

Benton County Government  
**Recovery Plan**



**State and Local Fiscal Recovery  
Funds 2024 Report**

**Benton County Government**  
**2024 Recovery Plan**

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## Executive Summary

President Joe Biden signed the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) on March 11, 2021. Within this act, the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) provides urgent and targeted funding for state and local COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Benton County was awarded approximately \$54 million from these funds to address the pandemic and support long-term recovery through 2024. An internal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Committee was established to plan the appropriation of these funds.

Benton County recognizes the importance of community engagement to identify funding priorities and ensure the funds complement existing county COVID-19 mitigation efforts. To gather feedback, the County hosted an online survey on its website to receive Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from community stakeholders. The submission period opened on August 1st and closed on October 31st. Following the U.S. Treasury's Final Rule and guidance, Benton County developed a comprehensive plan to allocate the funds into eligible use categories that address local needs.

- **Public Health & Economic Recovery:** Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral health care and certain county public health, public safety, human services and other related staff.
- **Negative Economic Impact:** Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries and rehiring of public sector workers, including County staff.
- **Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities:** Education assistance, healthy childhood environments, housing support and community violence interventions.
- **Premium Pay:** Offer additional compensation, to those – both county employees and other essential workers in the community – who have faced and continue to face the greatest health risks due to their service.
- **Infrastructure – Water/Sewer:** Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access.

The ARP Committee and Quorum Court officials held public meetings where organizations presented proposals as part of Benton County’s selection process. As of June 30, 2024, the Quorum Court has funded several water/wastewater infrastructure projects to cities and water authorities, extending water mains to unserved and underserved communities. These projects aim to improve hydraulic efficiency, flood mitigation, bridge integrity, water quality, and eliminate dead-end lines. Detailed information on all projects can be found in the Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category.

The County continues to collaborate with public water and sewer organizations to identify alternative funding sources, reduce project costs, and provide improved services to communities at the lowest possible cost.

County leadership remains systematic in project selection to ensure remaining funds are obligated according to Treasury guidance post-COVID-19 pandemic. Complete public transparency of this budget framework remains a top priority. To support this effort, the County will continue to provide updates through its website, press releases, and other public forums.

**Uses of Funds**

Benton County leadership is systematically and deliberately planning the use of its allocation, reviewing alternative federal, state, and local assistance to avoid funding duplication. To date, Benton County has spent more than \$50 million on Public Health, Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities, Premium Pay, Infrastructure – Water/Sewer, and administrative costs. The funding addresses concerns such as mental health services, medical expenses, air quality improvements, water/wastewater infrastructure improvements, and bank stabilization.

An overview of each individual projects by eligible use category has been provided below.

<b>Public Health (EC 1)</b>	
<i>COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics and Survey</i>	<b>\$138,000</b>
<i>AWIN Channel Expansion/CENCOM Backup Consolette</i>	<b>\$1,623,483.84</b>
<i>Benton County Vaccination Clinic</i>	<b>\$28,170.04</b>
<i>Personal Protective Equipment</i>	<b>\$26,482.70</b>
<i>Benton County Rapid COVID-19 Testing</i>	<b>\$196.90</b>
<i>Benton County Jail HVAC Replacement</i>	<b>\$1,035,000</b>

