

JUDICIAL COUNCIL ARPA GRANT APPLICATION AMENDMENT TO PRIOR 2023 AWARD

Prior to completing this application, please review the ARPA [Overview and Instructions](#). The Application Notes on pages 10-14 of this document also highlight important instructions for certain sections. Please complete all sections to receive full consideration for federal [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARPA) grant funding allocated to the Judicial Branch. Type "N/A." if a particular section is not applicable.

Type of Application (check applicable box):

- New grant application (no current award)
 Amend CY 2023 Award as described below

Judicial Circuit or Appellate Court Name

Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Chief Judge/Justice of Judicial Circuit or Appellate Court Address

First Name	Last Name
Kathlene	Gosselin

Street
P.O. Box 1778

City	State	ZIP Code
Gainesville	GA	30501

E-mail Address	Business Phone
kgosselin@hallcounty.org	770-531-6990

Application Contact

Name the point of contact for application questions and status updates:

First Name	Last Name
Katie	Mincey

Job Title	Business Phone
Deputy Court Administrator	770-532-1895

E-mail Address (application status updates): Katie.mincey@hallcounty.org

Grant Compliance Official

Name the person who will be responsible for ARPA grant compliance:

First Name	Last Name
Katie	Mincey

Job Title	Business Phone
Deputy Court Administrator	770-532-1895

E-mail Address (grant compliance/reporting): Katie.mincey@hallcounty.org

Grant Reimbursement Official (Fiscal Agent)

Name the person from the lead county serving as the fiscal agent for the requested ARPA funds:

First Name		Last Name	
Wesley		Geddings	
Job Title		Business Phone	
Financial Services Director		770-535-8270	
Street			
P.O. Drawer 1435			
City		ZIP Code	County
Gainesville		GA 30503	Hall
E-mail Address (grant reimbursement matters)			wgeddings@hallcounty.org

(A) USE OF ARPA FUNDS SUMMARY

The Northeastern Judicial Circuit was awarded a total of \$1,680,497, in two separate cycles, for the year 2022. The award has been enormously helpful, as it included funding for a total of 14 new full-time positions, and other assistance, across Hall and Dawson counties.

The biggest barrier to implementation has been hiring. While several positions were filled within four weeks of award, the last ARPA-funded position took over 8 months to make a hire. Additionally, every department and agency has faced unusually high levels of turnover in 2022, and employees have consistently been shuffled around into new positions.

Administratively, the primary barrier to implementation involved the Judicial Council clarifying grant reporting requirements with the Executive Branch. Significant staff resources were spent initially on procedures and policies that were later revised, amended, or ended. These challenges have receded, thankfully, and reimbursements have been received at a quicker pace. A lesser barrier involved the administrative task of coordinating funding across two counties where only one county may be designated to receive the reimbursement funds.

The availability of Senior Judges has been a concern, and something closely monitored as circuits across the state ramped up their requests. This circuit has mitigated that concern by relying heavily on local, qualified judges from other classes of court assisting in Superior Court.

Looking forward, the Circuit should be much better positioned to take full advantage of any funds awarded in 2023. Only two brand new positions are requested in this application, and all but one current position are presently filled with employees eager to see their roles extend for another year.

(B) CASE BACKLOGS REQUIRED TO JUSTIFY ARPA FUNDS

(1) Description of Case Backlogs

Strictly speaking, case backlogs have improved over the last 12 months due to record-high clearance rates and fewer cases being indicted or accused in Hall County. Pending casecounts at the beginning of 2023, across both counties, were 4% higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Most significantly, the circuit achieved a 146% clearance rate of serious violent felonies in 2022, as the courts have prioritized those cases for trial and disposition. This was easily a record-high, and a testament to the resources provided by ARPA and the extraordinary efforts of all involved.

A truer picture of the backlog, however, is presented only by including pre-indicted cases in caseload numbers. When the NEJC first applied for ARPA funds, as of October 1, 2021, the circuit had a backlog of approximately 764 cases when pre-indicted cases were included. This represented a pending caseload 27% higher than pre-pandemic. Currently, as of January 1, 2023, the circuit had a backlog of almost 900 such cases, virtually all of which are criminal. This represents a caseload equal in size and scope to the average caseload disposed of annually by each full-time sitting judge.

The number of unindicted criminal cases continues to pose unprecedented challenges to the circuit’s dockets. At April 14, 2023, there were over 2,700 unindicted cases across Hall and Dawson counties. Forty of these are serious violent felonies, which are in addition to the 71 indicted SVF cases. The current unindicted caseload is double that of pre-pandemic levels, and continues to sit in the “pipeline” as these cases move to dockets and trial calendars in 2023.

More detailed information on this backlog is found in the tables below and in the attached supporting documentation.

(2) Case Backlog Data

(a) Cases Pending – HALL + DAWSON SUPERIOR COURTS

As of Date	Cases Pending by Case Type			
	All Cases	All Felony Cases	Serious Violent Felony Cases	Serious Violent Felony Cases % of All Felony Cases Pending
12/31/2019	3,503	1,542	97	6.3%
12/31/2020	4,208	1,821	86	4.7%
12/31/2021	3,960	1,523	113	7.4%
12/31/22	3,646	1,101	71	6.4%
2/28/2023	3,810	1,113	74	6.6%

Note: For this chart, enter the number of cases pending in each box. Only include cases pending in the courts applying for ARPA funds. “Serious Violent Felony Cases” means the types of cases listed in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a) (1)-(7) only.

(b) Number of Jury Trials – SUPERIOR + STATE COURTS

Date Range	Number of Jury Trials by Case Type		
	All Cases	All Felony Cases	Serious Violent Felony Cases
1/1/19 - 12/31/19	75	43	12
1/1/20 - 12/31/20	40	21	4
1/1/21 - 12/31/21	68	48	16
1/1/22 - 12/31/22	80	50	18
1/1/23 - 2/28/23	25	14	5

Note: For this chart, include the total number of jury trials conducted during the date ranges indicated. “Serious Violent Felony Cases” means the types of cases listed in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a) (1)-(7) only.

(c) Clearance Rates – HALL + DAWSON SUPERIOR COURTS

Date Range	Clearance Rates (%) by Case Type		
	All Cases	All Felony Cases	Serious Violent Felony Cases
1/1/19 - 12/31/19	100%	108%	105%
1/1/20 - 12/31/20	89%	90%	132%
1/1/21 - 12/31/21	105%	120%	83%
1/1/22 - 12/31/22	113%	120%	146%
1/1/23 - 2/28/23	136%	155%	120%

Note: For this chart, include the number of disposed cases as a percentage of the number of filed cases for the date ranges indicated within each category. “Serious Violent Felony Cases” means the types of cases listed in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a) (1)-(7) only.

(d) Description of Pending Warrants and Unindicted Cases

Please see “Description of Case Backlogs” above.

