



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000
Governor Asa Hutchinson
José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

December 9, 2020

Elizabeth Smith, Secretary
Department of Inspector General
323 Center Street, Suite 1200
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Return of CARES Act Funding

Dear Secretary Smith:

On July 20, 2020, the CARES Act Steering Committee recommended \$7,000,000.00 in funding for the Northwest Arkansas Council. This amount was to support their comprehensive plan for COVID-19 to provide contact tracing and testing for special populations (Marshallese and Latinx) in Northwest Arkansas, and to provide contact tracing for the Latinx populations in Yell, Sevier, Randolph, and Independence counties.

Also, on July 20, 2020, the committee recommended \$300,000.00 in funding for the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame Foundation. This funding was to provide grants focused specifically on COVID-19 related issues and need. Due to anticipated administrative challenges related to grant award distributions, appropriation was not requested to spend this funding and no activities have been executed.

On August 17, 2020, the committee recommended \$293,000.00 in funding for the Minority Health Marshallese Community. This amount was to provide grant funding for the Arkansas Marshallese population for the purpose of providing grants focused specifically on COVID-19 related issues and need.

On October 7, 2020, the committee recommended \$1,202,000.00 in funding for the Health Equity Response Team Mobile Health Unit. This program was to support the deployment of mobile teams throughout the state.

The Department of Health has determined that the following amounts from these programs can be returned to the Coronavirus Relief Fund:

Black Hall of Fame Foundation	300,000.00
Northwest Arkansas Council	500,000.00
Minority Health Marshallese Community	100,000.00
Health Equity Response Team Mobile Health Unit	202,000.00
TOTAL	<u>1,102,000.00</u>

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Dr. José R. Romero, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Health