<i>Benton County Jail IEQ Improvements</i>	<i>\$2,820,100</i>
<i>Phase I - Design - CJ Triage Intake Building</i>	<i>\$97,775.04</i>
<i>Volunteer Fire Departments (ACT 833)</i>	<i>\$1,056,000</i>
<i>Benton County Facilities Improvements and Maintenance</i>	<i>\$949,104</i>
<i>Benton County Sick Enhanced Payroll</i>	<i>\$176,616.21</i>
<i>Benton Morgue Trailer</i>	<i>\$94,775.73</i>
<i>Benton County Ventilation Improvements</i>	<i>\$1,642,500</i>
<i>Benton County COVID-19 Employee Health Expenses</i>	<i>\$876,558.88</i>
<i>Benton County Rural Ambulance Service</i>	<i>\$1,000,000</i>
<i>Benton County Sheriff Body &amp; Vehicle Cameras</i>	<i>\$648,594</i>
<i>Benton County Jail Medical, Dental and Hospital</i>	<i>\$3,554,535</i>
<b>Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)</b>	
<i>Grants in Aid to Nonprofits</i>	<i>\$5,001,057</i>
<i>Ambulance and Lift Equipment</i>	<i>\$293,235.50</i>
<i>SCBA Replacement, Unincorporated Benton County</i>	<i>\$907,144</i>
<i>Purchase of Cascade and Containment System</i>	<i>\$39,190</i>
<b>Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3)</b>	
<i>Benton County Sheriff Salary and Benefits</i>	<i>\$3,000,000</i>
<i>Benton County Law Enforcement &amp; First Responder Salary and Benefits</i>	<i>\$10,000,000</i>
<b>Premium Pay (EC 4)</b>	
<i>Premium Pay for Benton County Employees</i>	<i>\$2,973,999.38</i>
<i>Premium Pay for Public Sector</i>	<i>\$270,165.37</i>
<b>Infrastructure (EC 5)</b>	
<i>Benton County Hickory Lane/Beaver Drive Drainage Improvement</i>	<i>\$350,000</i>
<i>Benton County Osage Creek/Logan Cave Rd Bank Stabilization</i>	<i>\$325,000</i>
<i>Benton County Columbia Hollow Creek/West Mtn Rd Bridge Stabilization</i>	<i>\$325,000</i>
<i>Benton County Inventory, Assessment and Mapping of Stormwater</i>	<i>\$600,000</i>
<i>Benton County Water Authority 4 Water System Improvements</i>	<i>\$1,000,000</i>
<i>Centerton Water Utilities Extensions to Loop Water Mains</i>	<i>\$1,000,000</i>
<i>Garfield Water Extensions</i>	<i>\$68,500</i>
<i>Decatur West Water Extensions</i>	<i>\$2,000,000</i>
<i>Benton County Limekiln Creek Bank Stabilization</i>	<i>\$30,625</i>
<i>Benton County NE A Street Bridge Crossing Bank Stabilization</i>	<i>\$11,875</i>
<b>Revenue Replacement (EC 6)</b>	
<i>Provision of Government Services</i>	<i>\$10,000,000</i>
<b>Administrative (EC 7)</b>	
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>	<i>\$391,119</i>

<b>Total Adopted Budget</b>	<b>\$52,712,302.59</b>
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### **Promoting equitable outcomes**

Since inception, Benton County has funded several organizations that serve disproportionately impacted communities. Recipients that received funding by way of Benton County, such as non-profit organizations and those that oversee water infrastructure are now actively providing products and services that directly impact those that are historically underserved, marginalized and groups that were adversely affected by the pandemic.

**Goals:** Based on the variety of projects that have been approved, the County’s recovery efforts will serve several historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups. Projects related to housing, food, education, transportation, employment, and water/sewer infrastructure for disadvantaged groups are all in progress or complete.

**Awareness:** Benton County is experienced in direct outreach and working with industry and non-profit partners to create awareness of opportunities made available through federal funding programs. Depending on the program, outreach methods enacted by the County and its partners include, but are not limited to, social media, press releases, county website postings, and outreach through non-profit organizations.

**Access and Distribution:** Projects are evaluated and selected based on the organization’s quality of service and the number of citizens impacted. All Benton County beneficiaries will and must comply with all applicable non-discrimination regulations.

**Outcomes:** Program selection ultimately focused on effective delivery of services to the intended recipients to create positive, long-term investment and foster lasting change. The county continues to monitor program outcomes through quarterly reporting for all organizations that received American Rescue Plan funding.

#### ***Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2):***

Several nonprofit organizations were selected for funding and will address Negative Economic Impacts, including food access, homelessness, job training, transportation assistance, and child care access. Programs addressed the specific needs of traditionally disadvantaged populations and represent long-term investments designed to promote

equity.

***Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3):***

Several projects have been awarded that directly benefit disproportionately impacted communities. The areas impacted include demographics in the areas of affordable housing support, broadband access for low income, domestic violence shelters, mental health support, body/car cameras for law enforcement to promote transparency and critical water/sewer infrastructure from funded organizations.

