

CITY OF BAKERSFIELD
Recovery Plan



**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**
2021 Report

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

In March 2020, the City of Bakersfield declared a local emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and from that point forward the City has worked to mitigate the negative impacts of this significant and widespread disease on the community. The City initiated a number of programs during the 2020 calendar year, including: small business assistance, rental & mortgage assistance, educational & outreach programs, and direct services by City staff to those affected by the pandemic. Much of these programs and services were funded by Federal Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds through the CARES Act. While the eligibility for those CARES dollars sunset at the end of 2020, much of the services needed both for the direct impact of COVID-19, as well as the need to move forward with the important work of economic recovery within the City of Bakersfield has continued.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President in March 2021, in part, with the intent to continue many of the programs started by the CARES Act. ARPA included funding through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) of \$350 billion and the City of Bakersfield received a direct allocation of \$94.5 million. The City will use these funds to continue many of the important programs and services that were funded by the CARES Act as well as establish new programs focused on economic recovery and revitalization, particularly within its disadvantaged communities.

Uses of Funds

The City of Bakersfield recognizes the important role that the SLFRF allocation will have on the community's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as well addressing significant needs of its underserved population. The City will be establishing a number of programs intended to address the recovery from the pandemic, especially related to the disproportionate impact it has had on disadvantaged communities, as defined by HUD's Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs). The breadth and depth of those programs has yet to be established but they will build off the successes the City has seen with programs funded via the State of California through the CARES Act and the Emergency Rental & Housing Assistance programs funded both through CARES and APRA. Beyond leveraging off of those successful programs, the City will examine the needs of the community in relation of Water, Sewer and broadband infrastructure and examine the use and applicability of premium pay for eligible City workers who have and will continue to perform essential work during the pandemic. The City will not be able to use SLFRF dollars to recover lost revenue from the pandemic based on the current formula laid out in the grant's Interim Final Rules and the associated all-encompassing definition of "general revenue".

The City has been able to direct portions of its SLFRF allocation in the current reporting period towards the continued funding of certain payroll costs for Public Safety Employees. In particular, funds are used to cover a portion of City Fire Department staffing to address the public health emergency that continues to affect the community. The City has funded staffing based on the number of medical callouts for service the Fire Department had during the reporting period, specifically in its firefighting division, meaning administrative and other operational units are not included. This is similar to how public safety segments of the CARES allocation were used in 2020. This methodology is expected to continue throughout the funding period of SLFRF and is viewed as equitable and in line with the intent of the grant.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The SLFRF funds approved by ARPA must be used in part to achieve or promote equitable outcomes or progress against equity goals. The City understands the importance of promoting those equitable outcomes, so as the programs and services are established, will work on how best to achieve this. This will include programs meant to service historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups with a particular focus on QCT's. Doing so allow the design and delivery of these services to generate outcomes that close gaps, reach universal levels of service, and disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other relevant equity areas. The City will also use both qualitative and quantitative data to assess outcomes and determine that there is progress towards the important goal of equity.

The City has focused expenditures to-date on payroll costs incurred by Public Safety employees providing medical services to members of the community. Data related to service provided and paid for with SLFRF funds shows that 42% of medical call outs and 33% of all emergency service calls responded to by the Bakersfield Fire Department were in QCT areas of the City.

Community Engagement

The City recognizes the need for outreach and engagement as it builds the various programs and services funded by the SLFRF. The City has recently conducted and will continue to conduct relevant community outreach in QCTs related to state and federal grant programs and the use of City funding that has been allocated for revitalization of disadvantaged communities. The City plans to leverage these connected outreach efforts to align and deploy SLFRF programs to greatest effect. Written, oral and other forms of feedback will be encouraged along with dialog with community-based organizations. There will be a specific focus on how to best serve people with significant barriers to services, including people of color, people with low incomes, limited English proficient populations, and other traditionally underserved groups.

Labor Practices

Potential infrastructure projects will be pursued using strong labor standards that will result in high-quality facilities. The City's standard practice when planning for these types of federally funded projects focus on project labor agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions, not only to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects but also to support economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. The City continues to gather information and evaluate the needs of the community but will formulate plans for Water, Sewer, and Broadband infrastructure in time.

Use of Evidence

When applicable, the City will identify if and when SLFRF funds are to be used for evidence-based interventions and/or if projects will be assessed through program evaluations that are designed to build evidence. Currently, staff is still reviewing options for programs and services that will be provided through this funding source, so the metrics have not been established. Similar to our approach with Community Engagement, the City will look to leverage evidence-based interventions that are already in place or that are being deployed through other funding sources and initiatives that will be well-aligned with the intent and parameters for SLFRF funds.

Current projects and related expenditures focus on actual medical services provided and the related outputs are reported in the Project Inventory section of the current Performance Plan. The use of an evidenced-based intervention does not appear to be applicable for these services but the needs for other programs as they are established will assess the applicability in the future.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination		
1.2	COVID-19 Testing		
1.3	COVID-19 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 emergency		
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 COVID-19	5,151,038	\$5,151,038
1.10	Mental Health Services		
1.11	Substance Use Services		
1.12	Other Public Health Services		
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts		
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs		
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid		
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers		
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs		
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention		
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers		
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)		
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)		
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations		
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality		
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries		
2.13	Other Economic Support		
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff		
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning		
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts		
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services		
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services		
3.5	Education Assistance: Other		
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care		
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting		
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System		
3.9.	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other		
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing		
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons		
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance		
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other		
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators		
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation		
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions		
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay		
4.1	Public Sector Employees		
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers		
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment		
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance		
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater		
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows		
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure		
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation		
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation		
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source		
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment		
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution		
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation		
5.13	Drinking water: Source		
5.14	Drinking water: Storage		
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure		
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects		
5.17	Broadband: Other projects		
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services		
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses		
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis		
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government		
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)		

Project Inventory

Project [Identification Number]: GARP30 – ARPA - Public Safety

Funding amount: \$7,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC-1.9 Public Health

Project overview

The City of Bakersfield Fire Department has provided emergency medical services to the community since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The SLFRF funds budgeted in the project cover a portion of the costs incurred by Fire Department staff based on the monthly EMS callouts. These costs are only covering the applicable percentage of the department's Fire Fighting division and do not include the costs of the Administration, Training, Arson, or other ancillary operations.

Use of Evidence

The services covered under this project are demand based and are in direct response to emergency needs in the community. The City must continue to provide these services as the pandemic has not diminished and instead has seen another spike. The project is one where evidenced-based intervention tracking is considered not applicable or necessary. That said we have provided data of the EMS calls responded to in the Performance Report section of the report below.

Performance Report

GARP30 - APRA Public Safety	
(April 2021 - July 2021)	
FIRE EMS CALLS	7,061
FIRE EMS CALLS IN A QCT	2,980
CALLS SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED AS COVID-19	2,180