Urging Cities to Invest in Data and Evidence-Based Decision Making

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan includes $350 billion for local, state, and tribal governments and offers a historic opportunity for local, state, and tribal governments to invest in pandemic recovery efforts that will accelerate long-term economic mobility, close racial gaps and improve the way all levels of government make decisions over time; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has signaled that it wants state and local governments to use all the tools available to make better decisions and maximize the impact from their $350 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Government Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF); and

WHEREAS, the Administration has provided significant flexibility, as well as the guidance and tools necessary to invest in what works through ground-breaking executive orders, memorandum, interim guidance on fiscal recovery fund use, as well as compliance and reporting guidance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Treasury Department issued its Interim ARP Guidance for State and Local Government Fiscal Recovery Funds which specifically authorized local, state, and tribal governments to invest the $350 billion SLFRF to build and strengthen their data and evidence infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, the Interim ARP Guidance defines evidence of effectiveness for the first time in a federal recovery package and encourages local, state, and tribal governments to invest their $350 billion in ARP funds in evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Guidance also requires these governments to track outcomes on key programmatic investments that will advance economic mobility (a person's income) and equity, such as evidence-based tutoring programs, sectoral job training programs, home visiting programs; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based, results-driven guidance will support and incentivize local, state, and tribal governments to improve the impact of their investment of $350 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, while also improving their long-term decision making capacity,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors encourages cities to utilize ARP dollars to invest in building and strengthening their data and evidence infrastructures to help both quickly advance pandemic recovery efforts and invest in the future resilience of their cities to help them better address structural inequities, increase economic mobility, and solve their biggest, intractable challenges.

View the proposed resolutions on the USCM website and in the USCM app (Resolution #73)