***Use of Qualitative and Quantitative Data***

More than \$16 million in grant funding has been awarded to provide assistance to diverse and vulnerable communities throughout Benton County. Organizations funded report demographic information on services provided to recipients and qualitative data on the impact of grant funding to the County on a quarterly basis. Benton County will use data collected from these organizations in future decisions to maximize impact and streamline funding to other marginalized and underserved communities.

***Geographic and Demographic Distribution***

With regards to geographic and demographic distribution of ARPA funds, implementing organizations set equity and racial equity strategies. Targets vary based on the unique services and clientele served by individual organizations.

**Community Engagement**

Benton County continues to provide updates via the county's ARPA-specific webpage where information is easily accessible by community members. The Recovery Plan is published annually and accessible on the webpage. There is a community feedback link on the page where members of the public can provide comments that go directly to the ARPA Committee. The ARPA Committee uses various media outlets to keep the public informed.

**Labor Practices**

Several construction projects have been selected and will be described in the ***Project Inventory*** section of this report. Benton County will ensure current and future projects comply with all local, state, and federal labor practice laws, regulations, and directives. This includes compliance with all laws and regulations on wages and hours, state and federal income tax, unemployment insurance, social security, disability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and

discrimination in employment. The County, contractors, and subcontractors will comply with all applicable federal laws, including:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and Treasury’s implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination based on race, color, or national origin under programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), prohibiting discrimination based on disability under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), and Treasury’s implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.
- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination based on disability under programs, activities, and services

### **Use of Evidence**

The County utilizes data from subject matter experts and statistical data to ensure funds achieve the desired outcomes proposed by the County or the beneficiary. To provide an evidence-based approach when determining funding priorities, the County has and will also continue to pursue a high level of community and stakeholder engagement. Following the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s guidance and common practice, evidence-based interventions and projects receive preference in the selection process. Program and project data are evaluated by the ARPA Committee and Quorum Court for efficiency and effectiveness to determine if outcomes match intended goals.

### **Project Inventory**

Recovery plans will include evidence and evaluation-based approaches for applicable programs and provide key performance indicators for each major project. Data collection follows guidance referenced in the Department of Treasury SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance manual.

#### **Upcoming Projects:**

**Project 5.6-1: Benton County Hickory Lane/Beaver Drive Drainage Improvement**

**Funding amount: \$350,000**

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6, Clean Water: Stormwater

**Project 5.6-2: *Benton County Limekiln Creek Bank Stabilization***

Funding amount: \$30,625

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6, Clean Water: Stormwater

**Project 5.6-3: *Benton County NE A Street Bridge Crossing Bank Stabilization***

Funding amount: \$11,875

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6, Clean Water: Stormwater

**Project 5.6-4: *Benton County Osage Creek/Logan Cave Rd Bank Stabilization***

Funding amount: \$325,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6, Clean Water: Stormwater

**Project 5.6-5: *Benton County Columbia Hollow Creek/West Mountain Rd Bridge Stabilization***

Funding amount: \$325,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6, Clean Water: Stormwater

**Project 5.6-6: *Benton County Inventory, Assessment and Mapping of Stormwater***

Funding amount: \$600,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6, Clean Water: Stormwater

**[Project overview \(5.6-1 thru 5.5-6\)](#)**

Award includes funding for several Benton County projects that include bank stabilization, stream restoration, drainage improvements, assessment and survey mapping. Funds will aid in flood mitigation and reduce erosion in high-risk areas.

**Current Projects:**

**Project 1.6 BC Jail Med/Den/Hosp: *Benton County Jail Medical, Dental & Hospital***

Funding amount: \$3,554,535

Project Expenditure Category: 1.6, Medical Expenses

**[Project overview](#)**

Due to the increase in the number of inmates contracting COVID-19, the County provided funding to ensure professional healthcare services were provided to help

mitigate infection and limit exposure to County employees. Project goal was to provide public health efforts to slow the spread of the disease and to protect individuals living in congregate facilities. Project allowed the Benton County Sheriff's Office to standardize healthcare and processes, while minimizing the potential of increased cost of treatment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Project 1.8-ACT 833: ACT 833**

**Funding amount:** \$1,056,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.8, Over COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

**[Project overview](#)**

Act 833 provides funding for improvements to qualified volunteer fire departments. Benton County provided matching funds to ensure a sufficient level of qualified firefighters and equipment was available to respond to public health emergencies.

