



# CITY OF BUFFALO

## TOGETHER TOWARDS RECOVERY

STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

### 2025 RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT



**City of Buffalo**  
**American Rescue Plan Act**  
**State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**  
**Recovery Plan Performance Report**  
**2025**

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## Executive Summary

The City of Buffalo American Rescue Plan (ARP) Spending Plan (the “Spending Plan”) continues to guide the City’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past year, the City has advanced implementation of critical projects designed to promote long-term resilience in communities most impacted by the health and economic effects of the pandemic.

In the fourth year of implementation, the City focused on fully encumbering all remaining ARP funds to ensure that every available dollar directly benefitted Buffalo residents. To achieve this, the City adopted Spending Plan Amendments #5, #6 and #7, which collectively allocated the final uncommitted portion of the \$331 million in ARP funding.

Several key programs—such as the Cultural Institution Support Program, Park Access Equity Fund, Masten Park/Johnny B. Wiley Reconstruction Project, Affordable Housing Advancement Fund, and Neal Dobbins Restorative Justice Fund—have demonstrated steady progress since the adoption of the final amendments. Other programs, including the Replacing Old Lead Lines (ROLL) Expansion, and the Mayor’s Youth Employment Program Expansion, have successfully expended all of their allocated ARP funding.

The City of Buffalo remains committed to executing all aspects of the Spending Plan to ensure a strong and equitable recovery. As of the writing of this report the City has fully obligated all ARP funds and expended \$201,506,461.37 of the total \$331,356,932 allocated.

## Uses of Funds

In 2022, a request for applications (RFA) released by the City of Buffalo made funding available through thirteen program categories outlined in the Spending Plan. Over the past year, the City substantially adjusted the total amount of funding available for these programs in response to ongoing economic challenges.

To ensure full utilization of ARP funds by the federal deadline of December 31, 2024, the City reallocated \$19.2 million from various programs to the Revenue Loss Replacement category—identified as the most effective use of uncommitted funds at that stage (see Table 1). This reallocation occurred through Spending Plan Amendments #5, #6, and #7. Amendment #5, introduced by Mayor Byron W. Brown’s administration, redistributed funding across several program areas to better address evolving community needs.

Amendments #6 and #7, adopted under Acting Mayor Christopher P. Scanlon following Mayor Brown’s resignation in October 2024, redirected unspent funds from projects that could not be encumbered before December 31 into Revenue Loss Replacement to meet federal compliance requirements. While several programs experienced funding reductions as part of this process, others received increased allocations to expand or accelerate existing efforts. These adjustments were informed by project performance, community needs, and feasibility within the ARP timeline. The remaining program funds were awarded to selected subrecipients to carry out projects under revised scopes of work. Subrecipient selection followed a rigorous review process aligned with the City’s equity, compliance, and performance standards.

<b>Programs Affected by Spending Plan Reallocations</b>
ARP2.1-01: Community Food Security
ARP2.2-03: Water and Sewer Debt Forgiveness Program
ARP2.3-05: Wraparound Services Support for Job Training Program Enrollees
ARP2.7-08: Skills Based Job Readiness Program
ARP2.7-09: Creation of a Neighborhood Improvement Corps
ARP2.9-10: Minority Owned Business Assistance Fund
ARP2.10-11: Community Center Renovation Program
ARP2.10-12: Frontline Arts Organization Sustainability Fund
ARP2.11-13: Cultural Institution Support Program
ARP2.12-01: Public Health Equity Initiative
ARP3.16-19: Neal Dobbins Restorative Justice and Public Safety Fund
ARP6.1-06: Buffalo Fire Department PCR Upgrades
ARP7.1-27: Administrative and Evaluation Costs
ARP7.1-28: ARP Communications and Public Engagement
ARP7.1-29: ARP Technical Assistance

*Table 1. Programs Affected by Spending Plan Reallocations*

### Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Equity, opportunity, and inclusion continue to guide the implementation of the Spending Plan. Over the past year, the City has sustained its focus on investing in communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Ongoing collaboration with the Common Council and community organizations ensures that funding delivers on community needs. The City has continued to implement a robust evaluation framework embedded in all awarded funding agreements, emphasizing compliance, evidence-based practices, and meaningful engagement. Evaluation activities funded through subrecipient awards remain central to this process, enabling data collection that supports transparency, program effectiveness, and continual improvement. While no major process changes occurred this year,

maintaining this structure ensures consistent support for equitable outcomes and informed decision-making moving forward.

### Use of Evidence

The City maintains a data-driven approach to monitoring and evaluating projects funded under the Spending Plan. Each initiative is guided by customized key-performance indicators (KPIs) aligned with specific program goals. While KPI structures remained largely unchanged this year, they continue to generate valuable insights to support oversight and accountability.

For example, employment-focused programs track job placement rates, while education initiatives monitor student performance. These indicators are reviewed systematically on a quarterly and annual basis, ensuring that programs remain accountable and responsive to evolving community needs. Although no new KPI frameworks were introduced this year, the ongoing collection and analysis of performance data underscores the City's long-term commitment to transparency, impact, and the strategic use of evidence in public investment.

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## Performance Report

<b>Expenditure Category</b>		<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>Cumulative Obligations</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditures</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Public Health</b>	<b>\$ 3,204,858</b>	<b>\$ 1,159,636</b>	<b>\$ 115,072</b>
1.11	Community Violence Interventions	\$ 1,680,150		
1.14	Other Public Health Services	\$ 1,524,708	\$ 1,159,636	\$ 115,072
<b>2</b>	<b>Negative Economic Impacts</b>	<b>\$120,021,087</b>	<b>\$ 38,714,356</b>	<b>\$ 67,617,539</b>
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs	\$ 1,617,423	\$ 593,715	\$ 273,708
2.2	Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	\$ 13,460,000	\$ -	\$ 4,258,440
2.2	Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	\$ 700,000	\$ -	\$ 700,000
2.3	Cash Transfers	\$ 1,983,988	\$ 1,285,206	\$ 698,782
2.10	Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 619,633	\$ 1,380,368
2.10	Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers	\$ 2,945,453	\$ 2,359,369	\$ 586,084
2.10	Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers	\$ 999,999	\$ 842,588	\$ 157,411
2.15	Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing	\$ 16,300,000	\$ 3,273,803	\$ 13,026,197
2.20	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation	\$ 652,831	\$ -	\$ 652,831
2.29	Assistance to Small Businesses: Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship	\$ 4,122,500	\$ 250,000	\$ 3,872,500
2.34	Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations	\$ 9,471,584	\$ 6,078,031	\$ 970
2.34	Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations	\$ 799,999	\$ 249,999	\$ 550,000
2.35	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	\$ 16,647,022	\$ 7,996,540	\$ 8,308,343
2.37	Other: Economic Impact Assistance: Other	\$ 3,800,000	\$ -	\$ 3,800,000
2.37	Other: Economic Impact Assistance: Other	\$ 23,551,560	\$ 7,187,845	\$ 16,360,804
2.37	Other: Economic Impact Assistance: Other	\$ 20,968,730	\$ 7,977,628	\$ 12,991,102
<b>4</b>	<b>4.1: Public Sector Employees</b>	<b>\$ 9,940,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 9,940,000</b>

*Table 2. Life-to-Date Fiscal Performance by Federal Expenditure Categories (Categories 1-4)*

