

## PRESS RELEASE



### **ARPA Investment Series: Economic Development and Quality of Life Worksessions**

**March 16, 2022**

The next sessions in the Anchorage Assembly series on American Rescue Plan (ARPA) grants will be Economic Development on Friday, March 18 and Families and Quality of Life on Tuesday, March 22. The worksessions will help the Assembly learn more about how the funds were used, how residents of the municipality were impacted by the funds, and how to expand on successful projects with the next round of funds that are coming this spring.

At the session on food, housing and childcare, thread CEO Stephanie Berglund shared, “your \$15 million investment helped stabilize childcare and many programs will attest that without it they would have closed.”

“We were looking at shutting our doors to new intakes and it was the worst time to do that during a pandemic,” said Jason Hahn with Covenant House Alaska. “We wanted to bring them in and keep them safe, and I don’t think it would have been possible without these kind of federal and municipal investments. A lot of other shelters around the country did that – they said we have to stop intakes because we don’t have the capacity and resources. We’ve been lucky up here.”

#### **ARPA Investment Review Series Schedule:**

- **March 18**, 11:30-12:30pm, City Hall, Suite 155: **Economic Development**. Presentations from Restaurant Rescue Meals Program, Anchorage Community Land Trust Set Up Shop, the Business Boutique, and the Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership
- **March 22**, 1-2pm, City Hall, Suite 155: **Families and Quality of Life**. Presentations by the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce, the Child Welfare Academy/Facing Foster Care in Alaska and Volunteers of America Alaska
- **April 1**, 1-2pm, City Hall, Suite 830 (tentative): **Workforce Development and Training**. UAA FAST job certificate program, Alaska Works Partnership and other training programs
- **April 1**, 2-3pm City Hall, Suite 830 (tentative): **Arts and Culture** roundtable with individual artists.

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All worksessions are open to the public in person and on the Assembly's YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZDEuWj4IxdlwBhqrk62\\_XA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZDEuWj4IxdlwBhqrk62_XA).

Previous worksessions can be viewed here:

Tourism Industry: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EYf5blmHt0>

Food, Housing and Childcare: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGVcwKqnfKw>

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