes the presentation portion. We are

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 happy to answer questions. I did only touch
3 on the economic development programs which
4 is the final slide but I think it was
5 sufficient for our purposes and we are happy
6 to take your questions.

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
8 Before we do that, we have several slips
9 that we call for our speakers. Richie
10 Kessel.

11 MR. KESSEL: Good morning
12 everyone. Good to see you, Rich, good
13 morning. Good to see you, Denise, and all
14 my friends in the Legislature. I appreciate
15 each of you because I worked with you and
16 known you for many many years. It's a
17 pleasure to be here today.

18 I am, as you know, chairman at
19 the IDA but I also cochair the County
20 Executive's Economic Advisory Council which
21 has been active for over a year right now in
22 helping small business in particular get
23 through a very, very difficult time.

24 I have to tell you that, in the
25 work that we've been doing, and I think it

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 goes to the IDA as well, one of the most
3 important things we need to do is help our
4 small businesses and downtowns. They are
5 struggling tremendously. We have been
6 working very closely with our local chambers
7 of commerce, Nassau Council Chambers of
8 Commerce, to help them.

9 A year or so ago we gave out
10 along with the County of Nassau and the Town
11 of Hempstead Don Clavin 5,000 PPE kits to
12 help businesses survive during a very
13 difficult time.

14 We had long programs and other
15 programs that are critically important. I
16 want to say from the outset that there are a
17 lot of priorities that are out there from my
18 perspective both at the IDA and the Economic
19 Advisory Council helping small businesses
20 helping our downtown is critical.

21 Anything that you can do to help
22 expedite the expenditure of funds and the
23 allocation of funds to our downtowns, our
24 Chambers of Commerce and our small business
25 would be greatly appreciated.

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2 The process that we're going
3 through is, we been meeting on pretty much a
4 weekly basis, and we have people from all
5 over, my cochair is Stew Rabinowitz,
6 President of Hofstra University, a great
7 guy, a great contributor. We have people
8 from all walks of life. I know Tom
9 McKevitt, it's good to see you, Delia
10 DeRiggi-Whitton, good to see you as well
11 participate in these meetings.

12 What we do is we come up with
13 ideas. How we should be spending the money.
14 What we do is we don't decide that, you
15 decide that but what we do is we make
16 recommendations to the County Executive.
17 Many of the programs that are before you
18 today are programs that we've discussed and
19 we have recommended to the County Executive
20 and she has recommended to the County
21 Legislature. That process will continue.

22 I think it's important to note
23 and I think Evlyn Tsimis, I think Evlyn and
24 her team have done a great job especially on
25 the economic development front, but this is

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 a process that includes everyone.

3 I think it's important to know
4 that there are a lot of good programs
5 included in this presentation today, and I
6 certainly urge you to seriously consider
7 them. Again, my priority is small business
8 an economic development.

9 But there are other programs
10 like infrastructure that should be looked at
11 the same time. Helping nonprofits, helping
12 school districts as well are critically
13 important to all of us.

14 But I also think it's important
15 we want to hear from you. I'm speaking now
16 on behalf of the Economic Advisory Council
17 but I think also on behalf of the County
18 Executive.

19 There are monies that are not
20 allocated and monies that haven't yet been
21 proposed and we would like to know from each
22 of you what programs you think are
23 important, what things you want us to do.

24 One thing I think you all know
25 about me is I'm an open book. We all work

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 together. We have a good relationship and I
3 look at people like Arnie Drucker, and I'm
4 going to call you later today about the
5 Cardinally Bakery expanding into Woodbury
6 and tell you about that great news.

7 But I work with many of you. I
8 call you all the time about different
9 projects that we do at the IDA. I want to
10 extend the same hand to you to say if there
11 are ideas that you have, because we're not
12 the sole proprietor of good ideas. You have
13 good ideas. Some of you have reached out to
14 me with good ideas. If you have good ideas,
15 how to spend this money, give it to us.
16 This should be a collaborative process
17 between the County Executive and the
18 Legislature and the Economic Advisory
19 Council.

20 We are glad to work with you.
21 We appreciate all the cooperation that you
22 have given, and, again, I think you all know
23 me. I'm there and available any time to
24 hear your concerns.

25 I thank you and fully support

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 the recommendations that the county is
3 making today.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I just have
5 a question. You're meeting once a week,
6 you're saying?

7 MR. KESSEL: Approximately once
8 a week.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Full
10 council or part of the council?

11 MR. KESSEL: Full council.

12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Before the
13 County Executive issued her supplemental
14 appropriation, was that given to the
15 Economic Advisory Council, did you see it
16 before it was submitted to the Legislature?

17 MR. KESSEL: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Was it
19 discussed by the council?

20 MR. KESSEL: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Was there
22 any sort of vote on it?

23 MR. KESSEL: We don't really
24 vote. It's not a formal body. But we
25 consider things. It's collaborative

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 process. Again, while we don't take a vote,
3 and I'm not speaking for the council itself,
4 I think we all -- I think one of the things
5 you'll find, Rich, is that there is pretty
6 much unity in terms of some of the items
7 that we consider all the time.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: This
9 current plan is \$62 million, was there any
10 discussion of the homeowner's assistance
11 plan that was proposed by the County
12 Executive?

13 MR. KESSEL: There was,
14 actually, it was a while ago, probably about
15 a month ago.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: What was
17 presented to you in the Economic Advisory
18 Council?

19 MR. KESSEL: It was presented to
20 us as a \$375 payment to people that are star
21 and enhanced star eligible. That would be
22 about \$375 per homeowner.

23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Was that
24 something that was voted upon?

25 MR. KESSEL: Again, we don't

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 vote on anything but it was something that
3 was extensively discussed. In fact, if I
4 remember correctly, the County Executive
5 herself, who by the way attends all these
6 meetings. They're virtual. Hopefully we
7 will be meeting in person very soon, but she
8 is active and on every single of them and
9 she did present that to us early on about a
10 month ago.

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: So it was
12 okay with the Economic Advisory Council that
13 \$100 million, more than half of the current
14 allotment of 2021 was going to be spent on
15 this program, is that something --

16 MR. KESSEL: I think, look,
17 people need help right now. It's not just
18 limited to one group of people. It's middle
19 class taxpayers, middle class homeowners.
20 People are struggling in different areas.

21 I think there is a general
22 consensus that this program would put money
23 into their pockets. Here's the most
24 important thing, and I remember discussing
25 at the meeting, the money would be spent

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 hopefully locally, and one of the things
3 that we would do to our Boost Nassau program
4 is encourage the people to spend the money
5 locally. So it puts money into the hands of
6 small business people in our downtowns and
7 that money circulates and revitalizes the
8 economy.

9 I think it's a huge shot in the
10 arm. It helps people. Right now for many
11 of us it's a matter of survival, it's a
12 matter of recovery, it's a matter also
13 ultimately of hopefully getting back on our
14 feet again.

15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Just so I
16 understand, is this more like an informal
17 group, are you producing any reports, is
18 there any documents going back and forth,
19 minutes of the meetings, anything like that?

20 MR. KESSEL: There aren't any
21 minutes of any meetings but there are
22 minutes that are kept by the county, so I
23 think they can be provided to you. There
24 are consultants.

25 Now the IDA, in cooperation with

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 the Economic Advisory Council, has hired
3 consultants, HR&A, to do a number of studies
4 for us.

5 Right now, for instance, they
6 are engaged in giving us a menu of options
7 of programs that we might not have thought
8 of that are creative and thinking outside
9 the box. They are engaged in that study as
10 we speak. The Rouche Foundation also made a
11 formal presentation to the Economic Advisory
12 Council on their finding about how to help
13 struggling downtowns.

14 I think that the county would be
15 glad to provide you with those minutes.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thanks,
17 Rich. Anyone else have any questions for
18 Richie Kessler.

19 LEGISLATOR FORD: Good
20 afternoon, thank you very much for being
21 here.

22 Just to follow-up on the
23 consultants that you said you hired. Were
24 these consultants hired specifically for
25 this money?

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 MR. KESSEL: Yes.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: How much are
4 we paying them to be consultants

5 MR. KESSEL: Let me just say
6 that we hired them initially a year ago to
7 do a lot of work about recovery, how we
8 could recover. We reengaged them to a cost
9 of about \$120,000.

10 To take a look at what the
11 American Recovery Plan allows us to do,
12 because we want to make sure that the
13 programs that we present are programs that
14 are allowed under the program.

15 Then, after that, we've now
16 engaged them to take a look at exactly what
17 are some of the programs around the country
18 that are being used.

19 You have to understand that many
20 municipalities all over the country are
21 getting American Recovery funds and spending
22 them in a variety of different ways.

23 What we have the consultants
24 doing, and we just had this last week, we
25 had them looking all over the country, what

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 are some of the things that we are not
3 thinking of that could be spent, that are
4 intelligent ways to spend this money and
5 that makes sense. They're going to come
6 back to us, my guess, in probably the next
7 two or three weeks with a menu of options
8 that we again will discuss and then I assure
9 some of them will give to the County
10 Executive and they'll be recommended to you.

11 MS. TSIMIS: If I can just make
12 a clarification. Richie is speaking about
13 the IDA's own consultant that they retained
14 separately from the county, HR&A.

15 And I had mentioned previously
16 that the county has retained two firms, CG
17 3PL and Haggerty. Those firms are providing
18 assistance and guidance on eligibility and
19 setting up programs and the applications we
20 have discussed and those we are requesting
21 additional resources in this package before
22 you, I think it's a million dollars to
23 support those consultants, so really two
24 different work streams but very related in
25 the fact that we're almost double checking

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 that everything we are doing both with our
3 own consultants and then of course the IDAs
4 contract with HR&A, they have been very
5 helpful throughout the process.

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: Very
7 understandable. Thank you for the
8 clarification. Good to see you today.

9 MR. KESSEL: Thank you all very
10 much. It was good to see you. I would like
11 to end by just --

12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Before you
13 go, Legislator Rhoads has a question.

14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Good to see
15 you. Question. You indicated that the
16 Economic Advisory Council has existed for at
17 least the past year; is that correct?

18 MR. KESSEL: Actually more than
19 a year.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Obviously
21 the money we're receiving through the
22 American Recovery Act is not the only money
23 that Nassau County received for COVID
24 relief, right, Rich?

25 MR. KESSEL: Yes. There is

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 grant, state monies.

3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: And we also
4 received and you alluded to it, we received
5 CARES Act funding last year to the tune of
6 about \$103 million. Did the administration
7 ever consult with the Economic Advisory
8 Council with respect to how that money was
9 to be spent?

10 MR. KESSEL: Yes. I think that
11 the administration has been regularly
12 consulting with us. As I said, the County
13 Executive, Evlyn and a number of other
14 people from the county are at the meetings
15 every week and we discuss a whole host of
16 things.

17 I think the EAC, I hope you
18 don't mind I call that for short, is in the
19 second phase of what it was intended to do.
20 It was originally intended to kind of get
21 together, we are in a crisis right now, how
22 do we deal with the crisis? What do we do
23 immediately to help small businesses?

24 Just for an example, I don't
25 want to take too much time, but we came up

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 with this idea of helping businesses who
3 couldn't get PPE a year ago. People forget
4 that PPE was almost impossible to get, too
5 expensive.

6 We worked with the county and
7 some of the funds you referenced, and some
8 of the CARES Act money, and some of the
9 money that the IDA laid out, and I have to
10 thank Don Clavin, money that they
11 contributed, we worked together to basically
12 distribute 5,000 PPE kits to small
13 businesses all over the Town of Hempstead
14 and all throughout the County of Nassau.

15 Some of that money was CARES Act
16 money, some of it was IDA money, some of it
17 was Town of Hempstead CARES Act money.

18 So those are the kinds of things
19 that the Economic Advisory Council did last
20 year in dealing with the crisis. So the
21 answer is yes.

22 Now we are in the second phase
23 and that second phase is trying to deal with
24 the monies that we are now receiving from
25 the federal government.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Was the
3 Economic Advisory Council told that the
4 administration's plan was to take \$98
5 million out of the \$103 million, roughly 95
6 percent of the money that the county
7 received in the CARES Act funding and use it
8 for salaries and fringe benefits instead of
9 providing relief to small business and
10 direct relief to residents?

11 MS. TSIMIS: Should I answer
12 that?

13 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I'm asking
14 Rich, was the Economic Advisory Council with
15 respect to --

16 MS. TSIMIS: It was a different
17 work stream.

18 MR. KESSEL: Yes. We weren't
19 involved with that. We were involved and
20 are involved with economic recovery plans.
21 That's what our job is. We don't deal with
22 everything that the county administration
23 does.

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Understood.
25 But the idea behind the Economic Advisory

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2 Council was to help obviously the American
3 Recovery Act funds are not the only funds
4 that we're receiving, we did receive CARES
5 Act funding.

6 I just want to know were you
7 consulted when the administration had the
8 plan, because, look, we've spoken about
9 people struggling to pay rent, struggling to
10 pay their mortgages, businesses struggling
11 to recover. That's one of the primary
12 things we want to address through the
13 American Recovery Act money.

14 That's also one of the primary
15 things we wanted to address through the
16 CARES Act money that we received last year
17 and I assume that's something that the
18 Economic Advisory Council would have been
19 consulted on and would have been interested
20 in except that the administration elected to
21 use 95 percent of the CARES Act money they
22 got to pay salaries and fringe benefits for
23 people who are already on Nassau County's
24 payroll, not to go to small businesses and
25 residents.

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2 My question for you is, you
3 didn't make that decision. My question is,
4 was the Economic Advisory Council consulted
5 with respect to that decision?

6 MR. KESSEL: Well, I can only
7 say that we're consulted about anything that
8 has to do with COVID relief funds all the
9 time.

10 We don't get into the minutia of
11 what goes here and there. Any of major
12 programs that the county has launched -- and
13 I have to tell you, Steve, in my opinion,
14 the County Executive, the county
15 administration and all the others including
16 legislators on this body have done an
17 extraordinary job during very difficult
18 times.

19 This is a crisis that hopefully
20 we will never see in our lifetimes again. I
21 been around a few years and never seen
22 anything like it before.

23 So the purpose of our counsel is
24 to try to guide us through this and
25 recommend things to the County Executive.

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2 I think it's important to point
3 out we don't make the decisions. The final
4 decision about what programs to implement
5 are really up to the County Executive and
6 you as the County Legislature.

7 But I have to tell from you my
8 perspective, we are deeply informed on a
9 regular basis about every COVID program that
10 there is out there. We discuss them.

11 I have to say, a lot of the
12 members of the advisory council contribute
13 their own ideas based on their experiences.

14 We've got people, for instance,
15 Dennis Grossman, just thinking of one person
16 from the Nassau Chamber of Commerce who gave
17 us a number of ideas about how we might help
18 downtowns and struggling Chambers of
19 Commerce. So that's what we do.

20 We're not a formal government
21 agency. But I think it was a wise decision,
22 and I have to say that the County Executive
23 reached out to me before we even formed the
24 council to discuss the idea of having to
25 remember a particular phone call, we are all

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2 home. She said I want to get input from
3 citizens. What do we do about this crisis?
4 So we are consulted on a regular basis.

5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Final
6 question, Rich. Nassau County showed a \$78
7 million budget surplus last year in part
8 because we used, the administration used \$98
9 million in CARES Act funds to plug into the
10 budget. Are you in your role with the
11 Economic Advisory Council, have you
12 discussed with the administration why that
13 \$78 million surplus cannot be used to
14 provide additional relief to residents and
15 businesses now that the circumstances change
16 from when that decision was made?

17 MR. KESSEL: Well, we haven't
18 discussed it yet, but I think it's a good
19 thing to discuss now.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I appreciate
21 it. Thank you.

22 MS. TSIMIS: If I may also
23 clarify, I think we had a full hearing or
24 full discussion on the CARES Act funding and
25 one of the things that was discussed, that

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2 I'm especially proud of is the \$32 million
3 of Hud CARES Act money that was directed
4 directly into the hands of the small
5 businesses through grants and loans, the PPE
6 kits that Richie mentioned, that was all
7 done with a separate pot of CARES Act money
8 that came in through HUD and was
9 administered by the Office of Community
10 Development under the leadership of Kevin
11 Creen. So I do want to make this
12 distinction that we didn't touch those
13 issues, it was just done with a different
14 pot of money.

15 MR. KESSEL: My overall concern,
16 Deputy County Executive Tsimis, is the fact
17 that we were advised not more than two
18 months before the county, indicated that it
19 had \$78 million dollar surplus that we were
20 facing a \$285 million deficit which was the
21 pretext to why those monies were used for
22 salaries and benefits as opposed to
23 providing direct assistance to residents.

24 Now that we know that
25 information was incorrect, or at least it

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 was misinformed at that time, I want to know
3 why it is that we're not using the surplus
4 money that we have to now provide assistance
5 to residents, why we're using -- and we will
6 get into this later, why we're using some of
7 the money that we are using from the
8 American Recovery Act to provide for non
9 COVID related expenses when we have surplus
10 money we can use for that purpose. So
11 that's some of the questions that I have.

12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Those are
13 for later. Rich, I think you're off the
14 hook.

15 MR. KESSEL: I just want to say
16 in parting, I want to thank every member of
17 the Legislature for working with us. I have
18 a dialogue with a number of you as you all
19 know, and your input is deeply important to
20 me.

21 I have been around a long time,
22 I started going before the board of
23 supervisors 45 years ago, and the five
24 minute time limit when I was there it was
25 three minutes, with an egg timer, but I just

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2 want to tell you how much I appreciate the
3 work that you do, the leadership that you
4 have shown, and I want to thank you for the
5 guidance you have given to me and the input
6 you have given to me each one of you that I
7 work with. Thank you very much. Have a
8 nice day.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: You can
10 come back and tell us that any time you
11 want.

12 MR. KESSEL: Tomorrow?

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Eric
14 Alexander, Vision Long Island.

15 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you,
16 Presiding Officer Nicolello. Good to see
17 you, good to see people in person which is
18 pretty awesome. Richie Kessler is a tough
19 act to follow here. I did want to weigh in.
20 I did speak with some of you. You asked for
21 some thoughts that we had related to the
22 federal funding as it goes through the
23 county.

24 We know you guys are really the
25 front lines in communicating with your local

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2 residents, and you know what the community
3 needs are. So we're glad along with the
4 local town and villages, you are the front
5 line. You're really the Economic Advisory
6 Council for Nassau County. So we are glad
7 to get your input into this federal funding.

8 People have been through a lot,
9 people want to get back to normal, you know
10 that. This pandemic has chipped away at the
11 trust of the national media, bigger
12 governments, elites and large institutions.
13 We have to heal that. We can.

14 The administration to their
15 credit has reached out to our Long Island
16 Main Street Alliance which I founded with 45
17 different main streets across Long Island.
18 The IDA has done a great job through this
19 pandemic. Our many street members are part
20 of -- a couple of them are part of the
21 Economic Advisory Council so they have had a
22 voice in this process which is great.

23 We are now seeing the planning
24 the administration put together so like you
25 were digesting it, obviously we heard

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2 veterans programs, senior programs. The
3 great senior centers the county has and
4 other human services are a wise use of
5 funding to get direct needs to more folks,
6 and we certainly trust the expertise of the
7 people running that forward.

8 As far as economic development
9 and infrastructure, through the process of
10 the pandemic, we have reached out to over
11 3,000 local businesses.

12 We consistently polled and got
13 feedback from our main street lines, member
14 on a range of issues. Here are some things
15 that bubbled up in recent months that people
16 want to see happen.