<b>5</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>\$ 24,865,192</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 10,850,000</b>
5.2	Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance	\$ 14,865,192	\$ -	\$ 850,000
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000
<b>6</b>	<b>Revenue Replacement</b>	<b>\$172,965,683</b>	<b>\$ 2,721,987</b>	<b>\$ 37,779,982</b>
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$159,714,947	\$ 1,678,134	\$ 25,873,100
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$ 1,074,987	\$ -	\$ 1,074,987
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 82,756	\$ 2,117,242
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$ 8,475,750	\$ 53,047	\$ 8,422,703
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 908,050	\$ 291,950
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -
<b>7</b>	<b>Administrative and Other</b>	<b>\$ 360,112</b>	<b>\$ 16,672</b>	<b>\$ 492,854</b>
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$ 185,294	\$ -	\$ 185,294
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$ 122,462	\$ 16,672	\$ 102,410
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$ 32,500	\$ -	\$ -
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$ 30,150	\$ -	\$ 30,150
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$ 175,000	\$ -	\$ 175,000
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$331,356,932</b>	<b>\$ 42,612,650</b>	<b>\$ 126,795,448</b>

Table 2. Life-to-Date Fiscal Performance by Federal Expenditure Categories (Categories 5-7)

## Project Inventory

### **ARP1.12-01: Public Health Equity Initiative**

*Funding Amount: \$1,524,708.00*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$1,159,635.70*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$115,072.30*

*Project Expenditure Category: 1.14, Other Public Health Services*

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Public Health Equity Initiative has strengthened adult and child health support services in East Buffalo—an area that has historically experience some of the City’s worst health outcomes due to systemic inequities and limited access to care. This program invests in improving access to embedded healthcare facilities and addressing hesitancy toward medical services among residents. Three subrecipients, identified through the City’s RFA process, are advancing this initiative.

**Sisters of Charity Hospital** is expanding health literacy programming, with a particular focus on childbearing women and families. In partnership with Calming Nature Doula Services and Center, a Buffalo-based MWBE, Sisters Hospital aims to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates, increase breastfeeding rates, and directly address racial health disparities in BIPOC and low-income communities.

**Erie County Medical Center (ECMC)**, is preparing a contract for submission to the Common Council in Fall 2025. While project timelines were adjusted due to budgetary changes resulting from amendments to the Spending Plan, ECMC remains a vital partner in the Public Health Equity Initiative, poised to expand its significant contributions to improving health outcomes for the community.

**Nyamekye Housing, Health & Wellness** received \$1 million for sitework, demolition, and new construction at its Jefferson Avenue facility. This center provides integrated affordable, community-centered health and wellness services with modern fitness and nutrition programming. Construction is currently ongoing.

While a range of activities were completed in 2024, uncommitted funds were reallocated by December 31, 2024, in accordance with Common Council-approved Spending Plan amendments to support essential City services.

## **ARP2.1-02: Community Food Security**

*Funding Amount: \$867,423.14*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$593,715.11*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$273,708.03*

*Project Expenditure Category: 2.1, Household Assistance: Food Programs*

This program supports local organizations delivering nutrition-focused services including food preparation, delivery, and wellness education. Target service areas were identified based on data identifying neighborhoods disproportionately affected by food insecurity, health inequities, and pandemic-related economic fallout. An additional \$100,000 was awarded through spending plan amendments to support an additional subrecipient: African Heritage Food Co-Op, which is developing a grocery store on Buffalo's East Side.

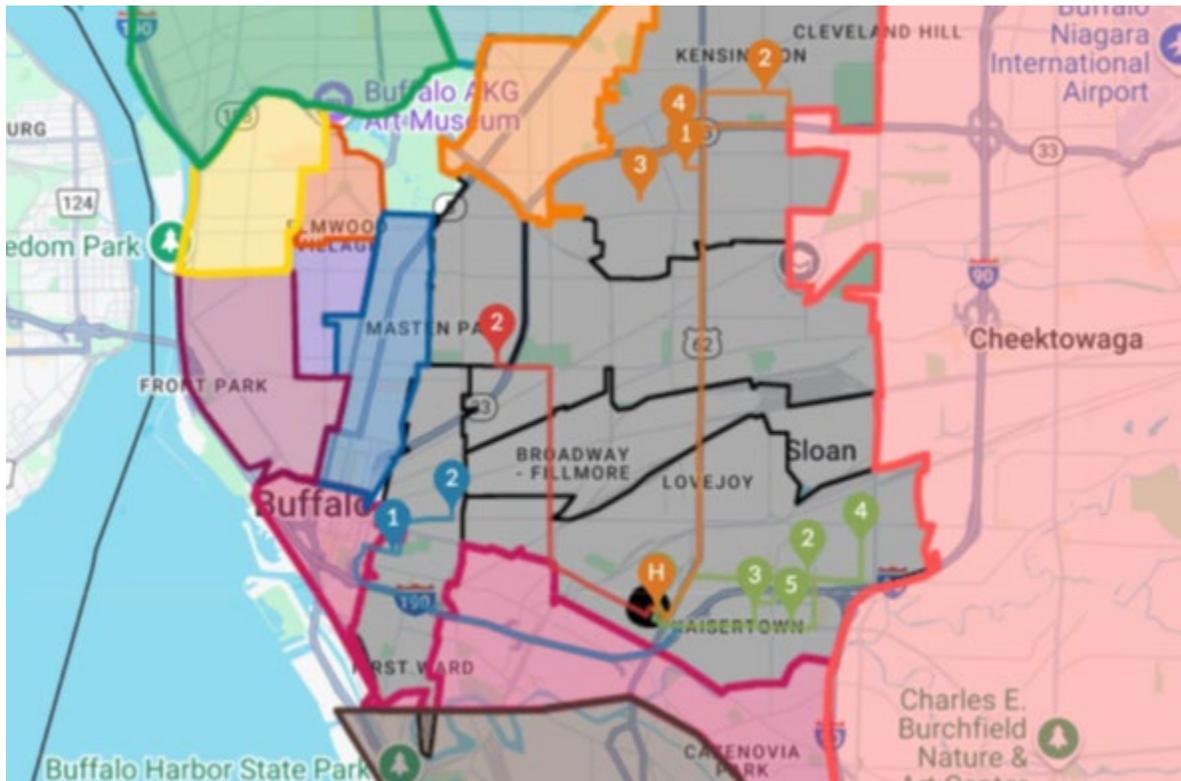
The **Massachusetts Avenue Project** (MAP) Buffalo Food Justice Project is advancing food sovereignty by expanding BIPOC youth workforce development, access to healthy and affordable foods, and food-based enterprise support while supporting local growers. In 2024:

- MAP employed 59 youth in paid positions and trained them in sustainable urban food production, enterprise development and food and social justice advocacy; 15 (~25%) successfully completed paid food system apprenticeships in continuation of their learning.
- 28 youth gained culinary and food safety skills; 7 new value-added products were created and marketed at MAP markets.
- 22 small-scale food entrepreneurs received business support and access to a commercial kitchen to start or build their own businesses.
- 7,865 households were served across 15 Mobile Market sites across the City, with produce sourced from 24 local farms (over \$55,000 reinvested into the local economy)
- 826 youth and adults participated in workshops on nutrition, agroecology, and food preservation.
- Youth workforce development activities exceeded all KPI goals by 25% or more for each metric (objective 1); food access KPIs were realized at no less than 98% performance (objective 2); culinary education and enterprise development realized 100% attainment of all KPIs, exceeding goals for youth product creation and marketing and resident participation in programming (objective 3).

**Fresh Fix** delivers healthy, locally sourced foods through online subscription services targeting food apartheid in Buffalo. Key updates:

- Hired 2 new community coordinators (33% of target).
- Priority needs households grew by 300% year over year (2023-2024), now representing ~20% of deliveries.

