



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice David E. Nahmias
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

PRESS RELEASE

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Judicial Council Awards Third Round of American Rescue Plan Act Grants to Nine Judicial Circuits

ATLANTA – In the final round of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the calendar year, the Judicial Council of Georgia Ad Hoc Committee on ARPA Funding has awarded grants totaling \$2,975,020, effective June 1, 2022, to nine judicial circuits from around the state. Of these nine circuits, one was a first-time applicant and eight applied for additional funds to amend an existing award. The Committee has previously awarded more than \$40 million to 41 judicial circuits for awards in calendar year 2022.

In October 2021, Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice David E. Nahmias, who also serves as Chair of the Judicial Council, announced the allocation to the judicial branch of \$110 million of ARPA funds by Gov. Brian P. Kemp to address backlogs of court cases, particularly cases involving serious violent felonies. The Judicial Council is administering \$96 million of that total for eligible courts, prosecutors, and related agencies. The remaining \$14 million in ARPA funds was allocated to the Georgia Public Defender Council for grants to public defenders.

This round of applications included requests for funding for senior judges, court reporter services, and resources and staff for district attorneys', clerks', and sheriffs' offices. Previous awards to judicial circuits have included funding for temporary personnel to respond to case backlogs, including senior judges and judges to serve by designation, assistant district attorneys, security personnel, victim support, mediators, and court reporters, funding for rental costs for temporary space to hold court, supplies and materials, and staff to support grant administration.

Georgia's judiciary operated under a Statewide Judicial Emergency Order from March 2020 through June 2021. The order placed necessary limitations on court operations to protect the health of those working in and coming to courthouses during this time but also resulted in a backlog of

criminal and civil cases, particularly those requiring jury trials to resolve. Since the order expired on June 30, 2021, courts have increased efforts to resolve cases, but the ongoing pandemic continues to limit the pace and scale of court operations as public health measures remain in place. Additionally, new cases continue to be filed on top of the backlogs of cases that have built up over the course of the pandemic.

The Committee, chaired by Presiding Justice Michael P. Boggs, is overseeing the application process for the grants, and the Judicial Council's Administrative Office of the Courts is facilitating the grant application, awarding, compliance, and reporting processes. The funds will be awarded on a calendar-year basis, and all funds allocated to the judicial branch must be spent by December 31, 2024.

"This round of awards completes the funding opportunities through the Judicial Council program for calendar year 2022," said Presiding Justice Boggs. "We are pleased to have provided these resources to 42 of the 50 judicial circuits in the state. As we prepare for Year Two of the program, we look forward to improving the application process, and to our continued partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget to help courts clear backlogs and return to normal operations. I want to thank the members of the Committee, the chief superior court judges, and everyone working in the courts for their tireless efforts to ensure the continued administration of justice throughout the pandemic."

A complete list of CY 2022 grantees and award amounts is attached. Funding decisions are based on demonstrated need as long as funding remains available. The Committee is scheduled to accept applications for CY 2023 funding from September 15 – 30, 2022.

More information on grant requirements, application timelines, and contact information is available at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/>.

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**Judicial Council of Georgia
Ad Hoc Committee on American Rescue Plan Act Funding – Awards
May 13, 2022**

Circuit	Cycle 1 Award Amounts	Cycle 2 Award Amounts	March 2022 Award Amounts	Cycle 3 Grant Requests	Cycle 3 Award Amounts	Cumulative Awards
<i>*Budget as Approved by</i>						
Committee	\$ 24,788,470	\$ 15,287,317	\$ 860,230	\$ 3,076,093	\$ 2,975,020	\$ 43,911,037
Alapaha	\$ 325,332	\$ -				\$ 325,332
Alcovy	\$ 322,863	\$ 185,000				\$ 507,863
Appalachian	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -				\$ 2,000,000
Atlanta	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -
Atlantic	\$ 516,837	\$ 582,199		\$ 370,791	\$ 370,791	\$ 1,469,827
Augusta	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -				\$ 2,000,000
Bell-Forsyth		\$ 693,298				\$ 693,298
Blue Ridge	\$ 52,200	\$ -		\$ 69,892	\$ 69,892	\$ 122,092
Brunswick	\$ 847,194	\$ -				\$ 847,194
Chattahoochee	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -				\$ 2,000,000
Cherokee	\$ -	\$ 756,567				\$ 756,567
Clayton	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -
Cobb	\$ -	\$ 1,999,690				\$ 1,999,690
Columbia	\$ 874,024	\$ 160,286				\$ 1,034,310
Conasauga	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -
Cordele	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -
Coweta	\$ -	\$ 1,983,773		\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 1,995,773
Dougherty	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -				\$ 2,000,000
Douglas <i>Cycle 3 application rejected by Committee</i>	\$ 741,510	\$ -		\$ 101,073	\$ 0.00	\$ 741,510
Dublin	\$ -	\$ 587,571		\$ 27,048	\$ 27,048	\$ 614,619
Eastern	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -
Enotah	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -				\$ 2,000,000
Flint <i>Cycle 1 & Cycle 3 applications withdrawn</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Griffin	\$ -	\$ 789,969		\$ 77,668	\$ 77,668	\$ 867,637
Gwinnett	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Houston	\$ 142,113	\$ -				\$ 142,113
Lookout Mountain	\$ -	\$ 312,171				\$ 312,171
Macon	\$ 977,026	\$ -		\$ 259,900	\$ 259,900	\$ 1,236,926
Middle	\$ -	\$ 548,442				\$ 548,442
Mountain	\$ 446,163	\$ -				\$ 446,163
Northeastern	\$ 1,081,610	\$ 598,887				\$ 1,680,497
Northern	\$ 560,879	\$ 46,500				\$ 607,379
Ocmulgee	\$ 161,730	\$ 700,294				\$ 862,024
Oconee		\$ 384,093				\$ 384,093
Ogeechee	\$ 1,825,348	\$ -				\$ 1,825,348
Pataula	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -
Paulding	\$ 1,316,226	\$ -				\$ 1,316,226
Piedmont	\$ 13,280	\$ -		\$ 41,250	\$ 41,250	\$ 54,530
Rockdale	\$ -	\$ 1,968,000				\$ 1,968,000
Rome	\$ -	\$ 574,790				\$ 574,790
South Georgia	\$ -	\$ 183,348				\$ 183,348
Southern	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -
Southwestern	\$ 638,041	\$ 4,000				\$ 642,041
Stone Mountain	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -				\$ 2,000,000
Tallapoosa	\$ -	0.00	\$ 860,230			\$ 860,230
Tifton	\$ -	\$ 440,161				\$ 440,161
Toombs	\$ 346,010	\$ 121,700		\$ 116,471	\$ 116,471	\$ 584,181
Towaliga	\$ 627,399	\$ -				\$ 627,399
Waycross	\$ 972,685	\$ -				\$ 972,685
Western	\$ -	\$ 1,666,578				\$ 1,666,578
	\$ 24,788,470 ¹	\$ 15,287,317	\$ 860,230	\$ 3,076,093	\$ 2,975,020	\$ 43,911,037

¹: The Cycle 1 award amount was initially \$24,806,522, but was subsequently amended to reflect adjustments to the awards for the Alcovy and Southwestern Judicial Circuits.

Note: All reported amounts are subject to change based on grant awards that were made conditionally pending pre-approval of select items by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, subsequent changes to eligible expenses by OPB and/or the Committee, or based on other Committee adjustments.