**Project 5.1-1: Water Extensions to Loop Water Mains North and West of Centerton**

**Funding amount:** \$1,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.11 – Drinking Water: Transmission and Distribution

**[Project overview](#)**

The project consists of extending water mains to create loops in Centerton Utilities water system. Creating loops will improve the hydraulic efficiency and the water quality in the system by preventing water from becoming stagnant.

**Project 7.1-Grant Administration: Benton County Grant Administrative**

**Funding amount:** \$391,119

**Project Expenditure Category:** 7.1, Administrative Expenses

**[Project overview](#)**

The County hired a grant administrator to handle all administration aspects of the ARP funds in October 2021. The administrator is responsible for reporting and all other administrative functions for the entirety of the grant award period. Funds will also be used to purchase other items as necessary to grant administration.

**Completed Projects:**

**Project 1.1-BC Vaccination Clinic: Benton County Vaccination Clinic**

Funding amount: \$28,170.04

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1, COVID-19 Vaccination

[Project overview](#)

Funds assisted in providing additional vaccination locations for Benton County to mitigate or reduce the spread of COVID-19. Additional vaccination location assisted in COVID-19 recovery efforts through lowered transmission rates. Program was based on guidance and recommendations by the CDC.

Project 1.2-1: ***Benton County Rapid COVID-19 Testing***

Funding amount: \$196.90

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1, COVID-19 Vaccination

[Project overview](#)

Funds provided were used to purchase rapid COVID-19 testing kits for Benton County employees working on-site to mitigate or reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Project 1.1 NWA Council: ***COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics and Survey***

Funding amount: \$138,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1, COVID-19 Vaccination

[Project overview](#)

The overarching goal of this project was to increase awareness through community outreach and access to vaccinations for the purpose of minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Response was based on CDC recommendations and guidelines. The program provided vaccinations at no cost to members of the general public and residents negatively impacted in receiving equitable treatment to improve public health.

Project 1.4-CJ Triage Intake Bldg.: ***Phase I – Design – CJ Triage Intake Building***

Funding amount: \$97,775.04

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4, Prevention in Congregate Settings

[Project overview](#)

Funds were used to complete the initial assessment for the proposed Triage Intake Facility to support quarantine of new inmates and isolation of those testing positive for COVID-19 to mitigate the spread of the virus to the general population. Facility would

also screen and identify inmates in need of additional mental health services.

**Project 1.4-Jail IEQ Imp: *Jail IEQ Improvements***

**Funding amount:** \$2,820,100

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.4, Prevention in Congregate Settings

**[Project overview](#)**

The interior lining of the rectangular ductwork in the facility was beginning to fail, causing restrictions in the ductwork which contributed to low airflow and pressure imbalances in the building. Project aided in improving internal air quality for staff and inmates.

**Project 1.4-BC Jail HVAC: *Jail HVAC***

**Funding amount:** \$1,035,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.4, Prevention in Congregate Settings

**[Project overview](#)**

The jail facility had HVAC equipment and infrastructure nearing or past the end of its useful life. Project funds were used to replace and improve the HVAC system at the county jail to support prevention efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in congregate living spaces.

**Project 1.4-4: *Benton County Facilities Improvement and Maintenance***

**Funding amount:** \$949,104

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.4, Prevention in Congregate Settings

**[Project overview](#)**

This was a public health project that aided in the improvement of air quality throughout the Benton County Administration building and reduced contact with surfaces in congregate areas. Project funded the installation of air ventilation system replacement and upgrades, installation of air purification system, and construction of separate staff and public restrooms in the judicial tower.

**Project 1.5-Benton County PPE: *Benton County Personal Protective Equipment***

**Funding amount:** \$26,482.70

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.5, Personal Protective Equipment

[Project overview](#)

Access to and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a vital tool to mitigate the impact of the pandemic for those in the County's direct care, for employees, and the public utilizing County services. Funds were used to provide the County departments the ability to mitigate the impact of the pandemic through PPE purchases and utilization.

