

Thoughts on Hopi Strategic Posture for American Rescue Plan Funding

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Purpose of Document

Building Communities, a community and economic development/strategic planning firm, has been active with the Hopi Tribe and its villages since December 2017. Over 60 meetings have been held to identify and implement community and economic development projects that lead to the diversification of the Hopi economy.

The table lists the current and past projects that are underway.

Building Communities/Hopi Projects	
Project Name	Purpose
EDA CARES Act Supplemental Assistance	Hopi economic diversification project
Hydroponics Feasibility Study	Building/operating a hydroponics business
Joint Village Strategic Planning	Three village strategic planning to address Bennet Freeze and Forced Relocation
Moenkopi Water Projects	Analyzing and developing multiple water sources to benefit Moenkopi
MDC Community Facilities Analysis	Identifying community facilities projects for future grant funding
MDC Tourism Implementation	Implementing the Hopi Tourism Strategic Plan
Hopi Tourism Strategic Plan	Offering a strategic path forward for economic diversification through tourism development
Victim Services Program	Needs assessment and strategic planning for Victim Services Program
YPC Business Assistance	Developing four business plans for Hopi entrepreneurs

American Rescue Plan – “Hopi CARES Act II”

On the immediate heels of the Hopi Tribe receiving over \$90 million to address the impacts of the Coronavirus through the CARES Act, Congress has now delivered \$86 million to Hopi through the American Rescue Plan.

Similar to the other 573 federally designated tribes, the wise and strategic implementation of the CARES Act funding was virtually impossible given the tight time frames and confusing eligible uses for the funding in 2020. ARPA allows for a longer implementation period for investing the funds and that there will be a broader and more well-defined eligible use of funds.

The Big Question

When Hopi leadership looks back at the utilization of American Rescue Plan funding in 2030, will the tribe see this as a strategic turning point for the health and economy of Hopi?

A Strategic Path Forward

Investing \$86 million is one of the greatest opportunities the Hopi Tribe will have in the coming decades. How can Hopi meet the expectations and obligations of the federal program while using such funds to form a new and better economic future for Hopi?

In order to answer this question, the following information is needed:

- What is the high-level analysis of the expenditure of the CARES Act funds?
- Is there satisfaction that the CARES Act funding was spent wisely and strategically?
- What are the parameters/limitations of the funding associated with the American Rescue Plan?
- What are the best examples of wise CARES Act funding utilization by other tribes in 2020?
- What is the strategic direction for Hopi? What are the large-scale projects that will define the future of Hopi? How can American Rescue Plan funding be leveraged to make such a strategic, large-scale advancement?
- What is the best administrative format for future American Rescue Plan funding expenditures?

A Team Player

Building Communities recognizes that it is not the only “outside consultant” serving Hopi. We also recognize that there are other consultants that have expertise that Building Communities does not have. We see our niche in the realm of “strategic thinking” and “community and economic development.”

Proposal for Services

Building Communities proposes to conduct a three-session strategic planning session that will serve to bring answers to the questions identified above. This work could be completed over a 90-day period, yielding conclusions and recommendations for strategic expenditure of American Rescue Plan funding.