

County of Atlantic
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

July 31, 2024

County of Atlantic
2021 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic created challenges for all, but within Atlantic County government the major challenges related to public health, citizen assistance and fiscal stability. Atlantic County was positioned well due to many years of controlled spending, budget restraint and financial rigor to meet the needs of required services.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), also called the COVID-19 Stimulus Package or State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), provided \$350 billion to state and local governments for fiscal recovery. The funds were distributed based on a formula that considers the state share of the nation's unemployment. Atlantic County's unemployment rate in June of 2020 was 34.4%. While it has dropped to 12.5% it is still a high number. Atlantic County is scheduled to receive \$51.2 million in SLFRF funds. The County received its first installment of \$25,607,403 in May 2021. The second installment is scheduled for May 2022. Funds must be incurred and obligated by December 31, 2024 and liquidated by December 31, 2026.

The SLFRF provides funding for projects where otherwise county tax dollars would be expended. While this planning document provides projects within the scope of the SLFRF, over-all each one assists in controlling taxes.

Atlantic County received direct funding from the federal government, however in NJ even this direct funding requires state oversight based on the methodology the state has enacted. While an award was provided for assistance, prior to adding these funds into the budget, the State of New Jersey approval by line item is required. Atlantic County is not opposed to this method; but requires us to keep in mind that planned projects may not receive State approval and therefore, may not move forward.

As stated, the first goal of the County with the SLFRF funds is to provide tax stability to all taxpayers. A component of the federal law authorized the use of funds for revenue replacement starting in 2021. Based on the formula provided, the County was able to include \$2,969,213.40 related to lost revenue in its 2021 budget. Another authorized use is COVID expenses. Based on the amount of expenses planned in the 2021 budget that was originally being funded with tax dollars, we offset those expenses with a grant for \$1,391,312. With the above reference funding from SLFRF the County was able to hold its tax rate at 2020 levels.

The County has met with its Department Heads for input. In addition, the County's staff budget committee will initiate 2022 budget meetings in September 2021. A full planning effort on the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds will ensue at that time.

The 2022 budget was adopted April 19, 2022. The budget included \$5,703,599.63 in loss revenues related to the pandemic. This amount is the result of a formula provided by the State of NJ Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services which must approve County budgets.

The 2023 budget included \$3,594,152.62 in loss revenues related to the pandemic. This amount is the result of a formula provided by the State of NJ Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services which must approve County budgets.

The 2024 budget included \$3,844,152.62 in loss revenues related to the pandemic. This amount is the result of a formula provided by the State of NJ Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services which must approve County budgets.

Uses of Funds

The federal government issued its Final Rule on the American Rescue Plan in January 2022 with an effective date of April 1, 2022. The County had waited on the Final Rule before finalizing on all decisions on use of funds.

The SLFRF guidelines or Interim Final Rule provided categories for funding that fall within the broad categories. The 2022 Final Rule confirmed those categories and provided local governments with increased flexibility to pursue a wider range of uses, as well as greater simplicity on use. The original categories outlined for use by Atlantic County were:

1. Public Health
2. Infrastructure
3. Revenue Replacement

Upon adoption of the Final Rule the County also pursued the use of funds for premium pay to employees. Requirements to obtain premium pay are employee must be a current county employee that worked on site during the initial start of the pandemic until guidance was issued by CDC and the State of NJ.

Funding categories covered by previous and on-going other federal and state dollars such as Emergency Rental Assistance, Housing Assistance, and Food Programs fall under

1. Negative Economic Impacts
2. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
3. Public Health

The pandemic impacted many small businesses in the County; through other funding sources totaling between \$17M and \$20M dollars small business can receive direct aid and individuals can receive rental assistance. The County has partnered with the Atlantic County Improvement Authority to address these needs.

Atlantic County Department of Family and Community Development has been working to address those individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through their loss of job by accepting and distributing federal and state dollars through the supplemental nutrition program (SNAP), and general assistance programs.

Atlantic County used CARES funding to handle testing clinics. Should the need arise again SLFRF funds can be used to cover these costs under the category Public Health, in the future.