(C) TOTAL ARPA GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED FROM THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL TO ADDRESS CASE BACKLOGS

(1) Overall total ARPA grant funds requested to address case backlogs: \$ 2,500,000.

Previous CY23 Award: \$1,988,000

New Requests: \$512,000

(2) Amount of overall total ARPA grant funds requested that will be dedicated to addressing backlogs of serious violent felonies (as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a)): \$ 2,226,651.

(3) Overall number of staff and contractor positions requested: Twenty-four (24).

(a) Overall number of full time staff positions: Seventeen (17).

(b) Overall number of part time staff positions: Seven (7)

(c) Overall number of contractor positions: N/A.

(4) Portion of overall number of staff and contractor positions requested that will be dedicated to addressing backlogs of serious violent felonies (as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a)): Twenty-one (21)

- (a) Full time staff positions dedicated to serious violent felonies: Fifteen (15).
- (b) Part time staff positions dedicated to serious violent felonies: Six (6).
- (c) Contractor positions dedicated to serious violent felonies: N/A.

Note: As used in this application, “staff” means government employee.

(D) ARPA GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED OR RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES TO ADDRESS CASE BACKLOGS

(1) *Applicants (except appellate courts) are required to request ARPA funds from one or more counties in their circuit. Have you requested ARPA funds from any counties in your circuit?*

Yes No

(2) *List the counties from which you have requested ARPA funds (attach request & response):*

County	Purpose(s) For Which ARPA Funds Were Requested with Dates Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Approved
<i>Dawson & Hall</i>	<i>Please see attached documentation for requests made in 2020-2021.</i>	\$	\$
<i>Hall</i>	<i>Please see attached letter and response from Hall County in 2022.</i>	\$	\$
<i>Dawson</i>	<i>Please see attached letter to Dawson County in 2022. No response was received.</i>	\$	\$

(3) *County Resources Provided to Courts*

The judicial system has worked closely with officials from both Hall and Dawson counties to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and the ensuing challenges presented by the backlog of cases. While early funding conversations focused narrowly on federal relief funds, subsequent discussions have focused less on the specific funding source and more on the project need. This has allowed both counties maximum flexibility to qualify and administer their ARPA and CARES Act funding as they deem fit.

As eligibility guidelines from OPB became clear, the courts have focused requests to the Judicial Council’s ARPA committee on temporary positions and spaces, while the counties have provided needed infrastructure and facility upgrades. In addition, both counties have funded permanent, additional pretrial officer positions as a result of the pandemic.

Specifically, Hall County Commissioners have funded the installation of broadband internet at the courthouse, the conversion of every single trial courtroom into a “hybrid courtroom” capable of facilitating remote video hearings, the purchase of new software, and the redesign of the circuit website to facilitate livestreaming and public access. Most significantly, capital funds have been approved to purchase a new office building to house growing staff, and to construct a new, expanded jury assembly room. It is unknown if any of the monies for these projects come from County ARPA funds.

Dawson County Commissioners have also provided funding to enable remote video hearings in each courtroom, and funded new invoicing software to handle growing caseloads. It is unknown if any of the monies came from County ARPA funds.

Finally, in an effort to address staff shortages, both counties have considered and approved various pay increases and cost-of-living adjustments for employees.

- (4) Total ARPA grant funds requested from other sources: \$ 2,744,291.
- (5) Total ARPA grant funds received from other sources: \$ Unknown.
- (6) Total ARPA grant funds from other sources expended to date: \$ Unknown.
- (7) Total ARPA grant funds from other sources obligated to date: \$ 126,769.

(E) REQUESTS UNDER EACH ARPA EXPENDITURE CATEGORY (EC)

(1) Payroll-Public Sector Staff Responding to Case Backlogs (EC 3.1; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3))

(ii) (E) (1))

- (a) Subtotal of funds requested for this EC: \$1,106,688.
- (b) Amount of subtotal for this EC dedicated to addressing the backlog of serious violent felonies, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a): \$928,234.
- (c) More than 50 percent of **total personnel costs** awarded each calendar year **under this EC** must be dedicated to serious violent felonies, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). What percentage of the personnel costs requested under this EC will be dedicated to serious violent felonies? 84%.
- (d) Overall number of staff positions to be funded under this EC: Seventeen (17).
 - (i) Full time staff positions: Ten (10).
 - (ii) Part time staff positions: Seven (7).
- (e) Number of staff positions requested under this EC dedicated to serious violent felonies, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a): Fifteen (15).
 - (i) Full time staff positions: Nine (9).
 - (ii) Part time staff positions: Six (6).
- (f) The following applies for this EC only (check one):
 - Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with no amendments.
 - Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with the following amendments:
 - No funds have been awarded for this EC in CY 2023, so the following describes a new request:
 - No funds are requested for this EC.

Due to staffing vacancies and updated personnel cost projection available after the first quarter of 2023, the original award is revised with the following changes:

1. Juvenile Judge – adjusted downward \$25,000
2. Judicial Assistant – adjusted downward \$2,500
3. Court Reporter – adjusted downward \$8,500
4. Deputy Clerk (Clerk of Court) – adjusted downward \$18,000
5. Assistant District Attorney – adjusted downward \$25,000

6. Investigator, District Attorney – adjusted downward \$10,000
7. Administrative Assistant, District Attorney – adjusted downward \$15,000
8. Administrative Secretary, PreTrial – adjusted downward \$10,000
9. Associate Probate Judge – adjusted downward \$10,000
10. Deputy Sheriff (Dawson County) – adjusted downward \$5,000

In addition, the following two line items have been adjusted upwards to account for the increased court costs already incurred in the first quarter of 2023:

1. Bailiffs – adjusted upwards \$10,000
2. Judicial Assistance (Senior Judges, etc.) – adjusted upwards \$25,000

The net effect of these changes reduces our total award in this category by a total of \$94,000, which is shifted to the newly-available A/V category as detailed below.

(2) Court-Based Mental Health Diversion (EC 1.12; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (i) (C))

- (a) Subtotal of funds requested for this EC: \$63,741.
- (b) Overall number of staff and contractor positions to be funded under this EC: One (1).
 - (i) Full time staff and contractor positions: One (1).
 - (ii) Part time staff and contractor positions: Zero (0).
- (c) The following applies for this EC only (check one):
 - Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with no amendments.
 - Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with the following amendments:
 - No funds have been awarded for this EC in CY 2023, so the following describes a new request:
 - No funds are requested for this EC.

Due to updated cost projections available after the first quarter of 2023, the original award is revised with the following changes:

1. Human Services Coordinator – adjusted downwards \$15,000

(3) Court-Based Substance Use Diversion (EC 1.13; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (i) (C))

- (a) Subtotal of funds requested for this EC: \$373,407.
- (b) Overall number of staff and contractor positions to be funded under this EC: Five (5).
 - (i) Full time staff and contractor positions: Five (5).
 - (ii) Part time staff and contractor positions: Zero (0).
- (c) The following applies for this EC only (check one):
 - Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with no amendments.
 - Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with the following amendments:
 - No funds have been awarded for this EC in CY 2023, so the following describes a new request:
 - No funds are requested for this EC.

