

Reno County ARPA Task Force Recommendations

Residents recognize childcare as a top priority and wish to see resources allocated to it, so the ARPA Task Force recommends that Reno County and the City of Hutchinson make a bold statement that Hutchinson and Reno County are family-friendly and committed to supporting and growing a thriving workforce today and tomorrow. We ask that you commit substantially all or a significant portion of ARPA funds to addressing the local childcare system and partner with the K-Ready Reno County Coalition to determine the most strategic, equitable, and sustainable investments for long-term impact.

In addition to the ARPA funds allocated directly to cities and counties, more ARPA funds will be passed down through state and federal programs. As Reno County and the City of Hutchinson budget for future years and as they consider applications for state and federal funding, whether through ARPA or otherwise, the Task Force also strongly encourages local policymakers to recognize the other top priorities identified by Reno County residents and invite proposals for investment or other support from the collaborative groups already working on these issues.

- **Strengthening workforce development programs**
Greater Hutch Economic Development Partnership, Hutchinson Community College, USD 308 Career & Technical Education Academy, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hutchinson
- **Developing more affordable housing**
Hutchinson Housing Commission
- **Expanding mental health resources**
Mental Health Community Coalition
- **Supporting local and small businesses**
Greater Hutch Economic Development Partnership, Visit Hutch Tourism Coalition, StartUp Hutch, Reno County Entrepreneur Ecosystems Partnership
- **Expanding access to health care**
Reno County Health Department, Health Care Access Task Force
- **Developing recreational opportunities**
Hutch Rec, Hutchinson Parks & Recreation Department, Vitality Team of Reno County

*See additional information on these priorities on the next page.

PRIORITY: CHILDCARE

WHO IS WORKING ON IT:

K-Ready Reno County Coalition

WHAT IS BEING DONE:

The K-Ready Reno County Coalition oversees the Early Childhood Block Grant, Hey Little Hutch, Reno County Child Care Coalition, and Child Care Systems Team, including an effort underway to conduct a child care market study in spring 2022 to collect the information needed in order to determine what kind of interventions in the childcare system are feasible.

K-Ready's core purpose is to empower parents, improve communication with parents about resources, and educate the public on the value of early education in service of the vision that, by 2030, Reno County will be a place where the prosperity of the county is driven by the well-being of our youngest generation.

WHOM TO CONTACT: Denice Gilliland-Burbank, United Way of Reno County community impact coordinator, 620-669-9329, dgilliland@unitedwayofrenocounty.org

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Other Reno County Resident Priorities

PRIORITY: Strengthening workforce development programs

WHO IS WORKING ON IT: Greater Hutch Economic Partnership, Hutchinson Community College, USD 308 Career & Technical Education Academy, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hutchinson

WHAT IS BEING DONE: Key initiatives include the Intern Hutch program, Career & Technical Education Signing Day, Career Quest (career exploration pilot program to educate area sixth-grade students on future career opportunities with Reno County businesses), the Future Apprenticeship Success Training program, Backstage Pass, and the Epic Skillz program.

WHOM TO CONTACT: Lacie Janzen, Hutch Chamber, 620-662-3391, laciej@hutchchamber.com

PRIORITY: Developing more affordable housing

WHO IS WORKING ON IT: Hutchinson Housing Commission, Hutchinson Land Bank, Interfaith Housing & Community Services, New Beginnings, Inc., Hutch Rec Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative

WHAT IS BEING DONE: Improving the quality and quantity of housing options in Hutchinson and Reno County.

WHOM TO CONTACT: Ryan Hvitløk, City of Hutchinson, 620-259-4133, ryan.hvitlok@hutchgov.com; Adam Stewart, Hutch Rec Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative, 620-663-6179, astewart@hutchrec.com

PRIORITY: Expanding mental health resources

WHO IS WORKING ON IT: Mental Health Community Coalition

WHAT IS BEING DONE: Increasing awareness, support and engagement around mental health initiatives and resources in Reno County.

WHOM TO CONTACT: Beth Akins, Horizons Mental Health Center, 620-663-7595, akinsm@hmhc.com; Lisa Gleason, United Way of Reno County, 620-669-9329, lgleason@unitedwayofrenocounty.org

PRIORITY: Supporting local and small businesses

WHO IS WORKING ON IT: Greater Hutch Economic Development Partnership, Visit Hutch Tourism Coalition, StartUp Hutch, Reno County Entrepreneur Ecosystems Partnership

WHAT IS BEING DONE: Providing economic development resources, such as economic development incentives, job creation grants, and targeted economic development programs at the local and state level for small businesses and new business attraction. Providing entrepreneurship resources, including gap financing, connection events, resource sharing, coaching, succession planning, and educational workshops.

WHOM TO CONTACT: Debra Teufel, Hutch Chamber, 620-662-3391, debrat@hutchchamber.com; Jackson Swearer, StartUp Hutch, 620-665-3319, jackson@startuphutch.com

PRIORITY: Expanding access to health care

WHO IS WORKING ON IT: Reno County Health Department, Health Care Access Task Force

WHAT IS BEING DONE: Assessing health care options and public health topics to build pathways to a healthier community.

WHOM TO CONTACT: Karla Nichols, Reno County Health Department, 620-694-2900, karla.nichols@renogov.org; Megan Hammersmith, Reno County Health Department, 620-259-8402, megan.hammersmith@renogov.org

PRIORITY: Developing recreational activities

WHO IS WORKING ON IT: Hutch Rec, Hutchinson Parks & Facilities Department, Vitality Team of Reno County

WHAT IS BEING DONE: Improving existing parks and outdoor spaces; continued advocacy and work on the walkability/bikability access to parks, trails, and services; continual provision of recreation services and activities, as well as quality of life experiences and events that attract our own community's residents, future residents, and visitors.

WHOM TO CONTACT: Tony Finlay, Hutch Rec, (620) 663-6179, tfinlay@hutchrec.com; Justin Combs, City of Hutchinson, 620-694-1912, justin.combs@hutchgov.com