Investment in stormwater and clean water projects is an ongoing effort in government. These projects are authorized under the SLFRF. The County’s plan includes the use of these funds for three projects listed in the Use of Funds section of this report. It is important to keep in mind that projects under this category can also be an economic stimulus as clean water projects provide benefits including clean water, quality of life and stronger local economies.

Another key area is improving the ventilations systems within our public buildings. These improvements fall under the SLFRF Covid-19 mitigation and prevention area. The spread of COVID-19 is airborne so improvements in this area are a high priority.

However, the County’s number one priority is again to assist all citizens still impacted from the pandemic and our higher than national unemployment rate of 5.8%. The County will continue to use SLFRF funds to cover lost budget revenues in combination with using the revenue to fund projects in approved categories that would otherwise require County funds to maintain a stable tax rate.

Below is a chart outlining potential use of the SLFRF over a four-year period. This information is provided based on current discussions. It is subject to change as those discussions continue and other projects may take precedent.

Table 1 – Proposed Budget

American Rescue Funds					
<i>BUDGET</i>					
		Balance			
Total allocation	\$ 51,214,806.00	35,543,969.05	\$ 25,055,579.43	\$ 13,754,510.09	\$ -
1st transfer May 15 2021	\$ 25,607,403.00				
2nd transfer 2022 July 2022	\$ 25,607,403.00				
		2021	2022	2023	2024
Use of funds		15,670,836.95	\$ 10,488,389.62	\$ 11,301,069.34	\$ 13,754,510.09
Revenue Shortfall		2,969,213.40	\$ 5,703,599.62	\$ 3,594,152.62	\$ 3,844,152.62
Grant		1,391,312.00	\$ 4,739,268.00	\$ -	
HVAC COB		4,391,000.00		\$ 2,192,079.17	
HVAC Govt center ML		2,032,450.00			
Meadowview Kitchen HVAC		792,864.00	45,122.00	(53,755.00)	
Shoreview parking lot - repair of sink hole		293,997.55		\$ (141,407.45)	
Landfill Cap/Pleasantville Pump Station		3,800,000.00		900,000.00	2,300,000.00
bond ordinance			\$ 400.00		
Galloway Library Complex Drainage				1,000,000.00	
Engineering DIP				2,000,000.00	
ionization harding highway				60,000.00	
Stormwater Equipment					504,314.55
COB Air Handlers					2,000,000.00
EHT Library HVAC				1,750,000.00	
ML Library HVAC and Emergency Generator					2,284,442.92
Jail HVAC and chiller					2,821,600.00

Project Inventory

Public Health

2021

Project 1 – Direct COVID expenses originally in the 2021 tax supported budget and moved to SLFRF grant line item: Sanitizing county buildings on routine basis and upon COVID positive case; out of state prisoner transport; office space; nursing services; and PPE.

Cost \$1,391,312

Project 2 – HVAC Upgrade to Meadowview Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center Resident Dining Hall and Kitchen, Dolphin Avenue, Northfield NJ

Cost \$784,231 - Complete

This project includes complete replacement and upgrade of the associated air handling equipment, filtration, ductwork distribution, diffusers, registers, controls and testing & balancing, and has been designed to meet or exceed the criteria indicated as follows:

1. HVAC System Upgrade will include verification of proper operation for new air handling equipment and associated distribution.
2. New air handling equipment has capabilities to increase outdoor airflow percentage up to 100% through economizer operation when outdoor air conditions permit. Minimum outdoor airflow

exceeds the Minimum Outdoor Air Changes per Hour (ACH) required by ASHRAE Standard 170 – 2017 Ventilation Requirements for related Nursing Facility spaces.