Due to updated cost projections available after the first quarter of 2023, the original award is revised with the following changes:

1. *Program Counselor – adjusted downwards \$30,000 (\$15,000 x 2 positions)*
2. *Case Manager – adjusted upwards \$5,000*
3. *Intake Specialist – adjusted upwards \$5,000*
4. *Clinical Director – adjusted downwards \$20,000*

(4) Court-Based Eviction Prevention and Diversion (ECs 2.2, 2.18; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii))

(A) (1), (5))

- (a) Subtotal of funds requested for this EC: \$ _____.
- (b) Overall number of staff and contractor positions to be funded under this EC: _____.
- (i) Full time staff and contractor positions: _____.
- (ii) Part time staff and contractor positions: _____.
- (c) The following applies for this EC only (check one):
- Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with no amendments.
 - Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with the following amendments:
 - No funds have been awarded for this EC in CY 2023, so the following describes a new request:
 - No funds are requested for this EC.

N/A

(5) Temporary Facilities or Workspace to Respond to Case Backlogs (ECs 3.5, 7.1; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (4))

- (a) Subtotal of funds requested for this EC: \$ _____.
- (b) Amount of subtotal for this EC dedicated to addressing the backlog of serious violent felonies, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a): \$ _____.
- (c) The following applies for this EC only (check one):
- Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with no amendments.
 - Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with the following amendments:
 - No funds have been awarded for this EC in CY 2023, so the following describes a new request:
 - No funds are requested for this EC.

N/A

(6) ARPA-Eligible Administrative Expenses (ECs 3.5, 7.1; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (3)-(4))

- (a) Subtotal of funds requested for this EC: \$390,506.
- (b) Overall number of staff and contractor positions to be funded under this EC: One (1).
- (i) Full time staff and contractor positions: One (1).
- (ii) Part time staff and contractor positions: Zero (0).

- (c) The following applies for this EC only (check one):
- Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with no amendments.
 - Maintain CY 2023 award for this EC with the following amendments:
 - No funds have been awarded for this EC in CY 2023, so the following describes a new request:
 - No funds are requested for this EC.

The following changes are requested to our current CY 2023 award:

- 1. Grants Specialist is revised downward by \$5,000, based on updated personnel cost projections available after the first quarter of 2023.*
- 2. Court Reporter Transcripts is revised upward by \$45,000, based on the pace of court proceedings and transcript invoices during the first quarter of 2023.*
- 3. Interpreters is revised upwards by \$55,343, based on the pace of court of court proceedings and interpreter requests during the first quarter of 2023.*

NOTE: This subtotal does NOT include the newly-requested funds for A/V equipment below.

(7) Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization (ECs 3.5, 7.1; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (4), (b) (4); 87 Fed. Reg. 4,389 (Jan. 27, 2022))

(a) Subtotal of funds requested for this EC: \$ 565,657.

(b) Per federal regulations and OPB requirements, audio-visual modernization costs must be necessary, reasonable, and proportional to the objectively demonstrated need to respond to case backlogs caused by the pandemic, with a primary focus on cases involving serious violent felonies. The total number of staff and contractor positions responding to case backlogs to be funded in CY 2023 by this ARPA grant if approved, including all staff and contractor positions requested in sections (E) (1)-(4), (6) of this application, are as follows:

(i) Full time staff and contractor positions: Seventeen (17).

(ii) Part time staff and contractor positions: Seven (7).

Note: No staff or contractor positions should be requested under this EC, which is reserved for “audio-visual equipment modernization” expenditures only, as defined in the [Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy](#) (“AV Policy”). All staff and contractor positions should be requested under sections (E) (1)-(4), (6) of this application. The intent of (b) (i)-(ii) directly above is to make sure your overall ARPA-funded staff and contractor headcount is proportional to the number of courtrooms you intend to modernize to comply with federal regulations and OPB requirements. AV Policy § (d).

(c) **Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy** checklist (check all that apply to indicate compliance):

A detailed justification letter is attached stating that audio-visual equipment modernization in the courtrooms listed in table (7) (d) below is a necessary component of a response to court case backlogs caused by the pandemic, with a primary focus on cases involving serious violent felonies. Id. at § (b) (2).

A detailed summary of each audio-visual modernization project requested under this

EC is attached, including a complete project timeline. Id. at § (b) (3).

A detailed proposal from each vendor is attached, including an estimate of the cost of each project and all equipment to be installed. Id. at § (b) (4).

Each attached proposal was subject to local competitive bidding requirements and procedures and reflects market prices for comparable goods and services for the geographic area where the courtroom is located. Id. at §§ (c)-(d).

The projects are requested for existing courtrooms only, as defined. Id. at § (a) (2).

The projects are requested for courtrooms where personnel are responding to case backlogs caused by the pandemic, with first priority given to courtrooms where personnel are responding to cases involving serious violent felonies. Id. at §§ (b) (2), (d).

The projects requested are compliant with all other provisions of the ARPA Committee’s [Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy](#).

(d) For each existing permanent courtroom where new audio-visual equipment is to be installed, fill in the following information:

County	Location of Courtroom	Classes of Court That Use Courtroom	Amount Requested
Hall	Juvenile Court A	Juvenile Court	\$91,918.10
Hall	Juvenile Court B	Juvenile Court	\$91,918.10
Hall	Juvenile Court C	Juvenile Court	\$91,918.10
Hall	Magistrate Court 301	Magistrate Court	\$98,754.11
Hall	Magistrate Court 302	Magistrate Court	\$98,754.12
Hall	Probate Court	Probate Court	\$92,393.66

Note: Add additional rows to the table above if requesting funds for more than three courtrooms.

(F) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND BUDGET FORM

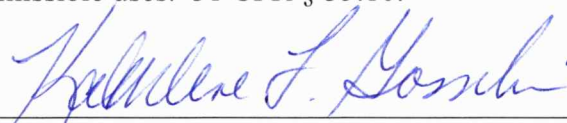
The following supporting documentation is attached to this application (check all that apply):

- A completed [ARPA Budget Form](#) in an Excel spreadsheet file format (required).
- Correspondence to and from county governments requesting ARPA funds (required).
- All documents required under section (b) (2)-(4) of the [Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy](#) (if requesting funds under section (E) (7) of this application).
- Any other documentation needed to support this application (if applicable).

(G) CERTIFICATION

By checking this box, I, the undersigned, certify that (1) the information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge; and (2) the proposed activities are eligible

expenditures under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and 31 CFR Part 35 (“Final Rule”). I understand that the use of ARPA grant funds is subject to certain reporting requirements, audits, and recoupment if put toward impermissible uses. 31 CFR § 35.10.