17 One of the biggest challenges,
18 street level direct outreach with technical
19 assistance tied to programs, lots of
20 information is not getting out there despite
21 best of efforts.

22 Over one third of folks we spoke
23 to in four business districts never heard of
24 certain SBA programs. Minority owned
25 businesses were particularly disconnected

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2 from the process so we have to solve that.
3 We have to work on that in a hyper local
4 fashion. That's one.

5 The technology divide, the brick
6 and mortar businesses versus online
7 businesses, the online businesses have done
8 better obviously through this pandemic, the
9 brick and mortar businesses need ways to get
10 a leg up. Our friends at List Net are ready
11 to help and others so we need programs in
12 that area.

13 Basic physical improvements to
14 spruce up downtowns. We heard side
15 programs, cleanups, landscaping
16 beautification, other things to make the
17 communities, not just the main streets,
18 doing well, but some of the ones that have
19 been underinvested in primarily to get them
20 back up and ready.

21 Direct grants to local
22 organizations. Nassau County has a whole
23 web of not-for-profits, chambers, community
24 organizations and events that really raise
25 the spirits and open up our main streets in

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2 communities.

3 Leveraging county promotions.
4 The hyper local efforts that the IDA and
5 others have done through online traditional
6 media was great to shop local efforts was a
7 success during the pandemic. We know there
8 are 30 island wide real campaigns for
9 shopping local. We want more of that, and
10 the Nassau Council of Chamber is doing a
11 great job in that area.

12 We also heard of infrastructure
13 support that ties to redevelopment; bus,
14 rail station cleanups, traffic calming,
15 speed reduction, so more people are out
16 walking and biking, let's do it safely. The
17 county has done a great job in opening
18 streets. They just need more resources for
19 real traffic calming programs. We're glad
20 the county's own survey verifies what we
21 heard. We need direct assistance for folks
22 and direct access to information which
23 they're not necessarily getting. How do we
24 do this?

25 It's our belief, our

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2 organization's belief, we are not really a
3 region, we're a community of communities.
4 That's how folks hear things, on the
5 neighborhood level.

6 So towards that, hyper local
7 grants and direct assistance are best
8 positioned to help.

9 We understand going forward the
10 in-house model with Boost Nassau and we will
11 look at. I'm sure there is really good
12 effort there.

13 No matter what you do, out of
14 touch folks from other regions, New York
15 City, or studies have emerged from people
16 who haven't talked to people on main
17 streets, we need less of that top downage,
18 and more from the bottom up agenda. That's
19 what we need to do. We really need to
20 listen and act with folks on the ground.

21 We're glad these dollars are
22 getting a hearing as they will build up
23 trust in whatever is done, we need more of
24 that everywhere.

25 It's very important that, again,

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2 as local legislators your priority is making
3 this plan. We certainly commend the county
4 for listening and doing the work they have
5 done to date to get us to this place. Thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
8 DeRiggi-Whitton.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Hi
10 Eric. This is kind of more indirect
11 question than Legislator Rhoads had.

12 Tom McKevitt and myself, we were
13 brought on only a few months ago. I wanted
14 to put that on the record. Basically we
15 were just discussing what to do with this
16 new funding that was becoming available.

17 It's been an incredible task of
18 having all these different opinions. I
19 think I'm kind of getting the impression
20 that we were like in a secret meeting or
21 something but we weren't.

22 It was just basically getting
23 different opinions as to how to guide us. A
24 lot of the funding when it came in didn't
25 have federal guidance at the time, so it was

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2 more a think tank to come up with ideas and
3 hear from all different walks of life.

4 Again, I just wanted to clarify
5 the timeline, Thomas and I were not on the
6 board for the entire amount of time, year
7 and a half or whatever it was, that it
8 existed. I think it's been how long, about
9 four months?

10 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: I think
11 less than that, two months or so been on
12 board.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: And
14 both of us voiced the fact that it had to be
15 inclusive of the Legislature and that was
16 fully accepted. They know that we have to
17 vote for the allocation but they also know
18 we all want all 19 districts to be informed
19 and included. That was sort of our role on
20 these calls. I just wanted to clarify that.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: All right.
22 Legislator Rhoads.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Eric, how
24 are you?

25 MR. ALEXANDER: How are you?

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thanks for
3 speaking today. Did they have specific
4 suggestions, the members of the Main Street
5 Alliance, as to how we could actually reach
6 out? Because right now the Boost Nassau
7 plan from what we've heard is that we're
8 going to have staff at Eisenhower Park and
9 that we might do some radio or TV.

10 Is this something that needs to
11 be more intensive, should we be using social
12 media? I know a lot of businesses are on
13 social media. Should we have people go out
14 into the actual neighborhoods and walk the
15 downtowns door to door?

16 MR. ALEXANDER: That's right.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: How would
18 you do it differently from the other way?

19 MR. ALEXANDER: Here's what --
20 look, there's -- I swear most business
21 outreach efforts have the same 3,000 or
22 10,000 emails pinging to each other.

23 The people that got all the
24 information 50 times, they're like tired of
25 hearing it, the idle loans, the paycheck

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2 protection programs, all that, and Nassau
3 County programs too. So there is an elite
4 group.

5 Then there's another group that
6 may have heard something through media, News
7 12 or social media or friends or allies, and
8 then there's a third, the folks when we
9 called and we knock on doors in four
10 business districts in Nassau, a third of the
11 folks that needed the information the most
12 were disconnected the most.

13 I'm saying calls and street
14 level outreach bilingual particularly
15 because -- the elites are not talking to the
16 guy running the deli or someone who had a
17 clothing shop that went out when you could
18 have 500 people in a Walmart but couldn't
19 have two people in a retail store.

20 People were pained by business
21 regulations in this process. They didn't
22 get the help because the outreach as it is
23 now is designed to help the people who don't
24 need help. Right? It's not about bad
25 intentions, it's just that the elites are

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 disconnected from real people. It's a
3 problem.

4 We have to fix it. If we have
5 money, let's fix it. Let's double down on
6 street level outreach, really trusted
7 relation.

8 When I say hyper local, because
9 people off Long Island don't know Long
10 Island. So let's get the people that
11 actually know -- the community groups on the
12 local. So, yes, our Main Street Alliance,
13 many of them could themselves do outreach
14 with the right training. We would
15 definitely trust working with county
16 economic development folks and local folks,
17 the African American Chamber, the South
18 Asian Chamber, the Hispanic Chamber of
19 Commerce. Groups like Lisnet that can help
20 on the technology side.

21 There are community
22 organizations that aren't necessarily
23 business organizations but they know every
24 business in town, they know everybody in
25 town.

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2 So every community has about 100
3 people who decide stuff. We need to better
4 job connecting from the elite place, and I
5 love Economic Advisory Council, I love
6 expertise, I love information. But at the
7 same time it's not always trusted. People
8 trust people. That's why I say you guys are
9 the Economic Advisory committee because you
10 guys are trusted by your residents and
11 business owners.

12 So tap into that if we're going
13 to be successful, we have to.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
15 Bynoe.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Hi, Eric, how
17 are you? I couldn't agree with everything
18 you just said more. We definitely have to
19 be out on the streets, we need boots on the
20 ground to really drive a lot of the
21 opportunities into our communities across
22 the whole region.

23 One of the things that I read
24 about in terms of inclusivity was actually
25 utilizing a trusted source within the

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2 community to actually extend the funding.

3 So, like, in Ohio they used the
4 local urban league and they were the ones
5 who then maintained the program because the
6 people trusted the urban league.

7 One of the things that I think
8 we should look at too, it's great that we
9 have the money, the county has the money but
10 maybe we could look to partner with an
11 appropriate not-for profit or organization
12 that can -- has the ability to reach those
13 communities but also has the trust of those
14 communities.

15 I think that could also drive
16 this point home and turn the corner on this.
17 Because research has shown exactly what you
18 said. The elites are getting the money, the
19 folks who are in the know are getting the
20 money and the folks in our downtown across
21 Nassau County are not getting the funding.

22 I agree with you 100 percent and
23 I'd love to see us work together in making
24 this a reality. Thank you.

25 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you.

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2 MS. TSIMIS: So included in the
3 package before you is a million five for
4 technical assistance, promotional efforts
5 that we envision using with our partnerships
6 with not profits. We are restricted on our
7 ability to give funds directly to certain
8 organizations and we're going to hear more
9 about that, I hate it, because we want to
10 get to yes on everything we possibly can but
11 if an organization is more of a business
12 organization they may not be eligible for
13 ARPA funds.

14 I actually checked with Dennis
15 Grossman, the Nassau Council of the Chamber
16 of Commerce, a nonprofit, and they would be
17 eligible. We know that some of our partners
18 in academia will be looking to find as many
19 nonprofit partners in the minority
20 communities as we possibly can and they
21 would funded in that \$1.5 million that I
22 referenced for technical assistance,
23 promotional efforts.

24 Just to give you an example.
25 Hofstra is doing a program in Great Neck,

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2 Village of Great Neck Plaza, where they're
3 helping the businesses in that area do a
4 better job with social media. They give
5 them workshops and training, should be just
6 in Great Neck it should be throughout the
7 county. So that model could be replicated.
8 We truly do not believe we have all the
9 answer and we absolutely will need to do
10 partnerships so the million five has been
11 dedicated to that in this bill before you.

12 MR. ALEXANDER: I would just add
13 that there isn't one not-for-profit in
14 Nassau County that's trusted by communities
15 across Nassau County, in my experience,
16 including my own. So I don't think there is
17 a one size fits all solution for delivery of
18 trust. I think it's a hyper local
19 experience, and I know that probably folks
20 that write the contracts are probably
21 tormented with the thought of 30 different
22 micro grants that would go to different
23 communities or 15 to target the most
24 communities that have not gotten the
25 resources that they deserve, let's say.

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2 But that's the kind of thinking
3 when Legislator Rhoads asked the question of
4 how to do it, I really believe it's got to
5 get on a local level and intermediaries may
6 not be best at it, personally.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I agree 100
8 percent. That's why I used the example of
9 the Urban League, because in that part of
10 Ohio, in that particular community, the
11 Urban League was the trusted entity. So
12 it's going to change across the 19 districts
13 and it could actually change within
14 communities within those 19 districts. So I
15 agree 100 percent.

16 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Ms. Birnbaum.

17 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Yes. Hi.
18 I'm a member of the Great Neck community and
19 Great Neck chamber and I was at that
20 announcement when a local store in Great
21 Neck partnered with the Hofstra program to
22 become more tech savvy and that was a well
23 known store in Great Neck.

24 I remember speaking to some of
25 the Hofstra interns who were there who said

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2 they actually went door to door to every
3 store to see who they could enlist in this
4 program that was a reimbursement program so
5 there would be no charge at all to the store
6 to participate, and they were still having
7 difficulty.

8 I know you mentioned Dennis
9 Grossman a few times and it's great that
10 there's a Chamber of Commerce board and
11 chambers participate, but I don't think a
12 lot of stores join chambers. There are a
13 great percentage that just do not involve
14 themselves with the chambers. I think those
15 are the ones that have suffered the most
16 during COVID.

17 Again, that community effort of
18 actually make training people and going door
19 to door to the communities and seeing what
20 their needs are and informing them of the
21 different programs I think would be
22 extremely beneficial.

23 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Ms. Ford.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: I agree with
25 my fellow legislators even with you Eric in

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2 regards to a lot of this because I think I
3 have found that even reaching out to a lot
4 of my businesses, in certain instances, they
5 don't belong to the chambers. They're like
6 stand alone stores trying to make it. There
7 seems to be some confusion as to which
8 stores which types of businesses are
9 eligible for this type of funding. I know
10 we go for the restaurants, taverns or
11 whatever, but some people say, if you're in
12 the salon business are you eligible? If you
13 lost money, maybe like pet supplies,
14 whatever, like what are the stores? I think
15 we need better clarification as to which
16 type of businesses would be eligible for
17 this type of funding.

18 I know that the federal
19 guidelines also indicate there is certain
20 criteria that needs to be met.

21 But I think we also need to go
22 back to the federal government and say in
23 some cases that these stores may not
24 necessarily fit that criteria 100 percent.
25 But there's no reason why they can't get

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 funding, why they can't get some help.
3 Because regardless of whether or not you're
4 a bigger business, maybe a tiny business,
5 but they do provide a service, they provide
6 something to our community, they hire local
7 people. So I think that this is something
8 that we need.

9 I think we also need to do a
10 better job to getting to all of these
11 establishments and to find ways to help them
12 through the application process.

13 I don't know -- what I know that
14 even with the restaurant recovery, we did
15 not get 100 percent from the restaurants. I
16 don't think all the restaurants, actually,
17 did they all respond?

18 MS. TSIMIS: No. So the
19 restaurant recovery grant program, we
20 dedicated \$2 million of the CDBG CB funds
21 that I mentioned before that came in through
22 hud and we used a nonprofit vendor, National
23 Development council to help review all the
24 applications.

25 We ended up issuing over 250

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2 grants in that \$2 million. Either they got
3 \$5,000 if they had under ten employees or
4 \$10,000 if they had up to 50 employees. We
5 think it was extremely successful. We spent
6 just about every dollar.

7 Just to clarify one of the
8 reasons why we expanded the program and
9 looking to expand it with ARP funding is to
10 include other than restaurants, right?

11 We know that it's about a total
12 of 8,000 businesses, probably more than
13 that, but that's the record that our sort of
14 main street small businesses with under 50
15 employees including the restaurants, but we
16 only helped the restaurants so far.

17 We actually have a number of
18 applications that we're processing, our
19 vendor is processing for us right now for
20 the non restaurant applicants who were not a
21 full service restaurant.

22 We had to draw the line
23 somewhere, we only had \$2 million. So we
24 said full service restaurants, hardest hit.
25 We talk about the winter months, when they

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2 weren't open, didn't have outdoor dining, so
3 we really focused on them. What about the
4 bagel shop, what about the laundromat, what
5 about those folks?

6 We do anticipate they're
7 eligible for the new \$10 million grant
8 program that we're asking you to approve
9 today. So we've already started covering
10 some of those applications of the sort of --
11 I'll call the bagel shop. So the ones that
12 were already in the pipeline with our
13 vendor, that we can still fund through
14 CDBGCB, and then as soon as you allocate the
15 \$10 million of the ARPA money, then we're
16 really going to expand it and get the word
17 out to the other retailers and downtown
18 businesses, not just restaurants.

19 LEGISLATOR FORD: Will there be
20 like a sheet that --

21 MS. TSIMIS: Absolutely. I want
22 to give you a nice once.

23 LEGISLATOR FORD: A sheet,
24 handing it to every business.

25 MS. TSIMIS: You should have a

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 flyer.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: It should be
4 clear, provide what the requirements would
5 be, what numbers, what they can access.

6 Then also in regard to that
7 resource center you are setting up in
8 Eisenhower, correct?

9 MS. TSIMIS: Correct.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm sorry I
11 was late, I apologize, I might have missed
12 the full presentation. What are the hours
13 of operation for that center?

14 MS. TSIMIS: The hours are 9 to
15 4:45 county hours. We are asking the folks
16 to start with the portal and make an
17 appointment. We have had some walk-ins. We
18 will never turn anybody away. Then we're
19 asking them to schedule an appointment with
20 the resource center coordinator so that we
21 can focus in on what they needs.

22 So there is an intake form on
23 the portal, are you coming in for rental
24 assistance, coming in for business
25 assistance, basic information and then an

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 appointment is scheduled for them.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Considering
4 that businesses, a lot of them do operate
5 between nine and five, some of them at night
6 of course, what accommodations are going to
7 be made for people who cannot make an
8 appointment between 9:00 and 4:45, then
9 expand to after hours just to be able to
10 handle, be able to accommodate those people?

11 Because I think if we're trying
12 to reach out to as many business and as many
13 people as possible and to make it as easy
14 for them to get this funding so they can
15 stay in business, I really think we need to
16 take a look at how do we best address the
17 small business owners, they're not like
18 people who have a lot of employees, not with
19 a lot of employees, people working in that
20 store. I would like to even eventually if
21 we can try to set things up in a different
22 districts where they don't have to travel as
23 far but maybe have something more localized.

24 I really do, Eric, you're right,
25 we just need to focus on this because a lot

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2 of them are still hurting. The sad part is,
3 when you look see some of these stores that
4 have literally shutdown because of this and
5 it's just something that does impact a
6 neighborhood and it's never a good sign.

7 So anything that we can do and I
8 really would like you to look at the
9 resource center and see how we can expand it
10 and make it so it's almost like impossible
11 for people to say --

12 MS. TSIMIS: To avoid it.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: Whatever.

14 Where we're going to make them so they can
15 easily get these forms and getting the
16 funding they so basically desperately need.

17 MS. TSIMIS: Understood, and we
18 will do our best to accommodate. Thank you.

19 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.

20 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you,
21 Legislator Ford. I just wanted to address
22 one of your comments as far as reaching
23 folks.

24 It's one thing with another
25 round of funding, the people already if the

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 know are well positioned to get the next
3 batch of funding.

4 We still haven't addressed how
5 to get to the folks that banned the folks
6 that either had questions or didn't even
7 know about it.

8 I think that that work requires
9 two things. One, consultants that actually
10 know the communities and the other is, if we
11 are going to engage community groups, they
12 have to have the capacity to reach out or
13 the ability to -- have somebody carry out,
14 can get reimbursed or what have you to get
15 the information out there, if some kind of
16 staff wanted to get the information out.

17 I think that there is a lot of
18 concern we heard from the businesses when we
19 did inform them, that's why I say technical
20 assistance, there is a lot of people that
21 fears, like I don't want to apply for this
22 because Oh, my God something is going to
23 happen or it's going to go wrong or I'm
24 going to owe all this money. I think
25 there's a lot of emotions involved in this

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 with people too which is a barrier. So it's
3 all the more important that people trust it
4 and real community people are plugged into
5 this process. So I know it was said 16
6 different ways but I just wanted to hit on
7 it one last time.

8 LEGISLATOR FORD: You are
9 absolutely right. In my mind I'm thinking
10 to myself, like maybe sometimes having these
11 meetings scheduling them at libraries to
12 invite our local businesses to do as much
13 outreach as we can. Just like we do when we
14 have the exemption meetings, people come in
15 and they're able to file the exemption on
16 their taxes and things like that that maybe
17 this could be another possibility, something
18 that we can look in and have somebody guide
19 them through the application process.

20 So I will learn as best as I can
21 because probably need my assistance for most
22 of that.

23 MS. TSIMIS: I do think that's
24 where the outreach offices come in and how I
25 was trying to describe the new staffing of

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 the people we're hiring as temporary staff
3 members using. We're using ARPA funds, but
4 the very clear connection back to OMA, OAAA,
5 and OHA, because once we have things really
6 up and running, the outreach offices are
7 absolutely part of this plan. They
8 absolutely have to. And they have always
9 done programs in the libraries. The offices
10 have done them collaboratively or separately
11 and again we're very proud of that work but
12 we can absolutely do more, so thank you,
13 Legislator.

14 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you,
15 Legislator Ford.

16 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.
17 We have Legislator Solages.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes. Thank
19 you very much. Good afternoon, everyone. I
20 want to thank everyone for being here at
21 this hearing and the presentation by the
22 administration.

23 I have a question. For example,
24 this past weekend I went to a local
25 business, minority owned business, and I

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2 asked them if they were informed about any
3 of these opportunities or programs and they
4 informed me that they were in existence for
5 less than two years as a business and that a
6 lot of these programs don't apply to
7 businesses that have been in business for
8 less than two years.

9 Did your consultants come into
10 information about that and how could can we
11 help businesses that fall into these
12 categories?