3. Supply airflow of new air handling equipment far exceeds the Minimum Total Air Changes per Hour (ACH) required by ASHRAE Standard 170 – 2017 Ventilation Requirements for related Nursing Facility spaces.
4. Demand Control Ventilation not included or required as part of new air handling equipment controls.
5. New air handling equipment includes MERV-13 filtration which is recommended for effective capture of 0.3 - 1.0 micro size particles including respiratory droplet nuclei due to sneezing, coughing and talking.
6. New air handling equipment is dedicated for the individual space served and includes proper supply and exhaust airflow rates to maintain pressure differential relationship between adjacent spaces.
7. Toilets within the spaces served by new air handling equipment are provided with a new exhaust system with total exhaust airflow which far exceeds the Minimum Total Air Changes per Hour (ACH) required by ASHRAE Standard 170 – 2017 Ventilation Requirements for related Nursing Facility spaces.
8. New air handling equipment includes Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization (NPBI) to reduce airborne pathogens and provide cleaner air.

Project 3 – HVAC Improvements at the Government Center, Mays Landing Complex, Main Street, Mays Landing

Cost \$2,032,450 - Complete

The project includes all Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) work and incidental electrical construction. Work includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Removal of (2) existing rooftop air handling units currently serving the 1st and 2nd floor court rooms and surrounding areas. All associated variable air volume (VAV) boxes, supply and return ductwork shall be removed as indicated on the drawings. Rooftop units' existing chilled water supply and return piping shall be removed back to the main in the basement. Roofing surrounding the units shall be removed and replaced as well. Electrical supply to existing VAV and rooftop units shall be removed back to point of origin and labeled as spare. Removed units' controls shall be demolished and removed.
2. Installation of (2) new rooftop packaged ERV (energy recovery ventilator) units shall be installed at same location of previously removed rooftop units and coordinated with existing structure. Existing roofing and structure shall be modified as required to accommodate the installation of the new units. New electrical feeds, controls, supply, and exhaust ductwork shall be provided for new units. ERV units to provide 100% fresh air and exhaust to spaces with "neutral" air temperature and humidity. Work includes new unit controllers shall be integrated into existing facility's control system.
3. New fresh air supply and exhaust ductwork connected to new ERV units shall be installed and connected to ceiling and wall mounted grilles and properly balanced.
4. New 4-pipe blower coil units and fan coil units shall be installed. New blower coil and fan coil units shall be provided all necessary control valves, wall mounted thermostat/temp sensor and control equipment, etc., required for a complete installation. All new fan coil and blower coil units' chilled

water, hot water and condensate piping shall be routed and insulated. Existing chilled water and hot water pumping systems remain and shall be rebalanced for new flows as required.

5. New vertical hideaway fan coil units shall be installed at Court 2 along with new walls and soffits to conceal the units, ductwork, and piping. All finished walls and ceilings shall be patched and finished to match existing.

6. Existing ventilation ductwork connected to existing fresh air units shall be removed and replaced. Clean and sanitize any ductwork shown to remain within existing walls. Connect all new duct to existing ductwork with airtight connections.

7. Replace existing roof mounted and ceiling exhaust fans.

8. Work shall include the installation of new chilled water, hot water and condensate piping.

**Project 4 - HVAC Replacement at the Atlantic County Office Building, 1333 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City
Cost \$6,583,079.17**

This project consists of the following:

1. Measure, record, and report on the existing heating hot water flow rates.
2. Demolition of two (2) boilers, two (2) heating hot water pumps, approximately 125 VAV boxes, and all related piping, valves, controls, wiring etc.
3. Provision of six (6) new gas fired hot water boilers, two (2) heating hot water pumps, 87 fan-powered VAV boxes, 38 single duct VAV boxes, controls, piping, and all related accessories.
4. The provision of all related piping, valves, wiring, and accessories including all controllers, devices, sensors, wiring programming, etc. required to operate the new and existing equipment.
5. Provision of a new DDC Building Automation System (BAS) and the seamless integration of all new equipment into the new BAS.
6. The replacement of existing pneumatic controls with new DDC controls for five (5) air handling units.
7. Provision of a new electrical power circuits (raceways, panel feed conductors, grounding assemblies, etc.) to the new equipment as indicated on the contract documents. on a weekly basis. The entire facility shall not be without adequate heating at any time between October 15, 2021 and April 15, 2022. Temporary heating shall be supplied by the Contractor if this requirement cannot be met. The Contractor will make provisions for this requirement in the proposal. A Pre-Construction meeting will be required prior to start of construction at a site chosen by the Owner. All allowances/costs for the pre-construction meeting must be included in the Contractor's proposal pricing and submitted with the bid

Project 5 – Shoreview Parking Lot Sink hole restoration located at 101 Shore Road, Northfield, NJ.

