

# City of Aurora

## August 31, 2021 Performance Report

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This report is available on [EngageAurora.org/ARPA](https://EngageAurora.org/ARPA)

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### Overview

#### Executive Summary

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law by the President. The intent of the legislation is to provide state, local and tribal governments with significant resources to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts. As part of this legislation, the City of Aurora will receive a total of \$65.4 million through ARPA's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to address issues exacerbated by COVID-19 and \$4.1 million in HOME funding to address affordable housing and homelessness support-related activities. The city plans to utilize funding to enhance services provided to residents impacted by COVID-19 and to fund a variety of transformational projects that will have a long-lasting impact on City of Aurora residents.

Through July 31, 2021, the City of Aurora has utilized funding of \$419,782 to provide COVID-19 testing and vaccine clinics for residents. According to multiple reports, vaccines have proven to be extremely safe and highly effective at stopping the spread of COVID-19. For the select few that experience a breakthrough case, the impact is generally minimal, and the chances of hospitalization or death are well below one percent. Based on these results, the city felt it was an appropriate usage and the best approach to combating the virus.

Moving forward, the city plans to embark on a comprehensive process to identify additional projects. Internally, department directors have been updated on eligible uses for the funding and have been asked to review their internal needs to identify potential projects. Departments have until September 1<sup>st</sup> to provide information related to potential projects. Specifically, departments must submit information related to the project's costs, timeframe and metrics to measure success. This information will be reviewed by a core team to ensure compliance and to evaluate whether the projects are evidence based.

In addition, the city has embarked on a comprehensive public outreach campaign to obtain information from residents. This campaign will utilize the following strategies to engage residents: (1) Develop opportunities and platforms for gathering community input that are accessible to all; (2) Promote feedback opportunities and deliver key messages via broadcast, print, social media, AuroraTV, website and other sources; (3) Establish a presence at key community events and facilities to gather input. This approach should allow the city to obtain feedback from a significant portion of the community which will help to ensure the process of selecting projects is equitable.

Staff will utilize both internal and external information to develop a formal recommendation for City Council to review. The city will establish a committee composed of staff across departments

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and citizens to review and score submitted projects. Currently, staff anticipates utilizing the following criteria to score the projects:

- 25% Equitable Outcomes – Will the project benefit historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups and are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service, or disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective;
- 25% Evidence Based Outcomes – Are projects utilizing evidence-based interventions with a track record of success;
- 25% Cost Benefit – Is there a long-term return on the investment based on social outcomes, improved service quality or financial return;
- 25% Community Input – Are the benefits/impacts of the project identified as being high priority during the community engagement process.

The committee's rankings will be reviewed by the city's management team and will inform the final recommendation provided to City Council. This approach will help to ensure that funding is distributed to projects in an equitable manner and that funded projects are evidence based and will have a positive/effective impact on the community. Currently, it is anticipated that a formal recommendation will be presented to City Council in the fall timeframe.

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### Use of Funds

Through July 31, 2021, the City of Aurora has utilized funding of \$419,782 to provide COVID-19 testing and vaccine clinics for residents. According to Yale Medicine, the three approved vaccines have an overall efficacy of 72 percent (Johnson and Johnson), 90+ percent (Moderna) and 91.3 percent (Pfizer-BioNTech)<sup>1</sup>. The vaccines have a higher efficacy rate at preventing severe illness within patients and appear to be effective against the Delta Variant as well. As a result, the city felt it was an appropriate use of funding.

In total, the city provided vaccines to 4,762 individuals through July 31, 2021. As summarized below, these vaccines were provided in an equitable manner to diverse subset of the city's population.

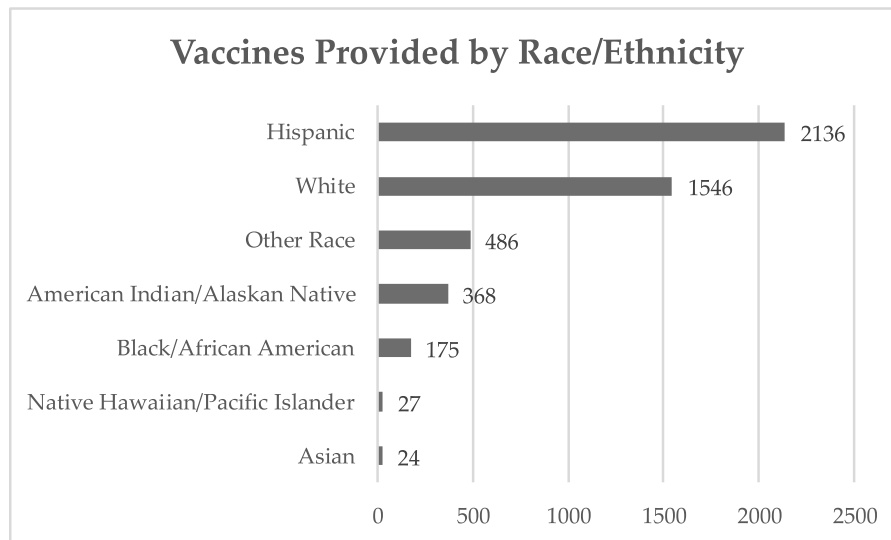


Figure 1 – Vaccines Provided by Race/Ethnicity in the City of Aurora.