Project 1.6-BC COVID Healthcare: *Benton County Healthcare Expenses*

Funding amount: \$876,558.88

Project Expenditure Category: 1.6, Medical Expenses

[Project overview](#)

This program provided coverage of medical expenses for County employees directly impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic. Medical costs to uninsured individuals; deductibles, co-pays, or other costs not covered by insurance; costs for uncompensated care at a health provider; emergency medical response costs; and, for recipients with a self-funded health insurance plan, excess health insurance costs due to COVID-19 medical care.

Project 1.6 BC Sick Enhanced: *Benton County Sick Enhanced Pay*

Funding amount: \$176,616.21

Project Expenditure Category: 1.6, Medical Expenses

[Project overview](#)

County employees infected with COVID-19 were paid sick pay during the self-isolation in accordance to sick pay policy. This program aligns with eligible uses provided in the Final Rule that allow assistance for paid sick, medical and family leave programs.

Project 1.11 BCS Body Vehicle Cam: *Benton County Body Vehicle Cameras*

Funding amount: \$648,594

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11, Community Violence Interventions

[Project overview](#)

In 2022, the population was increasing at a record pace; about 30 people per day and expected to grow 10% by 2024. This project aided in minimizing violent crimes due to the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 and rapid population growth. Arkansas experienced a 30% increase in violent crime in large metropolitan areas similar in size to

Benton County. Cameras will aid in crime prevention, prosecution efforts and transparency.

**Project 1.6 Morgue Trailer: *Benton County Morgue Trailer***

**Funding amount:** \$94,775.73

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.7, Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

**[Project overview](#)**

This program was implemented to house overflow from hospitals and morgue due to limited space and helps control the spread of COVID-19 infection to staff. Trailer will also serve as a resource for future outbreaks and disasters. Project provided services to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 to the general public and county staff. As COVID-19 related deaths continue, the trailer will provide the necessary space needed to maintain public health and reduce transmission.

**Project 1.7-1: *Benton County Rural Ambulance Service***

**Funding amount:** \$1,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.7, Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

**[Project overview](#)**

Funds assisted in providing additional responses to rural communities by ambulance services due to the rising cost in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Project allowed for quicker response to rural communities and aligned with Treasury guidance for public health expenses.

**Project 1.7 BC CENCOM AWIN/Consol: *Benton County AWIN/Console***

**Funding amount:** \$1,623,483.84

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.7, Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

**[Project overview](#)**

Funds were used to purchase additional channels for emergency personnel. Upgrade to communications system will allow law enforcement and emergency personnel to respond to elevated public health emergencies and better coordinate response efforts. The final rule allows for emergency operation centers and emergency response equipment (i.e., emergency response radio systems).

**Project 2.1-1: UA Divisions of Agriculture – Cooperative Extension Services**

**Funding amount:** \$79,500

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

**Project overview**

Healthy Meals and Wheels improved the health of families in Benton County through nutrition programming and bicycle education. Adults attended a free six-session class focused on healthy eating and cooking, making good use of food resources, and the importance of being a physically active family. Classes were offered through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

**Project 2.3 Benton County Fair: Benton County Fair Sustainability**

**Funding amount:** \$25,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

**Project overview**

Funding provided to Benton County Fair Association assisted in providing the following improvements: 1. Upgraded HVAC thermostat with greater consumer-friendly programmable controls. 2. Upgraded and replaced nonworking lighting across the campus and in buildings with LED lights to decrease energy use and help reduce utility expenses. 3. Improved gates at two main entrances to better accommodate traffic, and security at the facility. 4. Install a video security system on the campus. 5. Install campus wide Public Announcement system to communicate with guests on property in the event of an emergency.

**Project 2.10-2: Individual Eye Examinations and Eyeglasses**

**Funding amount:** \$1,300

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

**Project overview**

Funding was awarded to Gravette Lions Club to assist low-income residents with eye examinations and the purchase of eyeglasses. The nonprofit was unable to host annual fundraisers that assisted in providing this annual service due to the negative impact of COVID-19.