13 MS. TSIMIS: I'm going to try to
14 find my notes on that. I'm not sure I have
15 it with me. There were restrictions placed
16 by CARES Act funding and who you could help
17 and what the rules were and similarly for
18 the ARPA funds, I know that we've tried to
19 be as inclusive as possible when we rolled
20 out new programs and I just don't what the
21 restrictions are in the Main Street Grant
22 program.

23 Hold on a minute. I might be
24 able to find it. Or we can turn to the next
25 question and I'll get back to you.

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2 Somewhere around here I have
3 here what the parameters of the new program
4 are and what the rule is. I think it's
5 after -- they had to be in business after
6 March of 2020, but I do want to confirm that
7 for you. They had to be in business by
8 March of 2020 to be eligible. So when you
9 said two years I think we're okay, because
10 if they have been in business since March of
11 2020 they should be eligible.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Who can I
13 put this particular business in contact
14 with?

15 MS. TSIMIS: Yes. Me, first of
16 all, will be fine, Legislator, and I'll make
17 sure we take care of them.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Perhaps we
19 should confine our questions to the person
20 who is speaking if they have anything
21 specific for the ones for the panel. We
22 might want to hold others until later. Does
23 that work for everyone?

24 Now we have Jamie Bogenshud.

25 MS. BOGENSHUD: My name is Jamie

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 Bogenshud. I am the chief transition
3 officer for Yes, Community Counseling
4 Center, recently retired, and I also have
5 the honor of sitting on the Economic
6 Advisory Council for some time.

7 This morning I just briefly want
8 to talk a little bit about trying to make
9 the connection for you guys, and I think as
10 legislators you have a real good sense of
11 what we do in the youth service coalition
12 and the work we do in the community and
13 that's what I would like to speak to a
14 little bit.

15 I'm not sure whether you know or
16 not but when we talk about human services
17 and we talk about the nonprofit sector,
18 statewide, we make up close to 20 percent of
19 the workforce, the human service providers.

20 When you come down to Long
21 Island it looks like it's about 153,000
22 people who report that front nonprofit
23 sector.

24 I'm bringing this up because
25 when we talk about small business, we look

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2 at our human service providers, many of us
3 are also small business providers. We have
4 less than 50 employees. Many of us have
5 employees of maybe two, three, five.

6 So it's important to make that
7 connection that we are more than just youth
8 service providers. What I wanted to just
9 bring up today and to ask you to consider
10 the recommendation has been to increase the
11 budgets to the existing nonprofits that work
12 with the county to provide human services
13 related to youth and families.

14 We have been in an awful place
15 for the past decades in terms of losing
16 funding, not having funding restored.

17 For us we see this as a
18 tremendous opportunity to begin to identify
19 workforce deficits within our organizations
20 to bulk up some of these service provisions
21 and the services that are available to all
22 the people who are looking to receive
23 services.

24 When we talk about small
25 businesses, when we talk about restaurants,

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 when we talk about Main Street, we look at
3 this sector, these are people that still
4 continue to turn to us.

5 So when we look at the
6 restaurants who have been out of business,
7 while the restaurant owners are the ones
8 calling us up saying, I can't get food on
9 the table, can you help me get food, I can't
10 deal with my wife anymore, or the wife who
11 calls up and says my husband has been
12 beating me, we're the ones that kind of
13 receive a lot of the impact from many of the
14 consequences of this virus.

15 So I would like for you to
16 consider as the proposal set before you. I
17 know that there was a \$1.4 million ask.

18 Our ask as a coalition had
19 actually been higher than that and we are
20 hopeful as things progress, once we get
21 perhaps past this first round of funds that
22 perhaps there will be additional
23 consideration to increase that \$1.4 million
24 to more than that.

25 Again, as I pointed out, and I

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 think all of us know in this room that this
3 is an opportunity that is being presented
4 that has never been presented before to us
5 an opportunity to strengthen our workforce
6 to make sure that our organizations that the
7 county funds are as strong, healthy, vital
8 and viable as they possibly can be.

9 I know all of you as legislators
10 know that many of our agencies are in your
11 backyards, and I think you are all very
12 familiar with many of the programs and
13 services and the people that we touch by the
14 work that we do.

15 Again, my hope and wish is that
16 you continue to be the voice for us human
17 service providers and our youth and child
18 programs because we need you to advocate for
19 us and we need to know that we will continue
20 to be strong, virus or no, no matter what
21 happens that we will continue to persevere.

22 Thank you for everything that
23 you have done. Thank you to the County
24 Executive. The Economic Advisory Council
25 has really been a think tank of some

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 extraordinary people. It has been a
3 privilege for me to be a part of that
4 representing some of the needs of the human
5 services providers. I'm very grateful for
6 that.

7 I think you all can be proud of
8 the work that the council has done because
9 it really is about people first. That's
10 important to all of us. So thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
12 Jamie. Tom Bruno.

13 MR. BRUNO: Good morning. It's
14 wonderful to see you in person again after a
15 year and a half.

16 We'd like to start as a
17 coalition in thanking the administration for
18 listening to us when we had a very lengthy
19 zoom meeting with the County Executive about
20 the needs of the youth service programs in
21 this county.

22 COVID had an unique effect on
23 everybody, our young people, our families,
24 it was devastating.

25 March of last year my program

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 was open, kids were in there. And that
3 Saturday we received notification from the
4 state that everything stopped. That meant
5 that the kids lost all their socialization.
6 They lost school. They lost the youth
7 programs. They lost friends basically for
8 quite a few months.

9 I think what's going to happen
10 is that the effects of COVID are going to be
11 long lasting, the psychological, the
12 emotional, the social and educational
13 effects are going to be very long lasting.

14 I know that the county is
15 talking about a two year program where we're
16 going to be receiving a 20 percent increase
17 in our funding over the next two years,
18 which we are extremely grateful for.

19 We have not received an increase
20 in funding since 1980s. As a matter of fact
21 during that time period we actually took a
22 three percent cut in funding.

23 So we're hoping that once this
24 two year program is over, the county will
25 consider keeping us at the level that we are

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 going to be receiving now.

3 As I said, we're grateful for
4 the increase, but we're just very concerned
5 as to what happens after that. Because,
6 like I said, the effects of COVID are not
7 going to go away in two years. Our
8 educational system is suffering. We are
9 doing more than ever before with tutoring,
10 doing remedial education for our kids, the
11 social effect that was thrown upon these
12 young people, and also at emotional aspect
13 of this.

14 So please do all that you can to
15 consider and to also ensure that this money
16 continues. Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you
18 Tom. Pat Boyle.

19 MR. BOYLE: Hello everyone, I
20 hope you and all of your families are all
21 feeling well and everything is okay for you.
22 It's good to see you again to tell you the
23 truth.

24 One of the things that I hope
25 that you never thought that we ever were was

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 not cognizant of the fact of how hard you
3 work to be able to find money that helps us.
4 Every single year you do that and so does
5 the administration this year is trying to do
6 the job to do that as well too, but in many
7 of the years we counted on you to be able to
8 make it happen for us and you made it happen
9 every year.

10 I hope that you never think that
11 we're ungrateful for everything that you do
12 because I understand it. Just in talks with
13 you and the fact that we're not a mandated
14 service, I know it make it very, very
15 difficult for you to be able to find those
16 pennies to be able to get them to come our
17 way.

18 But now is kind of a different
19 thing. Let me give you a history lesson.
20 Going back to 1989, I was brand new here. I
21 was in a group of people and the speaker got
22 up in front of everyone and it was a group
23 of not-for-profits, youth services,
24 veterans, everybody was there that day.

25 He got up in front of everybody

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 and the first thing that came out of his
3 mouth was, youth services is the caboose on
4 the funding train. It's not too far off if
5 you think about it. We usually get what the
6 crumbs are left over at the end in the back
7 at train.

8 But now we have an opportunity
9 to do something a little bit differently
10 with this. We did have a very good meeting
11 with the County Executive and her staff,
12 deputy county executives were there as well
13 too. We kind of put forward a \$1.4 million
14 increase to our funding which is the 20
15 percent they talked about before.

16 We're thankful for that too.
17 I'm not throwing water on that. That's a
18 big big help. But what my concern is right
19 now what's going to happen with that money
20 to really affect kids? Affecting kids is
21 not going out and buying another bat and
22 ball and say come on, we can have ten more
23 kids play. That's not how we work here. We
24 are not a bats and balls agency.

25 What I'm worried about is the

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 effects that are going to happen to children
3 with regard to now going back into this
4 system again.

5 It's been proven that depression
6 is going to be something that's going to
7 become very prevalent in even very young
8 children because it's a whole new experience
9 again.

10 After a year and a half, they
11 don't know how to handle themselves. Going
12 back to school for some of them is very,
13 very stressful. So what would an agency
14 like mine want to do?

15 If I hand the kid a bat it's not
16 going to do any good. I want to be able to
17 hire another social worker to be able to
18 help me who is the other social worker there
19 deal with these kids and really get to the
20 bottom of what's happening, work with their
21 parents, work with everybody else.

22 The problem is 20 percent
23 doesn't even buy me a social worker. I'm
24 one of the higher allocated agencies. It
25 would get me probably about \$60,000, and

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 that won't hire a social worker when you
3 talk about worker's comp and insurance and
4 all the other things that go along with it.

5 So what I'm hoping that you
6 might be able to do is take a look at what
7 you can do to maybe raise these amounts so
8 that we can make a difference in the
9 community.

10 To Jamie's point as well too, as
11 far as the small business aspect of what we
12 are, we are small businesses. I have to do
13 everything that the guy who runs Home Depot
14 does with his employees. As a matter of
15 fact, we have more employees than Home Depot
16 does in Elmont. We want to be able to show
17 that we are small businesses, and the fact
18 that we have a payroll which is \$40,000
19 every two weeks. Some small businesses
20 don't even have close to that, but we have a
21 lot of part-time workers, kids, college age
22 people that work with us. That's a real
23 small business, it's big time.

24 I see my time is running out I
25 will leave with you those thoughts. But

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 anything that you can do to help would be
3 most appreciative. Thanks.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
5 Pat. That's the last slip that we have.
6 Let's get to the questions from the
7 legislators. Obviously this is a hearing
8 with respect to the administration's plans
9 with regard to the relief funds that are
10 coming from the American Rescue Plan, and
11 today there's discussion of the \$62.9
12 million that the administration is
13 proposing, but the administration has
14 already proposed of over \$100 million in
15 that plan specifically \$375 to go to anyone
16 who has been receiving star or basic star
17 households up to \$500,000.

18 My question is for the panel, is
19 that still the plan?

20 MS. TSIMIS: Katie.

21 MS. HORST: Good morning. The
22 County Executive's priority is delivering as
23 much relief to as many homeowners as
24 possible as soon as possible.

25 The County Executive has been in

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 touch with Majority Leader Schumer as we see
3 clarification regarding the American Rescue
4 Plan. The administration will be meeting
5 with the US Treasury Department this week.

6 It is absolutely clear according
7 to the treasury interim guidance that direct
8 cash payments to homeowners are permitted.
9 And we want clarification of the allowable
10 universe.

11 As America's first suburb, the
12 cost of living in Nassau County is higher
13 than in the rest of the country. The
14 majority leader is supportive and we will
15 keep you, the County Legislature, appraised
16 of the updates moving forward.

17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you
18 for that. The question is this, the plan
19 was \$375 payments for anyone receiving star
20 or basic star. Household income can be up
21 to \$500,000. Is that still the plan of the
22 administration, has something changed?

23 MS. HORST: Yes, we are seeking
24 clarification from the treasury on that
25 plan.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: You are
3 seeking clarification but what has changed?

4 MS. HORST: I'm not aware of
5 anything that has changed. We're just
6 seeking clarifications from the US
7 Department of Treasury that that plan is
8 allowable.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: That's not
10 entirely accurate. I'm not blaming you for
11 that statement, but our counsel was told
12 last week that that plan as currently
13 proposed cannot go forward and is a
14 violation of guidance from the federal
15 government.

16 So we need to get that out, if
17 in fact we cannot give those checks to
18 300,000 Nassau residents they need to know.
19 They were told in a press conference by the
20 County Executive that they were getting
21 checks.

22 If that's no longer the plan
23 because of whatever reason, we need it
24 explained.

25 MS. HORST: I'm not sure what

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 the counsel relayed, exactly what the
3 administration has told them. What they
4 were told is that the administration was
5 looking for clarification and guidance from
6 the Department of treasury on our plan.

7 The interim guidance is clear.
8 We are allowed to give direct cash payments
9 to homeowners.

10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Are those
11 payments limited based on the interim
12 guidance to income? In other words, people
13 have the maximum amount of income; is that
14 what the guidance says?

15 MS. HORST: I'm not an expert on
16 the guidance but I don't believe there's a
17 dollar amount in the guidance.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Is there
19 anyone here from the administration, the
20 various deputy County Executives who want to
21 speak to this?

22 Let me ask you this question.

23 Did anyone from the
24 administration seek guidance from the
25 consultants as to whether the county can

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 issue checks to the 300,000 Nassau residents
3 before it was announced that we would do so?
4 Anyone in the administration speak to anyone
5 of these consultants to get guidance on it?

6 Did anyone in the
7 administration, the six people present, were
8 they aware of any legal opinions that would
9 support giving \$375 checks to 300,000 Nassau
10 residents who are receiving star up to an
11 income limit of \$500,000?

12 Is no one going to answer these
13 questions?

14 I can understand if you were to
15 argue a case, but you're not even going to
16 answer? This is in my 25 years here I've
17 never seen this before.

18 I mean here's the problem that
19 you folks are going to face. I am not
20 making it personal because you get
21 directions from the administration and
22 you're told what to do.

23 But the problem is if in fact
24 the case is that you're not able to issue
25 those checks as previously described as the

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 County Executive told people on May 17, at
3 some point you are going to have to explain
4 that to the residents of Nassau County.
5 Explain that the guidance doesn't allow you
6 to do that, thought it was going to be
7 different.

8 But sitting here in silence is
9 not helping your case. It just isn't. It
10 has to be explained at some point.

11 MS. HORST: Presiding Officer,
12 we are meeting with the Department of
13 Treasury to seek clarification because the
14 goal is to give as many homeowner's relief
15 as soon as possible.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Right. All
17 right. From what I understand, the plan
18 that was proposed is not going to be able to
19 happen because there is going to be incomes,
20 means being tested, on sending out those
21 money going out to disadvantaged people
22 which all of us agree with by the way.

23 MS. TSIMIS: If I may jump in,
24 you need to hear from someone in addition to
25 Katie and she's in a difficult spot.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 We are seeking clarification
3 around the incomes that are eligible to
4 confirm our plan. So you were right, we
5 looked to do star and enhanced star. We
6 believe there are some of those folks who
7 are clearly low mod income. We believe some
8 of those definitions are limited and fairly
9 limited in how they are explained in ARP
10 itself.

11 We are looking for some
12 clarification in order to get to some higher
13 income levels. I think we are mutually in
14 agreement that that would be a good thing to
15 do. We have people throughout this county
16 who have been extremely hard hit. Our
17 county was extremely hard hit by the
18 pandemic in ways that were beyond anything
19 seen other than some major metropolitan
20 areas in this country, and Senator Schumer
21 is actually very helpful and interested in
22 also seeking this clarification with us. So
23 we are very optimistic that we will get to
24 where we want to be, Presiding Officer, and
25 we just appreciate the opportunity to have

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 those conversations and keep you posted on
3 how they're going.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I just have
5 another follow-up. Thank you, Evlyn.

6 The two firms mentioned as
7 consultants, Haggerty and CG3PL, did the
8 administration consult with those
9 consultants about the plan to give it to all
10 residents receiving star and enhanced star?

11 MS. TSIMIS: I'm not aware of
12 that.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Does anyone
14 else know whether the administration did
15 that, consulted with our consultants?

16 MS. TSIMIS: Haggerty was I
17 think only retained for this purpose and in
18 recent days so I don't think so, but I'm not
19 sure.

20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Has the
21 County Attorney's Office rendered an opinion
22 on the plan that was announced back on May
23 17th?

24 MR. DENION: I'm not aware of an
25 opinion. There may have been informal

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 guidance or discussions of course but that
3 would be a confidential nature.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Obviously
5 attorney client. Are you aware of any
6 outside guidance?

7 MR. DENION: I'm not aware of
8 any.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Deputy
10 Presiding Officer Kopel?

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.
12 I'm going to jump around a little bit if
13 it's okay. Starting with these payments,
14 the direct payments that the Presiding
15 Officer just talked about.

16 I'm concerned about some of the
17 businesses that were hard hit.

18 Now, just for instance, when the
19 tax roles were frozen recently that did
20 prevent some of the businesses from having
21 their reduction or -- I'm sorry, the
22 reduction in business reflected in their
23 value, wouldn't that be true -- and anyone
24 of you can jump in on these, please?

25 MS. TSIMIS: I'm not sure I'm

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 qualified to answer your question.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I'm sorry,
4 you don't follow the question?

5 MS. TSIMIS: I'm not sure what
6 you're asking, legislator.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. We had
8 the tax rolls frozen recently, right,
9 because of the pandemic, the County
10 Executive froze the tax roles, we know that.
11 That freeze would not have accounted for the
12 economic downturn that affected many of our
13 businesses, right?

14 MS. TSIMIS: I imagine you're
15 right.

16 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: This is not
17 controversial.

18 MS. TSIMIS: No. I don't think
19 it is.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So a lot of
21 these businesses are paying taxes as if
22 there was no business shutdown and they're
23 suffering badly.

24 My question is, since these
25 businesses have to come up with money

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 essentially to pay taxes on money they
3 didn't earn because, let's face it, that's
4 part of how businesses pay taxes, it's based
5 upon occupancy in buildings or if there is a
6 singular occupant it's paid upon the
7 business they do, they're faced with paying
8 taxes on money they didn't earn.

9 My question is very simply, is
10 it allowable to accelerate tax refunds
11 perhaps to some of these businesses? Is
12 there any problem in refunding taxes
13 generally to businesses that were affected
14 by the pandemic? Could that be a class that
15 would be permitted?

16 MS. TSIMIS: So I will answer.
17 The first part of the answer would be that
18 we directed money into grants because we
19 know that's eligible.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: But those are
21 the --

22 MS. TSIMIS: Those are one shots
23 and I understand.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: The \$10,000
25 doesn't change --

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 MS. TSIMIS: I understand,
3 legislator, so I don't know whether tax
4 relief is even eligible under our plan.

5 MR. DENION: We can certainly
6 look at that. I don't know if that's an
7 eligible use.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Yes. Because
9 if we can do tax refunds to businesses, that
10 will dramatically decrease our liability in
11 turn, the county's liability? You could use
12 some of that money to pay back refunds that
13 are due to some of these businesses for many
14 many years, that's going to help these
15 businesses, going to help our downtowns. It
16 will at the same time decrease the county's
17 liability on tax certs. That's again not
18 controversial I think. Can we do it?

19 MR. DENION: Again, we would
20 have to take a look at that.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. So on
22 the various categories, various aid
23 categories that have been put forth --
24 sorry, coming back. When do you think you
25 may be able to get an answer to that?

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 MR. DENION: I don't know. I
3 will speak to the county attorney and let
4 him know of the request.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: That will
6 come back obviously before we have to vote
7 on anything.

8 MR. DENION: I would hope so.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Now, in the
10 various categories in the aid to the
11 schools, for instance, is that only the
12 formal public school districts or will you
13 include charter schools and parochial
14 schools and various other schools that might
15 be worthy of getting aid as well?