- A budget amendment in February 2025 funded a refrigerated vehicle to support expanded delivery capacity.
- Technology upgrades, including handheld card readers and online-direct-pay website features, that accept payments from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits cards in 2025 will enable SNAP benefit processing and expand program accessibility through discounts via the “Good Neighborhoods Program” and the “Double Up Food Bucks” program
- 622 customers were served during 2024-25 program year. The map below is a snapshot of some new customers enrolled during the 2024-25 program year from priority zip codes in the City of Buffalo:



*Number of new customers enrolled in Fresh Fix program, 2024-2025*

**Groundwork’s HEALTHY Community Garden** (Groundwork) project progressed with acquisition of 5 City-owned vacant parcels, pre-construction design, including surveying, and procurement. Collaborations are underway with regional food and farming organizations to support the community outreach and programming activities that will take place at the garden. Construction on the garden is expected to begin Fall 2025 with completion and opening projected for Spring 2026 to align with the local growing season. KPI reporting will begin in Q3, aligned with site development milestones.

### **ARP2.2-03: Water and Sewer Debt Forgiveness Program**

*Adopted Budget: \$13,460,000*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$0*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$4,258,440*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 2.2, Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid*

This program was originally designed to address household affordability challenges by forgiving past-due water and sewer bills for eligible low-income residents. The program was to be coordinated with the New York State Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) and Other existing affordability programs in partnership with Buffalo Water, Veolia Water and GHD.

In 2024, this program was modified through Spending Plan amendments. Instead of proceeding with the original design, funding was reallocated toward water infrastructure improvements to address broader system-wide resilience needs. The decision to redirect funding was informed by feasibility concerns, programmatic overlap with state-funded LIHWAP benefits, and the urgency of meeting federal deadlines to obligate funds. Additionally, long-term infrastructure investments were determined to offer a broader, lasting impact while still serving equity-centered goals around access and reliability. While the household-level debt forgiveness component was not implemented, the reallocated funds support improvements that ultimately reduce system costs and support affordability over time.

### **ARP2.2-04: Garbage User-Fee Assistance Program**

*Adopted Budget: \$700,000.00*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$700,000.00*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 2.2, Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid*

This program aimed to prevent housing instability and foreclosure risks by providing direct assistance to low-income residents with outstanding City garbage user fees. These fees, if unpaid, become liens that can lead to foreclosure, disproportionately affecting vulnerable homeowners. As part of Spending Plan amendments, the program was eliminated, and all funding was reallocated to the Revenue Loss Replacement Category. The program's design presented significant administrative challenges, particularly in aligning with overlapping federal and state assistance efforts. Additionally, limited time for implementation and the need to ensure timely obligation of ARP funds prompted a reallocation of resources to essential government services under the Revenue Loss Replacement category. Although the program was not implemented, its objectives remain aligned with the

City's ongoing efforts to prevent foreclosure and support household financial stability through other policy and programmatic tools.

### **ARP2.3-05: Wraparound Services Support for Job Training Program Enrollees**

*Adopted Budget: \$1,983,987.51*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$1,285,205.97*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$698,781.54*

*Project Expenditure Category: 2.3, Household Assistance: Cash Transfers*

This vital program delivers comprehensive wraparound services to support City residents enrolled in workforce training programs. These services—ranging from transportation and childcare to financial literacy and mental health support—help individuals overcome common barriers to employment and improve long-term career outcomes. Following a competitive RFA process, the Common Council approved four subrecipients in 2023: African American Cultural Center (AACC), Dress for Success Buffalo (DFSB), The Salvation Army, and Women Against Violence Everywhere (W.A.V.E.). Each organization tailored services to the population they serve, offering both direct support and skill-building opportunities.

**W.A.V.E. Buffalo Inc.** spearheaded programming focused on youth violence prevention, entrepreneurship, incarceration prevention, and skill development. Key outcomes included:

- Certification of 24 youth in babysitting, with 3 successfully placed in daycare positions.
- New internship pathways in graphic design, QuickBooks, and entrepreneurship.
- Over 250 youth and community members engaged through major outreach events.

Despite meaningful progress, W.A.V.E. faced challenges launching its construction programming due to funding limitations, and staff occasionally contributed personal funds to sustain operations. Planned next steps include launching new training tracks in cosmetology and barbering and expanding mentorship outings and school-based seminars.

**The Salvation Army Employment Services** implemented a rolling 4-week adult job readiness curriculum focused on workplace essentials, including financial literacy, legal education, customer service, and nutrition. Crucially, the program also integrated wraparound support services, such as childcare, housing, and transportation assistance, directly addressing common barriers to employment. Looking ahead, The Salvation Army plans to launch a community-facing marketing campaign and engage program alumni to serve as impactful ambassadors.

While all subrecipients continued providing services in 2024, a portion of program funding was reallocated to the Revenue Loss Replacement category to meet federal

obligation deadlines. Despite the reduction, each organization has continued to deliver core services and build capacity for future programming.

**ARP2.7-07: Northland Workforce Training Center Scholarship**

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

*Cumulative Obligations: \$619,632.50*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$1,380,367.50*

*Project Expenditure Category: 2.7, Job Training Assistance*

These funds continue to deliver critical financial support to students of color pursuing advanced manufacturing careers at Northland Workforce Training Center (NWTC). These scholarships greatly reduce financial barriers while supporting the City’s broader workforce equity goals.

Enrollment has shown consistent year-over-year growth, with 318 students enrolled in Spring 2025, up from 185 the previous year. Of these students, 61.6% are City of Buffalo residents, reflecting deepening local impact. The program also continues to foster diversity: 62.6% of students identify as minorities, and the share of, female students rose to 8.5% from 6.8% in 2024.

Student residency data reinforces NWTC’s neighborhood-focused mission: in Spring 2025, 96.9% of students resided in Erie County, with 37.7% living in zip codes contiguous to the NWTC campus (14211). Since opening in 2018, NWTC has enrolled 1,395 students, with 976 eligible to graduate; of those, 63.9% (624 students) have completed their training. The program boasts a job placement rate of 83%, and NWTC graduates earn an average starting salary of \$44,660, contributing over \$21.9 million in wages to the local economy. NWTC also offers robust wraparound supports, including tuition assistance, transportation, tools and consumables for training, laptops, and emergency funding for needs like PPE, rental, and utility assistance, which are essential to ensuring student retention and success.

**ARP2.7-08: Skills Based Job Readiness Program**

*Adopted Budget: \$2,945,453*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$2,359,368.76*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$586,084.28*

*Project Expenditure Category: 2.7, Job Training Assistance*

Despite modest funding reductions approved through Spending Plan amendments, subrecipients made strong progress toward workforce development goals, continuing to serve diverse populations citywide.

This program continues to expand career access for City residents by supporting nonprofit organizations that offer structured workforce training, case management, and wraparound support services. Through direct, flexible assistance, these community-based organizations empower residents to seamlessly transition from

lower-paying jobs into higher-paying, career-oriented positions throughout their training journey, promoting long-term stability. Identified through a competitive RFA process, several key nonprofit subrecipients drive these efforts in 2024-2025, including: **Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT), Buffalo Urban League, Catholic Health, Franklin Apprenticeships, Gerard Place, Matt Urban, Villa Maria College, Say Yes Buffalo, WNY Women’s Foundation, and 1199 SEIU.**

These organizations addressed longstanding gaps in the workforce development landscape by embedding employer partnerships early and providing holistic support throughout the training pipeline. A portion of the program’s original allocation was reallocated to the Revenue Loss Replacement category due to unspent funds not obligated by the December 31 deadline.

**The Buffalo Urban League (BUL)** focused on young adults aged 18–24, supporting their professional advancement through individualized career planning. Among their notable successes, one participant successfully completed an auto tech program through ECC/West Herr, while another graduated from Empire Beauty School and launched their own business. Two participants actively pursued plumbing certification, and one returned to college to study nursing, marking important steps in their professional journeys. Additionally, BUL supported three participants in obtaining driver’s licenses, recognizing this as a crucial step for securing and maintaining employment. Future goals include expanding entrepreneurial training and scaling support to additional high-barrier youth.