**Project 2.10-3: *Ventilation Improvements***

**Funding amount:** \$47,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

**Project overview**

Funding was awarded to the Sunshine School and Development Center to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to keep staff and children safe. Project will provide UV lighting in ventilation system to control the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious pathogens.

**Project 2.10-4: *Community Alternative Program (CAP), Benton County***

**Funding amount:** \$175,200

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

**Project overview**

Returning Home provided an alternative sanction to incarceration in NWA. Individuals participated in: Trauma Informed care through trained counselors, Relapse Prevention Programming, Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Medication Management, Health and Wellness goals, Housing, Case Management, Healthy Relationships classes and other various services.

**Project 2.1-5: *Safe Nights of Shelter During COVID-19***

**Funding amount:** \$54,600

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

**Project overview**

The Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter provided safe shelter and support services for adults and children fleeing domestic violence in Benton County. Organization operated a secure facility located in Rogers, in which shelter is provided for more than 300 people (adults and children of all genders) every year. Annually provides more than 5,000 nights of safe shelter in Rogers.

**Project 2.10-6: *Gravette Public Library Hotspot Lending***

**Funding amount:** \$2,400

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

### Project overview

The Gravette Public School District catchment area includes a large portion of Northwestern Benton County. Funding for this program will allow residents without connection to broadband services. The Gravette Public Library serves this area and is a vital resource for internet connection to facilitate student virtual learning as well as work from home in light of an ineffective and spotty broadband infrastructure.

### **Project 2.10-7: Patient Transportation Program**

**Funding amount:** \$43,802

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

### Project overview

Project mitigated the economic impact of Covid-19 to the Hope Cancer Resources' Patient Transportation Program, specifically transporting Benton County residents, for the period of March 3, 2021 through October 15, 2021, in support for vulnerable populations (Benton County cancer patients) to access medical or public health services. The project responded to the Covid-19 public health emergency for prevention or mitigation tactics to enable social distancing, and enhanced cleaning efforts for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and added sanitation measures utilized in transporting Benton County patients. Finally, it facilitated replacement of one of three vans with over 200,000 miles.

### **Project 2.10-8: NWA Food Bank**

**Funding amount:** \$500,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

### Project overview

As a result of projected population growth in Northwest Arkansas over the next 25 years, the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank estimated a need for as many as 20 million meals by 2045. However, inadequate space for increased distribution, staff support and expanded program offerings left NWAFB unable to meet current or future clients' needs within its current space constraints. In order to fulfill its mission to nourish Northwest Arkansas communities by feeding hungry people, NWAFB made significant capital improvements to increase food distribution and improve the quality

and reach of its services.

**Project 2.10-9: Northwest Arkansas Industries for Education**

**Funding amount:** \$145,442

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

**Project overview**

Due to the Pandemic, the manufacturing industry had loss of skilled workers that furthered the skills gap. Difficulties incurred from COVID 19 resulted in many individuals in the Manufacturing Industry having restrictions that limited their ability to receive third party training. The goal of this project was to close the skills gap by providing support and training to current manufacturing employees and also by introducing new professionals to local manufacturers.

**Project 2.10-10: Samaritan House Community Center**

**Funding amount:** \$667,974

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

**Project overview**

This project expanded critical services including social services, counseling, and dental. Streamlined the process of clients needing services from many organizations with other like-minded organizations rather than duplicate services.

**Project 2.10-11: Pedal It Forward**

**Funding amount:** \$11,800

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

**Project overview**

Pedal It Forward scaled operations to put 2,000 bikes per year into the community. Recipients were children and adults in Northwest AR who could not afford to purchase bicycles. Pedal It Forward has partnerships with several other nonprofits in the Benton County area that provided services to underserved residents.

**Project 2.10-12: Exellerate Foundation**

**Funding amount:** \$1,702,074

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

Project overview

Upskill NWA was a new organization that moved lower-income wage earners to higher wage, high demand jobs through additional education and certification.

Excellerate Foundation worked to incubate the organization internally, offering day-to-day guidance and support to its staff and operations. Upskill NWA provided assistance with tuition and all academic fees, as well as connected participants to additional wraparound services that would allow regular class attendance.