16 MR. BRODERICK: That's a very
17 good question which I do not know the answer
18 but we will get back to you.

19 Once again it's based on
20 eligibility as long as it fits into the
21 parameters of what the federal guidance is.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I would like
23 to know that because of these other schools
24 are worthy and they have been suffering as
25 well.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 MR. BRODERICK: Of course.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Same thing
4 with the category such as the youth
5 services. There's been a group that has
6 appeared here a number of times, it's not
7 the same kind of youth services we
8 traditionally funded but I'm thinking
9 specifically of the Rockville Centre
10 Coalition For Youth. They have appeared
11 here many times and they do wonderful work
12 in trying to prevent addiction and so forth.

13 I would imagine that type of
14 organization would be eligible as well? I'm
15 sorry, that's yours.

16 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: They would be
17 eligible and we would invite them to apply.
18 As I said earlier, we recognize that there
19 are a number of youth agencies and other
20 nonprofits that we do not currently have
21 contracts with that are out there doing some
22 of this vital work and we want to give them
23 an opportunity. So we would invite them in
24 to apply through the portal and evaluate
25 their proposals, their application and then

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 allocate accordingly.

3 We have set aside and we're
4 asking for \$10 million in that bucket so
5 that we can give agencies that we don't
6 currently fund an opportunity for some of
7 these recovery grants.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I heard you
9 say that before and I welcome that and I
10 thank you. I just wanted to make sure.

11 Now, another general type of
12 question. We've spoken about creating new
13 programs to some extent, new programs with
14 new employees. I guess that would be you,
15 Evlyn.

16 So my question to you is are
17 these evergreen type of programs? In other
18 words, this is one shot money. Are these
19 one shot programs?

20 MS. TSIMIS: So there's a couple
21 of things happening here. The hiring of
22 staff for the Boost Nassau Center, those are
23 temporary employees who understand these are
24 temporary positions, funded by federal
25 relief funds. Would we love to bring them

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 on longer terms, we would but right now
3 they're temporary. As far as the program,
4 you mean in terms of a grant program or loan
5 program?

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: What I'm
7 concerned about is that we create a program
8 now because we have money now and then we've
9 got to pay every year from now.

10 MS. TSIMIS: The programs will
11 sort of be done through vendors that will
12 run the programs for us. That's how we've
13 done the restaurant recovery grant program.
14 The same thing will be true for the Main
15 Street Grant Program and the loan program.
16 We would be contracting with someone other
17 than county employees to review those
18 applications and all the rest of it.

19 So I think down the line there
20 may be more requests for staffing but at
21 this point all we put before you is the
22 limited team at the Boost Nassau Center.

23 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Now, in the
24 various programs that we have spoken about
25 that are quite general in nature, what level

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 of approval will be subject to the
3 legislature? What level of scrutiny will be
4 subject to the Legislature's approval?

5 MS. TSIMIS: I think it will
6 depend on which program and what the
7 approach is and some of that is still
8 evolving. But I can tell you for sure, we
9 are planning to issue -- create a new
10 program of loans, let's say, for businesses,
11 that would absolutely be done with a vendor,
12 through a contract that would come before
13 the Legislature to approve. So we will have
14 to do that quickly, collaboratively, to make
15 sure we can move forward on that.

16 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: And grants as
17 well, individual grants. And not only in
18 the small \$10,000 because you will have a
19 million of those but block grants to the
20 various -- whether it's the schools or to
21 other things like youth services, will
22 individual grants be subject to legislative
23 approval in your view?

24 MS. TSIMIS: I don't make that
25 decision.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Is that the
3 administration's discretion?

4 MR. DENION: I think to the
5 extent it's covered by the appropriation
6 like any other appropriation line item, if
7 something is covered by the line item it
8 could be spent, of course subject to the
9 comptroller's office approval.

10 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So in other
11 words the administration will have sole
12 approval over which school districts get the
13 money?

14 MR. DENION: Again, I think it
15 -- maybe not grant but as Evelyn said
16 contracts would have to come before the
17 Legislature as a procurement and a choice
18 there.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: These are
20 grants not contracts.

21 MR. DENION: I'm sorry. I don't
22 think we're talking about --

23 MS. TSIMIS: That's okay. It's
24 a mixture.

25 MR. DENION: Consultants who are

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 helping to put together programs and
3 identifying eligible users.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Consultant
5 contracts would come before us. What I was
6 asking about specifically is what about the
7 result of grants?

8 MR. DENION: I'm not sure what
9 the plan is. I think there's going to be
10 some of a selection process for grants.

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I can't speak
12 for everyone but I think that many us would
13 like to be able to see what we are approving
14 before we approve it. Not write blank
15 checks and let you guys decide how to spend
16 it.

17 MR. DENION: That's the next
18 stage.

19 MS. TSIMIS: I think there is a
20 process being developed which Paul touched
21 on a little bit for the application, I'm not
22 sure if you saw that slide, but there's an
23 application process and there will be a
24 screening by either consultant resources or
25 county folks, let's just DCE Rose Lauder's

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 vertical. If you're talking about grants to
3 those types of institutions her team is very
4 well positioned to review proposals, so we
5 would want to tap into existing county staff
6 that knows about these services to decide
7 which of the applicants are funded.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: And hopefully
9 then submit those to us.

10 MS. TSIMIS: That part I don't
11 know whether that would be required or not.

12 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: That would be
13 my request. Again, I'm not speaking for
14 anyone else but I think that's something
15 that would interest me and perhaps others as
16 well.

17 The consultants that already
18 were hired, you spoke of several
19 consultants, I don't recall the names. Did
20 those come before us, those contracts? I
21 don't remember that.

22 MS. TSIMIS: That was done
23 through the Office of Emergency Management
24 and I believe the answer is yes.

25 MR. PERSICH: Both of them have

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 come before you. Haggerty, CG3PL.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I have a weak
4 mind. I forget these things.

5 So going back to that 375, if
6 that happens, if I understand you, you're
7 thinking and correct me if I'm wrong,
8 please, it's contemplated that you might go
9 beyond at \$500,000 income limit if that's
10 allowable?

11 MS. TSIMIS: No. I think the
12 proposal was to hit the star eligible.

13 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Star
14 eligible, I understand. So we're talking
15 about \$100 million then give or take?

16 MS. TSIMIS: That's correct.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Plus the 60
18 something so we got another 30 left and
19 you're working on developing uses for that?

20 MS. TSIMIS: Say that again,
21 legislator.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Sorry. You
23 take that 100, put it together with the
24 numbers we're talking about and --

25 MS. TSIMIS: And we have about

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 30 or 40 unaccounted for at the moment for
3 this year. And then we have a bucket of
4 money coming again in March of 2022. May of
5 2022, I apologize.

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I mean, I
7 would like to get, I guess it would be Conal
8 answers to those questions as soon as you
9 are able because I think, just again, only
10 speaking for myself, but I think perhaps you
11 might get quite a good bang for the buck
12 economically, and in terms of jobs if we go
13 ahead and save a lot of these businesses
14 suffering in the pandemic.

15 \$375 is nice but there are a
16 limited number of people whose lives are
17 going to be changed by that; whereas saving
18 a lot of businesses, you can accomplish an
19 awful lot that way.

20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
21 Ferretti.

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
23 Presiding Officer. Good afternoon to the
24 panel and thank you for your presentation.

25 I have a couple of different

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 areas I have some questions about but I
3 would like to start by focusing on the \$100
4 million allocation for the \$375 payments.

5 Has the administration been
6 receiving phone calls from residents asking
7 when the payments are coming?

8 MS. HORST: I'm not aware but we
9 can find out and let you know.

10 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I can tell
11 you my office has been. I represent
12 obviously the 15th district. I've been in
13 office now in three and a half years and I
14 have yet to meet one of my constituents who
15 would not have qualified for this proposal,
16 so obviously there are a lot of people in my
17 district that are hurting who are now
18 counting on this.

19 I want to know what I'm supposed
20 to be telling them when they call my office
21 what they're doing on a daily basis. Can I
22 tell my constituents that they will be
23 receiving this check?

24 MS. HORST: Legislator, you can
25 tell the constituents -- we can't tell you

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 what to tell your constituents. What we can
3 tell you is that we're meeting with the US
4 Department of Treasury for clarification on
5 who is eligible for this program.

6 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Everyone
7 knows that the taxes on Long Island are too
8 high. Having achieved a hard earned budget
9 surplus and on top of that with federal
10 rescue money on the way, we must now provide
11 the direct relief to Nassau County
12 homeowners. That is a quote from the County
13 Executive on May 17th.

14 A tweet on May 17, today I am
15 proposing a homeowner's assistance plan, a
16 direct cash payment to roughly 300,000
17 households in Nassau County. Having
18 achieved the budget surplus and with
19 American Rescue Act Money on its way to the
20 county, we must deliver relief for middle
21 class families.

22 Is that still the position of
23 the County Executive's?

24 MS. HORST: Yes.

25 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Can I ask

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 you, can middle class Nassau County
3 residents still count on this check to come
4 their way?

5 MS. HORST: We are meeting with
6 the US Department of Treasury this week on
7 clarification. We want to make sure it's as
8 wide a universe as possible.

9 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Do think
10 it would have been beneficial to have these
11 meetings prior to making an announcement
12 that the middle class residents in Nassau
13 County would be receiving this check?

14 MS. HORST: That's an opinion
15 you are entitled to.

16 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Why didn't
17 you or anyone from the administration meet
18 and discuss this with the people you are now
19 going to be discussing this with prior to
20 making this announcement

21 MS. HORST: I can't tell you. I
22 don't know. I can't tell that they have,
23 they haven't, if they engaged in
24 conversation. I don't know.

25 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Anyone on

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 the panel?

3 MS. TSIMIS: I think it's fair
4 to say we have no further comment,
5 legislator.

6 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: You know
7 what? Why can't we discuss this? This is a
8 hearing on ARPA -- excuse me. I'm not done.

9 You're asking us to look at what
10 you've sent to us. I assume that what you
11 have sent to us has been discussed and you
12 decided that it's properly being allocated.

13 How can I make that assumption
14 if what you're telling me is what you told
15 us in the past can be spend on \$375 payments
16 you now don't know? Do you know what you're
17 sending to us now can be spent the way you
18 are proposing for it to be spent?

19 MR. DENION: As stated
20 previously, we believe all the categories
21 goes in the appropriation are eligible use,
22 potential eligible uses, and that the actual
23 spending of course will have to be vetted to
24 make sure it complies with the laws and
25 regulations from the treasury.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Are you
3 basing that on the discussion with the
4 treasury?

5 MR. DENION: That hasn't
6 happened yet. So far it's been a legal
7 analysis and policy analysis of what's come
8 out from treasury. Plus hat Q and As that
9 have come out. They rolled out. They've
10 updated those over time and other third
11 party sources, everyone is weighing in.
12 There's a lot of information that's out
13 there.

14 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I'm
15 referring to Clerk Item 213-21, the roughly
16 \$63 million, has that been discussed with
17 the Treasury Department as to whether the
18 monies can be spent?

19 MR. DENION: I'm not aware that
20 it was. I don't know if anyone else has.

21 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So the
22 administration is making the same mistake
23 they made in the middle of May when they're
24 putting things forward without discussing
25 with the Treasury.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 MS. TSIMIS: Nothing has been --
3 we are asking you to approve what has been
4 filed here based on advice and from counsel.

5 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: And I'm
6 asking what's in front of us --

7 MS. TSIMIS: That's what's in
8 front of you today.

9 MS. HORST: And that meets the
10 guidance.

11 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Says who?
12 Has the treasury department said it?

13 MS. HORST: That's the guidance
14 that has been set by the Treasury
15 Department.

16 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Well, in
17 May you told us the guidance in front of the
18 Treasury Department said \$100 million could
19 be sent directly to residents. Now you're
20 saying you don't know. So what I'm asking
21 is --

22 MS. HORST: The guidance is
23 clear that we can provide direct assistance
24 to homeowners.

25 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: If that's

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 the case then how come it's no longer a
3 certainty? If that's the case why isn't
4 anything changing?

5 MS. HORST: We didn't say
6 anything was changing.

7 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Then why
8 haven't my constituents or anyone's
9 constituents on this dais gotten a check?
10 Why hasn't it been sent to us like Clerk
11 Item 213-21 has been?

12 MS. HORST: We are seeking
13 clarification from the US Department of
14 Treasury this week.

15 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I
16 understand, Katie, and I see the position
17 you're in, and I'm sympathetic to it. But
18 you're sending us Clerk Item 213-21 telling
19 us you haven't discussed this with the
20 Treasury Department and telling us that the
21 prior initiatives that were proposed you
22 didn't discuss with the Treasury Department
23 and now you're having second thoughts on it.

24 Why wouldn't we believe that
25 this, you'll have second thoughts on this

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 going forward, when you haven't discussed
3 this, 213-21?

4 MS. HORST: I'm not sure that we
5 said we had second thoughts on the direct
6 assistance to homeowners. I think what we
7 said is we are seeking clarification.
8 That's not a second thought.

9 We are not having a second
10 thought on the item that was presented to
11 you.

12 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Are you
13 having second thoughts on whether they can
14 be sent to anyone who receives star or
15 enhanced star, or is that still the position
16 of the administration?

17 MS. HORST: That is the universe
18 that, yes, we would like to send.

19 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Well, I'd
20 like to send it to everyone. I would like
21 to send everyone a million dollars. We're
22 talking about reality. Is it still the
23 administration's position that the \$375
24 direct payments will be and can be sent to
25 Nassau households receiving star or enhanced

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 star?

3 MS. HORST: We are seeking
4 clarification on the universe.

5 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: You know,
6 I got an issue with that, and I know that
7 about 60,000 people in the 15th legislative
8 district are going to as well.

9 Going on the 2.5 million
10 allocated to school districts. How is that
11 going to be distributed? Is there a
12 specific amount to each district? Is there
13 going to be an application process,
14 something else?

15 MR. BRODERICK: There will be an
16 application process and it will be evaluated
17 once all the needs come in. It's probably
18 going to be addressing under the current
19 guidance of broad band on expanded broad
20 band into communities or those who really
21 need it, what was identified during the
22 pandemic.

23 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Who makes
24 the determination as to which school
25 district needs it?

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 MR. BRODERICK: Right now the
3 first avenue is assisting, as I said in my
4 testimony earlier, it was first to seek
5 whether there is other available funds out
6 there, either via FEMA or some CARES money
7 that could have been allocated to school
8 districts. Beyond that, we are going to try
9 to assist -- identify the needs first of the
10 school districts and then work with the
11 consultants to evolve the program as to how
12 it is going to be evaluated and awarded.

13 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: That seems
14 a little vague to me. I'm not really sure
15 the criteria as to how a school district
16 would be eligible for these funds.

17 Are we are going to receive any
18 kind of criteria?

19 MR. BRODERICK: Well, some of
20 that was encompassed in the broad band,
21 but, yes, broad band, like I just mentioned,
22 for some school districts whose children
23 were adversely impacted because they didn't
24 have the ability to remotely tap into the
25 school resources and such.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So you're
3 saying there are school districts in Nassau
4 that didn't have remote technology?

5 MR. BRODERICK: Quite possible.
6 I can't say. I'm not an expert on the
7 school districts. But we are trying to
8 identify the eligibility, the needs, and
9 match that against the eligibility.

10 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I guess
11 that's the issue I have and I feel like,
12 shouldn't that be done before allocating a
13 certain amount of money to the school
14 districts?

15 MR. BRODERICK: Yes and no. If
16 you want to look at things and say, like,
17 Nassau County is ahead of the curve right
18 now in trying to get monies back into the
19 communities.

20 If you look at I guess the
21 number of individuals vaccinated in New York
22 State we're probably on the forefront,
23 Nassau County is on the forefront of getting
24 that accomplished and getting us back up and
25 running.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 If you're looking at the
3 businesses, it's like there's a lot of
4 unknowns here. The interim rules as I
5 mentioned earlier, they only get finalized I
6 believe in July.

7 So there's a lot of ifs ands and
8 buts out there, some are pretty clear and
9 other a little bit vague.

10 Even if we allocate funds
11 towards a program, it's coming before this
12 board here. What better to do, try to get
13 proactive or reactive. Different ways of
14 looking at it.

15 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I think
16 it's certainly good to be out in front of
17 things but at the same time you don't want
18 to allocate money without knowing exactly
19 where it's going. I think earlier in the
20 presentation you said we have until when to
21 allocate this, 2024?

22 MR. BRODERICK: That is to
23 obligate, yes.

24 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: And then
25 spend it by 2026?

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 MR. BRODERICK: Yes, sir.

3 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So I don't
4 want to say we're rushing but I think that I
5 have some questions about how exactly this
6 money is going to be distributed before
7 voting on it, especially in light of the
8 fact that we have three years to do it.

9 MR. BRODERICK: It's a good
10 point, however, it's getting the money out
11 there as I think everybody here is
12 acknowledging that the downtown is going to
13 be a driving force to get the monies back in
14 the community, not only to the business
15 owners but the individuals who are working
16 for them to reinvest in other businesses as
17 they go out and spend their money.

18 But right now all the
19 eligibility criteria, we have to spend the
20 money in conformance with that. So that's
21 the basis of any of these programs here.

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: We talked,
23 I think Ms. Tsimis you talked earlier about
24 the restaurant assistance program that was
25 done back earlier this year?

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 MS. TSIMIS: It was about a year
3 it was open.

4 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Right, and
5 the total amount that was allocated to that?

6 MS. TSIMIS: \$2 million.

7 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: And that
8 helped about 250?

9 MS. TSIMIS: That's about right.

10 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI:
11 Restaurants?

12 MS. TSIMIS: Yes.

13 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: How many
14 restaurants were eligible for that?

15 MS. TSIMIS: I think it's about
16 3,000.

17 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So roughly
18 we assisted about 1/12th if my math is
19 right?

20 MS. TSIMIS: That's about right.

21 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I know you
22 characterize that as success. Look, helping
23 anybody is a blessing. I'm glad we can help
24 those 275 restaurants, but from my
25 perspective it's disappointing knowing that

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 over 95 percent of the money in the CARES
3 Act, and I know the \$2 million didn't come
4 from the CARES Act, it came from that other
5 pot, but we had \$98 million that was put
6 into the budget that could have been
7 allocated additionally to helping
8 restaurants for example.

9 I don't see any reason why we
10 didn't help every restaurant in Nassau
11 County. Unfortunately when it was presented
12 to us, it was presented as if it was needed
13 to go into the budget. We now know that
14 that isn't true.

15 But I don't characterize that \$2
16 million that went to restaurants as a
17 success. I think that we could have and
18 should have done more.

19 I'm hesitant, even you look at
20 what we have here \$10 million for the small
21 business programs. I think we should and
22 can do more.

23 MS. TSIMIS: That's why we're
24 happy to appear with you today and have
25 these discussions about the funding. As we

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 discussed, there is still considerable
3 funding available to the county and would be
4 very interested in a specific number or
5 general discussion or however you want to
6 proceed on the additional funds.

7 One of the things I want to say,
8 although we have some time once we obligate
9 the money to actually spend it, you also
10 want to make sure you can do it in a timely
11 way and sort of -- we tried to make a
12 judgement call about what we felt we could
13 administer properly and well and following
14 all the guidance and do it exactly right,
15 that's why we came up with the \$10 million
16 figure. It's a starting point. We will
17 take in your input and proceed from there.

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I
19 appreciate that and I appreciate the
20 dialogue. I just want to know, the CARES
21 Act money, and this is not what we are here
22 about today, I understand that.