Chief Judge/Justice Signature

Printed Name: Kathlene F. Gosselin

Title: Chief Judge, NEJC

Date: April 13, 2023

(H) SUBMIT APPLICATION

E-mail a .pdf of your completed, certified, and signed application (with supporting documentation) to ARPA@georgiacourts.gov.

APPLICATION NOTES

Only judicial circuits and appellate courts are currently authorized to apply for ARPA funds. The ARPA Grants Team will automatically reject any application from a court or entity that is not a judicial circuit or appellate court. See the [Overview and Instructions](#) for full details beyond the basic instructions presented below.

...

(B) CASE BACKLOGS REQUIRED TO JUSTIFY ARPA FUNDS

All applicants must objectively demonstrate that case backlogs exist to qualify for ARPA grant funds or continued funding. All expenditures requested in this application must be reasonably proportional to the applicant’s objectively demonstrated need to address case backlogs, with priority given to serious violent felonies (as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a)). 87 Fed. Reg. 4,344; 4,388 (Jan. 27, 2022). When calculating the need for additional resources to respond to case backlogs, a court may provide statistics comparing its case volume from a “normal” pre-pandemic year (e.g., case volume in 2019) to its current case volume. If statistics do not demonstrate the full picture of an applicant’s case backlog, other facts may be included in the description, e.g., space constraints or other factors. Applicants should also identify what portion of case backlogs are serious violent felony cases, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a).

...

(D) ARPA GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED OR RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES TO ADDRESS CASE BACKLOGS

Applicants (except appellate courts) must request ARPA funds from their respective county governments. For ARPA grant funds requested or received by any court or other entity included in this application from any other sources (including a county, municipality (to include a “nonentitlement unit of local government”), or an eligible non-profit entity), attach documentation explaining how requested, received, expended, or obligated funds have been or will be used, including whether such funds have been or will be used to address the backlog of serious violent felonies, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). Also attach any correspondence to and from each county from which ARPA funds were requested.

As used in this section, “obligated” means “an order placed for property and services and entering into contracts, subawards, and similar transactions that require payment.” 31 CFR § 35.3. Section 9901 (a) of ARPA defines the term “nonentitlement unit of local government” to mean a “city” (as defined in 42 USC § 5302 (a) (5)) that is not a “metropolitan city” (as defined in 42 USC § 5302 (a) (4)). Codified at 42 USC § 803 (g) (4)-(5).

(E) REQUESTS UNDER EACH ARPA EXPENDITURE CATEGORY (EC)

(E) (1) Payroll-Public Sector Staff Responding to Case Backlogs (EC 3.1)

More than 50 percent of total personnel costs awarded each calendar year under this EC must be dedicated to responding to serious violent felonies, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). As used in (E) (1) (c), “total personnel costs” means the subtotal of funds requested under section (E) (1) only, as stated in (E) (1) (a). To get the percentage used in (E) (1) (c), divide the amount provided under (E) (1) (b) by the amount provided in (E) (1) (a).

New or existing staff may be used to respond to case backlogs, with priority given to serious violent felony cases (as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a)). However, only payroll for time spent actually responding to case backlogs may be reimbursed with ARPA grant funds. 87 Fed. Reg. 4,341; 4,388 (Jan. 27, 2022) (Eligible use must “respond to the identified negative economic impact” of the pandemic, “e.g., backlogs in court systems”). This includes payroll of new personnel hired to backfill existing personnel responding to case backlogs (prioritizing cases involving serious violent felonies). Therefore, time spent responding to case backlogs (or backfilling others so they can respond) must be tracked and documented for reimbursement and auditing purposes.

Per U.S. Treasury Compliance and Reporting Guidance, federal “EC 3.1” is reserved for “Public Sector Workforce” payroll and benefits, so (E) (1) must exclude contractors, which fall under federal administrative ECs “3.5” and “7.1.” 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (1). To categorize contractors correctly under federal guidance, request contractors responding to case backlogs generally (i.e., not performing mental health, substance use, or eviction prevention diversion services) under (E) (6), which corresponds to federal administrative expenditure ECs “3.5” and “7.1.” 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (3)-(4).

(E) (2) Court-Based Mental Health Diversion (EC 1.12)

Per Executive Branch limitations, ARPA funds for court-based mental health diversion services must: (a) respond to case backlogs; and (b) conserve staff time and resources to respond to case backlogs of serious violent felony cases, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). Accordingly, for purposes of this expenditure category, grant applicants **must provide a numerical estimate** in the description regarding the staff hours and resources court-based mental health diversion services will conserve so staff may respond to serious violent felonies. As used in this section, “numerical” means containing one or more of the number symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9; e.g., 20 hours of staff time per week, 18 percent of a judge’s caseload, or some other numerical measurement. Please also note that ARPA funds allocated to the Judicial Council may be used for court-based services only and not for out of court mental health treatment services.

Contractors performing court-based mental health division services to respond to case backlogs must be requested under (E) (2) and not (E) (6) because federal “EC 1.12” applies to “Mental Health Services” generally. 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (i) (C).

(E) (3) Court-Based Substance Use Diversion (EC 1.13)

Per Executive Branch limitations, ARPA funds for court-based substance use diversion services must: (a) respond to case backlogs; and (b) conserve staff time and resources to respond to case backlogs of serious violent felony cases, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). Accordingly, for purposes of this expenditure category, grant applicants **must provide a numerical estimate** in the description regarding the staff hours and resources court-based substance use diversion services will conserve so staff may respond to serious violent felonies. As used in this section, “numerical” means containing one or more of the number symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9; e.g., 20 hours of staff time per week, 18 percent of a judge’s caseload, or some other numerical measurement. Please also note that ARPA funds allocated to the Judicial Council may be used for court-based

services only and not for out of court substance use treatment services.

Contractors performing court-based substance use diversion services to respond to case backlogs must be requested under (E) (3) and not (E) (6) because federal “EC 1.13” applies to “Substance Use Services” generally. 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (i) (C).

(E) (4) Court-Based Eviction Prevention and Diversion (ECs 2.2, 2.18)

Per Executive Branch limitations, ARPA funds for court-based eviction prevention and diversion services must: (a) respond to case backlogs; and (b) conserve staff time and resources to respond to case backlogs of serious violent felony cases, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). Accordingly, for purposes of this expenditure category, grant applicants **must provide a numerical estimate** in the description regarding the staff hours and resources court-based eviction prevention and diversion services will conserve so that staff may respond to serious violent felonies. As used in this section, “numerical” means containing one or more of the number symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9; e.g., 20 hours of staff time per week, 18 percent of a judge’s caseload, or some other numerical measurement. Please also note that ARPA funds allocated to the Judicial Council may not be used for direct payments to landlords or tenants.

Contractors performing court-based eviction prevention and diversion services to respond to case backlogs must be requested under (E) (4) and not (E) (6) because federal ECs “2.2” and “2.18” respectively apply to “Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid” and “Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance” generally. 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (A) (1), (5).

...