**Catholic Health** advanced its Career Ladder & Latticing Program, aimed at elevating entry-level associates—such as nurse aides, dietary, EVS, and patient transport associates—from underserved zip codes (14211, 14207, 14212, 14208, 14215). In 2024–2025, 25 employees completed internal two 16-week internal internships; outreach events drew over 400 participants; and strategic partnerships with local institutions like the State University of New York at Buffalo, D’Youville, and Erie 1 BOCES supported career exploration. The organization also began developing an internal workforce development intranet to sustain ongoing engagement. These efforts resulted in 25 associates enrolled in internal internships and 65 from target zip codes attending school fairs, showcasing the program’s impact and reach.

**Franklin Apprenticeships** launched the "Get Buffalo Working" pilot, an equity-focused workforce program enrolling 50 participants, with over 100 additional individuals accessing its learning platform. The program also conducted employer outreach and roundtables and delivered comprehensive partnership-based wraparound supports. Moving forward, Franklin Apprenticeships aims to expand its reach pending future funding, while sustaining current support and deepening talent pipelines.

**Gerard Place** delivered two “Intro to Healthcare” classes and began developing an EKG Technician Certification. Marketing and outreach strategies were tailored to low-income adults and GED recipients, including flyer distribution at food pantries and digital campaigns. They consistently encouraged all graduates to participate in “Intro to Healthcare” and fostered regular campus visits and on-site interviews with employers like Elderwood. Their community engagement efforts also included hosting on-site health fairs, conducting open interviews, and offering public access to their computer lab during open hours. Future plans include expanding credential offerings, strengthening outreach via public libraries, and scaling student support amenities like healthy snacks, gear, transit, and Medicaid assistance through specific programs.

**Say Yes Buffalo supported** 46 active apprentices through its Youth Workforce Development Initiative, with an 83% retention rate for Cohort 3 and a 95.7% employment rate for program alumni within 3 months of program completion. The initiative expanded into healthcare pathways in partnership with Roswell Park, Kaleida Health, and Catholic Health. Additional impact includes training 528 professionals in DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) through four Equity Think Tanks. Over the next year, Say Yes Buffalo plans to launch 10–15 new healthcare pathways, hire an additional Success Coach, and scale services to support 150 youth annually by 2030. Their School-Based Preventive Services further demonstrated impact by enrolling 163 families (601 individuals) and providing short-term services to 367 additional people. This work contributed to a 3.5% average increase in student attendance, with 76% of closed cases deemed successful. Future efforts will focus on sustaining full staffing across 21 schools and enhancing data tracking and funding sustainability.

**1199 SEIU** delivered healthcare career training across high-need neighborhoods. In 2024–2025, the program certified 8 participants and provided GED tutoring to several others. Outreach events drew 131 residents to informational sessions, with 68 participating in program activities. The organization aims to scale significantly in 2025–2026 by enrolling 100 residents, certifying 72, and placing 60 into employment, with a focus on CNA, Phlebotomy, Pharmacy Tech, and Sterile Processing pathways. They also plan to launch CNA cohorts with Healthway LLC and strengthen support for GED-seeking residents.

## **ARP2.7-09: Creation of a Neighborhood Improvement Corps**

*Adopted Budget: \$999,999*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$842,588.06*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$157,410.94*

*Project Expenditure Category: 2.10, Assistance to Un/Underemployed Workers*

The Buffalo Neighborhood Improvement Corps (BNIC) successfully completed its inaugural grant cycle, marking a significant milestone in just four months of launch. Managed in partnership between the City of Buffalo and The Service Collaborative of WNY, BNIC is a workforce development initiative that deploys local residents to improve public spaces while gaining career-building experience. In its first months of operation, BNIC members revitalized ten City parks and participated in twelve *Clean Sweep* events across Buffalo. These early efforts included the removal of over 1,000 pounds of trash earning strong praise from the City's Division of Parks and Recreation.



*Team members clean up during a BNIC-led community event*

In addition to their environmental service, BNIC successfully recruited a diverse group of City residents and maintained high member retention rates. The program equipped its members with critical skills through diverse training in mental health, workplace safety (including OSHA 10 certification), carpentry, and CPR. This comprehensive learning experience helped to enhance members' employability.

A portion of this program's allocation was reallocated to the Revenue Loss Replacement Category, as approved by the Common Council, due to unspent funds not obligated by the December 31 deadline.

Looking ahead, BNIC leadership is leveraging data on work orders, training completion rates, and member participation to refine its operations. By building on its effective model of hands-on park revitalization, diverse training programs, and data-driven insights, BNIC will be able to maximize benefits for members and the community, solidifying its role as a critical part of Buffalo’s workforce development efforts.

**ARP2.9-10: Minority Owned Business Assistance Fund**

*Adopted Budget: \$4,122,500*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$250,000.00*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$3,872,500.00*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 2.9, Small Business Economic Assistance*

Launched in October of 2023 in response to the continued impacts of COVID-19, the City of Buffalo’s Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) remains a vital support system for small and minority-owned businesses. To date, SBAP has delivered over \$3.3 million in flexible financial and technical assistance aimed at strengthening operations, building capacity, and fostering long-term resilience. Over 200 businesses citywide have benefited from this initiative. Of those, over 100 identify as minority-owned and twice as many are located within low-to-moderate income census tracts. In addition to grant awards, SBAP participants gained access to professional business services—including strategic support, counseling, and training—to help elevate their operations. A portion of this program’s allocation was reallocated to the Revenue Loss Replacement Category, as approved by the Common Council, due to unspent funds not obligated by the December 31 deadline.

One subrecipient, Vision Multi-Media Group (WUFO Radio), received \$300,000 in support of its recovery and growth. A longstanding cultural fixture and critical voice for Buffalo’s Black community, WUFO Radio focuses on local issues, social justice, and innovative entertainment programming. Located on the East Side, Michigan Avenue, the station now stands as the largest employer in the historic corridor, with a team of 15 employees. Funding is supporting ongoing operations, including payroll stabilization and rising utility costs, as well as a robust lineup of community service drives and partner events with organizations such as NAACP, ECMC, Partnership for the Public Good, and Black Achiever. Reporting on this project remains active.

**ARP2.10-11: Community Center Renovation Program**

*Adopted Budget: \$9,471,583.57*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$6,078,030.91*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$3,392,582.66*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 2.10, Aid to Nonprofit Organizations*

This program provides critical capital investments in City-owned facilities that deliver essential services to Buffalo residents. These improvements aim to

modernize infrastructure, enhance accessibility, and support healthier, more sustainable environments for community engagement.

Despite reductions to the program’s original funding, the City has moved forward using remaining funds to deliver targeted improvements at more than ten community centers citywide. To continue advancing this work, the City is actively pursuing additional state and federal funding to support renovation needs at deferred sites. As of this report, approximately 90% of renovation projects have completed the design phase, and all construction is expected to be completed in 2025. Completed or active projects include:

- Community Center Roof Replacements - Phases 1 and 2
  - Repairs and replacements of aging roofs at multiple centers to improve safety and building integrity (Phase 2 design completed).
- Dorothy J. Collier Community Center - HVAC upgrades
  - Installation of new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to support healthier indoor air quality.
- Edward Saunders Community Center – Interior Renovations
  - Upgrades to building interiors to enhance functionality and comfort for residents.
- Gloria J. Parks Community Center - Gutter Replacement
  - Repairs to exterior roof drainage systems to prevent water damage.
- Lanigan & Lincoln Community Centers - Facility Conditions Assessments
  - Comprehensive evaluations to identify future repair and upgrade needs.
- Mead Resource Center – Interior and Exterior Improvements Completed
  - General facility improvements to support continued community use.
- Old First Ward Community Center – Parking Lot Resurfacing and Sidewalk Replacement
  - Repaving to improve accessibility and safety for visitors.
- Riverside-Bud Bakewell Ice Rink – Facility Planning Study
  - An in-depth assessment to guide long-term improvements to the ice rink facility.