Cost \$152,590.10 Complete

2022

Public Health

Project 1 – Continuation of Project 1 2021. Ongoing use of funds to offset sanitizing buildings, purchase of protective gear, cleaning products, support services for the vaccine site and testing expenses.

Cost \$1,265,505.24

Infrastructure

Project 2 – Creation of a dedicated Stormwater Unit to inspect and maintain stormwater drains throughout the County

Cost \$831,593.92

The county has over 20 stormwater basins and over 200 outfall pipes that require maintenance. Stormwater management is important for maintaining clean water and preserving streams, rivers and lakes. The goals include reduce flooding to protect people and property, reduce demand on public stormwater drainage systems and support healthy streams and rivers. To do so requires the full inventory to be maintained. Funds will be used to cover a stormwater drainage unit and required supplies.

Project 3 – Improvements to the Pleasantville Pump Station

Cost \$2,750,000

The project will consist of the removal and replacement of electrical systems including new VFD's, new controllers, new inverter duty motors, and a motor control center. The original electrical equipment has outlived its useful life resulting in the inability to obtain parts necessary for repairs. Also, included in the project is the installation of a bypass system which currently does not exist. This station services Pleasantville, Absecon Galloway, Egg Harbor City, Northfield, Linwood, Somers Point and a large portion of Egg Harbor Township.

Premium Pay

Project 3 – Initiate Premium Pay for Public Sector Employees who were required to work during COVID.

Cost \$2,642,168.84

2023

Public Health

Project 1 – Continuation of Project 1 2021 and Project 1 2022. Direct COVID expenses: Sanitizing county buildings on routine basis and upon COVID positive case; out of state prisoner transport; office space; nursing services; and PPE. Ongoing use of funds to offset sanitizing buildings, purchase of protective gear, cleaning products.

Project 2 – EHT Library HVAC upgrades

Cost \$1,750,000.00

Project 3 – Harding Hwy Ionization Bipolar Installation Units
Cost \$60,000.00

Infrastructure

Project 1 - Solid Waste Landfill Cap
Cost \$4,250,000

The project consists of capping 17 acres of the Solid Waste landfill. The project will provide several benefits including but not limited to; reductions in leachate generation, increased leachate collection and lastly a significant reduction in potential migrating landfill odors. The permanent capping system is part of the site's Closure/Post closure Care Plan as required by NJDEP. The overall impact of this project will result in a benefit that will be realized by the entire County Population.

Project 2 – Various Drainage Improvements throughout Atlantic County.
Cost - \$1,249,413.55

Rt 629 Pedestrian & Traffic Signal Drainage Improvements \$211,123.90 (complete)
Shoreview Pavement Stormwater Project \$29,173.65 (complete)
Various Site Inspections \$68,050.00
Various Drainage Improvements: California Ave, Oak Rd, Shore Rd. Marvin Ave, Ventnor Ave, Buffalo Ave, and Newark Ave. \$941,066.00

Project 3 – Galloway Library Complex Drainage (details to follow)
Cost \$1,000,000.00

2024

Public Health

Project 1 – County Office Building Air Handler Replacements (details to follow)
Cost \$2,000,000.00

Project 2- May Landing HVAC and Emergency Generator (details to follow)
Cost \$2,284,442.92

Project 3 – Public Safety HVAC and Chiller Project (details to follow)
Cost \$2,821,600.00

Infrastructure

Project 1 – Continuation of Project 2 2023 - Various Drainage Improvements throughout Atlantic County.
Cost - \$1,254,901.00

Emergency Drainage Pip Smithville, Port Republic Road CR610 \$59,100.00 (complete)
Camel Max Jet Vac Sewer Vacuum \$504,315.55

Revenue Replacement

Using the lost revenue formula, and NJ State guidelines, the County will be able to annually review its revenues to determine losses that can be covered by SLFRF.

