

# INVEST IN UTAH

January 2023



CAP Utah supports nine Community Action Agencies across the state who combat the causes and conditions of poverty. We encourage our leaders to be strategic about investments from the budget surplus and ARP funds and use them to support rural Utahns.

## ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Highway and rail infrastructure projects that increase logistical capacity of rural manufacturers
- Infrastructure to develop geothermal and renewal energy sources
- Infrastructure for growing rural economies - including business expansion, recruitment, and community development
- Funds and incentives for the development of affordable and obtainable housing
- Expanding funding to fill "Last-mile broadband" gaps, connecting residents in remote communities to home education, home employment, and home healthcare opportunities.

## IF TAXES ARE CUT WE ASK YOU TARGET THE MOST VULNERABLE

- **Food Sales Tax**  
Impacts disadvantaged Utahns who pay a higher percentage of their income towards this tax.
- **Support for Food Pantries**  
Inflation has been challenging for families and food pantry providers. Our network saw a 38% increase in services from 2021 to 2022. Pantries are serving more families as resources tighten.

## RURAL HOMELESS AND HOUSING NEEDS ARE DIFFERENT

- Many lack emergency shelters
- Limited public transportation
- Often hidden sleeping in cars
- Less outreach and services

## Flexible Funding

The complexities of federal funding make it impractical for the needs of smaller communities. State funding can cover costs not needed in urban communities but essential to their rural counterparts like:

- internet connections
- car repairs or gas assistance
- mailing addresses for ID
- increased capacity for agencies and case managers covering large areas

## Please Prioritize

From the Governor's budget:

One time

\$100 Million Deeply Affordable housing

On-going

\$5 Million Housing Stabilization Grants

\$4.6 Million for Emergency Shelters