Ongoing projects with expected completion in 2025:

- TJ Dulski Community Center - 2025 Capital Improvements Initiated
  - Early construction and design work for updates planned for full completion in 2025.
- Cazenovia Park Peter Crotty Casino – Interior and Exterior Renovations (Design Phase)
- Community Center Energy Audits - Phases 1 and 2
  - Evaluations of energy use at multiple community centers to identify opportunities to lower utility costs and reduce emissions.

- Community Center Facilities Assessments - Phases 1 and 2
  - Systematic evaluations to determine building conditions, prioritize future improvements, and ensure long-term sustainability.

Together, these investments demonstrate the City’s commitment to providing safe, accessible, and energy-efficient community spaces—despite necessary program adjustments. Findings from ongoing audits and assessments will inform future planning efforts and help secure additional resources to complete unmet needs.



*Asarese Matters Community Center - Roof Phase 1 Improvements*



*Edward Saunders Community Center Kitchen Renovations*

**ARP2.10-12: Frontline Arts Organization Sustainability Fund**

*Adopted Budget: \$799,998.50*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$249,998.50*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$550,000.00*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 2.10, Aid to Nonprofit Organizations*

This program supports arts-based nonprofits that were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on organizations serving youth and communities of color. These groups play a key role in promoting healing, creativity, and civic engagement through accessible cultural programming—particularly for residents processing trauma linked to economic distress or community instability.

Two organizations identified through the City’s RFA process—Ujima Company, Inc., and El Museo—were selected to receive support for the re-establishment of core programming and operational recovery efforts. As a result of budgetary changes following Spending Plan amendments, program funding was reduced, with a portion of unobligated funds reallocated to the Revenue Loss Replacement category. Nonetheless, the initiative continues to reflect the City’s investment in a

more equitable and resilient creative economy. Additional program outcomes will be shared in future reporting cycles as implementation advances.

**ARP2.11-13: Cultural Institution Support Program**

*Adopted Budget: \$16,647,022*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$7,996,539.62*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$8,308,342.84*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 2.11, Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality*

This program provides targeted capital improvement investments to Buffalo’s cultural and heritage institutions, many of which operate within the travel, tourism, and hospitality sectors that were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding prioritizes infrastructure upgrades that support operational resilience, enhance visitor access and experience, and reinforce Buffalo’s cultural identity. Institutions receiving assistance include museums, theaters, cultural centers, and libraries, with projects ranging in scope from structural stabilization to new program spaces. The remaining improvements are expected to be completed by the end of 2025, with select projects extending into 2026. Outstanding funding from this category that was unable to be obligated by December 31 was reallocated to Revenue Loss Replacement, as approved by the Common Council.

**Explore & More Children’s Museum - \$200,000**

Funding was awarded in support of security office construction, museum enhancements, and free *Family Fun Fridays*, programming for children and families living on Buffalo’s East Side, running throughout 2025. These events typically draw 100–150 attendees per session. As of July 2025, portions of the construction have been completed, and the free programming is already underway. This summer, the City will contribute \$54,551 toward construction and programming expenses. Approximately \$145,449 in grant funding remains, and the Museum anticipates completing all project activities by the end of 2025. Additional reporting on programming metrics and construction progress will be submitted in future updates.

**The 5/14 Commission - \$1,100,000**

The Buffalo Urban League (BUL) was awarded funds to support the Commission’s planning, development, and operation of a permanent memorial and museum honoring the victims of the domestic terrorist attack on May 14, 2022. Funds cover personnel expenses, fundraising and grant-writing activities, and the engagement of design consultants. As of July 2025, the Commission completed a national search and hired an Executive Director. Work on both design and fundraising efforts is actively underway. ARPA funds will continue to support these activities throughout the remainder of the year.

**The Buffalo History Museum - \$200,000**

This investment is critical to the Museum’s mission of preserving and sharing local history, while serving as a cultural and community anchor for Buffalo and the surrounding region. ARPA funds were used specifically for office renovations, while other components of the project included major upgrades to the auditorium and the construction of a new accessible ramp. With the project now complete, the City anticipates closing out the grant in the coming months. These improvements enhance the Museum’s ability to serve the public, and the relocation of administrative offices into the main building helps reduce overhead costs and streamline operations. Approximately 70% of visitors come from Western New York, with more than half residing in Erie County. Additional data on project outcomes and key performance indicators (KPIs) will be provided at closeout.

**The Colored Musicians Club - \$500,000**

Funds were awarded in support of the facility expansion, which includes constructing a new main entrance, renovating the second floor, and reconfiguring the first-floor jazz museum. The project is currently under construction, and the City is in the process of disbursing \$350,000 of the total grant this summer. ARPA funds are being used to cover hard construction costs, including architectural woodwork, plaster, flooring, and finishes. Construction will continue into 2025, and a second payment request is expected once additional milestones are reached.

**Torn Space Theater - \$250,000**

Funds were awarded in support of facility improvements, including reconstruction of the south side of the building, construction of a new green room and storage area, and completion of construction on the north side. This capital project will enhance Torn Space’s capacity to deliver arts and cultural programming to the community. All City funds were disbursed in 2025. Additional reporting on the project’s impact and outcomes will be included in future updates. The remaining improvements for this project are expected to be completed in spring of 2025.

**Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York - \$1,000,000**

The Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York (HHCWNY) is moving forward with a transformative community development initiative aimed at increasing cultural access, education, and equity for Buffalo’s Latino community. Funds are being used to advance Phase 1 of developing a long-envisioned – Cultural Resource Center. This capital investment has already led to key milestones in construction, including site clearing, earthmoving, foundational concrete work, and the installation of steel pilings. These infrastructure efforts are laying the physical groundwork for what will become a community anchor institution.

The first-floor foundation is currently under construction, and the city anticipates the release of the final 10% project retainer and initiation of closeout procedures by the end of summer 2025. The future full facility will include a culturally responsive space that features a café, art gallery, performance theatre, curriculum-ready media

production studio, and dedicated community conferencing capabilities. When complete, the center is expected to serve as an intergenerational hub for storytelling, workshops, performances, and student programming, while integrating digital media and cultural preservation efforts.

### **African American Cultural Center - \$1,000,000**

The African American Cultural Center (AACC), a longstanding institution rooted in Buffalo's cultural, artistic, and historic landscape, is entering a critical phase of restoration and modernization. In support of this mission, the AACC received program funds to initiate essential capital improvements and site stabilization efforts. This project will address much-needed upgrades to the facility's core mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems, remove hazardous materials, and modernize shared spaces to better serve the community and future programming.

The capital funding also includes the revitalization of the AACC's iconic Paul Robeson Theatre, a vital cultural asset that supports arts education, performance, community expression, and storytelling through African American traditions. As of July 2025, full design work has been completed. The city has disbursed \$130,979.32 to date, with construction activities expected to begin imminently. Approximately \$869,020.68 in remaining funds will be used to complete infrastructure, safety, and stabilization work, with full project completion anticipated by the end of 2026.

### **Italian Cultural Center – \$100,000**

Che Centro Culturale Italiano Di Buffalo, Inc (Italian Cultural Center), located at Delaware Avenue, has operated for four years and has grown in response to the communities' needs and participation. Their location and prior investments in the Russell Salvatore Garden have become an anchor to the neighborhood and the greater Buffalo area. The Italian Cultural Institute provides language classes, informational library, space for cooking lessons and a museum gift shop. Funding was awarded to address improvements to the courtyard, construction of a new shed, removal of Whitestone on the sidewalk in front of the center, and construction of a new pavilion for future summer youth programming space.