The city plans to embark on a comprehensive process to identify additional projects. Internally, department directors have been updated on eligible uses for the funding and have been asked to review their internal needs to identify potential projects. Departments have until September 1<sup>st</sup> to provide information related to potential projects. Specifically, departments must submit information related to the project's costs, timeframe and metrics to measure success. This information will be reviewed by a core team to ensure compliance and to evaluate whether the projects are evidence based.

In addition, the city has embarked on a comprehensive public outreach campaign to obtain information from residents. This campaign will utilize the following strategies to engage residents: (1) Develop opportunities and platforms for gathering community input that are accessible to all; (2) Promote feedback opportunities and deliver key messages via broadcast,

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Virata, M, Dr. Barakat, L and Dr. Malinis, M (2021, August 23) *The Three Vaccines in use in the U.S. Comparing the COVID-19 Vaccines: How Are They Different?* > News > Yale Medicine

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print, social media, AuroraTV, website and other sources; (3) Establish a presence at key community events and facilities to gather input. This approach should allow the city to obtain feedback from a significant portion of the community which will help to ensure the process of selecting projects is equitable.

Staff will utilize both internal and external information to develop a formal recommendation for City Council to review. The city will establish a committee composed of staff across departments and citizens to review and score submitted projects. Currently, staff anticipates utilizing the following criteria to score the projects:

- 25% Equitable Outcomes – Will the project benefit historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups and are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service, or disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective;
- 25% Evidence Based Outcomes – Are projects utilizing evidence-based interventions with a track record of success;
- 25% Cost Benefit – Is there a long-term return on the investment based on social outcomes, improved service quality or financial return;
- 25% Community Input – Are the benefits/impacts of the project identified as being high priority during the community engagement process.

The committee's rankings will be reviewed by the city's management team and will inform the final recommendation provided to City Council. This approach will help to ensure that funding is distributed to projects in an equitable manner and that funded projects are evidence based and will have a positive/effective impact on the community. Currently, it is anticipated that a formal recommendation will be presented to City Council in the fall timeframe.

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### Promoting Equitable Outcomes

The city has developed a comprehensive public outreach campaign to gather input from residents. This campaign will utilize the following strategies to engage residents: (1) Develop opportunities and platforms for gathering community input that are accessible to all; (2) Promote feedback opportunities and deliver key messages via broadcast, print, social media, AuroraTV, website and other sources; (3) Establish a presence at key community events and facilities to gather input. This approach should allow the city to obtain feedback from a significant portion of the community which will help to ensure the process of selecting projects is equitable.

The city plans to include residents on a committee tasked with scoring the projects on established criteria. Having citizen representation should help to ensure that underserved communities are represented during the project evaluation portion of the process. In addition, 50 percent of a project's overall score will be based on equitable outcomes and the results of the community engagement process. The city believes that taking these actions will help ensure funding is distributed to projects in an equitable manner.

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### Community Engagement

The city is finalizing plans to launch a communications and outreach plan to gather the community's input on how the city should allocate ARPA funding, with a focus in three areas: community assistance, infrastructure funding and service preservation. The various strategies the city will utilize are summarized below.

#### **Strategy 1: Develop opportunities and platforms for gathering community input that are accessible to all.**

##### Tactics

- Create and publish Engage Aurora project page (EngageAurora.org/ARPA) (now available with Google Translate).
- Develop survey questions to be used on Engage Aurora and in hard-copy format.
- Translate survey questions through Office of International and Immigrant Affairs in top nine languages in Aurora.
- Develop and translate small input cards to be distributed at community hubs like restaurants or cultural institutions.
- Schedule four to six virtual listening sessions with survey questions as part of the facilitation.

#### **Strategy 2: Promote feedback opportunities and deliver key messages via broadcast, print, social media, AuroraTV, website and other sources.**

##### Tactics

- Draft press release, translate into Spanish and distribute widely to media, including non-English media.
- Coordinate with media relations team on possible targeted pitches for stories.
- Draft and distribute talking points and sample social media post for Council.
- Share information on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Linked In, Google Business, Nextdoor)
- Draft story and distribute in This is Aurora electronic newsletter and September News Aurora water bill newsletter.
- Distribute information to neighborhood liaisons for inclusion in HOA newsletter.
- Develop and distribute flyers with QR code to recreation centers, cultural facilities and other targeted locations.

