

Territorial Stakeholders and Public Engagement Schedule for proposed New Medical Facility Proposal

The overview and engagement schedule below are intended to provide the “new medical facility” committee a holistic and wide range of input to help develop and design the scope of work for the proposed new medical facility to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency declaration. The Governor has approved the American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan allocating \$300,000,000.00 to this project to respond to our limited healthcare capacity that has been exacerbated as a result of the prevention and mitigation protocols as a result of the public health emergency declaration. The London B Johnson Tropical Medical Center (LBJ/TMC) is the designated sub-recipient for the ARPA funds. Included in the conditions for the use of ARPA funds, LBJ/TMC will adhere to all ARPA guidelines to ensure transparency and accountability.

Overview

- Developing and designing the Scope of Work for the proposed New Medical Facility must be a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health emergency declaration.
- Determining the size, scope, functionality and structure of the new medical facility requires input from a wide range of territorial stakeholders and the general public engagement.
- As the new medical facility must be a direct response to identified exacerbation of pre-existing disparities, disparities in public health outcomes, strain on health care system, facing personnel shortages, key protective equipment, supplies and medicines as a result of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency declaration
- In addition to the determining the physical structure, new or expanded medical services and treatment, assessing the operational costs and the sustainability of operating the proposed new medical facility in addition to the current LBC/TMC must be included.
- We applaud the considerable information and assessments that had already begun to be collected by the lead Departments/Authorities, ensuring the information is collected under the established protocols of the American Samoa ARPA Oversight Office will ensure our compliance with the ARPA use of funds criteria.

(a) KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- LBJ
- DOH
- DHSS
- American Samoa Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Medicaid Office
- Treasury
- NGO's
- Non-profit organizations
- Private sector representation
- Healthcare professionals
- Other branches of Government (legislative representation)
- ARPA Oversight Office

The identified "New medical facility" committee will conduct assessments and evaluations of the proposed facility and develop a scope of work to include all relevant components covering:

- physical construction,
- expanded or new medical services,
- all ancillary services needed to operate the new facility (pharmacy, laboratory, kitchen/cafeteria, EMT, emergency room, etc.)
- Medical professionals' personnel and staffing needs,
- Administrative and facilities personnel and staffing needs,
- projected annual operational costs
- Climate change considerations for renewable energy systems/ minimize carbon footprint
- Redundancy systems
- Other support facility (storage, quarantine facility, etc.)
- Proposed budget for total project
- Proposed timeline

Proposed Committee questions to consider

- 1) How does the new medical facility specifically respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health emergency declaration for American Samoa?
- 2) What are the specifications for the size of the new medical facility (number of medical beds/ICU beds, etc.)?
- 3) What are the primary medical services to be provided in the new facility?
- 4) Will the new medical hospital operate independent or as an extension of the LBJ/TMC Fagaalu?
- 5) What are the estimated annual operational costs for the new medical hospital?
- 7) What new or existing services will be prioritized?

- 8) 9) What are the estimated annual operational costs of a new 200 bed hospital?
- 10) What are the plans to staff the new facility?
- 11) ARPA funding includes certain language for construction relating to climate change (green energy, etc.), how will we incorporate into the scope of work?
- 12) Is developing Tele-medicine services being considered (broadband related issue that is prominent in the ARPA language)?
- 13) What are the overall plans for the distribution of the \$300 m allocation (how much for building costs, equipment, supplies & medicines, staff and personnel costs, etc.)?

Committee and General Public engagement schedule

- October 4, 2021—Release the Committee and General Public engagement schedule
 - a) Overview of agenda and timeline, responsibilities
- October 7, 2021—Initial Committee meeting
 - a) Identify key objectives
 - b) Identify Committees (design, construction, medical, finance, etc.)
 - c) Timeline for draft scope of work
- October 21, 2021—First draft of Scope of work for committee review
- October 28, 2021--Release the Committee Scope of work draft for general public input
- October 29, 2021—Initiate ARPA Oversight Office adopted Community Engagement protocols (see below)
- November 1-22, 2021—Public hearing to be scheduled
- November 29, 2021—30-day public notice period closes
- December 20, 2021—Final Committee scope of work and submission released
- December 27, 2021—Procurement process begins based on final scope of work

(b) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The general public engagement is an essential aspect of ARPA funded projects. The intent of the US Treasury in fostering public participation is to maintain transparency and provide opportunities for feedback to ensure that funds are used in the most beneficial manner.

In keeping with the intent of the US Treasury, the American Samoa ARPA Oversight Office has adopted the following notice and comment timeline for proposed projects:

- A Notice of Proposed Project will be published online, in local newspapers, and via television or radio broadcasts. The Notice will specify that there will be thirty

(30) days for the public to provide comment either in writing or by attendance at scheduled public hearings.

- Concurrent to the publication of the Notice, a draft proposal and scope of work will be published on the ARPA website for the public to review.
- General meetings with the public will be scheduled and publicized within the thirty (30) day Notice period. Email comments will also be accepted.
- Presentations to the Legislature will be conducted during the Notice period, as needed.
- At the close of the public comment period, the agency will have 20 days to revise the project as appropriate and submit the Final Draft to the ARPA Oversight Office.
- The Final Draft of the Project will be posted for public review once completed and certified by the ARPA Oversight Office.

It is the responsibility of the agencies in charge to publicize notices and adhere to the stated timelines. For the New Medical Facility Project, the anticipated date for the Notice of Proposed Project will be October 28, 2021.