### **Burchfield Penney**

The Burchfield Penney Art Center (BPAC) is a large contributor to Buffalo's touristic, cultural, and artistic landscape, and is seeking to expand its reach within the art and tourism community by creating a model museum program. In support of this mission, BPAC received funds to expand integrated art opportunities and allow the BPAC to develop a satellite museum space in the City of Buffalo, creating exhibitions annually and providing public programming to residents within the City.

This project will bring together students with an affinity for art into real-life experiences with the staff of the Burchfield Penney Art Center. To ensure this program's success, a program coordinator will be hired where they will serve the community through future programming. Work remains ongoing for seasonal installations and future programming and \$62,400 has been awarded thus far.

#### **Olivencia Center – \$300,000**

The Agustin “Pucho” Olivencia Community Center (Olivencia Center), a vital cultural institution for Buffalo's Hispanic community, is advancing plans to revitalize its aging facility through targeted exterior renovations. Funding was awarded to support capital improvements enhancing the visual appeal and functional quality of the facility, enabling the expansion of services such as community meals, cultural events, food-based education workshops, and additional family gatherings. With the new infrastructure, Olivencia intends to activate its commercial kitchen to host cooking classes and operate a small on-site café-style service, building toward long-term revenue sustainability and increased engagement. Final finishes and improvements are expected to be completed in summer of 2025.

#### **725 Humboldt – \$1,500,000**

Program funds were awarded via the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (BURA) to support the stabilization and remediation of 725 Humboldt, a space which is facing decades of issues whose future plans are to create a workforce and educational empowerment center. BURA will support oversight of essential stabilization and remediation efforts to the existing building and site stabilization efforts. This project will address much-needed structural efforts to the facility, such as removal of the sagging roof, rebuilding of a collapsed stairwell, general floor framing, and removal hazardous materials such as asbestos. The City has disbursed \$375,000 in funding to date, with construction activities to continue. Full project completion is anticipated well before the end of 2026.

#### **BURA Monitoring - \$300,000**

BURA is a public benefit corporation dedicated to promoting affordable housing and community development in Buffalo, has been selected by the City as uniquely qualified to oversee the compliance of designated projects. Monitoring continues across all ARP programs such as Cultural Institution Support Programs for capital improvements project milestone tracking, on site walkthroughs, and ensuring proper work has been completed for close out of each project.

Recently completed projects include roof reconstruction at the **Buffalo Museum of Science** to address long-term water infiltration issues, and paving and site upgrades at the **Buffalo Zoo**, alongside the first phase of a multi-stage roof replacement. The **Gonzalez-Soto Library** underwent both interior and exterior renovations to improve accessibility and functionality, while **Marcy Casino**

completed stair repairs to enhance visitor safety. At **Shea’s Performing Art’s Center**, improvements included replacing outdated fire and booster pump systems and conducting a partial roof reconstruction to protect the historic facility.

Ongoing capital improvements include electrical upgrades and HVAC modernization at **Sahlen Field Ballpark**, where construction is expected to begin later this year. At the **Buffalo Zoo**, a limited use/limited access elevator (LULA) and new roof are under construction to improve visitor access and energy efficiency. Libraries like **East Clinton, Leroy Coles, and Merriweather** are undergoing roof replacements, HVAC upgrades, and dome repairs to modernize aging infrastructure. Additional projects underway include new building construction at the **Shoshone Fieldhouse**, roof work at **Kleinhans Music Hall**, and planning studies for future upgrades at the **Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park**.

Several larger-scale projects are slated for completion in 2026. These include the rehabilitation of **509 Michigan Avenue**, a key anchor of the African American Heritage Corridor; and a full facility renovation at the **Cazenovia Park Ice Rink**, designed to significantly enhance recreational offerings in South Buffalo.

#### **ARP3.5-14: Mayor’s Youth Employment Expansion**

*Adopted Budget: \$3,800,000.00*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$3,800,000.00*

*Project Expenditure Category: 2.37, Economic Impact Assistance: Other*

The Mayor’s Summer Youth Internship Program offers jobs and job-readiness training to Buffalo residents ages 14 to 21. The program's goal is to give young people professional opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise get, and in doing so, help them build practical skills and work experience. Between July 2023 and August 2024, the program hired 1,902 young people, with 70% coming from low-income backgrounds. Thanks to ARP funding, the program was able to provide valuable learning opportunities and experiences. However, the high number of participants led to higher administrative and payroll costs, and a staff shortage stretched resources thin, which has limited funding for a possible winter program. Still, the City is committed to keeping the momentum going and is actively searching for new funding sources to expand summer opportunities for disadvantaged youth.

### **ARP3.9-15: Park Access Equity Fund**

*Adopted Budget: \$23,551,560*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$7,187,845.45*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$16,360,804.30*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 3.9, Healthy Childhood Environments: Other*

The City of Buffalo continues to make strategic, equity-driven investments in its parks system, delivering a range of major upgrades across several parks, including Hennepin, John F. Kennedy, McCarthy, Houghton, Trinidad, Shoshone, Schiller, Father Conway, and Roosevelt Parks. These projects are designed to create safer, more inviting, and better equipped public spaces that meet diverse community needs in multiple neighborhoods across the city. Improvements include the installation of new perimeter security measures, such as boulders, bollards, and fencing, to enhance safety, as well as the addition of new athletic fields for football, Gaelic football, baseball, soccer, and multiuse play. Other major developments in parks feature upgraded lighting, expanded security camera networks, new sidewalks, stairway entrances, parking lot improvements, and drainage enhancements. Additional amenities include a new dog park, upgraded shelter houses, improved playgrounds, asphalt pathways, gateway entrances, tree plantings, and landscaping improving both function and appearance.

Capital improvements have not been without challenges, with some project locations presenting unforeseen underground utilities, concrete debris, and contaminated soil. To address these conditions, contractors undertook sinkhole repairs, excavation and backfill of large obstructions, and safe disposal of contaminated soil. Community engagement has been central to park improvement efforts: public meetings were held at each of the nine parks to present the overall master plan and phase one improvements to residents and representatives of Buffalo Common Council, block clubs, and local sports teams. Feedback from these sessions directly informed planning and design decisions made by the projects' architecture and engineering firms. Work will progress in the 2025 construction season, with additional improvements such as new playgrounds, splashpads, lighting, and security cameras. This citywide initiative underscores the City's commitment to revitalizing neighborhood parks through community informed design and equitable reinvestment.

**ARP3.9-16: Masten Park/Johnny B. Wiley Reconstruction Project**

*Adopted Budget: 20,968,730*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$7,977,627.58*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$12,991,101.98*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 3.9, Healthy Childhood Environments: Other*

This project marks a significant reinvestment in the Johnny B. Wiley Sports Pavilion and Masten Park, delivering needed improvements to one of Buffalo’s most economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. An overhaul of key athletic and community facilities is transforming the park into a modern and accessible recreational hub. Current upgrades include regrading the northwest quadrant and pool area to resolve drainage issues while ensuring safe, manageable slopes for maintenance operations.



*Regrading process of pool at Masten Park*

Athletic facilities are seeing major enhancements with a new turf football field, refurbished softball field, and shotput area, along with a new pool mechanical building and renovations to the north and south towers and service building bathrooms and locker rooms. Park pathways have been replaced with new concrete and asphalt, complemented by new landscaping and tree plantings to enhance the overall environment.



*Upgraded turf football field at Masten Park*



*Refurbished softball field at Masten Park*

Site work has been complicated by unstable soils and trapped groundwater, requiring specialized dewatering systems, excavation of unsuitable soil, and importing suitable soil were needed to mitigate these conditions. Looking ahead, additional phases scheduled for the 2025 construction season include installation of a new playground, splashpad, park lighting, and security cameras. This initiative continues to support the City's commitment to equitable investment in public spaces, ensuring residents of all ages have safe, accessible recreational opportunities.