23 It's wonderful that we are going
24 to do what we can now but that's not going
25 to help the restaurants out of business

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 already, that closed their doors, while \$98
3 million was put in money that in my opinion
4 was meant for these restaurants into the
5 budget so we have a big surplus but it is
6 what it is and, going forward, we need to I
7 agree work together and help as many people
8 and businesses as we can. Thank you.

9 MS. TSIMIS: Thank you,
10 legislator.

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Legislator
12 Ford, but I have another question that I
13 neglected to ask a little bit earlier.
14 Conal is getting all ready for it.

15 On the infrastructure, what I
16 would like to understand better is what
17 categories of spending are permissible? I
18 know I can do water projects and so forth.

19 But can we spend it on roads?
20 Can we spend it on other things that the
21 county needs to do? Because our
22 infrastructure in many ways is crumbling.

23 MR. DENION: The regulations say
24 of course and one of the main categories is
25 water sewer broad band infrastructure, so

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 that -- I think you understand.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: That one's
4 easy.

5 MR. DENION: Regulations also
6 say to the extent any other infrastructure
7 generally not an eligible use unless the
8 regulations say that it is and it is
9 generally pandemic related.

10 For instance, due to COVID
11 related partitions, social distancing
12 measures in the facility, and it also says
13 that a facility that was planned but was
14 delayed due to COVID, also I think another
15 example is affordable housing and qualified
16 census tracks.

17 There are certain things that
18 the regulation says are presumed to be
19 responsive to the pandemic but in general
20 infrastructure other than water sewer brand
21 band is not.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So on the
23 water sewer broad band, the county
24 generally spends tons of money on those
25 categories. Once again, can some of those

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 categories displace some county funding in
3 the future on which we would have to
4 otherwise borrow?

5 MR. DENION: I think the answer
6 is it could. I will defer to Brian on the
7 policy.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Have you
9 considered that as well?

10 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, legislator,
11 we already put together our quite extensive
12 laundry list of projects that we believe are
13 eligible not only in our waste water
14 treatment facilities but also other critical
15 infrastructure whether it's roads or
16 certainly county buildings even from a COVID
17 response.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So it's going
19 to be at a future funding?

20 MR. SCHNEIDER: Exactly correct.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Got it.
22 Legislator Ford.

23 LEGISLATOR FORD: That's good to
24 here. Thank you very much all of you for
25 your presentation. I'm probably going to be

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 just bouncing around myself.

3 I just want to ask with this
4 small businesses, do we also include like,
5 say, doctor offices or dental practitioners,
6 or are they something of a different entity?

7 MS. TSIMIS: They are considered
8 professional service organizations, and in
9 the current version still in draft of our
10 new Main Street grant program, we haven't
11 made a final decision on that, legislator.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: So maybe if we
13 can take a look at that. Some of them they
14 weren't allowed to be opened so they
15 actually lost.

16 MS. TSIMIS: We, actually, with
17 the free PPE kits, we had a very big turn
18 out of some of those offices because I think
19 they were open and doing business and
20 needing those materials so when we look at
21 the list of those companies that received
22 those kits, they were heavy in that service
23 category.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: On the ARPA
25 funding, I know that I read in the paper

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 that it's subjected to be taxed. Are we
3 confirming that with Senator Schumer that
4 that money will be a taxable item for the
5 recipients? So like they were saying, this
6 is in the paper, so I'm not saying it's
7 true, if a resident receives \$375 after
8 taxes, it will only be like 250?

9 MR. DENION: I don't know in
10 Katie had that on the to-do list or not and
11 I don't have the answer.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: We don't know.
13 That's what I'm saying. They threw it out
14 there. I don't know whether or not if
15 that's one of the considerations when you
16 request information from Senator Schumer if
17 that's something that you will have
18 clarified?

19 MR. DENION: I will defer to
20 Katie on that.

21 MS. HORST: We will ask the
22 Department of Treasury when we meet them
23 this week.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: Also, aside
25 from private homeowners, I don't know how

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 you're going to distribute the money, I
3 guess have to wait for everything to be
4 answered, but if it is indeed going to go
5 forward, so that every star recipient gets
6 \$375, would they have to apply for it or do
7 you think that it's whoever has a star
8 application on file?

9 MS. HORST: I believe it's the
10 latter.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: So then when
12 you think about those who live in condos and
13 co-ops, sometimes their star rebate checks,
14 I don't know if they go directly to the
15 actual owner of a condo or co-op or if it
16 goes to the actual association which then
17 sometimes can be used to offset their
18 property taxes.

19 Are we going to look at that
20 just to see if that will be distributed into
21 these multi-family type of situations?

22 MS. HORST: We will look into
23 that.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: I appreciate
25 it. I have a lot and other Legislators who

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 have these buildings that may be impacted.
3 I don't want people calling up. I just want
4 to make sure I know if they're supposed to
5 get it that they get it. Just asking as you
6 are looking at everything.

7 When we talked about the
8 expansion of the Office of the Aging Program
9 which I think is great, but I was on a call,
10 a zoom call with Commissioner Ryder, and he
11 was talking about the county's efforts to
12 reach out to all of our seniors who live at
13 home so we know who they are, where they
14 are, whatever, to have information on them.
15 Is this going to be, this funding, the \$2.1
16 million, is that going to be part of -- to
17 go towards that program or that is something
18 separate and this will be used for other
19 agency programs?

20 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: Legislator,
21 it's my understanding that that is a
22 separate program. That is a public safety
23 program and this is in the office of the
24 aging department, so they are separate.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Perfect. So

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 then we'll really expand a lot of help to a
3 lot of people. I thank you very much.

4 I am also probably going to put
5 in a formal request myself for some of the
6 funding because I know that when we talk
7 about helping some of our communities, we
8 have been advocating to get a Wick center
9 down in the City of Long Beach, so I will
10 probably be sending a formal request in
11 regard with this funding in the hopes that
12 we will be able to help establish it. I
13 know Legislator Kopel and I have spoken
14 about this, Pete Sobol Center in Inwood.
15 That is something that could very well serve
16 a large population of those that are in
17 great need.

18 We had requested and had the
19 hospital take a look at maybe establishing a
20 medical center, type of thing operation down
21 there, and I think the cost probably at that
22 time they estimated it to be \$15 million.

23 I'm hoping that at some point we
24 will be able to have a discussion whether or
25 not in this funding or for future funding to

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 be able to provide something to go there.

3 I know Pete Sobol is looking
4 down at me saying probably keep at it,
5 Denise, of course this is something that he
6 truly truly wanted and I think that if we
7 could fulfill his dream it will help so many
8 people in that area.

9 So now I'm going to go to my
10 favorite topic, I'm looking at you, Brian,
11 you knew I was going to bring this up.

12 So I think it's wonderful that
13 we're looking at the water infrastructure.
14 We're both on the same page on a lot of
15 this. I know when you talked about with
16 water vision and the multi year program and
17 I know that we had worked on committees with
18 Dr. Sarah Meyland.

19 MR. SCHNEIDER: Correct.

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: Will some of
21 her recommendations, her ideas, some of her
22 programs be adopted into any of this?

23 I know that she's still waiting
24 for New York State approval to deal with the
25 water conservation and regeneration here in

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 Nassau County and Suffolk County. But I
3 just wanted to know are we also bringing her
4 ideas as well and considering them as well
5 with this program?

6 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, legislator,
7 that was my cheat sheet in dealing with
8 conversations with Professor Meyland and her
9 group. So many, if not all of the ideas
10 that are laid out in the water vision plan
11 are incorporated into this long term multi
12 year comprehensive water conservation plan
13 so the answer to that would be yes.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.
15 I'm actually thrilled to hear that because
16 for me she is my water expert, aside from
17 you of course. She really has put her heart
18 and soul into a lot of this and having sat
19 in the committees, and we had a couple of
20 Legislators that also sat in on some of the
21 presentation so we know how dire it is and
22 how important it is.

23 MR. SCHNEIDER: And not to
24 interrupt, but as part of the groundwater
25 sustainability study with the USGS, there is

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 a water conservation subcommittee which she
3 and I are on.

4 We made this presentation to
5 this subcommittee last week so I think it's
6 out there now in the atmosphere and it's
7 going to be considered.

8 I think the bottom line is that
9 a water conservation plan will need to be
10 adopted by this board at some point,
11 probably within the next year as these
12 initiatives are being vetted out.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: Will we be
14 able to give her some sort of funding for
15 the programs? I know that when she was
16 talking about setting up a system, like one
17 of the issues they had was some sort of
18 funding, would we be able to provide any
19 funding for this?

20 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, well,
21 through this initiative we are recommending
22 \$6 million out of ARPA to fund this
23 multi-year at least the first through 2026
24 to fund the initiatives that were laid out
25 in this water vision plan which I can share

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 with the Legislature.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: We would love
4 to hear it at a later date. So then I'm
5 hoping for the 2022 funding that maybe we
6 can carve out some more money?

7 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes. Well, the
8 plan lays out year by year expenditures and
9 recommendations for specific initiatives on
10 advancing the water conservation plan,
11 again, it's in the Water Vision plan that we
12 can share.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: Makes me
14 happy.

15 My last is the septic system
16 grant program. I just want to put it on
17 record. I know we had a discussion. Only
18 because of the fact that Point Lookout is
19 still on their septic systems and a lot of
20 the people probably need to get new systems.
21 But they are not necessarily, are they
22 entitled to apply?

23 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes. Well, we
24 had this discussion. So the septic
25 replacement grant program is open to anybody

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 in the county. Since Nassau County is a
3 sole source aquifer that is really the
4 eligibility requirement.

5 The Point Lookout folks
6 basically 600 homes and business are on
7 septics there. We already have a grant
8 program to start designing the improvements
9 that are going to be necessary. That study
10 is going to be -- the goal there is to get
11 everyone connected to the central sewage
12 treatment plant in Long Beach. So it's not
13 going to be necessary to replace your
14 failing system with an updated one because
15 it's going to be obsolete after we connect
16 every one anyway. So we didn't want to
17 publicize that, oh, yes, Point Lookout
18 folks, let's apply, it wouldn't make much
19 sense.

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: But
21 considering that we are going to basically
22 through the program give up \$10,000 to
23 residents on the north shore to get an
24 upgraded septic system, which it doesn't
25 cover the full cost, but is there any way of

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 carving out any of this money to set aside
3 for the 600 residents in Point Lookout so
4 there is funding available for them when
5 they have to connect to the sewer?

6 MR. SCHNEIDER: For connection
7 fees? It's something we can discuss as a
8 potential future phase of payments.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm hoping
10 even with the federal government with their
11 infrastructure. Aside from this money that
12 we're getting, there also is infrastructure
13 money that President Biden has --

14 MR. SCHNEIDER: Well, there are
15 discussions right now on an infrastructure
16 bill that is meandering its way through. We
17 haven't actually seen -- although from a DPW
18 standpoint, we already put together what we
19 feel are good stimulus type infrastructure
20 projects which we shared with the
21 Legislature as well.

22 So, yes, I think there's going
23 to be additional monies coming from
24 Washington.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 much. I really appreciate it.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Mr. Rhoads.

4 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you
5 very much. I'm a little torn because I was
6 hoping to actually see more of a plan today.
7 It seems as though what we're getting is
8 more of a budget as opposed to a plan.

9 Ultimately how and where the
10 money is going to be spent and what the
11 criteria are is ultimately important. The
12 devil is in the details.

13 Because, ultimately, for each
14 individual Legislator here, not only is the
15 good and welfare of the entire county our
16 concern, but ultimately I want to know what
17 are my residents eligible to get, what are
18 my businesses in my district eligible to
19 receive, how do I get that information out
20 there?

21 What we have kind of is a \$62.9
22 9 million plan of what our goals are as
23 opposed to how it is that we're going to get
24 there.

25 So the first question is, let's

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 say we do approve this on Monday, does it
3 come back to us once you have those
4 specifics?

5 MR. PERSICH: I would think that
6 we're putting funding in place that will
7 have strings attached to this body so that
8 anything we are planning on doing whether it
9 be a contract or payment to somebody will
10 have to come back through you.

11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: That's with
12 respect to a specific contract, but if, for
13 example, you decide to move forward with the
14 Boost Nassau program and the grants for Main
15 Street small businesses for \$10,000 each,
16 once you determine what businesses will be
17 eligible for that program, do those criteria
18 come back to us?

19 Let's say you decide that you're
20 only going to give those grants to
21 businesses in the north shore theoretically
22 as you might be doing for the grants for
23 septic systems, even though everyone may be
24 eligible, that's what they're speaking
25 about. I would obviously would have a

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 problem with that. Small businesses in my
3 area have problems as well. One in six
4 small businesses in Nassau County closes as
5 a result of that. Let's not make sure it's
6 not two out every six. That's the whole
7 point of this.

8 Does that come back to us at
9 some point in time?

10 I have a hard time saying here's
11 the concept go run with it, especially in
12 light of what happened with the CARES Act
13 money when we do that we're not always
14 happen with the results.

15 MS. TSIMIS: I think that the
16 short answer is, any program we do will be
17 absolutely county wide, there is no chance
18 we would do something direct. I know you're
19 trying to distinguish.

20 I think we're still reviewing
21 with County Attorney's Office some of the
22 details of how we are going to launch some
23 of these programs. If they require a
24 contract with a vendor who is going to
25 administer the program for us, then we would

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 be bringing that contract back to you and it
3 would have some level of detail just like
4 the CDBG contracts do, some level of detail
5 of what the program is and then you're
6 approving it.

7 But we do need to have some
8 flexibility within our administration of
9 these funds so we are not slowing things
10 down.

11 So, where possible, we may be
12 looking to move forward with either existing
13 vendors that the county has, and developing
14 those criteria working closely with those
15 agencies.

16 I think there is a mixture and
17 we've done pretty well so far. I think we
18 have a pretty good track record the
19 administration of rolling out programs and
20 getting the resources out and actually I
21 want to correct something for the record
22 regarding the restaurant grant program.

23 The special assistant for
24 economic development sent me a little text,
25 Kendra Armstea, she's been dealing with a

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 lot of these small businesses and
3 restaurants. She reminded that because we
4 decided to give the resources to only full
5 service restaurants, again, were the ones
6 who were extremely hard hit, they had to
7 show they had a permit with the county. We
8 didn't allow franchises and sort of the
9 bigger businesses to take the grants. The
10 universe of small restaurants in the county
11 was 1,256 restaurants that were qualified
12 under, so we think, based on the number of
13 restaurants that we have that would have
14 been eligible, and 250 grants. So it's
15 about one in five which is a much better
16 statistic than the number I gave Legislator
17 Ferretti earlier. So I wanted to correct
18 that for you.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Not to speak
20 for Legislator Ferretti, but I think that
21 the overall point we were trying to make is
22 that we had the opportunity.

23 MS. TSIMIS: I understand.

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: And that
25 opportunity was denied to us because of

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 information that we received that resulted
3 in essentially \$78 million that could have
4 been put out into businesses and could have
5 gone into direct payments to residents,
6 could have gone towards PPE, could have gone
7 towards a variety of other acceptable COVID
8 related uses is now sitting in a county bank
9 account someplace as opposed to it going out
10 there because the administration made the
11 decision that we were going to use it to pay
12 salaries and benefits.

13 My goal in all of this is to
14 make sure that that mistake does not happen
15 again. I'm just concerned because it sounds
16 as though just as with the \$375 payment to
17 residents that was promised by the County
18 Executive not more than a month ago, and now
19 all of a sudden we are going to seek the
20 guidance just like this plan apparently
21 because at least the testimony I have heard
22 today no one has actually spoken with the
23 treasury department to make sure any of
24 these ideas or programs that we have that we
25 are now allocating \$62.9 million to actually

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 is an acceptable use according to the
3 treasury department.

4 I'm just concerned that we're
5 going to find out now after the fact that
6 you have to make excuses as to why it is the
7 money is not going to where it was intended.
8 Shouldn't we have asked those questions
9 before as we were in the process of
10 developing this plan so that we knew what
11 was being presented and what we were
12 allocating money to was actually an
13 acceptable use.

14 Now, from my standpoint, we have
15 allocated indicated \$62.9 million. What
16 happens if \$10 million of those dollars
17 aren't acceptable uses? Now all of a sudden
18 there is \$10 million floating around out
19 there that can be used for other things that
20 may theoretically may not come back to this
21 Legislature and find it already within an
22 approved allocation.

23 So it's just, we all want to get
24 benefits into people's hands as quickly as
25 possible, and I wish that was kind of the

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 motivation last year we were dealing with
3 the CARES Act funding, but that already
4 happened. There is nothing I can doing
5 about that at this point.

6 I just feel as though we should
7 have been better organized and had a better
8 idea for our presentation today as to the
9 money we are planning on spending how
10 exactly it's going to be spent and whether
11 or not that intention was going to be
12 approved by the Treasury Department when
13 push comes to shove.

14 Just in terms of, for example,
15 the Boost Nassau Main Street small business
16 grant program, it allocates \$10 million for
17 the retail center what exactly is included
18 in the retail center? What business does
19 that make up?

20 MS. TSIMIS: So we are still
21 developing the exact parameters of the
22 program as I mentioned to you.

23 I believe it will not include
24 the professional services. Again, we're
25 trying to learn from what's out there as I

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 mentioned earlier, there is \$800 million
3 from the state of New York, so what we're
4 doing is sort of comparing what they are
5 providing resources to, looking at our own
6 small businesses in Nassau County and trying
7 to make some logical choices. So there may
8 be some subcategory of businesses that can
9 apply for both but we want to maximize the
10 resources available.

11 I don't think the number \$10
12 million is too much, sir. I think you are
13 going to say it isn't enough, but I will
14 guarantee you that we will develop a program
15 that makes sense for the Nassau County
16 businesses, that tries to encompass as many
17 of them as we can and then we will proceed
18 from there.

19 As I mentioned, if we need a
20 contract that has a vendor we would bring
21 that before you before we managed the
22 program.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I understand
24 that, but if I go out and I'm speaking
25 tonight at the Chamber of Commerce, and I

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 say, hey, we allocated \$10 million towards
3 the Boost Nassau Main Street small business
4 grant program, and then businesses sitting
5 there say, how do I apply?

6 MS. TSIMIS: So I have a draft
7 of a program and what we've already made
8 available to some of the business through
9 CDBG funding and we feel it was appropriate
10 to come to the Legislature, insure you felt
11 that there should be a \$10 million program
12 for small businesses before we finalize the
13 details of what that program looks like. I
14 think that's a fair approach for the County
15 Executive's Office to take because maybe you
16 would have said, we don't want to do this.
17 So, for now, we have been funding a small
18 business grant program already, as I
19 mentioned, which was expanded from the
20 restaurant grant program using existing CDBG
21 funding, that's CB funding, just about all
22 tapped out.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Well, what
24 criteria are you using now?

25 MS. TSIMIS: So we shifted from

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 the CDBGCB criteria which said you had to
3 have been saying a one low moderate income
4 job and now we're using ARP criteria to say
5 that the business has to show us they have
6 been hard hit by the pandemic, that they
7 were in operations after March 1st of --
8 before March 1st of 2020 and that they're
9 going to use the expenses for going forward
10 costs because that's, again, the restriction
11 in ARP is that it has to be used for going
12 forward costs. So we have incorporated our
13 ARP requirements into our what we were doing
14 under the CDBGCB for this interim period
15 until you allocate the funds.

16 Once you allocate the funds and
17 we know that they're going to be there we
18 will finalize our applications and we will
19 absolutely share that information with the
20 county legislature because we're going to
21 want you to have those conversations with
22 your constituents and small businesses and
23 tell them about this grant program.

