



**The City of Stonecrest allocates a total of \$1.2 Million to 12 DeKalb County Schools  
within the city limits to provide wraparound services and essential items**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 1, 2023

**Stonecrest, Georgia** - The City of Stonecrest is taking a bold step to address the critical needs of local schools and students by leveraging funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"). This groundbreaking legislation, signed into law on March 11, 2021, established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ("SLFRF") program, designed to support communities grappling with the pandemic's aftermath.

Recognizing the profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, the City of Stonecrest will provide a total of one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000.00) to twelve DeKalb County School District schools within the Stonecrest city limits as emphasized above. These funds will be utilized to provide wraparound services and offer essential items with the aim of addressing poverty, homelessness, and mental health and wellness challenges faced by students.

"Caring for our community's future is a shared responsibility, and through the American Rescue Plan Act, we are taking decisive steps to ensure that our students have the support and resources they need to thrive. Every child's well-being is our priority, and together, we will create a brighter tomorrow." - Jazzmin Cobble, Mayor of the City of Stonecrest

In collaboration with DeKalb County School District, services will be provided to a total of twelve schools located within the City of Stonecrest. The attached "Attachment 1" details the wraparound services and the option to purchase specific items aimed at helping the students in need. These initiatives include creating Zen Den/Mindfulness Rooms for students and providing essential items like clear book bags, composition notebooks, pens, hygiene products (such as underwear and deodorant), and more to address the needs of high-poverty schools within the City.

To ensure accountability and transparency, the Recipient will diligently manage the funds, adhering to generally accepted accounting principles. Any funds not utilized for the specified purposes will be returned to the City. ARPA funds must be expended in accordance with the program guidelines and regulations, with obligations made by December 31, 2024, and expenditures completed by December 31, 2026.

Furthermore, the Recipient will provide regular reports and documentation to the City for monitoring and auditing purposes, ensuring the responsible allocation of funds and compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The City of Stonecrest is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of accountability and responsibility in the management of ARPA funds. Both parties have affirmed their commitment to the terms and conditions outlined in the agreement, making this a legally binding and enforceable commitment to support the well-being of students in the community.

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**City of Stonecrest Website:** <https://stonecrestga.gov/>

## ATTACHMENT 1

### WRAPAROUND SERVICES & OPTION TO PURCHASE

Recipient shall use a portion of the funds provided by the City of Stonecrest via the American Rescue Plan Act to provide the following wraparound services to the twelve (12) schools located within City of Stonecrest limits as follows:

1. Zen Den/Mindfulness Room – for students with manipulatives

Recipient shall also provide a portion of the funds provided by the City of Stonecrest via the American Rescue Act to schools located within City of Stonecrest limits qualified as a “High Poverty” school<sup>1</sup>, the option to purchase the following items for its students:

1. Clear book bags
2. Composition notebooks
3. Pens and pencils
4. Highlighters
5. Glue sticks
6. Pocket folders
7. Student organizers/agendas
8. 2” binders
9. Deodorant
10. Girls’ underwear in various sizes

For high schools with a Student and Family Engagement Center (“SAFE”) within City of Stonecrest limits, the items listed above will be free of charge and made available for students at the SAFE center. SAFE centers provide academic, social & emotional support and wraparound services for the students.

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<sup>1</sup> To claim under these expenditure categories the school must be a high poverty school, or the service must be directed to children from low-income households. The services listed in the agreement do not seem to be focused on students from low-income households, so the services, as described, are only eligible if the school is a high poverty school. There are three ways to identify a school as high poverty:

· School is a Title I school

· School is in a QCT

· 75% or more of the students are eligible for free and reduced lunch Low-poverty schools are defined as public schools where 25.0 percent or less of the students are eligible for FRPL. Mid-low poverty schools are those where 25.1 to 50.0 percent of the students are eligible for FRPL. Mid-high poverty schools are those where 50.1 to 75.0 percent of the students are eligible for FRPL. High-poverty schools are those where more than 75.0 percent of the students are eligible for FRPL." (U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics) <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=898#:~:text=In%20the%20United%20States%2C1,concentration%20of%20low%20income%20students>