BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS

Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

March 3, 2021 – July 31, 2021 Report

Brazoria County, Texas

March 2021 – July 31, 2021 Recovery Plan

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Executive Summary

Brazoria County is actively planning a variety of eligible projects to be paid for with ARPA funds that will promote a response to the pandemic and economic recovery for Brazoria County, its citizens and visitors alike.

Projects under current consideration include:
- Providing assistance to small business, nonprofit organizations, and/or other eligible partners where those entities can provide documentation of negative impacts related to the pandemic
- Constructing new pandemic emergency response related government facilities
- Purchasing emergency services equipment and upgrading communications systems whilst assessing and addressing related cybersecurity issues
- Addressing internet accessibility issues, especially to disproportionately impacted communities
- Funding assistance for health department needs.

Progress to date on those outcomes include initial identification of numerous projects being assessed for eligibility under the four designated areas.
- Brazoria County is currently working on providing support to the County Health Department. Projects currently underway include:
  - Purchasing contract tracing software
  - Purchasing a phone system software that will mass-communicate with covid positive individuals and other community members as necessary
  - Providing payroll funding for health department employees working overtime in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Brazoria County Judge and Commissioners will soon be prioritizing future projects to be funded and managed by the County.

Uses of Funds

Brazoria County's intended and actual use of funds will help support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic downturn. Brazoria County will employ strategies to maximize programmatic impact and effective, efficient and equitable outcomes. Brazoria County will use the ARPA funds to support communities, populations and individuals within its jurisdiction by thorough evaluation of eligible uses, suggested projects, and potential grants to other entities committed to serve. Brazoria County will exercise its discretion in choosing the eligible projects to be funded only after consideration of impacts supporting equity and whether preparedness and/or resilience to the ongoing pandemic are also considered factors.

Brazoria County is promoting the ARPA Expenditure Categories as follows:

1. Public Health (EC 1). Brazoria County's initial project list includes building or renovating public facilities that will directly or indirectly support Public Health. Other possible

projects include providing needed equipment to first responders so that they can best address pandemic related duties.

2. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2). Brazoria County is considering multiple programs to support non-profit, for profit, industry and/or individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The County will continue developing criteria for evaluation of entities which will be required to apply for such funding. Brazoria County will work to develop proper systems to monitor each such program.

3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3). Brazoria County is evaluating possible eligible projects where the emphasis will be on serving disproportionately impacted communities. All of Brazoria County's anticipated projects related to new or renovated public facilities will serve all people. As Brazoria County develops its selection criteria for possible ARPA grants to nonprofit service providers and others, consideration of and documentation about how the proposed new or enhanced services will impact disproportionately affected communities will be required.

4. Premium Pay (EC 4). There are no current such projects on Brazoria County's initial project list; however, as project development continues, the County may decide to develop or support the development of such projects.

5. Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5). Brazoria County has included one possible water improvement project in its initial project list related to providing water treatment.

6. Revenue Replacement EC 6). Brazoria County is conducting the analysis of lost revenue and is evaluating the potential use of those funds for implementing governmental services.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Brazoria County has, to date, made efforts to create an initial list of possible projects showing intended outcomes that promote equity for historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups in Brazoria County and in making final project decisions, such concerns will be evaluated. The County will provide an update, using qualitative and quantitative data, on how the County's approach has achieved or promoted equitable outcomes or progressed against equity goals during each performance period.

Goals
The County will take care to decide and design its program with equity in mind, and, in part, by following and requiring subrecipients and contractors to follow the Uniform Administrative Requirement, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR Part 200 and the Terms and Conditions of the Treasury's SLFRF assistance. Where projects may be designed to assist individuals or nonprofit organizations, eligibility to receive funds will, in part, be gauged upon income or other factors, such as homelessness, of the ultimate beneficiaries.

Brazoria County anticipates developing projects that will provide enhanced services and benefits for all people. In developing criteria for such projects related to the COVID-19 pandemic going forward, the County will consider the geographic and demographic distribution of funding, including whether it is targeted towards traditionally marginalized populations and communities.