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So is this
25 grant program essentially for resiliency

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 based on those criteria? Is there anything
3 within this to allow businesses to be able
4 to recoup for losses that they sustained as
5 a result of being closed for three months or
6 as a result of not being online; what
7 exactly are we -- that's a real challenge?

8 MR. DENION: It's all pandemic
9 related and rules say that the costs had to
10 have been incurred beginning March 3, 2021,
11 March 3rd, 2021 forward was when the costs
12 have to have been incurred. Some of the
13 presumptions that the rules said, you can
14 presume these are costs, but in general
15 that's the rule.

16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So under the
17 guidance that you received from the federal
18 government so far with respect to the
19 American Recovery Plan you would not be able
20 to reimburse small businesses rental
21 payments that they had to make on their
22 leases during the period of time they were
23 closed?

24 MR. DENION: Again it has to be
25 March 3, 2021 and forward.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: But that's
3 part of the federal guidelines? That's the
4 criteria?

5 MR. DENION: That's the federal
6 guideline.

7 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Who made the
8 determination, or how was the determination
9 made that \$10,000 per eligible business was
10 an appropriate amount? Was that run through
11 the Economic Recovery --

12 MS. TSIMIS: We have had
13 conversations about both the restaurant
14 recovery grant program and then this new
15 iteration of the small business grant
16 program and just been more general than
17 that, but the \$10,000 figure is actually
18 fairly standard. That's what the state of
19 New York is doing as well.

20 Again, we can adjust if there is
21 additional funding made available by the
22 Legislature at some other date or we see
23 that this is being used, we're going to have
24 additional funding coming in through ARP,
25 even into next year, so I would envision we

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 may be able to put additional resources into
3 this later. But for now we felt the \$10,000
4 was a good marker.

5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I know we
6 are relying upon what other agencies, other
7 governmental entities, do we know that
8 \$10,000 for the average small business is
9 going to make a long term difference?

10 MS. TSIMIS: I think we know
11 it's a shot in the arm for them, sir, and we
12 feel it's a good number to hit and that's
13 what I'm going to say.

14 We have talked to many many
15 businesses. The restaurants gobbled up the
16 \$10,000, obviously, no pun intended on the
17 gobbling, but I think that these funds are
18 clearly used, could it be a higher figure,
19 certainly, but at the same time we're
20 balancing out what Legislator Ferretti
21 pointed out which is how many businesses
22 there are we want to reach. So there is a
23 balancing act there. You could give \$50,000
24 to each one give but you can give that many
25 fewer businesses.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 We felt that a \$10 million
3 program was a good place to start at \$10,000
4 a piece, so we're comfortable with that and
5 we hope you will approve it.

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: You're going
7 to be helping roughly 1,000 businesses?

8 MS. TSIMIS: Roughly 1,000
9 businesses, exactly. It's roughly 1,000,
10 and I'm not great at math either.

11 Would I love to have more and do
12 more, absolutely. I think we are just
13 trying to prioritize what we think we can
14 manage and what we think we can do well.
15 Again, as I said, finalizing the criteria to
16 make sure everything is ARP eligible and an
17 application process that's simplified and
18 straight forward and makes it easy for
19 businesses to apply and to get the money
20 which we did do successfully with the
21 restaurant grant.

22 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Do we know
23 what the total universe of retail sector
24 businesses are?

25 MS. TSIMIS: I do have that

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 figure. I think it's in the retail sector
3 -- well, the universe is larger of 50
4 employees or less. So we're talking sort of
5 smaller businesses, I think it's 5,000 in
6 the retail sector and 3,000 restaurants, so
7 8,000.

8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So roughly
9 we are looking for this to help about those
10 businesses?

11 MS. TSIMIS: Yes.

12 MS. HORST: If I can ask, in
13 that Restaurant Grant Recovery Program, of
14 the 250 or 275 restaurants, 275, right?

15 MS. TSIMIS: It was over 250 and
16 I don't know if we hit 275.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Whatever
18 that number is, somewhere in the 250 to 275
19 range, do we know how many of those
20 businesses are still in business?

21 MS. TSIMIS: As far as I know
22 they all are but I can get that information
23 for you. There are actually a lot of
24 relationships developed through that program
25 through the vendor, the National Development

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 Council that managed that for us.

3 They're still keeping track of
4 those businesses. In some cases, those
5 businesses were not only received the
6 restaurant recovery grant but they also
7 received a PPE loan, it was actually very
8 useful because the consultant really worked
9 with some of these businesses and helped
10 them get whatever assistance they could get,
11 not just the restaurant grant.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Actually
13 mentioned loans, that sort of brings me to
14 my next question, Boost Nassau Small
15 Business Loan Program.

16 We're receiving the money from
17 the federal government, right, it's no cost
18 to county taxpayers.

19 Why are we using that money to
20 fund a loan program? Why aren't we giving
21 out more grants and why are we looking to
22 get money back?

23 MS. TSIMIS: We're not actually
24 looking to get money back to the county. We
25 would be looking to create a fund that sort

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 of self administers and puts money back into
3 additional loans going forward.

4 As you know under the federal
5 CARES Act and through this New York forward
6 there was the creation of many loans that
7 were available and the county actually
8 funded one such program called Boost Nassau
9 using the New York Forward program.

10 The idea of the loan, it's not
11 just a shot in the arm, the \$10,000 here,
12 \$5,000 there, you give someone a loan it's
13 working capital. It allows them to grow.
14 This is something that we've actually looked
15 at from an economic development perspective
16 even before the pandemic and we feel that
17 the pandemic and these ARP funds provide us
18 an opportunity to do that so we are looking
19 to give them funding for not just today but
20 it's for tomorrow.

21 So they would have working
22 capital to help them grow, maybe bring some
23 employees and also stabilize themselves over
24 the longer term.

25 And if it's underwritten

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 properly which it would be using a vendor,
3 the county is not going to be doing this
4 ourselves, we would hire a vendor to do
5 this, it will help them revitalize their
6 businesses and then, because it's a loan,
7 the money would come back.

8 We are looking at very low
9 interest. I think the New York Forward
10 Program was a three percent interest and
11 we've been speaking to folks about offering
12 a one percent. We're going to try to get
13 that as low as we possibly can but getting
14 that one percent back allows you to then
15 fund the next business in two years or four
16 years. Some of the estimations is if we do
17 this right, we may have funding in this loan
18 program for a decade or more.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I certainly
20 understand the concept and I understand the
21 need for it. What I'm having difficulty
22 understanding is why are we having COVID
23 money to create it when we have a \$78
24 million surplus; so why aren't we --

25 MS. TSIMIS: No comment. I

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 think the county -- that money, and, again,
3 this is outside my vertical, but I'm going
4 to say we paid for county expenses including
5 to essential personnel in the midst of the
6 pandemic and now we are in a different stage
7 in the process which is allowing us to use
8 it, new funding coming in and we're
9 directing it towards a series of uses.

10 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I understand
11 and part of my discussion here is to analyze
12 whether the series of uses and priorities
13 that have been established fall in line with
14 what our vision is for how that money should
15 be used.

16 I can raise the same question
17 with respect to the septic program with
18 Brian. I know it's an acceptable use under
19 COVID. I know it's an important use. No
20 question about it.

21 But if there is a budgetary way
22 for us to be able to access money we already
23 have to pay for it outside of COVID funds,
24 why don't we use that money to be able to
25 create it which frees up more COVID money to

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 provide direct assistance.

3 I might as well ask that now,
4 Brian, has there been any discussion as to
5 whether we can be using surplus money that
6 probably should have been used for COVID
7 related expenses last year to create that
8 septic tank program? And which would enable
9 us to dedicate \$8 million more to veterans
10 or \$8 million more to a business grant
11 program or pay for some direct assistance to
12 residents or rental relief program.

13 MR. PERSICH: Legislator, if I
14 may interject here, I don't know if Local
15 Finance Law allows us to take our surplus
16 money and give it out in the form of a grant
17 or anything like that.

18 But I think we're restricted
19 based on the boundaries that the state has
20 defined to us as far as the Local Finance
21 Law, I don't think I can take surplus money
22 and give it to loan program or give it to a
23 septic program. I don't think I can do
24 that.

25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: We have the

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 ability, though, I believe if I'm not
3 mistaken, did we do that with respect to
4 water sprinklers create a grant program
5 funded through the county budget?

6 MR. PERSICH: We did but that
7 was -- that program was paid out of
8 operating funds where we didn't take surplus
9 from prior years and roll it forward into
10 another program. In other words, it was the
11 use of operating funds.

12 I don't believe that we can do
13 it, I will check and get back on that, but I
14 don't believe it's an acceptable form under
15 finance law to do that.

16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I wish you
17 would because that actually plays some role
18 in how we would make decisions with respect
19 to the things that are included in this
20 plan, for example, because if there is a way
21 for us to be able to provide more direct
22 assistance that doesn't have to be repaid to
23 residents, to businesses, with respect to
24 the loan program, or if there is another way
25 to pay for a valuable septic system

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 replacement program, that doesn't use COVID
3 funds, which frees up more money for
4 veterans or for any one of the other
5 enumerated uses as part of this plan, I
6 would love to be able to do that.

7 MR. PERSICH: I'll check into
8 that and get back to you.

9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I appreciate
10 that.

11 With respect to the Boost Nassau
12 Resource Center, and Deputy County Executive
13 Rose Louder referenced that. We got
14 \$500,000 that we're allocated.

15 MS. TSIMIS: That's under me.
16 That's mine.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I apologize.
18 \$500,000 that we are allocating towards
19 staff for this resource center in Eisenhower
20 Park?

21 MS. TSIMIS: It's actually
22 broader than just for staff. We actually
23 have brought on three but are looking to
24 hire a few more temporary seasonal employees
25 to staff the center. There's three new

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 employees in there right. They're
3 fantastic.

4 But we are also looking
5 including in that any other expenses of the
6 office such as if they want to have the
7 language access line there is a cost to
8 that. So we're trying to hire as many
9 multilingual employees as we can but there
10 are costs to the language access line. So
11 we're including that in there.

12 We're also looking to do
13 possibly a campaign, an ad campaign to let
14 folks know that this resource is available
15 so we might take an ad out in Newsday or do
16 a radio ad or something like that. We put
17 in some additional expenses to the Boost
18 Nassau Center.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Obviously
20 you heard from Eric Alexander today from
21 Main Street Alliance, you spoke about the
22 fact that those sort of traditional ways
23 that we go about advertising our programs
24 leave a whole bunch of people out.

25 Has there been any discussion

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 about trying to get people out into
3 communities, perhaps using social media a
4 little bit more within our business pages
5 which is a low cost way of being able to
6 advertise but actually making a broader
7 reach to get into individual communities and
8 send somebody out door to door, for example?

9 MS. TSIMIS: Absolutely.
10 Absolutely. If you approve this we would
11 look to potentially hire some potential
12 temporary employees. We are absolutely
13 going to get the word out. There are
14 outreach offices.

15 We included another million
16 dollars in this package which we mentioned
17 and discussed earlier, so I don't want to
18 repeat myself, but we would be looking for
19 partnerships with folks like Legislator
20 Bynoe referenced the Urban League with
21 Hofstra University. I know Mr. Alexander's
22 position is it can't be top down, so we need
23 to find a way to embrace the very local
24 organizations as long as they are eligible.

25 We always have to go back to

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 whether ARP eligibility, whether they're the
3 type of organization that can get the
4 funding.

5 So some of the, for instance,
6 chambers of commerce, may be eligible where
7 we can give a direct grant to them to help
8 us with outreach.

9 If not, we're going to back up a
10 step and do the Nassau Council of Chambers
11 because we know they are eligible not profit
12 under ARP.

13 So we are absolutely trying to
14 get the word out in as broad a way as we
15 can, some will be by our own employees, some
16 by these temporary employees, some of whom
17 are young, much younger than I am, and know
18 a lot about social media and getting very
19 creative about how we can utilize social
20 media to get the word out about these
21 programs to some of our very hard hit
22 communities.

23 So we're excited to have some
24 very new and energized staff members over at
25 the Boost Center working with Dr. Williams.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: How many
3 employees will be hired by that \$500,000?

4 MS. TSIMIS: Right now we have
5 four PRFs that are circulating. There's
6 three that have been hired and then there's
7 one additional. That's all for right now
8 but I guess like I said the \$500,000 is a
9 more broad based support for that office
10 which could include some of the advertising
11 and promotional activities that I described
12 before.

13 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I guess my
14 question is how much of those four
15 individuals are going to be, we're talking
16 about trying to create partnerships or
17 actually getting out, the actual street
18 level?

19 MS. TSIMIS: Right. So some of
20 this we're going to be issuing grants. I'm
21 just going to -- again, I don't want to say
22 top down, I know some folks think of Hofstra
23 as too big of top down, but they have a
24 tremendous entrepreneurship program, some
25 very talented people that do outreach that

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 we're looking to spend a million dollars to
3 get the word out on our programs to help us
4 with better materials utilizing very trusted
5 county partners in academia, in the business
6 world, in the nonprofit sector to help us
7 get the word out about these programs.

8 So it's a multifaceted program
9 to support our business community and our
10 nonprofits through the Boost Nassau Center
11 so it's not any one thing.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I'm
13 concerned about the statistics that we're in
14 and I certainly don't question what was
15 raised by Mr. Alexander. I hope I'm quoting
16 him correctly, if four out of five business
17 didn't know they were eligible for some of
18 the recovery programs that existed last
19 year, I'm just concerned, are we creating
20 these programs to only help a handful of
21 businesses?

22 MS. TSIMIS: I hope not and I
23 hope we're going to work collaboratively
24 with Mr. Alexander and everyone else here to
25 make sure that we get the word out.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: If the
3 reason we are not getting broader
4 participation is because we simply don't
5 know the issue.

6 MS. TSIMIS: Throughout the
7 pandemic we had a series of webinars, we
8 used our outreach offices, we translated,
9 Farah Mozzawalla's department had translated
10 some of the state programs and even our own
11 county programs, they translated how you can
12 apply for a grant or a loan into Mandarin.
13 It was posted up on the OAA website.

14 I don't have the statistics in
15 front of me but Farah can surely provide
16 them of the many many many hits and views on
17 how to apply for PPP and how to apply for
18 the Boost Nassau loan and how to go a
19 restaurant grant.

20 We will do more of that and we
21 can step up those efforts but they are
22 ongoing and it is like I said multifaceted
23 involving our outreach offices and any other
24 new partners we can contract with for that
25 purpose.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.

3 With respect to workforce
4 development this seems particularly vague on
5 details. As to one who would qualify, how
6 it would be administered through college,
7 BOCES program, that sort of would be a
8 natural channel to assist. We do have a
9 significant number of people who lost jobs
10 as a result of the pandemic, or they may not
11 be able to go back to.

12 What is the plan for spending
13 that \$10 million? Separate and apart from
14 the -- we really didn't get into the
15 details.

16 MS. TSIMIS: I think that's a
17 fair point, Legislator, and I think you hit
18 on exactly what we are planning to do. We
19 did start a few work force development
20 initiatives actually using the CDBGCG
21 funding; one was with Nassau Community
22 College where we provided them with
23 assistance so they could retrain folks to
24 reenter the health care profession. It was
25 very successful. They had a very diverse

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 pool of students that they trained in that
3 regard.

4 So we actually planned to
5 convene a group soon. We've spoken already
6 with Matty Erisich from the building trades,
7 John Durso who is on the economic advisory
8 council in terms of the trades and
9 apprenticeship opportunities.

10 I've spoken with BOCES, Nassau
11 County Community College. They actually,
12 Nassau Community College serves on the EAC,
13 so President Jermane Williams is aware we're
14 putting this money aside and very anxious to
15 sit down and talk to us about some more
16 specifics on this plan and, as I mentioned,
17 we would bring any necessary contracts or
18 agreements to you to review.

19 This one is a broad brush I will
20 admit and I think that it needs some
21 planning and we're going to have to put some
22 team members behind getting it right.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: There's a
24 way to kill two birds with one stone, and we
25 know that enrollment in the college is down,

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 and it's a way for us to boost enrollment to
3 offer these programs to college, so I would
4 just like to see us move forward with it a
5 little more quickly if we can.

6 MS. TSIMIS: If we know you are
7 keen on it, then that makes it a lot easier
8 for us to move forward.

9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The other
10 question with all of these programs, take a
11 look, for example, we gave \$650,000 back in
12 October so that we would be able to assist
13 individuals who are shut in, be able to
14 provide meals and assistance to them.

15 As of our last inquiry in
16 February or March, that program was only
17 starting to roll out at that point.

18 How quickly do we plan on
19 getting these things moving? When are we
20 actually going to get, assuming this is
21 approved on Monday, what's the timetable?

22 I know it's different for each
23 program, but what's the goal of the
24 administration to actually get money into
25 the hands of businesses, get money into the

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 hands of residents right now? We've got to
3 find out about that? When are we actually
4 going to be able to put these programs in
5 practice? Do we have any idea?

6 MS. TSIMIS: So on the small
7 business grant program we can move pretty
8 quickly on that one. Like I said, we have
9 an infrastructure already in place to do
10 that one relatively quickly. The others
11 ones I really can't comment on right now. I
12 think the workforce development will take a
13 little more time.

14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: That is
15 understandable. Now, with respect to the
16 veteran support program, I notice that only
17 a million dollars was allocated towards the
18 veteran support programs. I believe you
19 indicated that all of our services are
20 provided by outside agencies that we
21 actually have -- not that we don't provide
22 any assistance to veterans, that's not what
23 I'm implying, but that the broader outreach
24 programs are done through other agencies.

25 Do we know what those agencies

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 provide? Is a million dollars enough
3 funding to be able to reach our veterans?

4 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: Well,
5 Legislator, we do know the veteran agencies
6 that are out there, the nonprofits, the VSA
7 works with them all the time. They all of
8 course have their individual missions, so
9 referrals are made to them based on the
10 needs of the veterans and the agency, what
11 service the agencies can provide.

12 So we do recognize them, they
13 have been identified at least the ones that
14 we know of. We recognize that there may be
15 others out there, that we don't have working
16 relationships with.

17 We are going to be inviting them
18 in to apply and tell us what they do and how
19 they do it and what they can provide and
20 evaluate each application as it comes in.

21 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Given the
22 volume of the need amongst the veterans
23 community, I'm questioning whether a million
24 dollars is ultimately going to make a
25 significant difference in that? Should we

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 not be devoting more than that?

3 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: I think it
4 will make a difference. It's a starting
5 place.

6 We don't fund these agencies.
7 Many of them have been unable to do their
8 normal fund-raising so we are looking to at
9 least start there and see what their needs
10 are and certainly can evaluate them as we go
11 forward.

12 This is just the beginning and
13 the start for us and we will evaluate the
14 need as it presents itself through the
15 application. There may be agencies that
16 will need more funding and so that's when we
17 will be coming back to you and asking you
18 for additional funds if those needs arise.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Does this
20 apply to the VFWs, American Legion Halls,
21 veteran organizations, are we providing some
22 level of assistance to them directly or this
23 has nothing to do with them?

24 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: Well, I'm
25 going to defer that question to Conal

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 because I believe he is prepared to answer
3 or has some information that will speak to
4 this.

5 MR. DENION: Thank you. The
6 County Executive I believe sent a letter to
7 the presiding officer regarding the question
8 raised by at Presiding Officer of the
9 Legislature regarding VFWs and some other
10 groups, cultural organizations, and in that
11 response, I believe is that the county, the
12 administration is looking to expand the
13 available uses for veterans VFWs and halls
14 that we hope are eligible for the funding.