(E) (6) ARPA-Eligible Administrative Expenses (ECs 3.5, 7.1)

Describe proposed ARPA-eligible administrative expenses in the space provided. Contractors performing mental health, substance use, or eviction prevention diversion services must be requested under (E) (2), (3), or (4) respectively. All other contractors responding to case backlogs and contractors performing grant administration must be requested under (E) (6). 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (1), (3)-(4).

Grant Administration Payroll

The following clarifications have been provided by OPB regarding reimbursement for ARPA grant administration payroll expenditures only:

- **Current hourly** employees performing ARPA grant administration duties may be paid from ARPA funds for time spent (including overtime) if the time is documented with timesheets.
- **Current salaried** employees performing ARPA grant administration duties may not be paid extra from ARPA funds for added duties, but an **employer may** be reimbursed from ARPA funds for time spent by those employees performing ARPA grant administration duties if the time is documented with timesheets. To be clear, current employees performing ARPA grant administration duties may not be given a supplement or a raise to be paid from ARPA funds.
- **New part-time** employees (hourly or salaried) may be paid from ARPA funds for time spent working on grant administration duties if the time is documented with timesheets.

- **New full-time** employees (hourly or salaried) may be paid from ARPA funds for time spent working on grant administration duties if the time is documented on a timesheet, labor report, and a Personnel Action or Periodic Certification Form upon hire and a chart of accounts for ARPA funding is provided. See ARPA Fiscal Team for details.

Grant administration includes costs related to disbursing payments of ARPA funds and managing ARPA grant programs. 87 Fed. Reg. 4,435-4,436; 4,444 (Jan. 27, 2022).

Supplies, Materials, and Equipment

ARPA funds are authorized for supplies, furniture (valued at under \$5,000), and equipment (valued at under \$5,000; e.g., monitors, computers, software licenses, phones, and printers) that are necessary for personnel to respond to case backlogs or perform ARPA grant administration. If valued at under \$5,000, such expenditures are generally classified as non-capital permitted expenditures and should be listed under (E) (6) and in the Administrative/Indirect Costs section of the [ARPA Budget Form](#). Grant recipients should rent equipment (if possible, practical, and cost-effective) to avoid violating the prohibition on purchasing permanent infrastructure. Special rules apply to audio-visual equipment, as explained below.

Audio-Visual Equipment

Effective December 8, 2022, audio-visual equipment modernization in existing permanent courtrooms is an ARPA-eligible expenditure and not subject to the OPB prohibition on capital expenditures mentioned immediately above. Movable or temporary audio-visual equipment for temporary courtrooms must be requested under (E) (6). The purchase and installation of permanent audio-visual equipment (i.e., fixtures) in existing permanent courtrooms must be requested under section (E) (7) and is subject to specific rules and procedures.

(E) (7) Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization (ECs 3.5, 7.1)

On December 8, 2022, the ARPA Committee approved audio-visual equipment modernization in existing permanent courtrooms as an eligible expenditure, subject to certain rules and procedures. See the [Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy](#) and section 15 of the [Overview and Instructions](#) for details and restrictions. Use the Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy checklist provided in (E) (7) (c) to assist with compliance.

(F) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND BUDGET FORM

The [ARPA Budget Form](#) must be submitted in an Excel spreadsheet format and not a .pdf file format. Copies of correspondence requesting county ARPA funds must also be attached, as well as any response to such request. If requesting funds under (E) (7), attach all documents required under section (b) (2)-(4) of the [Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy](#). Attach any other supporting documentation the ARPA Committee will need to sufficiently and efficiently review your application. Use the checklist provided in this section to assist with compliance.

...

(H) SUBMIT APPLICATION

The ARPA Grants Team will confirm receipt and follow up with you regarding any issues with your application and next steps. Applications that are not timely completed during the application review window may need to be considered by the ARPA Committee in a subsequent application

period. Promptly notify the ARPA Grants Team at ARPA@georgiacourts.gov if you need to revise or withdraw a submitted application.



**Superior Courts
of the
Northeastern Judicial Circuit**

Kathlene F. Gosselin, Chief Judge
P.O. Box 1778
Gainesville, Georgia 30503
(770) 531-6990

**DAWSON AND HALL
COUNTIES**

Judicial Council of Georgia
Committee on ARPA Funding
Justice Michael P. Boggs, Chair

April 13, 2023

Dear ARPA Committee Members,

The Northeastern Judicial Circuit is grateful for a current ARPA award of \$1,988,000 for CY2023. The funds have been enormously helpful in attempting to recover from the backlog of cases created by the 2020 pandemic.

Today's application amends and supplements the current CY2023 award by requesting additional funds pursuant to the A/V Equipment Modernization policy, as well as requests to shift some unused personnel funds towards this newly-approved expenditure category.

The Northeastern Circuit includes three courthouse buildings and 18 total courtrooms: a Dawson County Courthouse, Hall County Courthouse, and Hall County Courthouse Annex. The pandemic unexpectedly ushered in a revolution in the way court proceedings are conducted, moving some hearings to an entirely virtual platform and, more significantly, transforming nearly every hearing into a potentially "hybrid" format. Even those proceedings conducted in-person now often include witnesses and testimony via remote video technology. These changes have necessitated a complete overhaul of the audio-visual technology in the courtrooms.

The judicial system has worked closely with officials from both Hall and Dawson counties to begin modernizing and replacing the outdated technology, beginning with our jury trial courtrooms. To date, these 12 trial courtrooms have each been updated at a cost to the counties of almost \$900,000.

Today's application seeks to continue this project and complete the modernization of the final six (6) courtrooms. Each request is a necessary component of a response to court case backlogs caused by the pandemic, and will allow the Superior Court bench to continue to focus primarily on cases involving serious violent felonies.

1. HALL COUNTY JUVENILE COURTROOMS A, B, C (3 TOTAL)

\$275,754.30

No court has been a more critical partner to Superior Court in disposing of the felony case backlog than our circuit's Juvenile Court. In a spirit of cooperation, previous ARPA funds were used to appoint a fourth, full-time juvenile court judge with the understanding that this additional position would assist full-time in Superior Court by designation. Our Chief Juvenile Court Judge, Alison Toller, has made her judges available to hear a majority of Superior Court's domestic calendars so that the Superior Court judges can prioritize their docket's backlog of criminal cases. This strategy yielded an overall clearance rate in 2022 of 113%, and a record-high criminal clearance rate of 137%.

While Juvenile Court does not currently have their own backlog of cases, the full use of their own three (3) courtrooms is vital to reserving the use of our trial courtrooms for Superior Court. Unfortunately, aging technology in the courtrooms is on the brink of permanent failure – particularly the 20-year old audio system used for evidence presentation and digital recording. Without an upgrade in the very near future, Juvenile Court would become reliant on the use of an already burdened inventory of available courtroom space.

