

\*Staff have to accompany many students to the restrooms, and our restrooms are small. They need to be remodeled to allow ample social distancing for staff and students together.

**PTI American Rescue Plan Act Request  
Summary**

**Paths to Independence is requesting funds from American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the following items to reduce the spread of COVID and to minimize its effects.**

**\*\$1,015,200 to provide a community safe space for protection and social distancing for staff, students, and community members during emergencies while minimizing the spread of illness.**

**\*\$140,000 to replace outdated HVAC systems and \$43,852 to add air filtration equipment to prevent the spread of COVID and other illnesses.**

**\*\$76,400 for one-time teacher premium pay for June 1, 2020 through December 1, 2021 to retain valued employees now experienced in the prevention and spread of COVID and other illnesses.**

**\*\$12,000 to update restrooms and \$10,000 to replace water fountains to slow the spread of COVID and other illnesses.**

**Total: \$1,297,452**

*Verify that the eligible worker performs "essential work," meaning work that: • Is not performed while teleworking from a residence; and • Involves either: a. regular, in-person interactions with patients, the public, or coworkers of the individual that is performing the work; or b. regular physical handling of items that were handled by, or are to be handled by, patients, the public, or coworkers of the individual that is performing the work.*

*Premium pay may be awarded in installments or lump sums (e.g., monthly, quarterly, etc.) and may be awarded to hourly, part-time, or salaried or non-hourly workers.*

**Request #3**

**\$76,400 for one-time teacher premium pay for June 1, 2020 through December 1, 2021 to retain valued employees now experienced in the prevention and spread of COVID and other illnesses.**

**Description:**

Our staff members were on the front lines of the battle against COVID-19 in our community. In spite of daily obstacles, they continue to provide an education for students who can be challenging in the best of times. At risk to their own health, these workers, who are essential to our operations, were dedicated to teaching students when they were able to attend school in person. Some of the obstacles they face include:

- \*Constant updating of materials, schedules, and lesson plans in times of shutdowns, quarantined students, and quarantined staff.
- \*Adapting technology to provide virtual lessons for students able to access them.
- \*Cancellation of field trips when our vans did not provide enough space for social distancing.
- \*Needing to go outside for more breaks during COVID, but not having updated playground equipment to fully accommodate socially distancing students.
- \*Lack of storm shelters that could fit all the students and allow social distancing.
- \*Counseling families who were dealing with loss of income and child care during lockdowns and quarantines.
- \*Working to prevent students from backtracking in their progress.

In order to reward teachers for their extra dedication and to help assure that we may retain valued, trained staff, who are now experienced in handling COVID-19 challenges in effective and safe ways, we would like to give them one-time premium pay for June 1, 2020 through December 1, 2021.

**2022 Grant Request from Paths to Independence  
Requesting funds from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds  
For COVID-Related Needs**

Request 2 of 4

**Request #2**

**\$140,000 to replace outdated HVAC systems and \$43,852 to add air filtration equipment to prevent the spread of COVID and other illnesses.**

**Related ARPA regulations:**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59bba641cd39c38913f702a0/t/618c354803d3085a3c651831/1636578633617/SLFRPFAO.pdf>

*A broad range of services are needed to contain COVID-19 and are eligible uses, including ..... support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities and other key settings like schools; ventilation improvements in congregate settings, health care settings, or other key locations;.....*

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-Overview.pdf>

*The pandemic has broadly impacted Americans and recipients can provide services to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 to the general public or to small businesses, nonprofits, and impacted industries in general. Enumerated eligible uses include: Ventilation system installation and improvement...*

**Request #2**

**\$140,000 to replace outdated HVAC systems and \$43,852 to add air filtration equipment to prevent the spread of COVID and other illnesses.**

**Description**

Many of PTI's students have been negatively impacted by the COVID shut-downs. Seventy percent of PTI's parents reported a loss in their child's academic progress due to the COVID shut-downs and lack of in-person instruction, 78% identified a negative impact on social development, 74% on emotional development, and 67% on mental health.

**For our population, in-person learning is essential for making educational progress.** We are committed to keeping students in in-person learning throughout the school year. PTI is working to make our environment safe for students and staff by improving our air quality. We believe changes to our environment will help us keep students and staff healthy.

Our current building, which PTI began renting from the Bartlesville Public Schools in 2017 and purchased in 2019, was constructed between 1955 and 1963. It is in desperate need of updates, including updates to the HVAC systems, which are in almost constant need of repair just to keep them operational. Replacing the systems and installing air filtration equipment will result in

**2022 Grant Request from Paths to Independence  
Requesting funds from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds  
For COVID-Related Needs**

## **Grant Request**

Paths to Independence is requesting a grant from American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the following items to reduce the spread of COVID and to minimize its effects. Our requests meet the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act as we understand it and have noted below.

### **Request 1 of 4**

#### **Request #1**

**\$1,015,200 to provide a community safe space for protection and social distancing for staff, students, and community members during emergencies while minimizing the spread of illness.**

#### **Related ARPA regulations:**

**<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59bba641cd39c38913f702a0/t/618c354803d3085a3c651831/1636578633617/SLFRPFAO.pdf>**

*A broad range of services are needed to contain COVID-19 and are eligible uses, including ... support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities (e.g., nursing homes, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, group living facilities) and other key settings like schools;...*

*Assistance to small business and non-profits includes, but is not limited to: loans, grants, or in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, such as physical plant changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, ....*

**<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-Overview.pdf>**  
*Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule  
Department of the Treasury*

*In addition to programs and services, the final rule clarifies that recipients can use funds for capital expenditures that support an eligible COVID-19 public health or economic response. For example, recipients may build certain affordable housing, childcare facilities, schools, hospitals, and other projects consistent with final rule requirements....*

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**2022 Grant Request**  
**From the Paths to Independence School and Adult Program**  
**Requesting funds from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds**  
**For COVID-Related Needs**

**Paths to Independence Overview**

PTI opened in 2012 with the mission of providing high quality support and educational services to children and adults with autism spectrum disorders and their families. Services include an accredited Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade school, summer enrichment, pre-employment training, job and volunteer placement, and a variety of therapies. In the fall of 2018, PTI opened an in-school Job Center to offer students the opportunity to learn a variety of job skills. Some students are working on basic self-care skills, while others may enroll part time in Tri County Tech or online college classes.

Paths to Independence is the only accredited Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade school in Oklahoma that accepts students with autism at all levels of functioning. PTI exposes students and young adults to success through frequent community activities, and introduces members of the community to people with autism. We have enjoyed a remarkable level of community support.

We have served students and families from five northeastern Oklahoma counties, and several families have moved to Bartlesville to take advantage of our unique services unavailable elsewhere in the area.