Brazoria County, if/when subgranting SLFR funds to third parties, will encourage potential subgrantees to provide a level of evidence required or preferred that ask third party sub-grantees about whether their programs or services are evidence based according to the definition in Appendix 2 of the Reporting Guidance. (p. 32 of User Guide: Treasury's Portal…) Brazoria County understands that requiring third party recipients to report on whether their programs or services are evidence based will facilitate reporting for the Recovery Plan.

Awareness
Brazoria County has posted this Recovery Plan Performance Report encompassing the period March 3, 2021 through July 31, 2021 on its website at www.brazoriacountytx.gov/departments/legal-notices. The County will also specifically communicate to the non-profit and business communities, as well as industry impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and individuals, how to access information about the ARPA funding possibilities and how to make comments and contributions to the County's programming decisions and outcomes, Communication efforts will include, but are not limited to, providing notices in the jurisdictions' widely circulated newspapers or newsletters, announcements on local television and radio stations, including special efforts to identify and involve minority owned businesses, working with local pastors and church leaders to communicate where to find the plan and how to contribute; and other targeted outreach efforts to assure that all of the common ways persons in the community receive information are included.

Brazoria County will also hold public meetings and public hearings as mandated by the law for proposed ARPA projects, as applicable; however, other community meetings and outreach efforts will be considered to ensure transparency and ways to participate and provide input.

Access and Distribution
Brazoria County will consider existing differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups in developing its ARPA Program. The County will take care to identify and rework any administrative requirements that could result in disparities in an ability to complete applications or meet eligibility requirements. To this end, Brazoria County will react immediately to help any person or entity who needs assistance filling out the County's Application form(s) and efforts will be made to develop documents that are simple and easy to understand that will be available in English and Spanish. The County will provide accessible versions of any applications, forms or documents, and provide reasonable accommodations related to filling out and submitting required information on request.

Outcomes
Where relevant for the policy objective met by the project, Brazoria County is working towards on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of services, and/or disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, or other equity dimension.

Brazoria County's planned use of funds prioritizes economic and racial equity as a goal and the program will specify targets intended to produce meaningful equity results at scale, setting forth strategies to achieve those targets. Brazoria County's overall equity strategy will translate into specific services or programs offered in the following Expenditure Categories:

1. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2): assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits to address impacts of the pandemic, which have been most severe among low-income populations. This may include assistance with food, housing, and other needs; employment programs for people with barriers to employment who faced negative economic impacts from the pandemic (such as residents of low-income neighborhoods, minorities, disconnected youth, the unemployed, formerly incarcerated people, veterans, and people with disabilities); and other strategies that provide disadvantaged groups with access to education, jobs, and opportunity; and

2. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3): services to address health disparities and the social determinants of health, build stronger neighborhoods and communities (e.g., affordable housing), address educational disparities (e.g., evidence-based tutoring, community schools, and academic, social-emotional, and mental health supports for high poverty schools), and promote healthy childhood environments (e.g., home visiting, child care).

Community Engagement

Brazoria County's planned use of funds will incorporate written, oral, and other forms of gathered input that captures diverse feedback from constituents, community-based organizations, and the community itself. The County will carry out projects that build community capacity and reach underserved communities.

Where relevant, Brazoria County will include descriptions of how ARPA funds will build the capacity of a community organization to serve people with significant barriers to services, including people of color, people with low incomes, limited proficiency populations and other traditionally underserved groups.

Labor Practices

Brazoria County will use strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high quality infrastructure projects whilst also supporting local economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. Brazoria County will develop projects requiring project labor agreements, use of prevailing wage rates, and the County will promote local hiring.

Use of Evidence

Brazoria County will Identify whether SLFRF funds will be used for evidence-based interventions and/or if projects will be evaluated through rigorous program evaluations that are designed to build evidence. Brazoria County will develop a Learning Agenda or other device and use relevant evidence Clearinghouses to assess the level of evidence for the County's

interventions and to support its overreaching evaluation efforts in order to create an evidence building strategy.