Additionally, Juvenile Court has come to rely on the remote video testimony of witnesses and DFACS investigators in order to efficiently adjudicate their caseload. The courtrooms currently have a makeshift, temporary setup that allows for such testimony to occur; this project would install a permanent system.

2. HALL COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURTROOMS 301, 302 (2 TOTAL)

\$197,508.23

Hall County Magistrate Court has experienced a surge of post-pandemic new case filings, particularly dispossessory actions. For comparison, there were 1,702 dispossessories filed in 2021 and 2,402 filed in 2022 – an increase of 41%. In addition, of course, the majority of our Superior Court caseload originates first in Magistrate Court, with warrant applications and first appearance hearings. A fully functioning courtroom is a necessity for disposing of the Magistrate Court caseload and for moving felony cases on to Superior Court.

There are currently five Hall County Magistrates sharing two courtrooms, and without a replacement AV system in the near future, Magistrate Court would become reliant on the use of an already burdened inventory of available courtroom space. Today's requests seeks to make both Magistrate Courtrooms fully-functioning hybrid courtrooms with improved audio and evidence presentation systems.

3. HALL COUNTY PROBATE COURTROOM (1 Total)

\$92,393.66

Hall County Probate Court recently added a second full-time Associate Judge with the use of previously-awarded ARPA funds. The same justification that applied to our request for a judge applies to the need for AV upgrades. In 2021, Probate Court opened 857 new estates, more than a 30% increase over typical pre-pandemic numbers. In 2022, the court opened approximately 820 new estates, in addition to a 100% increase in the number of caveats filed

compared to 2021. Due to these increases, the court's clearance rate declined to 90% in 2020 and 2021 and 93% in 2022. At the time of our previous CY23 application, there were four times (4x) as many open objections, petitions to administer, or petitions for appointment of a guardian/conservator as there were in December of 2020.

As additional justification for this new request: newly-revised Uniform Probate Court Rule 11.2 requires that, when testimony is offered via videoconferencing, all participants "must be able to see, hear, and communicate with each other simultaneously." Current technology in the Hall County Probate Courtroom does not allow compliance with the requirement that all participants be able to see all other participants, as there is no camera available at the witness stand. The requested funds would provide the compliance necessary to dispose of the current backlog.

The above projects – modernizing a total of six Hall County courtrooms – comes at a total cost of **\$565,656.19**. The "winning" quotes are included with this application, and were submitted by S&L Integrated. S&L is a company that was chosen after a competitive, local procurement process that included the solicitation of four different bids for the project. S&L is also the same company that has previously modernized and provided support for the 12 circuit courtrooms already completed.

The enhancement of Magistrate and Juvenile Courtrooms will have a direct impact on Superior Court's ability to dispose of felony criminal cases, and the Probate courtroom is needed to handle that court's own backlog. One-hundred percent (100%) of the requested new funds will be used to address case backlogs, and 84% of the new funds will be used to prioritize the backlog of criminal cases, including serious violent felonies.

If I may provide any additional information or justification for this project, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully,

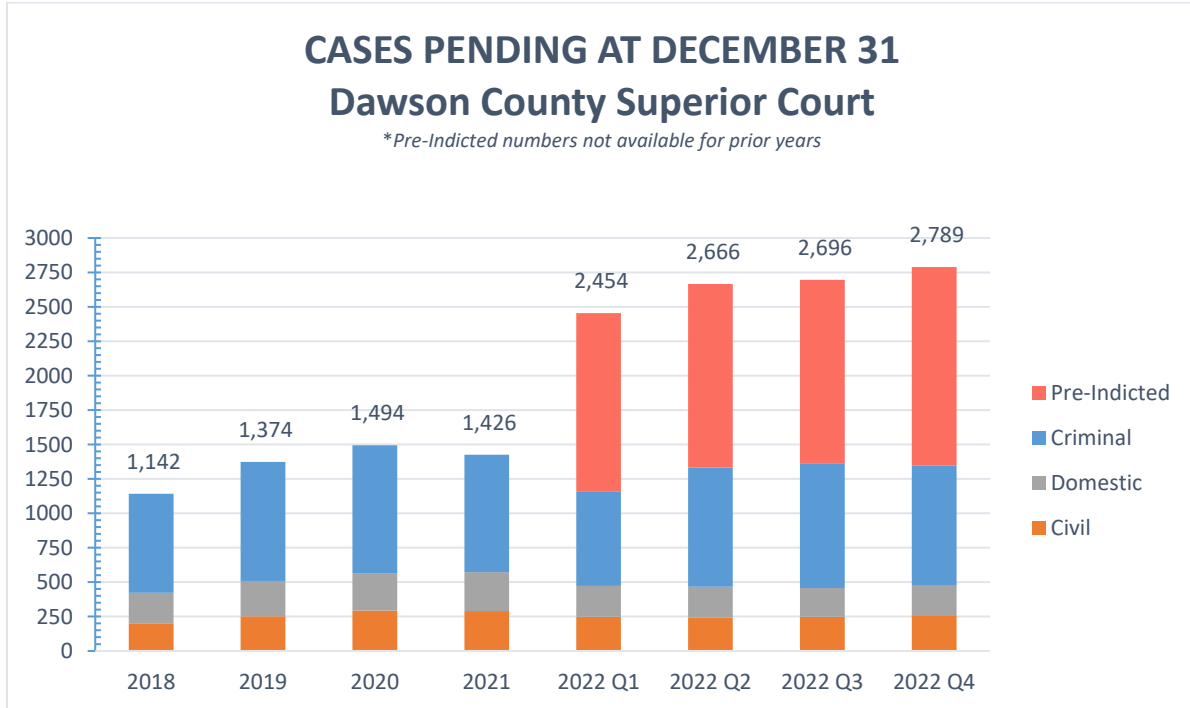
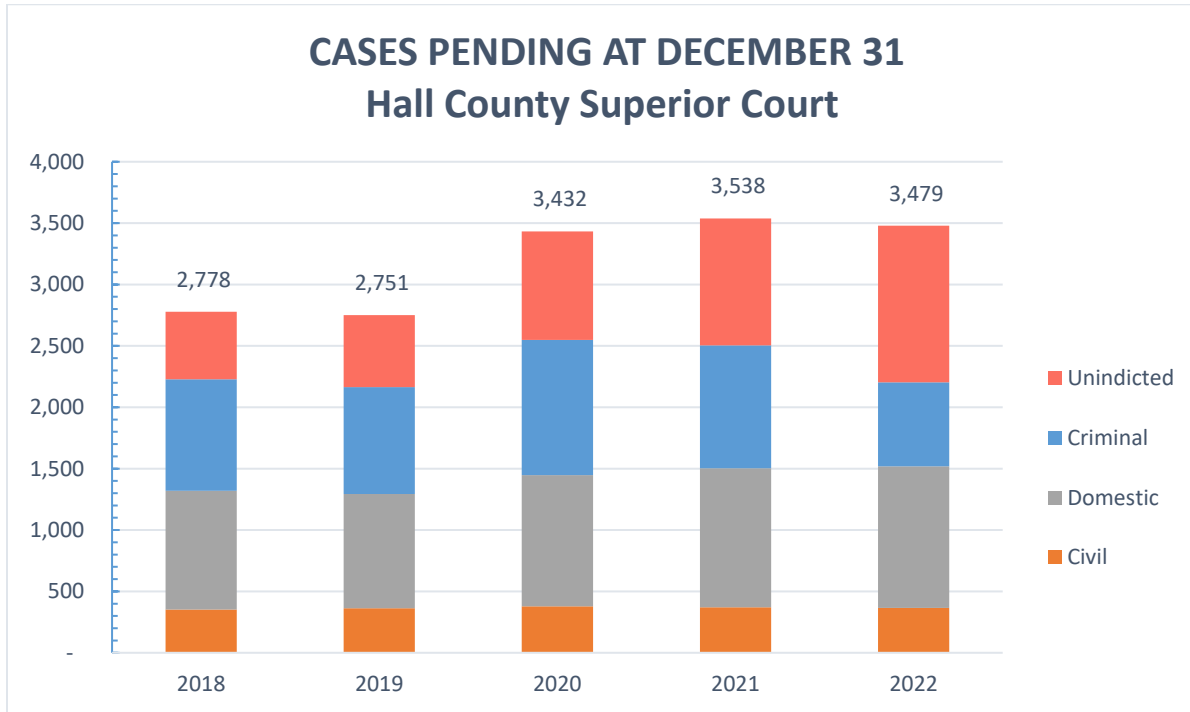