*New playground installation at Masten Park*

### **ARP3.10-17: Affordable Housing Advancement Fund**

*Adopted Budget: \$16,300,000*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$3,273,803.09*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$13,26,196.91*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 3.10, Housing Support: Affordable Housing*

This program is designed to fill funding gaps in ongoing affordable housing development projects and establish an affordable housing fund. The primary goal is to address housing affordability challenges in an equitable manner, particularly in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. By providing immediate relief to the city's most vulnerable residents and promoting the development of new affordable housing in areas facing a shortage of quality, affordable units or concerns about displacement, the program aims to address both short-term needs and long-term housing stability. The City continues to work with funding subrecipients to execute existing agreements, including with the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority for rental assistance funding, as well as an agreement with the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency to administer a subaward supporting the non-profit Eight Days of Hope for the years 2022 through 2026. With the support of ARP funding, Eight Days of Hope continues to deliver essential home repair services at no cost to residents and homeowners. These services include, but are not limited to, roof repairs and replacement, exterior and interior painting, drywall installation, landscaping, porch restoration and general carpentry. Over the past year, the program has funded several transformative projects across Buffalo neighborhoods:

### **Cigar Factory Redevelopment**

Broadway-Fillmore Neighborhood Housing Services received gap funding to renovate the historic Jankowski Cigar Factory in East Buffalo. The project

preserved two small buildings, replaced siding, carried out extensive interior upgrades, and rebuilt a fire-damaged structure. Located in Broadway-Fillmore, this initiative not only preserved a heritage site but also introduces multiple affordable rental units to a low-income area, bolstering neighborhood density and economic vitality.

### **2201-2209 Fillmore Avenue**

2201-2209 Fillmore Avenue LLC received funds to rehabilitate two former commercial buildings in the east side Fillmore-Leroy neighborhood, into a mixed-use structure with six affordable residential above commercial retail space.

### **The Nash Lofts**

Managed by Carmina Wood Design at 163 Broadway Street in east Buffalo, the Nash Lofts received funds to develop 18 affordable workforce housing units for households at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. In a notable community partnership, 1,300 square feet of space within the development is being donated rent-free to the NAACP enhancing access to community services while delivering quality housing in a traditionally underserved neighborhood.

### **BENLIC Single-Family Infill**

The Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation (BENLIC) received funding to construct 47 new one-to-four family homes on widespread city-owned vacant lots. With \$24.5 million invested by Erie County and the City, these homes are being sold to income-qualified buyers under long-term affordable land and lien agreements/ sales target households up to 300% of the federal poverty level, with lien back features ensuring sustained affordability. Groundbreaking occurred in April 2025 across multiple neighborhoods (Ken-Bailey, University Heights, Old First Ward, Lower West Side, Black Rock, and Riverside).

Collectively, these initiatives are breathing life into underused and vacant properties, preserving heritage assets, and producing critically needed affordable and workforce housing.

### **ARP3.15-18: Healthy Homes Inspections Program**

*Adopted Budget: \$652,831*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$652,830.82*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 3.15, Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation*

In 2024, the City's Proactive Rental Inspections (PRI) program made significant progress, further advancing its mission to improve housing safety and reduce lead exposure risks. Administered by the Department of Permit & Inspection Services (DPIS), the program supports lead poisoning prevention efforts in coordination with

the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH), with a long-term goal of achieving citywide rental inspection coverage.

Following the submission of last year's PRI report, DPIS worked closely with the Common Council and city administration to implement enhancements to the PRI ordinances. These changes included an increase in rental registration fees, enabling the hiring of seven additional inspectors—expanding the inspection team from three to ten members. New inspectors were onboarded in the fall of 2024 and began comprehensive training to meet New York State Code Enforcement Official certification requirements and receive department-specific instruction in inspection protocols, tenant and landlord communications, and lead hazard identification. With expanded capacity, the PRI program continued key activities across multiple fronts:

- Conducting proactive inspections neighborhood-by-neighborhood, including scheduling, follow-ups, and enforcement actions such as Order to Remedy and Summonses.
- Responding to inspection requests received through the Mayor's 311 Call and Resolution Center
- Participating in over 60 community outreach events to educate residents about rental housing safety and lead awareness
- Requiring RRP (Renovation, Repair, and Painting) certification for all licensed contractors in the City
- Collaborating with the ECDOH to identify and verify properties with potential lead hazards before issuing Certificates of Rental Compliance

As outlined above, this program carried out several activities in 2024 using available funds. However, any remaining funds not committed by the December 21, 2024 deadline were reallocated to support essential city services, as approved by the



*City of Buffalo Inspectors providing educational resources and engaging with residents at community events*

Buffalo Common Council. While ARP funding for the PRI program concluded at the end of 2024, these resources were instrumental in helping the city build critical program infrastructure and expand inspection capacity. As a result, the PRI program is now positioned to operate at a greater scale and has since been structured to pursue and secure additional funding from other sources to sustain and enhance its work into future years.

Table 3 summarizes the program’s outputs to date, highlighting the growth of the PRI program and its expanding impact on housing safety. During the pandemic, many residents were reluctant to allow inspectors into their homes for interior inspections due to health and safety concerns. As a result, the data from the first three years of the program includes both interior-exterior and exterior-only inspections. Following the decline of COVID-19 concerns, starting in 2023, only homes with interior-exterior inspections have been recorded.

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025*</b>
# of Residential Units Inspected	445	1637	2252	293	2651	1207
# of Unique Rental Properties Inspected	-	-	-	178	1561	659
# of Units Requiring Multiple Inspections	330	553	1198	247	1882	935
# of Units in Which Lead Hazards Were Found**	330	553	1198	141	841	275
# of Warrants DPIS Sought	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Rental Registration Unit Certificates Issued by DPIS	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of CRCs issued by DPIS	0	36	120	213	782	283

*Table 3. Healthy Homes Inspections Program Outputs by Year*

\*Data captured in time period leading up to 3/12/25

\*\*This entry reflects the number of properties with violations of protective treatment and/or interior surfaces which would include violations for chipping and peeling paint. Properties with significant chipping and peeling paint are referred to ECDOH, the government agency with primary responsibility and funding for lead poisoning prevention.

**ARP3.16-19: Neal Dobbins Restorative Justice and Public Safety Fund**

*Adopted Budget: \$2,617,996.00*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$1,493,653.15*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$1,124,342.85*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 3.16, Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions*

The Neal Dobbins Restorative Justice and Public Safety Fund, with an adopted budget of \$2.6 million, strategically addresses Buffalo’s rising gun violence crisis. Through partnerships with nine dedicated community organizations, the Fund supports violence prevention, youth empowerment, and restorative justice initiatives, primarily focused on youth aged 16-24 and community victims. Outstanding funding from this category that was unable to be obligated by December 31 was reallocated to revenue replacement, as approved by the Common Council.

Identified through the RFA process, nine partner agencies contribute distinct approaches to reduce violence, strengthen neighborhood safety, and foster healing. **Back to Basics Ministry** deploys Street Engagement Teams for mentoring, conflict resolution, and trauma-informed care, reaching over 1,400 youth. **Candles in the S.U.N.** leads restorative justice workshops, while **G.R.O.U.P. Ministries** focuses on youth leadership and violence prevention. **Home Beneath Our Feet** addresses social determinants with holistic support, and **Most Valuable Parent (MVP)** empowers parents through mentorship. **PeacePrints WNY** uses creative arts to divert youth from violence, and the **Police Athletic League (PAL)** builds positive police-community relations through sports and academic support. **The Stop The Violence Coalition (STVC)** coordinates community dialogues for awareness, and **Project Mona’s House** provides trauma-informed empowerment for young women.



