



Montana Nonprofit Association

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July 2, 2021

Jason Rittal, Deputy Director
Montana Association of Counties
2717 Skyway Dr
Helena, MT 59602

Dear Jason:

As the Executive Director of the Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA) I am reaching out today to offer some information that might be useful to local government seeking ways to partner with nonprofits to support Montana's economic and social recovery. MNA's 650 charitable nonprofit members represent a larger nonprofit sector that is serving communities in every county in the state. We believe Montana is best served when nonprofits, for-profit businesses and government work together for Montana's best interests, especially as we come together for Montana's recovery.

In our experience there are few succinct tools that offer good information about how local government and nonprofits might work together toward recovery. This report, "[Strengthening State and Local Economies in Partnership with Nonprofits: Principles, Recommendations, and Models for Investing Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)" is thoughtful and practical, offering concrete ways for local government and nonprofits to partner. As you know, Montana will receive about \$2.7B in ARPA funds in total to provide "assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or to aid impacted industries." By allocating a substantial amount of money directly to counties, the federal government showed tremendous trust that governments closest to the people and their problems are best positioned to decide the best ways to spend their allocated resources to meet local needs. Nonprofits were looked to eighteen months ago as a natural and trusted partner in the worst moments of the pandemic, and they continue to be a ready resource today.

Three components of the report that were drafted to assist you and other government officials understand and operationalize the opportunities afforded by these ARPA funds:

- [Authorized Recipients and Uses of the ARPA Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#) – addressing questions about whether and how governments can invest ARPA funds through charitable nonprofits.
- [Guiding Principles for Identifying High-Impact Programs to Fund](#) – overarching principles to help prioritize funding decisions.
- [Recommendations for Designing and Managing Programs with Impact](#) – eight recommendations, based on experiences and lessons learned from successful as well as

underperforming programs created and funded under the 2020 CARES Act, offered to assist in designing and managing relief and grant programs.

The report also provides nearly four dozen [examples of successful partnerships](#) using COVID-related funds and extensive resources for further analysis.

Jason, in 2020 I was appointed to former Governor Bullock's Coronavirus Relief Fund Task Force, and then in 2021 I was also asked to serve on Governor Gianforte's COVID-19 Task Force. I mention that to underscore MNA's role as a respected and reliable voice for Montana's nonprofits and a solid partner. This [resource](#), which I ask you to consider sharing with your members, is offered in that spirit. It's no-nonsense, written from a boots-on-the-ground perspective. The recommendations within won't be a perfect fit for every Montana county – but it's got great information and useful suggestions. If it makes sense to do so, I welcome a time to meet soon to discuss how best our organizations and members can partner to help secure pandemic relief, recovery, and greater impact for the Montana's wellbeing. Thank you for all you're doing and thank you for considering this request.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz Moore", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Liz Moore, Executive Director