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- Schedule segment on Mayor Mike Live.
- Develop a list of community leaders and organizations, including churches, nonprofits and business organizations, for distribution of information, and reach out to these community leaders with flyer and talking points.
- Distribute information internally to city employees.

#### **Strategy 3: Establish a presence at key community events and facilities to gather input.**

##### **Tactics**

- Coordinate with the Council office for presentations at Council town meetings
- Develop a list of events and coordinate with event organizers to attend and gather feedback (including Day of the Salvadorian, United African Premier Soccer League Award, New Direction Safe Zone, Soccer Without Borders Back to School Nights, Y.E.A Community Dayz!, Young & Motivated, The New American Arts Festival, Colfax Canvas, Nigeria Day in Colorado, Park Lights & Movie Nights, Aurora Rhythms Concert, Pop-up Pumpkins at Moorhead Park and Patriots Day at the Colorado Freedom Memorial)
- Collaborate with the Office of International and Immigrant Affairs on outreach to international populations and key community organizations.
- Work with library staff to set up a static display at Aurora libraries to gather survey responses.



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Labor Practices

The city has not started any projects that require reporting at this time.

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### Use of Evidence

Through July 31, 2021, the City of Aurora has utilized funding of \$419,782 to provide COVID-19 testing and vaccine clinics for residents. As summarized below, vaccines have proven to be highly successful at limiting the spread of the virus and minimizing the chances of serious illness as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). While data is still limited, these vaccines have also proven to limit the spread and impact associated with Delta Variant.

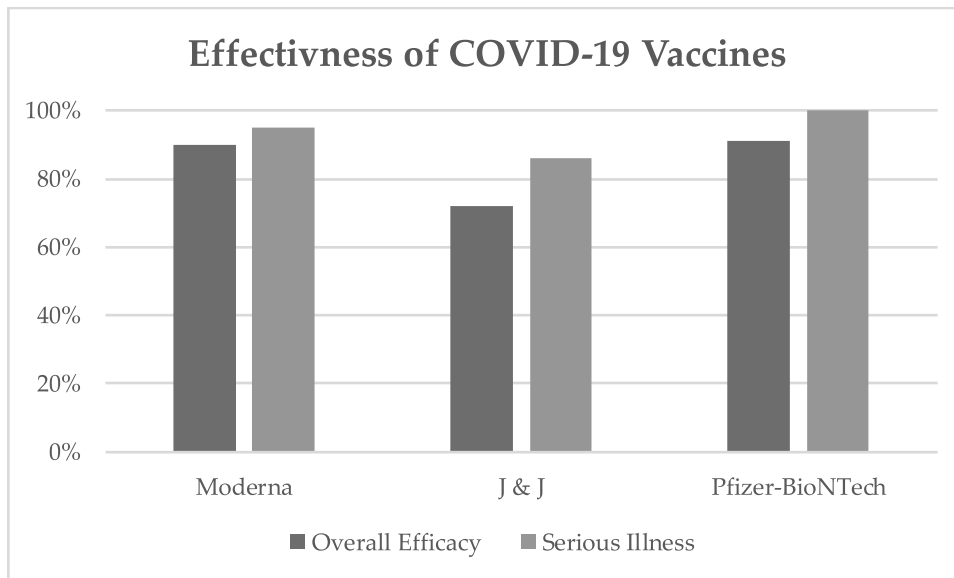


Figure 2 – The effectiveness of available COVID-19 vaccines a limiting spread and serious illness

To ensure future projects are evidence based, staff will work with departments to identify information on submitted projects. For most projects, staff anticipates being able to utilize case studies from other localities to evaluate a project’s effectiveness. In addition, the city intends to utilize the Results First Clearinghouse Database, and other materials, to perform a review of a project’s effectiveness. The information gathered during this process will then be presented to the internal committee tasked with reviewing projects. Twenty-five percent of a project’s overall score will be based on utilizing evidence-based interventions with a track record of success.

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### Table of Expenses by Category

Below is a summary of the City of Aurora's expenses through July 31, 2021:

1:	Public Health	Description of Expense	Expenses
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination	Set up and operate multiple equity mobile vaccine clinics in our black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities within the city of Aurora. Set up and operate a fixed equity vaccination site at the Aurora Municipal Center to serve BIPOC communities	\$367,334.78
1.2	COVID-19 Vaccination - Testing	Police Staffing	52,447.28
1.3	COVID-19 Vaccination - Contact Tracing		
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (nursing homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)*		
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment		
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)		
1.7	Capital investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 Public Health		
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)		
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and other Public Sector Staff Responding to the COVID-19		
1.10	Mental Health Services*		
1.11	Substance Use Services*		
1.12	Other Public Health Services		
<b>Total expenses for 1: Public Health</b>			<b>\$419,782.06</b>