**Project 2.10-13: *Micah 6:8 Initiative***

**Funding amount:** \$595,500

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

Project overview

The proposed day shelter and center for productivity filled a gap in the continuum of care of homeless services in Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding area, while mitigating COVID-19 among persons experiencing homelessness, and addressing economic harm for those persons whose homelessness was related to COVID-19.

**Project 2.10-14: *Boys & Girls Club of Benton County***

**Funding amount:** \$130,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

Project overview

Funding for the Boys & Girls Club of Benton County assisted in the following projects:

1. Upgrading ventilation systems for 7 AC units at our Bentonville club and 6 AC units at the Rogers Club.
2. Playground Improvements at the Rogers, Bentonville and Bella Vista locations including shade canopies and safety/rubber surfacing.
3. Samsung tablets for tracking of kids at all of our units

**Project 2.10-15: *Illinois River Watershed Partnership***

**Funding amount:** \$134,650

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

[Project overview](#)

This project assisted Benton County with response to increased demand for river recreation opportunities, speeding the recovery of the tourism, travel and hospitality sectors hard-hit by COVID-19 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Project 2.10-16: *Restoration Village***

**Funding amount:** \$110,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

[Project overview](#)

Restoration Village requested support for the housing of women and children who had been impacted by domestic violence, other forms of abuse, and homelessness. Throughout the pandemic, the organization continued to provide safe shelter and life-changing services. Funds requested assisted with providing shelter (utilities costs), maintaining the shelter (property manager), and caring for residents (program director, resident aides).

**Project 2.10-17: *The Salvation Army – Northwest Arkansas Command***

**Funding amount:** \$174,815

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

[Project overview](#)

The funding was be used to support three separate but similar responses to homelessness in Benton County. It provided two Housing- Focused Case Management professionals for homeless service re-housing. Housing-Focused Case Managers were essential to ensuring homeless families and individuals can be rehoused.

**Project 2.10-18: *Transitional Living Residence Renewal Project***

**Funding amount:** \$100,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

[Project overview](#)

The Transitional Living Residence Renewal Project is designed to reignite the plans and work that Souls Harbor had in place prior to the severe funding downturn that was experienced during the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Project 2.10-19: CAC of Benton County Services**

**Funding amount:** \$300,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

**Project overview**

Funding assisted with the salaries of seven essential direct service staff positions and support both the main center in Little Flock and satellite center in Gentry. The organization experienced an influx of child abuse cases due to an increase in stressors related to COVID-19.

**Project 2.13-12: Ambulance and Lift Equipment**

**Funding amount:** \$293,235.50

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.36 – Aid to Other Impacted Industries

**Project overview**

Funds for this project were used to purchase an additional ambulance to allow proper cleaning between responses to reduce contamination and the spread of COVID-19. A lift was also purchased to assist EMS personnel with heavy lifting and reduce injury to the employee.

**Project 2.36: Benton County Fire Departments**

**Funding amount:** \$907,144

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Aid to Other Impacted Industries

**Project overview**

This project replaced existing, outdated, and unrepairable SCBAs for fire departments in unincorporated Benton County receiving no support from a municipality. It placed firefighters in the most current level of respiratory Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), allowing them to perform job duties safely and efficiently.

**Project 2.36-5: Benton County Fire Departments**

**Funding amount:** \$39,190

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Aid to Other Impacted Industries

**Project overview**

Cave Springs Fire Department replaced the current cascade system that was manufactured in 1994 and its Containment Fill Station. The Fill Station is designed to

contain the debris if a cylinder were to burst during the filling process. System allows the fill of two air tanks at a time with clean air.

**Project 3.1-1: Benton County Sheriff Salary and Benefits**

**Funding amount:** \$3,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 3.1- Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

**Project overview**

Project covered salary and benefit cost for law enforcement officials work completed during the period of performance executed for active COVID-19 operations. Project objective was to allow officials to continue performing duties that mitigated the spread of COVID-19 during the height of the pandemic.

