



Cumberland County Commissioners Office

Gary Eichelberger, Chairman . Jean Foschi, Vice Chairman . Vincent T. DiFilippo, Secretary

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 29, 2021

MEDIA CONTACT:

Samantha Krepps, *Communications Director*

O: 717.240.6343 | M: 717.706.0001

skrepps@ccpa.net

Cumberland County Awards Higher Education Institutions ARP Funding

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Commissioners today voted to award three Cumberland County higher education institutions \$2.5 million through the Higher Education American Rescue Plan Recovery Grant Program (ARP). The county sent applications for submission to the following: Shippensburg and Messiah Universities, Penn State Dickinson Law, Dickinson, and Central Penn Colleges.

Three institutions submitted applications by the deadline and were awarded the following:

- Central Penn College - \$1.4 million for job training improvements
- Shippensburg University - \$500,000 to cover the cost of COVID-19 testing
- Messiah University - \$600,000 for projected costs of COVID-19 vaccines, testing and medical equipment.

Criteria used to evaluate and rate the projects for funding consideration:

- Underserved population who are students. (25%)
- Workforce development-presence of workforce development programs (35%)
- COVID-19 mitigation efforts (15%)
- Other COVID-19 pandemic funds received (25%)

The county continues working to comprehensively identify needs and develop a method to allocate funds. The county's investment strategy is evidence/fact based to ensure projects have a positive long-term impact to assist residents, including the most vulnerable populations, to recover from the pandemic.

Cumberland County was awarded \$49,214,152 in federal funding from the ARP Act of 2021 and received \$24,214,152 in May 2021. The county is expected to receive the remaining \$25 million in 2022. ARP was passed by congress and signed into law on March 11, 2021 by the President.

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