



OKLAHOMA

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT



ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Project Full Summary

This document is to be submitted to the Joint Committee on Pandemic Relief Funding once a project has been approved by a working group for funding consideration.

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Resources

Interim Final Rule ([link](#))

Frequently Asked Questions ([link](#))

Compliance and Reporting Guidance ([link](#))

Project Overview

Project Name: Oklahoma Children's Hospital Emergency Department Renovation and Expansion

Organization Name: University Hospitals Authority

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Project Cost: \$7,500,000

Project Cost Breakdown: The entire requested amount is for one-time construction costs associated with building out an extension of the existing Emergency Department. This extension will be focused on better meeting the needs of pediatric behavioral health patients. Approximately \$4.15 million of the cost is associated with the buildout of the emergency department and main admitting spaces. Approximately \$500K is associated with the buildout of the vehicle sally port. Approximately \$500K is associated with the architectural and engineering fees. Approximately \$250K is associated with sensory equipment and technologies designed to assist in stabilization of patients. The remaining cost is associated with furniture, fixtures, equipment, and project contingencies.

Project Timeline:

The design phase of this project is scheduled to be complete in February 2022. Construction is not moving forward due to financial pressures on the hospital system unless ARPA or other external funds are committed. Construction can start as early as March 2022 if funding is identified. It is estimated the project will take twelve months to complete, so it could be finished as early as March 2023.

Approximately how many Oklahomans will benefit from this project?

The Emergency Department normally averages five patients a day in need of a specialized unit. That means this particular unit will benefit approximately 1,825 patients a year with our current volume. However, we expect volumes to increase dramatically once other providers begin to refer patients to this one-of-a-kind unit in Oklahoma. Maximum capacity will be approximately 3,650 behavioral health patients per year. The same size unit would normally accommodate over 9,000 standard, non-behavioral health related cases in that time period. In addition to the patients who will directly utilize these new rooms, the new space and design will improve the safety, security, and overall experience of all patients and staff.

Project Description to include impact of COVID-19, intended impact of project, and general description of services.

Historically, at least 20% of children and adolescents need mental health care and over 50% of those in need of care have not received it. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for children aged 10-19 and Oklahoma is in the Top 10 for youth suicide nationally. These statistics were worsening prior to the COVID-19 pandemic but have seen exponential growth during the pandemic. Suicidal teens are now seen every shift at Oklahoma Children's Hospital. This is a dramatic increase from prior to the pandemic. Based on available chart information, the number of children at Oklahoma Children's Hospital who are in need of behavioral health care saw an increase of 31% by October 2020 from the prior year. By May of 2021, that number had doubled.

The current Emergency Department is not equipped to properly care for this patient population due to ligature and general safety risks posed by typical room layout, including equipment, furnishings and fixtures. The new space would include additional amenities necessary for behavioral health patients such as a sensory play room, a shower for those who may have increased hold times, private interview and consultation space outside of patient rooms, and patient belonging storage to promote a safe environment.

Project scope: Expand current Emergency Department into adjacent space to add bed space that is more appropriate for pediatric patients with Behavioral Health concerns. Estimated increase of space is approximately 6,400 square feet and will equate to an additional 10 bed spaces, taking the total number of beds in the Emergency Department to 34. Project will require build out and relocation of Main Admitting space.

What are the performance indicators (inputs, outputs, and outcomes) that this project will track to capture impact?

Number of patients served,
Number of patients arriving via law enforcement or EMSA,
Average length of stay,
Percentage discharge to the community,
Repeat Emergency Department visits,
Total cost of care for crisis episode,
Patient and family service satisfaction,
Project construction timeline met,
Project construction budget met,
Number of beds (capacity) added to the emergency department

How will the performance indicators be measured?

Most of the performance indicators and additional medical statistics will be generated by the electronic health records system at OU Health and will be reported annually to the OU Health board and University Hospitals Authority board and will be made available to the legislature and governor. Indicators such as project construction timeline and budget will be maintained in a project management tool and the OU Health accounting system. These metrics will be monitored by management throughout the project and reported to the legislature and governor when requested.

What is the potential return on investment for this project?

The return on this investment is measured in the improvement of the lives of our patients and their families as well as the long-term health and safety of all Oklahomans. Early successful treatment for complex behavioral health issues will profoundly improve the chances of these children becoming happy, successful adults. It will reduce costs at our partner agencies, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (Medicaid), Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Office of Juvenile Affairs and others. It provides important training opportunities for over 900 medical residents who may rotate through the Emergency Department as part of their training. The campus is also the largest developer of nursing workforce in the state with over 800 students annually. Additionally, a new psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program (PMHNP) is being developed and will accept its first cohort of students beginning in the Fall of 2022. Eventually, 50 PMHNP graduates a year will receive exposure to this unit before going into practice across the state and region.

Occasionally, the current Oklahoma Children's Hospital is on divert status because behavioral health patients are on hold in the ED awaiting placement. Because Oklahoma Children's Hospital is the only provider of multiple service lines including pediatric trauma, this sometimes causes patients to be diverted to Dallas or Houston, over 5 hours away. This project will alleviate those pressures.

This is the first important step in developing a world class pediatric behavioral health system in Oklahoma and has the benefit that it will not require continued support to sustain operations of the Emergency Department.

Other funding identified by applicant?

This project is part of a \$115 million project of which there are several contributors: the University Hospitals Authority, University Hospitals Trust, OU Health, a major philanthropic campaign and ARPA funds. ARPA funding for the overall project is requested to total 49% of the project cost with the remainder coming from other funding sources. The Emergency Department portion of the project is requested to be funded entirely through ARPA because of the emergency nature of the request and possibility to begin bidding for construction contractors immediately after receiving funding. That process takes approximately 60 days, meaning construction could start in March 2022 if the project is approved in December.