Kathlene F. Gosselin



NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

2023 Pending Caseload Report





Superior Courts
of the
Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Kathlene F. Gosselin, Chief Judge
P.O. Box 1778
Gainesville, Georgia 30503
(770) 531-6990

DAWSON AND HALL
COUNTIES

Hall County Board of Commissioners
Richard Higgins, Chairman
P.O. Drawer 1435
Gainesville, GA 30503

August 25, 2022

Dear Chairman Higgins,

On behalf of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, we appreciate Hall County's use of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the local court system. As you know, the pandemic has created significant challenges for the courts and resulted in a backlog of cases that will take years to resolve. In 2022, this circuit applied for *state* ARPA grants and was awarded a total of \$1,773,057. These funds are covering judicial expenditures that would otherwise have burdened Hall and Dawson County budgets. As we prepare to reapply for similar state funding in 2023, we will be required to report that we have also made requests of each local jurisdiction for *county* ARPA funding.

At the state level, Georgia received \$4.8 billion of which only \$110 million was made available to the courts throughout the state via a grant process distributed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts. Those funds are allocated to cover a 3-year period ending December 31, 2024, whereby each circuit must apply for funds each year. In addition to a cap limit on total funding each year, the judicial branch has been further restricted by OPB in what we may request funding for. Specifically, eligible expenditures may only be used:

- ✓ To provide additional, temporary court staff such as senior judges, bailiffs, court reporters, judicial officers, court staff, and other necessary persons.
- ✓ To contract with third party locations to conduct court proceedings in larger facilities.
- ✓ To pay for additional, temporary prosecutors, investigators, legal administrative positions, and contract legal services.
- ✓ To provide additional circuit and conflict attorneys for the Georgia Public Defenders Council.

In contrast, county ARPA funds are available to be spent for a longer period of time and have only those restrictions which the U.S. Treasury Department places on them. In short, the county's ARPA funds can be utilized in a much broader way than our funds accessed through the state.

From public records, Hall County was allocated \$39,710,268.00 in such funds. In cooperation with County Administration, portions of those funds have been previously directed towards the construction of a new jury assembly room, an updated public website, and new invoicing software for the surge in criminal cases. Additional potential expenses that may meet eligibility requirements and intersect with our judicial needs include:

- ✓ Services to foster youth, including those aging out of the system, and child welfare involved families may encompass a wide array of financial, educational, child development, or health supports, or other supports necessary, including supports for kinship care.
- ✓ Technology infrastructure resources to improve access to government information systems, including upgrades to hardware and software.
- ✓ Broadband internet access in all judicial facilities, that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds where practicable.
- ✓ Hiring additional court staff or attorneys to increase speed of case resolution, and other expenses to expedite case resolution.
- ✓ Premium pay for essential workers, which includes court employees, who were working in person to compensate them for their service during the pandemic. Such pay can also be made retroactive.
- ✓ Legal aid such as legal services or attorney's fees related to maintaining housing stability, court-based eviction prevention or eviction diversion programs, and other legal services that help households obtain housing.

As you can see, the federal requirements for the eligible use of ARPA funds appear to be much broader than what the state has limited our requests to. Our circuit is committed to reducing the backlog of cases and, with access to county ARPA funds in conjunction with our state ARPA funds, we can work through these cases and provide meaningful access to justice for the citizens of our circuit.

Hall County Administration has worked collaboratively and closely with our own Court Administration to respond appropriately and timely to the needs arising from the pandemic. We respectfully request to continue to partner with you on the use of local ARPA funds and to identify continuing expenditures appropriate for ARPA consideration. Our state ARPA Funding Committee has asked that we provide them with any details from you on our access to funds from our counties. The favor of a reply is requested by September 21, 2022.

Respectfully,



Kathlene F. Gosselin,
Chief Superior Court Judge
Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Cc: Judge B.E. Roberts, State Court
Judge Lindsay Burton, Juvenile Court
Judge Margaret Gregory, Magistrate Court
Judge Patty Laine, Probate Court
Charles Baker, Clerk of Court
Lee Darragh, District Attorney
Brad Morris, Circuit Public Defender
Jason Stephenson, Court Administrator



Hall County Government

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 21, 2022

Superior Courts of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Kathlene F. Gosselin, Chief Judge
P.O. Box 1778
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Judge Gosselin,

CHAIRMAN
Richard P. Higgins

Kathy L. Cooper, District 1
Billy Powell, District 2
Shelly Echols, District 3
Jeff Stowe, District 4

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Jock A. Connell

ASSISTANT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Zachary T. Propes

COUNTY CLERK
Jennifer Rivera

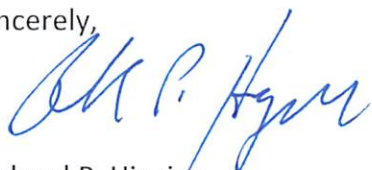
First, please allow me to express my most sincere gratitude on behalf of the Hall County Board of Commissioners for your leadership within the Hall County Courts System. In particular, I'd like to thank you for the dedication that has been exemplified by you and your colleagues on a daily basis as you've continued to work through the significant backlog of cases brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Administration and the Board is aware of the challenges that backlog has created, and we remain hopeful that the approximately \$1.7 million state ARPA grant awarded to the Courts System will go a long way in managing that issue. Additionally, we acknowledge the potential impact addressing this backlog may have on the County budget in the future.