Brazoria County understands that this analysis will be applicable to most Expenditure Categories in Public Health (EC 1), Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2) and Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3).

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

In this section, list the amount of funds used in each Expenditure Category. The table should include cumulative expenses to date within each category, and the additional amount spent within each category since the last annual Recovery Plan.

Jurisdictions may modify the table as needed by deleting unused rows where they have not expended any funds or by adding columns to more clearly characterize their program expenditures over time.

For the initial Recovery Plan, the amounts listed for "Cumulative expenditures to date" and "Amount spent since last Recovery Plan" will be equal.

	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	6,261.83	
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)	41,885.09	
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19		

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*		
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		
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)		

See Section C(7) on page 27 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Project Inventory THIS SECTION IS NOT REQUIRED UNTIL 10.31.2021

In this section, jurisdictions should provide a description of each project undertaken. See Section C(8) on page 27 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information. Below is an example of how to present the information noted in the Reporting Guidance, which incorporates project details as well as evidence and performance measure information outlined in the relevant sections above. This information should be replicated for all of the jurisdiction's projects.

Example Project
Project [Identification Number]: [Project Name]
Funding amount: [Funding amount]
Project Expenditure Category: [Category number, Category Name]

Project overview
- *A description of the project that includes an overview of the main activities of the project, the approximate timeline, primary delivery mechanisms and partners, if applicable, and intended outcomes.*
- *Link to the website of the project if available*
- *How project contributes to addressing climate change (for infrastructure projects under EC 5)*

Use of Evidence
- *Briefly describe the goals of the project, and whether SLFRF funds are being used for evidence-based interventions, the evidence base for the interventions, and/or if projects are being evaluated through rigorous program evaluations that are designed to build evidence. If a recipient is conducting a program evaluation in lieu of reporting the amount of spending on evidence-based interventions, they must describe the evaluation design (see Reporting Guidance for additional details that should be included).*
- *Identify the dollar amount of the total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions for each project in the Public Health (EC 1), Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2), and Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3) Expenditure Categories.*

See Section C(6) on page 26 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Additional Projects
Project [Identification Number]: [Project Name]
Funding amount: [Funding amount]
Project Expenditure Category: [Category number, Category Name]

Performance Report

- *For the Project Inventories in Section 8, include key performance indicators for your jurisdiction's major SLFRF funded projects. Report key performance indicators for each project, or group projects with substantially similar goals and the same outcome measures. Jurisdictions may choose to include some indicators for each individual project as well as crosscutting indicators. Include both output and outcome measures.* See Section C(9) on page 27 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.
- *In addition, you must include the mandatory performance indicators if your jurisdiction has projects in the relevant areas (this information may be included in each recipient's Recovery Plan as they determine most appropriate). Provide data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, income, and other relevant factors, if possible. Data should be presented in a table and each annual report should include updated data for the performance period as well as prior period data.*
  a. *Household Assistance (EC 2.2 & 2.5) and Housing Support (EC 3.10-3.12):*
     - *Number of people or households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)*

- *Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed*
  b. *Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2):*
    - *Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs*
    - *Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs*
    - *Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs*
  c. *Education Assistance (EC 3.1-3.5):*
    - *Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs*
  d. *Healthy Childhood Environments (EC 3.6-3.9):*
    - *Number of children served by childcare and early learning (pre-school/pre-K/ages 3- 5)*
    - *Number of families served by home visiting*

See Section C(10) on page 27 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Ineligible Activities: Tax Offset Provision (States and territories only)

For the initial reporting year, States and territories will report the following items related to the Tax Offset Provision 31 CFR 35.8. Baseline revenue or revenue-increasing covered charges are not required at this time.

Item	Amount
a. Revenue-reducing Covered Changes	$

See Section C(11) on page 28 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Additional guidance will be forthcoming for reporting requirements regarding the tax offset provision.