2021 - \$2,969,213.40

2022 - \$5,703,599.62

2023 - \$3,594,152.62

2024 - \$3,844,152.62

Inputs - Table 2a

Fiscal Year	Revenue Source	Audit Results or	Audited Results			% Average Annual Growth 2017 to 2019
		Realized in 2020 Budget 12/31/2020	2019 (Base Year)	2018	2017	
Calendar						6.82%
	Sheet 4 Totals	\$ 29,280,012.33	\$ 31,004,065.60	\$ 31,387,860.62	\$ 29,829,844.10	
	Less Refunds	\$ (2,691,767.81)	\$ (2,996,555.30)	\$ (2,562,256.18)	\$ (2,148,699.90)	
	Sheet 5 Totals	\$ 2,947,102.34	\$ 2,527,300.51	\$ 3,994,983.45	\$ 3,498,674.27	
	Less State Aid - County College Bonds	\$ (2,947,102.34)	\$ (2,527,300.51)	\$ (3,994,983.45)	\$ (3,498,674.27)	
	Sheet 6 Totals	\$ 873,916.89	\$ 1,083,938.09	\$ 1,205,342.56	\$ 681,482.71	
	Less N/A Items	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	Sheet 7 Totals	\$ 36,645,694.01	\$ 30,744,459.74	\$ 34,380,336.48	\$ 26,170,295.24	
	Less All Grants	\$ (36,645,694.01)	\$ (30,744,459.74)	\$ (34,380,336.48)	\$ (26,170,295.24)	
	Sheet 8 Totals	\$ 22,697,801.04	\$ 20,652,689.32	\$ 18,634,153.04	\$ 15,406,629.90	
	Less Open Space Trust	\$ (115,776.53)	\$ (115,776.55)	\$ (136,506.95)	\$ (197,132.40)	
	GENERAL REVENUE	\$ 50,044,185.92	\$ 49,628,361.16	\$ 48,528,593.09	\$ 43,572,124.41	

Summary Table 2b

2021

Revenue Type	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
Counterfactual	\$ 53,013,399.32	\$ 56,629,323.26	\$ 60,491,881.20	\$ 64,617,895.46
Actual	\$ 50,044,185.92	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Revenue Loss	\$ 2,969,213.40	\$ 56,629,323.26	\$ 60,491,881.20	\$ 64,617,895.46

2022

Summary Table 2C

Revenue Type	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
Counterfactual	\$ 53,013,399.32	\$ 56,629,323.26	\$ 60,491,881.20	\$ 64,617,895.46
Actual	\$ 50,044,185.92	\$ 50,925,723.63	\$ -	\$ -
Revenue Loss	\$ 2,969,213.40	\$ 5,703,599.63	\$ 60,491,881.20	\$ 64,617,895.46

2023

Revenue Type	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
Counterfactual	\$ 53,013,399.32	\$ 56,629,323.26	\$ 60,491,881.20	\$ 64,617,895.46
Actual	\$ 50,044,185.92	\$ 50,925,723.63	\$ 56,897,728.58	\$ -
Revenue Loss	\$ 2,969,213.40	\$ 5,703,599.63	\$ 3,594,152.62	\$ 64,617,895.46

2024

Revenue Type	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
Counterfactual	\$ 53,013,399.32	\$ 56,629,323.26	\$ 60,491,881.20	\$ 64,617,895.46
Actual	\$ 50,044,185.92	\$ 50,925,723.63	\$ 56,897,728.58	\$ 55,901,348.78
Revenue Loss	\$ 2,969,213.40	\$ 5,703,599.63	\$ 3,594,152.62	\$ 8,716,546.68

Lost revenue formula will be completed to identify lost revenues that can be applied to calendar year budget. The County used less than allowed in budget year 2024 to reduce dependency and to provide more funding for Capital Projects.