In response to your letter dated Aug. 25, 2022 regarding the state ARPA Funding Committee's request for details from Hall County on access to local ARPA funds for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, Hall County's ARPA Funds have already been committed for various projects, including some projects that have or will benefit the Judicial Circuit. New expenditures for the court system related to the pandemic, that have been funded using both local ARPA and other Hall County funding sources, have included broadband internet installation, courtroom AV upgrades, livestreaming and website redesign, new invoicing software, the purchase of a new building to house growing staff, and funding of a new jury assembly room. There are no plans at this time to un-commit ARPA funding for planned projects and reallocate additional funding to the Judicial Circuit.

Please note that the Hall County Board of Commissioners fully supports the Circuit's 2023 state ARPA grant application for judicial expenditures and is optimistic that the Northeastern Judicial Circuit will receive at least the same amount of funding as was awarded in 2022 (\$1,773,057). As always, we appreciate your partnership and

look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to manage through the impacts of the pandemic.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Higgins
Chairman Hall County Board of Commissioners

CC: Hall County Board of Commissioners
Jock Connell, County Administrator
Jason Stephenson, Court Administrator



Superior Courts
of the
Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Kathlene F. Gosselin, Chief Judge
P.O. Box 1778
Gainesville, Georgia 30503
(770) 531-6990

DAWSON AND HALL
COUNTIES

Dawson County Board of Commissioners
Billy Thurmond, Chairman
25 Justice Way, Suite 2313
Dawsonville, GA 30534

August 25, 2022

Dear Chairman Thurmond,

On behalf of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, we respectfully ask for consideration for use of some of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by Dawson County. As you know, the pandemic has created significant challenges for the courts and resulted in a surge of cases that will take time to resolve. In 2022, this circuit applied for *state* ARPA grants and was awarded a total of \$1,773,057. These funds are covering judicial expenditures that would otherwise have burdened Hall and Dawson County budgets. As we prepare to reapply for similar state funding in 2023, we will be required to report that we have also made requests of each local jurisdiction for *county* ARPA funding.

At the state level, Georgia received \$4.8 billion of which only \$110 million was made available to the courts throughout the state via a grant process distributed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts. Those funds are allocated to cover a 3-year period ending December 31, 2024, whereby each circuit must apply for funds each year. In addition to a cap limit on total funding each year, the judicial branch has been further restricted by OPB in what we may request funding for. Specifically, eligible expenditures may only be used:

- ✓ To provide additional, temporary court staff such as senior judges, bailiffs, court reporters, judicial officers, court staff, and other necessary persons.
- ✓ To contract with third party locations to conduct court proceedings in larger facilities.
- ✓ To pay for additional, temporary prosecutors, investigators, legal administrative positions, and contract legal services.
- ✓ To provide additional circuit and conflict attorneys for the Georgia Public Defenders Council.

In contrast, county ARPA funds are available to be spent for a longer period of time and have only those restrictions which the U.S. Treasury Department places on them. In short, the county's ARPA funds can be utilized in a much broader way than our funds accessed through the state.

From public records, Dawson County was allocated \$5,071,173.00 in such funds. Eligible expenses that intersect with our judicial needs include:

- ✓ Services to foster youth, including those aging out of the system, and child welfare involved families may encompass a wide array of financial, educational, child development, or health supports, or other supports necessary, including supports for kinship care.
- ✓ Technology infrastructure resources to improve access to government information systems, including upgrades to hardware and software.
- ✓ Broadband internet access in all judicial facilities, that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds where practicable.
- ✓ Hiring additional court staff or attorneys to increase speed of case resolution, and other expenses to expedite case resolution.
- ✓ Premium pay for essential workers, which includes court employees, who were working in person to compensate them for their service during the pandemic. Such pay can also be made retroactive.
- ✓ Legal aid such as legal services or attorney's fees related to maintaining housing stability, court-based eviction prevention or eviction diversion programs, and other legal services that help households obtain housing.

As you can see, the federal requirements for the eligible use of ARPA funds appear to be much broader than what the state has limited our requests to. Our circuit is committed to efficiently disposing of the record number of cases in Dawson County Superior Court and, with access to county ARPA funds in conjunction with our state ARPA funds, we can continue to provide meaningful access to justice for the citizens of our circuit.

Therefore, we respectfully request to partner with the county to identify continuing expenditures appropriate for ARPA funding consideration. Our state ARPA Funding Committee has asked that we provide them with any details from you on our access to funds. The favor of a reply is requested by September 21, 2022.

Respectfully,



Kathlene F. Gosselin,
Chief Superior Court Judge
Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Cc: Judge Anthony Tarnacki, Magistrate Court
Judge Lindsay Burton, Juvenile Court
Judge Jennifer Burt, Probate Court
Justin Power, Clerk of Court
Lee Darragh, District Attorney
Brad Morris, Circuit Public Defender
Jason Stephenson, Court Administrator

Hall County Courts

2023 Judiciary ARPA Grant Request – Project Timeline

April 10, 2023

S&L Integrated is pleased to present a proposal for the Hall County Courts to apply for the 2023 Judiciary ARPA Grant. In addition to the complete design and cost proposal, below is a Project Timeline to comply with the ARPA grant requirements.

Proposed Timeline (subject to Courtroom Availability):

- May 18 – May 26, 2023 – Receipt of Purchase Order from County or Circuit with Notice to Proceed
- May 19 – May 30, 2023 – Projects converted internally with S&L and POs begin to be submitted to Vendors.
- June 1 – S&L begins receiving ordered materials (based on availability) to shop-build racks for Programming and Equipment Testing.
- July 1 – December 22, 2023 – AV Equipment and Systems scheduling, and installations begin in each Courtroom (based on product availability). Work includes physical installation, Commissioning, Testing and Customer training.

The Project timeline assumes the following:

- Grant Application award letters and Purchase Orders are issued NO LATER THAN May 26, 2023.
- All required infrastructure (NOT provided in the proposal - Power, Data, etc.) is in place and working prior to the installation of any Audio-Visual equipment or systems.
- Courts provide reasonable scheduling access to the Courtrooms for a period of one (1) full week (PER COURTROOM).
- If possible, multiple Courtrooms (not to exceed two (2) per week) could be installed concurrently.
- As needed, Courts will provide consecutive weeks for installation of multiple rooms.
- Courts provide unrestricted access to the Courtrooms, AV/Communications closets, and all cable pathways for the duration of the proposed installation schedule so as not to impede installation progress.
- Normal work hours are 8:00AM – 5:00PM, Monday – Friday (excluding Federal Holidays).
- Extended work hours may be requested to meet the project timeline.
- Based on product availability, we request/reserve the right to substitute similar parts to meet the Project timeline.
- Any part or component that is substituted will have the same (or greater) functionality as the original.
- Any/all substitutions will be documented for the Grant reimbursement.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Stan Mobley
S&L Integrated Systems
229-378-4700