15 Unfortunately we are dealing
16 with, the regulation talks about nonprofits
17 being 501C3s and our understanding is VRWs
18 are probably not organized themselves as
19 501C3s and they have a foundation, an arm is
20 a 501C3, the same with fraternal
21 organizations.

22 That's one area we are going to
23 explore further with the treasury
24 department, to try to get that -- I believe
25 it's only in the rule and not in the law

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 about that limitation on nonprofits but my
3 understanding is that the administration is
4 looking to expand certainly in the next
5 batch of monies, but it's possible to expand
6 beyond the 501C3 limitation.

7 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Once we get
8 that guidance which we anticipate coming
9 back to the Legislature --

10 MS. TSIMIS: I guess we may not
11 need to in the sense that if the million
12 dollars hasn't all been allocated, it was
13 put in for the Kyles programs, right, we
14 could just start funding them without any
15 further process.

16 We would only have to come back
17 to you if we needed additional resources,
18 but, again, this was a narrow question that
19 we were surprised to learn but about it is
20 what it is. If we want to get to yes, then
21 we're absolutely determined to try to help
22 these organizations as much as we can.

23 Some of them, we were able to
24 do, the Nights of Columbus in Bellmore,
25 where they actually had employees that did

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 catering, so they were technically eligible
3 for the restaurant grant program. So where
4 we have been able to, we have tried to lean
5 in to get to yes. It's just that the ARPA
6 funding is very specific of what they mean
7 by a nonprofit.

8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Understood.
9 And what is the timetable for the
10 administration's plan on the remainder of
11 the funding?

12 Obviously the \$100 million for
13 the direct payments to residents is still up
14 in the air, but, again, by my rather poor
15 math, it still means we've got about \$30
16 million or so that's left unallocated. So
17 when do we anticipate hearing some sort of
18 plan?

19 MS. TSIMIS: I think we actually
20 wanted to hear from all of you and then
21 we'll take it from there. We do not have a
22 specific timeline for the remainder of that
23 funding.

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I appreciate
25 it. Thank you.

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2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Tom.

3 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Yes, just
4 a few questions. Just going back to the
5 Boost Nassau Main Street Recovery Grant
6 Program. I was actually looking at the
7 portal. It indicates that the deadline to
8 apply, June 1st of this year to July 31st of
9 this year. I was wondering if you had
10 contemplated that that will be enough time
11 for us to get the details for the program?

12 MS. TSIMIS: That's actually up
13 that way specifically, as I mentioned, we
14 are funding it right now. The CDBGCB money
15 and we expect it build pretty well be done
16 and allocated and all gone within the next
17 month or so based on the applications as I
18 mentioned. There were some already in the
19 pool, the bagel shop that was wasn't
20 eligible for a full out restaurant grant.
21 Our vendor kept those applications and is
22 right now processing for a Main Street grant
23 because they are eligible now. That's why
24 we have that limited window up on the
25 portal.

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2 As soon as we know that you've
3 allocated \$10 million and we have our final
4 criteria for the applications we will
5 adjustment that.

6 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Thank you.
7 Just when you are talking about the Nassau
8 Boost Loan Program, I know you contemplate
9 using that money, using it to perpetuate I
10 guess other expenditures which can be done
11 with that, I'm just curious if the ARPA puts
12 the deadline in 2024 as to the obligation,
13 is it contemplated that we're going to be
14 able to reuse that money up until that date,
15 or can that money be used a reserve fund
16 beyond that date for other types of needs?

17 MS. TSIMIS: I think if we --
18 I'll let the attorneys and budget people
19 respond here. If we allocate money to a
20 loan program that's then tied into a
21 contract and there is an actual program that
22 we're running, that program could run past
23 the deadline as long as the money has been
24 allocated and appropriated. That's how I
25 view that.

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2 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: As long as
3 it's used up to 2026, if I'm correct, that's
4 how I --

5 MS. TSIMIS: But I think the
6 loan program could last longer in theory.

7 MR. DENION: I had not looked
8 at that issue.

9 MS. TSIMIS: I know that the
10 vendor that we were working with on the
11 Boost Nassau loan program believes that you
12 could build the loan program and then it
13 would live longer than the deadlines here,
14 but that was not a legal opinion, it was
15 more of a business opinion.

16 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Just when
17 you look at the guidance which comes from
18 the Department of Treasury regarding the
19 uses of the funds, I know that the first use
20 that was indicated in the guidance was for
21 support public health response, which
22 includes services to mitigate and contain
23 COVID-19, but also behavioral health care
24 service, mental health substance abuse
25 treatment and expenses along those lines.

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2 Just so I know right now, we
3 have \$10 million allocated for health and
4 social services; is it contemplated or could
5 it be perhaps directed towards Nassau
6 University Medical Center for some of these
7 needs?

8 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: No. We did
9 not anticipate that the medical center would
10 be included in those as an applicant there.

11 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Is the
12 medical center being contemplated for other
13 types of needs for the rest of the funds
14 that are still out there?

15 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: I don't have
16 an answer for you on that. I do know they
17 are eligible in and of themselves as a
18 hospital so I don't have information about
19 that, so certainly I'll just get back to you
20 and let you know what plans are -- what
21 monies are available to the hospital under
22 the recovery plan.

23 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Legislator
25 Bynoe.

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2 MS. HORST: Before you get
3 started, I'm just going to find DC Louder in
4 case you need her.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Katie, in the
6 interest of time I will start.

7 Good afternoon, in the interest
8 of time, I'm going to eliminate some of my
9 questions. I have about 12 questions.
10 Brian, you are off the hook. I will bother
11 you later.

12 I will start with DC Tsimis,
13 I'll start with you. I want to talk a
14 little bit about the Boost Center.

15 I have a real quick question
16 about that. What does transportation into
17 the park look like? Is there a NICE bus
18 that runs through Eisenhower Park?

19 MS. TSIMIS: That's a good
20 question. I don't know if NICE runs through
21 the park. Does anyone know that answer?

22 MR. PERSICH: I don't know but I
23 know that there is a stop right at the front
24 entrance to the park, I think right on
25 Hempstead Turnpike and there has to be one

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 on Merrick Avenue right over there. I think
3 there's access, I don't think direct access.

4 MS. TSIMIS: It's field six.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I don't know
6 how far that is into the park but obviously
7 you know where I'm going with this.

8 MS. TSIMIS: That's how we
9 we're going to get people there who can't
10 drive.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Yes, and
12 right now you are serving the folks that are
13 looking for rent assistance, the business
14 owner might have transport, but right now
15 when you're talking about at the resident
16 level, I'm not sure we're going to have the
17 most convenient way for them to --

18 MS. TSIMIS: I should have
19 clarified then, legislator, they don't have
20 to make an appointment just to come in. The
21 appointments can be made for a conversation
22 on the phone.

23 As well as on the specific
24 rental assistance program, the county's
25 program is still being run by CVCLI which

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 handles everything including outreach to the
3 community but also intake and eligibility
4 and pushing checks out.

5 So we can certainly, anyone who
6 needs assistance can get someone on the
7 phone. Whatever they can't find on the
8 computer itself, on the internet, click here
9 and get that, they can make a phone call and
10 talk to us.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: All right.
12 But interested still this is between the
13 actual field and transportation, if somebody
14 is really pressed or feels like they want to
15 come or having a meeting, or --

16 MS. TSIMIS: I also think
17 Legislator Ford had a great idea about
18 taking the Boost Center a little bit on the
19 road and doing some programs at libraries
20 and working with you to identify some pop-up
21 locations and I think Dr. Williams and her
22 team have already started to think about
23 that.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good idea by
25 Legislator Ford. So, when we talk about the

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 rental assistance program that's being
3 managed by CDC of LI, are they also
4 utilizing that funding for utility
5 assistance?

6 MS. TSIMIS: I don't believe the
7 county's program covered utility because it
8 was under CDBG rules and it was only for
9 rent arrears. I'm quite sure of that.

10 But the new federal pot of
11 rental assistance money absolutely includes
12 utilities and it covers as well as 12 months
13 of rent. It can even be higher if someone
14 shows that they are eligible.

15 So when you combine those two,
16 if we can get folks getting both pots of
17 money, then they will have some utilities
18 covered, just from my past experience, the
19 people paying rent certainly struggling with
20 utilities.

21 So I think this program's pool
22 of money should include utilities
23 assistance.

24 So we identify the renter who is
25 in trouble, but what about the homeowner

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 struggling to pay taxes or foreclosure, are
3 we utilizing any of that money to assist
4 those individuals?

5 MS. TSIMIS: As of right, no,
6 that's the separate homeowner assistance
7 program that the County Executive announced
8 that was the subject of some discussion
9 today, but there's no other program at this
10 point for mortgage costs or things like
11 that.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I must have
13 missed that announcement. Can you help me
14 with that information. We currently have a
15 foreclosure?

16 MS. TSIMIS: No, I'm saying we
17 don't.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay, we need
19 to. There's got to be folks out there who
20 are struggling. Not everybody who is
21 unemployed is a renter, we have folks who
22 are homeowners who need help to need to look
23 to assisting in that vein, utility and
24 foreclosure assistance, and potentially some
25 tax arrears folks might be under.

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2 I'm going to switch and hit on a
3 topic that Legislator McKeivitt did. The
4 hospital and A. Holly Patterson in my read
5 are definitely eligible for assistance and
6 we know they're struggling and we know that
7 we need that entity to survive.

8 We understand the vital role
9 they played during the pandemic. I don't
10 know why that wouldn't have been an item
11 that we are looking at, but we should be
12 looking at assisting the hospital.

13 Legislator McKeivitt and I both
14 sit on that council and we are keenly aware
15 of their distress. I would like to see if
16 we can move some money into that line item.

17 Then I want to go to, let me
18 start dealing with disparities and
19 disproportionate impacts of COVID in certain
20 communities.

21 I know that there is a
22 significant amount of flexibility on how you
23 can use money in those communities that are
24 disproportionately affected.

25 I don't want to throw money at a

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 problem that we don't even have a full idea
3 of what the problem is.

4 Have there been any studies
5 conducted regarding the disproportionate --
6 the communities that were disproportionately
7 affected by COVID and how we could use money
8 in those communities?

9 I heard earlier that there were
10 surveys that were done in terms of business.
11 I understood that was the framework in terms
12 of business.

13 But did we do any surveys of our
14 not for profit communities to determine
15 specifically, because I also learned today
16 we don't have any engagements with entities
17 that could assist in the disproportionate
18 impacts and the social -- sorry --

19 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: Social
20 determinants of health.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: There you go.
22 Yes. So did we survey to find out what the
23 needs are and how any kind of study,
24 anything, so we're not just throwing money
25 at the problem but really investing in

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 solutions?

3 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: Legislator, we
4 are in the middle of that now. We have in
5 the room director of health equity, Dr.
6 Andrea Ault-Brutus who is participating in
7 one of the nonprofits. She can probably
8 speak to this directly about the survey that
9 is underway right now. I would ask her to
10 step up and perhaps lend some information to
11 this discussion.

12 DR. AULT-BRUTUS: Hi. I'm. Dr.
13 Andrea Ault-Brutus. I'm the director of
14 health equities at the Nassau County
15 Department of Health.

16 We are currently working with a
17 vendor and local community based
18 organization on a study looking at barriers
19 people faced at the height of the COVID-19
20 pandemic. We are most specifically we are
21 looking at barriers to access to testing,
22 health care related to COVID-19, but also
23 long standing barriers related to health
24 equity in vulnerable communities throughout
25 Nassau County.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: When do we
3 expect that that study will be completed?

4 DR. AULT-BRUTUS: Yes. So it
5 started in March of this year and it's going
6 to be completed in May of next year 2022.

7 But we are hoping to also have
8 its findings to share with the public
9 throughout the process.

10 We don't anticipate giving the
11 findings at the end but as soon as we get
12 the findings, that can be useful for
13 planning and strategy purposes, we will
14 release those findings.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: That's going
16 to be important. I mean, we're talking
17 about utilizing the funds and we only have
18 about \$30 million left over.

19 As far as I understand it, this
20 ARP funding is really supposed to drive, a
21 similar amount of that money is supposed to
22 drive into those communities that are
23 disproportionately affected and that's going
24 straight throughout the county.

25 So I don't know if there is any

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 way to expedite that?

3 DR. AULT-BRUTUS: I wish there
4 was. We have two phases of the study. The
5 first phase is this summer where we are
6 looking at people's attitudes towards the
7 vaccine and helping to guide how we better
8 administer the vaccine to the communities of
9 color that were disproportionately impacted
10 by COVID-19 and to address issues with the
11 vaccine.

12 The second study, which is the
13 larger and more comprehensive study, looking
14 at barriers will be done this fall.

15 As soon as we get those
16 findings, we will release those findings to
17 the public.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: There is
19 going to be more on that because I'm going
20 to be interested in talking about it a
21 little bit more.

22 I think even without a study
23 there should be some way to infuse some of
24 the initiatives that will impact those
25 communities and I think we need to plan, we

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 need the study, but I also know we need to
3 plan how to use this money in the immediate.

4 So I'm definitely interested in
5 investing in the proper way but we have an
6 urgency, we have a need right now. I would
7 like to further that discussion in some way.

8 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: I agree with
9 you completely. There are some things that
10 we can do in the immediate. There are
11 nonprofits out there now that are working on
12 these issues and we need to invite them in
13 to apply for these funds, identify who they
14 are, and what they're doing.

15 Many of these nonprofits speak
16 to some of these issues and there is no
17 reason why, while we are doing the study and
18 that's important for us to get that
19 information, the data, that we can't start
20 to immediately work on this.

21 Part of my push is to identify
22 those agencies that are out there, the
23 entities that are working, access to health
24 care, maternal mortality, the mental health
25 issues, the trauma to the underserved, that

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 those issues be addressed and that they be
3 granted funds to expand and provide for the
4 communities in their prospective areas.

5 I agree with you. We don't
6 necessarily have to wait on that data.
7 While we are getting that, there are some
8 things that we can do and we have to do.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You hit on
10 quite a few of the issues that I want to
11 make sure we focus on, so that's helpful. I
12 appreciate it.

13 DR. AULT-BRUTUS: May I add to
14 that that we are already engaging with them,
15 and those agencies are ready too.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: They are
17 going to be able to apply through the
18 portal?

19 DR. AULT-BRUTUS: Exactly.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And we will
21 make sure we have a broad range of services
22 and not three entities doing the same exact
23 work for the same exact same pot.

24 DR. AULT-BRUTUS: Exactly. And
25 just to add to that, we already have data

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 already showing where those health equity
3 issues are throughout the county. So it's
4 not as if we don't have data that we can
5 work with already, and as Deputy County
6 Executive Kyle Rose-Louder mentioned, we
7 have identified several agencies we could
8 work with as well, and we have already been
9 engaging with them to address those issues.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you. I
11 appreciate it. I look forward to continuing
12 the conversation.

13 DCE Tsimis, can you tell me a
14 little bit about the background of the
15 consultants that were hired Haggerty and the
16 other one?

17 MS. TSIMIS: I'm actually not as
18 directly involved in the procurement. Those
19 were done through OEM and a selection
20 committee that the county utilized. I'm not
21 sure, if anyone on the panel, can speak to
22 that.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm just
24 interested in what their service experience
25 has been.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 MR. PERSICH: We have experience
3 with both firms as a result of Sandy, so
4 they have expertise in federal funding and
5 all these guidelines. They have an
6 extensive background into how monies flow
7 through these different agencies within the
8 federal government.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So they're
10 more for like compliance?

11 MR. PERSICH: Compliance,
12 eligibility, things that we have questions
13 on. They were very helpful during Sandy
14 with all at FEMA money that came through the
15 door.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Very good.
17 Thank you.

18 So, my next question is about
19 workforce development. Actually, I'm going
20 to just make a statement, this is going to
21 be easier.

22 I'd like to see if we can
23 utilize a programing model that would be
24 like earn-to-learn so that I suspect maybe
25 with the unions when we talk about

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 apprentice programs those individuals would
3 be earning while they learn.

4 But the other folks going to
5 BOCES or maybe at the community college or
6 what have you to incentivize their
7 participation and also understanding that
8 folks need to earn some money, that we can
9 have some level of a hybrid program.

10 I read about a program out
11 somewhere in the Midwest where folks were,
12 through the first round of funding, they
13 engaged folks as community health workers,
14 and they were working with clinics and just
15 dispersed into the community. They would go
16 and knock on doors regarding testing and
17 vaccinations later on down the road.

18 Those folks did 20 hours in the
19 field and then they were in the classroom
20 setting learning of various vocations within
21 healthcare.

22 So something like that if we can
23 find some kind of model, I think it helps
24 folks be able to learn in a way that is
25 practical if they're working in a field they

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 might also be able to just study it, bu more
3 importantly it will allow them to focus
4 because their concern about money might not
5 be so prevalent. So I would like to see if
6 we can utilize some kind of program like
7 that.

8 So this is what happens when you
9 go last. Most of my questions have either
10 been touched on so I can just reach out to
11 you directly.

12 One more question. Special
13 districts. We talked about school districts
14 quite a bit in terms of their access to
15 funding and we would like to use technical
16 assistance to make sure they're not
17 overlooking other pools of money they can
18 tap into and as a last resort maybe the
19 county would fund some of the technology of
20 those school districts.

21 But what about the other special
22 districts, like fire, how would we utilize
23 funding for those other type of special
24 districts? And I'll use fire as an example.

25 MR. BRODERICK: Actually I think

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 that might be part of it because we were
3 talking about school districts and special
4 districts which, school districts I think
5 are pretty well-defined. I know a question
6 came up earlier about other kinds of
7 parochial schools which, thinking about it,
8 that might not be in the mix, but that's
9 something we will get back to you on.

10 As to the other special
11 districts, I think once again it's
12 determining what the needs are in the
13 community and coming back and developing
14 programs to ensure whether, A, there's a
15 need in the community and, B, whether or not
16 it's eligible that it adheres to the
17 eligibility requirements on how we expend
18 funds.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So have we
20 not done -- we haven't done any outreach to
21 those other special districts?

22 MR. BRODERICK: Not as of yet.
23 We are focusing on the school districts.
24 It's possible.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Brian, I

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 tried to give you a break but when we talk
3 about special districts, we also talk about
4 water districts. We talked about LICAP
5 earlier, working with those water districts.

6 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, water
7 districts would absolutely be eligible under
8 the criteria, the water and infrastructure
9 pot.

10 Certainly all water districts
11 are struggling right now with dealing with
12 1-4 dioxane and any emerging contaminant
13 that is going to be coming down the pike.
14 So, certainly, they would be eligible.

15 We have not begun to do any -- I
16 take that back. I have reached out to the
17 commissioner of the Nassau Suffolk Water
18 Commissioner's Association to let her know
19 that we've been -- the administration has
20 been thinking about this. We will be
21 reaching out to each individual water
22 district and discuss future requests as part
23 of the phase two. Yes, that is something
24 that will be on the horizon and will be
25 providing relief to those water districts

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 struggling with being able to provide
3 potable drinking water to their
4 constituents.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So that \$1.5
6 million that was set aside, that I saw in
7 this plan, was that specifically for only
8 the school districts, was it earmarked only
9 school districts?

10 MR. BRODERICK: It's 2.5.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay, the
12 2.5, is that just for school districts?

13 MR. BRODERICK: No. I would say
14 that is the allocation as of right now.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: For all
16 special districts?

17 MR. BRODERICK: I would say yes.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: But you can
19 also use some of that infrastructure money
20 that was already earmarked?