**Project 3.1-2: Benton County Law Enforcement & First Responder Salary and Benefits**

**Funding amount:** \$10,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 3.1- Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

**Project overview**

County funds were used for salary and covered benefits for law enforcement, first responders and other public health employees performing duties directly in response to services related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Project 4.1 Prem Pay for BC Emp: Benton County Premium Pay for Employees**

**Funding amount:** \$2,973,999.38

**Project Expenditure Category:** 4.1, Public Sector Employees

**Project overview**

The County afforded premium pay to its eligible employees who continue to protect the health and well-being of the residents during the COVID-19 pandemic and emerging variants that followed.

**Project 4.1-Prem Pay to FD Emp: Premium Pay UI Fire Departments**

**Funding amount:** \$270,165.37

**Project Expenditure Category:** 4.2, Private Sector: Grants to Other Employers

[Project overview](#)

Funding for this project provided premium pay for fire and emergency medical service personnel. Participating organizations included the Beaver Lake Fire and Northeast Benton County Volunteer Fire Departments.

**Project 5.1- 2: *Garfield Water Extensions***

**Funding amount:** \$68,500

**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.11 – Drinking Water: Transmission and Distribution

[Project overview](#)

The project consisted of extending water lines to Benton County residents who did not have access to a municipal water system. Project distributed water to approximately 30 existing homes in low to moderate income communities.

**Project 5.1- 3: *Decatur West Water Extensions***

**Funding amount:** \$2,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.11 – Drinking Water: Transmission and Distribution

[Project overview](#)

The project provided water extensions to existing water mains that serve the rural areas to the west of the City of Decatur. The project extended service to areas where a public water source was not available and reduced the resident’s exposure to contaminated wells.

**Project 5.1- 4: *Benton County Water Authority 4 Water System Improvements***

**Funding amount:** \$1,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.11 – Drinking Water: Transmission and Distribution

[Project overview](#)

The service area had experienced significant growth over the past 10 years and had difficulty providing flows and pressures above the minimum required by the Arkansas Department of Health when usage was high. To reduce loss of water due to leaks in the system, water meter service throughout the system was replaced, along with check valves to limit leaks.

Project 6.1-Revenue Replacement: *Revenue Replacement*

Funding amount: \$10,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services

[Project overview](#)

Under the new Treasury Final Rule, Benton County elected to enroll in the standard revenue replacement allowance. Recipients that selected the standard allowance used funds for traditional government services.

[Performance Report](#)

Key performance indicators were identified based on each project agreement/contract with sub-recipients. Performance measurement is a core part of the County's funding process and is tracked in accordance with the Treasury's Final Rule.

Because the Quorum Court has funded a large and diverse set of organizations, we provide guidance and resources that align with each beneficiary project with a shared understanding of performance management monitored by the Benton County grant administrator. As part of this effort, the Quorum Court follow the **Guiding Principles:**

- **One-Time Funding** – There is no expectation that these funds would recur in the future and shall be treated as one time rather than funding on-going commitments.
- **Nexus to Pandemic** – to comply with restrictions on funding, a nexus to the pandemic should be clearly demonstrated. These may include:
  - Pre-existing gaps- Circumstances may have existed prior to the pandemic, but the impacts or negative outcomes are exacerbated by the pandemic.
  - Direct Impacts – Things that are necessary to respond to the present and immediate impacts associated with the pandemic. (may be characterized as disaster response.)
  - Recovery – Items that improve or accelerate the recovery from COVID-19 for the County and its citizens or better prepare the County against future disasters.
- **Needs Based / Data Informed** – Approved project funding request demonstrated a need and available data was provided to properly align the funding with the need.

- **Maximize Opportunity** – The county partnered to the extent possible with cities, state or other agencies to create or support broader regional programs to stretch the impact of county funding.
- **Avoid Duplication** – Significant disaster funding has been approved at the State and Federal Level. The county did not duplicate funding unless the need showed current funding was inadequate to meet that need.
- **Prioritize Transformational Projects** -The county prioritized projects that were transformational in solving challenges or improving its ability to serve the maximum number of constituents.
- **Transparency** – established ARP website, communication tools, and clear process.

Quarterly performance reports from beneficiaries are collected by Benton County and performance is monitored to reinforce evidence-based, data-driven implementation agreed upon during project approval for funding.