21 MR. SCHNEIDER: Correct.

22 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.
23 So I said one last question and I'm sorry.

24 DCE Rose Louder, I have one
25 question for you. The youth money, and so I

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 know we're going to give folks 20 percent?

3 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: 20 percent,
4 yes.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Are they
6 going to be expanding their reach or is it
7 just to kind of offset the shortages that
8 they experience or are they going to be
9 creating programs that assist in some of the
10 initiatives that were identified by the
11 federal government?

12 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: Some of the
13 agencies will just be offsetting some of
14 their losses. If really depends on which
15 agency and what they do.

16 There are agencies that provide
17 after school academic programs and things of
18 that nature, remedial programs, so we are
19 going to be asking them to expand those
20 programs and continue them throughout the
21 fall, for instance. And some other agencies
22 they don't do that kind of work.

23 So it's sort of the answer is
24 yes in all forms, in other words, some of
25 them will be expanding the programs they are

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 already doing, or started to do because
3 there was a need to do them, and some will
4 just be recouping their losses, getting
5 their staff back, and spending money on some
6 things that they had to spend on that they
7 normally wouldn't spend.

8 So it really is sort of -- it
9 depends on each agency and what their needs
10 are, what their losses were, and what is
11 their mission to do.

12 Obviously, I think said this a
13 couple of times, that there are agencies
14 that we don't contract with, that we know
15 would answer some of these issues we know
16 our students face because of remote learning
17 and we may not have contracts with them and
18 that's why we are inviting them, we have \$10
19 million set aside for those nonprofits to
20 answer the call there.

21 So we want to make sure that
22 those agencies that are doing this specific
23 work, this remedial getting kids back on
24 track, that do more academic type of work,
25 will have an opportunity to get some funding

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 because we know that's the need.

3 Those agencies that are more
4 recreational or have some sort of hybrid
5 programs, they are contract agencies and we
6 are going to take care of their losses
7 through this funding and support them in
8 that way.

9 But those other agencies out
10 there that we don't fund, they're going to
11 need funding as well and we want them to be
12 there and be able to provide the services
13 for the students that need this remedial
14 type of work.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Did I hear
16 you right, there's \$10 million set aside
17 just for those new vendors?

18 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: It's in the
19 nonprofit, it's in the listing of health,
20 social services, nonprofits. It encompasses
21 all of that.

22 So that's the health equity
23 things we just talked about as well as some
24 of the youth programs that we don't fund
25 already, they may fall into that category,

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 and other social services that we may not be
3 discussing, that may still be eligible, and
4 we want to give them an opportunity.

5 We set aside \$10 million for now
6 to sort of start to address those agencies.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Social
8 service needs?

9 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: Yes.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And we're
11 going to have to pay special attention to
12 the homeless population, that's strong and
13 significant during this time.

14 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: Yes.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

16 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Legislator
17 Birnbaum.

18 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I want to
19 thank you all for all of your thorough
20 answers to so many questions. There is just
21 a lot to learn that we don't know yet about
22 all these different allocations that are
23 possible.

24 One area that I heard of and
25 heard complaints from are commercial

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 property owners in Nassau County who
3 struggled to pay their taxes to Nassau
4 County because their tenants haven't been
5 able to obviously pay them or may have gone
6 out of business.

7 Is there any money set aside
8 that we can offer any relief to these, our
9 residents, who are the commercial property
10 owners?

11 MS. TSIMIS: I know it's been
12 mentioned, and I know it's something we have
13 to look more closely at.

14 We focused on the property
15 owners whose received, whose tenants can get
16 rental assistance on the residential side,
17 but on the commercial side it's something we
18 need to look at again.

19 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Right.
20 Because many of our residents own these
21 properties that are commercial properties.
22 So they have to pay taxes on their own homes
23 and their business is commercial and these
24 properties struggled all during COVID and
25 may not even be there anymore and, yet,

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 these commercial property owners have to pay
3 their taxes and found it very hard.

4 MS. TSIMIS: It's very
5 challenging. I know that the Boost Nassau
6 loan program that was funded through the New
7 York Forward Loan Program there were
8 commercial real estate, commercial owners
9 that took advantage of that program.

10 Again, I know it's not the same
11 as having tax relief, but I understand there
12 were loans that were granted to them that
13 was a special category within the state's
14 program.

15 There has been some assistance
16 but it might not be as direct as we would
17 all hope.

18 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Is there
19 any some kind of program that we could
20 possibly --

21 MS. TSIMIS: We can definitely
22 look into that, legislator, I hear you.

23 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Mr. Drucker.

24 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you
25 very much. Going really last. I have had

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 about four of my questions asked and
3 answered already. I also want to thank
4 every one of you here for your excellent
5 presentations, thoroughness, preparedness.
6 It's really very much appreciated. It's a
7 lot for all of us to comprehend and digest.
8 I appreciate it.

9 Legislator Bynoe asked two
10 really important issues that I was going to
11 ask, so thank you for that, but I do wish to
12 hear much more about the health disparities
13 that Deputy County Executive Rose Louder
14 talked about. That's really something
15 that's really very important as we go
16 forward and come out of this pandemic, and
17 not just dealing with the pandemic but
18 dealing with health care in general.

19 I would like to hear more about
20 what your plans are in that regard and
21 Legislator Bynoe also in her last few words
22 touched on my last question which was about
23 homeless shelters, and you have identified a
24 real immediate need, I know there is one, to
25 amplify and increase funding for more

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 homeless shelters here in Nassau County, and
3 I was wondering if you identified that as an
4 immediate problem that you plan on
5 addressing?

6 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: It is an
7 ongoing problem that we have and I do have
8 with me today the commissioner of social
9 services, Nancy Nunziata who may be able to
10 speak to this a little bit more
11 specifically.

12 But we do not own or operate any
13 homeless shelters here in Nassau County.
14 They are profit and not profit providers.
15 We have a unique relationship with them. We
16 have MOUs with them. We pay them per day
17 and per person that's in the shelters.
18 That's how our pay schedule goes.

19 In terms of what is the need,
20 there is a need, and there are some
21 operators out there, some landlords that are
22 contemplating opening some shelters, and
23 there is some new state guidelines that are
24 regulations coming down that are going to be
25 certifying these homes, these shelters, and

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 making it more stringent, more difficult for
3 the landlords, of course on behalf of the
4 residents that are going to be living there.
5 It's a necessary certification.

6 Is Nancy still here? She may be
7 able to give you some more information about
8 what the immediate plans are with respect to
9 homeless shelters and what's happening here
10 in Nassau County and in the state in terms
11 of getting them up and running and up to
12 speed.

13 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I
14 appreciate that because, yes, I know you
15 don't own the shelters but funding them and
16 providing daily sustenance to these people
17 in shelters now that are deplorable and
18 really subhuman conditions that needs to
19 change.

20 I'm hoping that we can all get
21 on the same page with that.

22 MS. NUNZIATA: Hi everyone. So
23 the deplorable conditions that you
24 referenced are generally the hotels. We
25 have a series of hotels that we are trying

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 not to use, but unfortunately until we could
3 bring on more shelters, and we all know
4 there are many, many communities in Nassau
5 County that have no interest in shelters.
6 We know that the majority of our shelters
7 are in minority majority communities which
8 we are also trying to get away from.
9 They've taken on most of the burden of
10 helping the homeless. All of that we're
11 looking at changing.

12 Of course what that requires is
13 that there would be other communities in
14 Nassau County that would be open to having
15 homeless folks live in their communities.

16 What we all learned, we learned
17 lots of lessons with Jericho but one of the
18 things that we certainly learned is that in
19 communities of wealth that have a lot of
20 money and backing, there's a lot of power
21 and tremendous push back.

22 So the answer to the homeless
23 population isn't going away.

24 One of the things that we
25 learned through COVID is that we have a real

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 need for a shelter that focuses on persons
3 with severe medical issues.

4 We have plenty of homeless folks
5 out there that have exacerbated medical
6 conditions because they're not getting the
7 proper care, hard to get care when you are
8 kind of living hand to mouth each day.

9 As you all recall, when COVID
10 first started, we immediately set up one of
11 the first facilities for isolation for
12 homeless individuals and families.

13 That has been extremely
14 successful and actually we still have that
15 particular location in operation and we are
16 working with the federally qualified health
17 centers. We have medical centers, medical
18 staff on board, we have case work staff on
19 board, and it's really become quite a model
20 that we continue to look at, a facility for
21 people with special medical conditions with
22 wraparound services. That's something that
23 we are going to look to continue to expand.

24 The other type of facility that
25 clearly is emerging more and more is a small

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 facility or small facility for folks who
3 have mental health and substance abuse
4 issues. Lots of our street homeless
5 particularly our singles, those are
6 presenting problems. We're looking at a
7 couple of models.

8 The question always comes, where
9 do you place these facilities? We have lots
10 of people that would be interested who have
11 homes. We get all kinds of requests from
12 people who are willing, who may have
13 property or have homes that we can turn into
14 a shelter, but then the question is,
15 depending on the communities, not many
16 communities are open to it. That doesn't
17 mean we stop our work. We have to continue
18 to work to identify specific locations.

19 Now, the hotels are the biggest
20 problem because they're not regulated by the
21 state.

22 All of our current shelters, and
23 we have about 30 something, 40 something
24 shelters, those are all going to be licensed
25 by the state. They must be licensed by

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 January 1st of 2023. Every shelter in
3 Nassau County, actually every shelter in New
4 York State, has to be licensed by New York
5 State Office of Temporary Disability
6 Assistance.

7 So we are going through the
8 process now. I think we have already
9 certified four of them. It is a very
10 lengthy process for a shelter to become
11 certified. There are tremendous
12 regulations. They all come under what is
13 called the New York State part 900
14 regulations. If you every have time to look
15 them up, it really kind of lays out
16 everything that you have to have in place to
17 run a shelter.

18 So we are talking about not just
19 beds anymore. We're talking about a shelter
20 that has case management, has all kinds of
21 wraparound services, security, et cetera, et
22 cetera.

23 And there is a tremendous
24 emphasis on physical plan and maintaining
25 physical plan.

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 All of those shelters when
3 certified will come under state scrutiny a
4 minimum of twice a year. The state comes
5 down and they will do a physical plan
6 inspection, and these are unannounced
7 inspections, and then they will be doing a
8 program inspection, taking a look at our
9 case records and making sure we are doing
10 the proper planning, et cetera.

11 For the shelters in our current
12 system, some of them will be able to pass
13 the certification process, some of them will
14 not.

15 If they can't get through the
16 certification process, they will not be able
17 to operate in our county as a shelter.

18 Now the motels are a separate
19 entity. My understanding is that Nassau
20 County has been very reliant on motels
21 because we've never had enough shelters. So
22 people need a place to sleep and put them in
23 a motel. Not the best situation at all.

24 From day one, at least when I
25 got here, my concern was, we have too many

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 people in hotels, too many families, too
3 many children living in these motels where
4 basically they're not monitored. They're
5 not the owners of the motels are for profit,
6 they're not people. These people are
7 looking to make money. And they do the
8 minimum amount of care for those facilities.

9 Now, we recently, we're looking
10 at working with a couple of groups we're
11 which are trying to get case management at
12 those hotels. We can't get out of the motel
13 business just yet because we don't have
14 enough places to put people.

15 What we are trying to do is
16 figure out a way to partner with some
17 nonprofits so we can at least bring case
18 management to the facility. At least we
19 know then that people are getting the
20 services they need.

21 Outside of doing that, what
22 we're doing is paying for somebody to have a
23 bed at night and that doesn't get to the
24 root of why somebody is homeless. What we
25 really need to figure out is why is someone

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 homeless and then really develop a plan that
3 sustains it. Even on the back end, when
4 people exit the shelter system, we want to
5 make sure they're going in a situation where
6 they can sustain themselves. We don't want
7 it to be a revolving door. That's why the
8 planning and services available to
9 individuals and families becomes very
10 paramount.

11 I see the motels as a quick fix.
12 It does get someone off the street and gets
13 someone shelter for the night.

14 The long term is really the
15 shelter and wraparound services and to move
16 to permanent housing. That system is
17 something we're developing.

18 Turning around the homeless
19 system in the county is a big job. Again,
20 we are always up against communities that do
21 not want to hear about it. Everybody will
22 empathize and will acknowledge that there
23 are homeless folks, but they're not
24 necessarily ready to open up their doors to
25 have a program near them.

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2 Although it's really interesting
3 because we get the flip side, we get the
4 call there's too many homeless people in the
5 shopping area, or too many people on the
6 street. Well, you're going to have some of
7 that.

8 That's a very long answer.

9 Legislator Drucker, you have been supportive
10 of us getting together and doing something
11 about the homeless. We absolutely need to
12 get working at it. We need to find
13 different remedies and different communities
14 that will assist us. So we're working at
15 it. It's still a work in progress.

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you
17 for the answers. I appreciate it.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Anyone else?
19 Mr. Ferretti.

20 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you.
21 Just some follow-up questions I neglected to
22 ask earlier. With regard to the million
23 dollars that's allocated to veterans support
24 programs. How is that \$1 million arrived
25 at?

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2 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: As I stated
3 earlier, the agencies that serve the
4 veterans are not agencies that we fund. So
5 we needed to start someplace and we
6 recognize some of the services that they
7 have provided in terms of our stand downs
8 and some of our just daily referrals that we
9 make.

10 So, it's a number that we think
11 that we can safely manage initially and, as
12 the applications come in and are evaluated,
13 if we find that there is additional need for
14 more funding we are prepared to come back to
15 you and say we would like to allocate more
16 money in that area if it's needed if what
17 we've decided right now turns out not to be
18 enough.

19 It's just a starting point for
20 us. We will see how it goes and what the
21 needs are of the agencies. It's not as if
22 they don't get have other funding streams.
23 They did get some donations in fund-raising
24 but certainly not to the extent that they
25 normally do every year. We know just across

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 the board all the nonprofits sort of
3 suffered in that area.

4 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Are VFWs
5 and American Legion Posts are they included
6 in this?

7 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: I think Conal
8 did speak to that earlier, they do not fall
9 into this nonprofit area. They are entities
10 I believe that are apart from that.

11 MR. DENION: Correct. Not
12 being 501(c)3s themselves as we understand
13 it, the VFW themselves, the regulation says
14 not-for-profits have to be 501(c)3. The
15 County Executive did write a letter saying
16 we're looking to ask the Treasury Department
17 to expand that nonprofit definition that
18 would capture the halls themselves or
19 fraternal organizations.

20 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So the
21 VFWs and American Legions are not eligible
22 for this, as the thought as of now?

23 MR. DENION: As I understand it,
24 and I don't represent them, but my
25 understanding is, doing a website search,

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 the VFW themselves are under separate
3 subprovision of the internal revenue code
4 and it applies to veterans organizations.
5 It's different from 501(c)3s to 501(c)19, I
6 think, yes.

7 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Can you
8 tell me how many agencies in Nassau County
9 would fit under this program, would be
10 eligible?

11 MS. ROSE-LOUDER: I don't have a
12 number for you. I know there's a dozen or
13 so that the VSA relies on heavily that serve
14 the food pantry and come up with financial
15 planning and help educational services,
16 workforce development for the veterans.

17 They do this kind of work all
18 the time with them. I don't have an exact
19 number, but the VSA is aware of those
20 agencies that are out there that they rely
21 on and some that they may not.

22 So we're going to do some
23 significant outreach to make sure they are
24 aware that this funding is there and invite
25 them all to apply and actually reach out to

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21

2 them. We'll have both the director and our
3 deputy director reach out to them directly
4 and speak to them about what we are doing,
5 how to go about it, what's eligible and
6 what's not, and make sure they're aware of
7 this application process and the portal.

8 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Mr. Solages,
10 you have your hand up. Are you still there?
11 I guess not. Mr. Rhoads.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: One last
13 clarification. I did have a subsequent
14 conversation with Mr. Denion with regard to
15 a question that I had asked earlier with
16 respect to the regulations.

17 His understanding initially was
18 for businesses it would have had to have
19 been an expense occurred on or March 3rd,
20 2021 that would be eligible for
21 reimbursement. Apparently that's the
22 restriction with respect to the county.

23 Based on our conversation,
24 businesses do not have that March 3rd
25 restriction so they can go back and get

1 Full Leg/Rescue Plan Act 6-21-21
2 reimbursed for expenses that they incurred?

3 MR. DENION: Correct. Treasury
4 has clarified that businesses and individual
5 households can even go back before March 3rd
6 to address that, prior to that.

7 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I guess we're
9 done. Thank you everyone.

10 (Whereupon, the American Rescue
11 Plan Act hearing adjourned at 2:20 p.m.)

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2 (Attachment included as part of record):

3 June 18, 2021

4 The Honorable Arnold W. Drucker

5 Nassau County Legislature

6 1550 Franklin Ave.

7 Mineola, NY 11501

8 Dear Mr. Drucker,

9 I am writing to ask for the
10 legislature's support in protecting domestic
11 violence victims in Nassau County.

12 Currently, Nassau has only 17 domestic
13 violence beds for a population of nearly 1.3
14 million residents. This is the lowest number
15 of domestic violence beds per capita in the
16 state and it is alarming for any county,
17 especially one that was dubbed the "safest
18 county in America." For comparison, Suffolk
19 county, with a similar population to Nassau,
20 has 53 domestic violence shelter beds; the
21 second lowest number of per capita beds in
22 New York State. The residents of Nassau
23 County deserve protection from abuse.

24 When a victim is seeking refuge,
25 the Safe Center provides comprehensive

1
2 services, including emergency safe housing
3 for victims and their non-offending family
4 members. Unfortunately, due to current
5 capacity limits, only one out of every three
6 domestic violence victims in Nassau County
7 seeking shelter receives housing in county.
8 The remaining 66% of Nassau County victims
9 and their families have their lives
10 disrupted by being placed out of county,
11 causing even more disruption by uprooting
12 their children's schooling in addition to
13 causing significant transportation barriers.
14 The residents of Nassau county deserve to
15 receive shelter in the county they and their
16 children call home.

17 Last year the Safe Center
18 received a commitment from Nassau County DSS
19 through an RFP process, to cover the
20 operation costs of a second shelter, but not
21 the capital costs related to the purchase
22 and renovation of the second facility. On
23 March 3, 2020, the same day Nassau County
24 had its first confirmed COVID-19 case, the
25 Safe Center announced its capital campaign

1
2 to raise \$3 million, the cost to purchase
3 and renovate the second domestic violence
4 shelter, the COVID-19 pandemic has
5 significantly impacted the Safe Center's
6 efforts to raise funds to open a second
7 domestic violence shelter, in turn causing
8 dozens of families to have their lives
9 significantly disrupted by being forced to
10 shelter out of county.

11 Nassau county desperately needs a
12 second domestic violence shelter. The Safe
13 Center has identified a property which would
14 be ideal to safely house victims and their
15 children. We are in the works of acquiring
16 this property, but we need adequate funds to
17 make the property operational. We ask that
18 the American Rescue Plan funds be used to
19 assist in rescuing victims of domestic
20 violence and limiting the trauma these
21 families experience. This marginal
22 percentage of the overall funds would make a
23 significant difference for victims fleeing
24 abuse and would continue to help Nassau
25 County to protect its residents within the

1

2 county.

3 Sincerely,

4 Cynthia G. Scott

5 Executive Director

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and
Notary Public in and for the State of New
York, do hereby stated:

THAT I attended at the time and place
above mentioned and took stenographic record
of the proceedings in the above-entitled
matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true
and accurate transcript of the same and the
whole thereof, according to the best of my
ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 6th day of July, 2021.

FRANK GRAY