*Program participants take part in hands-on activities.*

Collectively, these organizations have served over 2,000 youth and community members through a combination of vital services including mentoring, conflict mediation, education, employment support, mental health services, cultural enrichment, and community engagement. The Fund's efforts are primarily centered on Youth Mentoring & Empowerment Programs (30%) and Conflict Resolution & Violence Prevention (25%). Additionally, Community Outreach & Engagement Events and Educational & Job Training Support each comprise 15% of core activities, while Mental Health & Trauma-Informed Services account for 10%, and Housing & Basic Needs Assistance makes up 5%.

Critical partnerships with local police, probation, and social service providers have significantly enhanced referral pathways and a continuum of care. Buffalo's commitment to holistic public safety is also evidenced by strategic initiatives like the LEAD pilot program and technology investments for safer policing. Programs such as PAL and MVP have expanded youth employment and leadership, while Project Mona's House and Home Beneath Our Feet address specialized needs and social determinants of health. Despite achievements, agencies need enhanced capacity-building support, particularly in data management and outcome tracking. Future coordinated investments in technology and training are vital to sustain and scale these community-driven efforts, as the Fund remains committed to equitable access, strong collaboration, and responsive programming.



*Smiling faces behind the scenes: coordinators who make programming accessible and impactful.*



*Tabling at a local event, a team member shares program information, resources, and a few giveaways along the way.*

**ARP4.1-1: Premium Pay**

*Adopted Budget: \$9,940,000*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$0*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$9,940,000*

*Project Expenditure Category: 4.1 Public Sector Employees*

Amendment 3 to the Spending Plan shifted \$11,100 from ARP Project # 5.2-20 Smart Sewer and Water Infrastructure Buildout Premium to issue payments to eligible City of Buffalo employees who worked during COVID-19 per the qualification requirements noted in Treasury’s SLFRF-Final Rule.

**ARP5.2-20: Smart Sewer and Water Infrastructure Buildout**

*Adopted Budget: \$14,865,192*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$0*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$850,000.00*

*Project Expenditure Category: EC 5.2, Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance*

Budgetary changes to the Spending Plan shifted funds from this program allocation into other prioritized programs. As a result, the City will investigate other sources of funding to support general investments into SMART sewer and water infrastructure as part of the City’s ongoing infrastructure plan.

**ARP5.12-21: Replacing Old Lead Lines (ROLL) Expansion**

*Adopted Budget: \$10,000,000*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$10,000,000*

*Project Expenditure Category: 5.12, Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution: Lead Remediation*

This allocation supported the expansion of the City’s [ROLL program](#) to replace the lead water service lines at residential properties across the City. The City successfully replaced the lines in 500 homes early in the program, and the expanded capacity more than doubled its impact. The program complemented the City’s federally funded lead mitigation program, as well as its Proactive Rental Inspection (PRI) program and home improvement revolving loan fund. Completed in June of 2024, this initiative produced lead line replacements at more than 700 residential properties throughout the City.

**ARP6.1-22: Revenue Loss Replacement**

*Adopted Budget: \$27,551,234*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$1,678,133.89*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$25,873,100.44*

*Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services*

In 2024, this category received a significant portion of reallocated funds from projects unable to obligate their full allocations by the federal deadline of December 31, 2024. This strategic reallocation ensured compliance with the U.S. Treasury obligations while preserving the City’s ability to support essential government services and mitigate fiscal impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Revenue Loss Replacement category offers broad flexibility and has served as a critical mechanism to maintain continuity of services, stabilize operations, and uphold equity-centered priorities during implementation. All reallocated funds were approved by the Common Council in accordance with the Spending Plan and federal guidelines.

**ARP6.1-23: Buffalo Fire Department SCBA Upgrades**

*Funding Amount: \$1,074,986.51*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$1,074,986.51*

*Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services*

These project funds upgraded the Buffalo Fire Department’s Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBAs). SCBAs are critical to the Department’s ability to carry out their life-saving mission and are vital to keeping personnel safe. The City was able to realize a cost-savings of nearly \$100,000 during the purchase process and as such reallocated the remainder of funds toward Project 6.1-06, BFD PCR Upgrades via Amendment #1 to the ARP Spending Plan.

**ARP6.1-24: Enhanced Cybersecurity Measures**

*Adopted Budget: \$2,200,000*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$82,756.46*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$2,117,242.14*

*Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services*

Implementation of these funds has progressed with various cybersecurity measures improvements to the City's digital infrastructure taking place over the last year. These upgrades contribute to a more resilient system against potential ransomware attacks which can have a detrimental impact on the delivery of critical city services and maintaining the integrity of residents’ private data.

### **ARP6.1-25: Road Maintenance Fund**

*Adopted Budget: \$8,475,750*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$53,046.69*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$8,422,703.14*

*Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services*

The Department of Public Works, Parks, and Streets used this allocation to complete paving, install speed humps, construct new sidewalks, and apply pavement and crosswalk markings citywide. These improvements addressed a backlog of projects that had been delayed due to the pandemic and related reductions in infrastructure funding. No major challenges have been reported since the last update, prepared in the summer of 2024.

Projects were prioritized based on their proximity to residential neighborhoods, schools, and other high-use public areas with significant pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Additionally, each of the nine City Council Districts received \$400,000 from the Fund to support additional road maintenance tailored to local needs. All council districts received sidewalk improvements, with additional road paving in Delaware, Fillmore, and Lovejoy Districts. To guide this work, the City held meetings with residents, stakeholders, and Common Council members to ensure timely attention to identified repair sites. Since the previous update, this work has been substantially completed.

### **ARP6.1-26: Buffalo Urban Development Corporation**

*Adopted Budget: \$1,200,000.00*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$908,050.00*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$291,950.00*

*Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services*

Over the course of the pandemic, BUDC played a key role in advancing economic development planning to support the recovery of small businesses citywide, with particular emphasis on revitalizing the Northland beltline and downtown corridor. Allocated funds have continued to support pandemic-related costs and the continuation of recovery activities as funds are expended. Over the past year, BUDC sustained its focus on COVID-19 downtown recovery efforts through programming such as Queen City Pop-Up, commercial building vacancy and storefront activation initiatives, and targeted marketing and promotional campaigns for the downtown area. As of 2025, the City is preparing to disburse the remaining \$908,000 in awarded funding, with further expenditure and programmatic reporting anticipated later this year.

### **ARP6.1-06: Buffalo Fire Department PCR Upgrades**

*Funding Amount: \$300,000*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$300,000*

*Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services*

Through this allocation the Buffalo Fire Department's PCR equipment and its accompanying software has effectively been upgraded to fulfill the state-mandated electronic-PCR requirements set forth as of January 1, 2022. Since being incorporated these upgrades have streamlined BFD's ability to input and share patient data during response calls, improving consistency and efficiency within local Emergency Medical Services. Outstanding funding from this category that was unable to be obligated by December 31 was reallocated to revenue replacement, as approved by the Common Council.

### **ARP7.1-27: Administrative and Evaluation Costs**

*Adopted Budget: \$185,294*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$185,294*

*Project Expenditure Category: 7.1, Administrative Expenses*

This allocation supported core administrative functions necessary for ensuring compliance with federal and state guidelines related to implementing the Spending Plan. Funding primarily covered salary and fringe costs for staff managing program administration, monitoring, and reporting. Evaluation activities originally planned under this category were instead integrated into individual projects through tailored KPIs, eliminating the need for a separate allocation. Uncommitted funds that remained by the federal obligation deadline were reallocated to revenue replacement, as authorized by the common council.

### **ARP7.1-28: ARP Communications and Public Engagement**

*Adopted Budget: \$122,462*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$16,671.95*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$102,409.68*

*Project Expenditure Category: 7.1, Administrative Expenses*

This allocation funded a communications consultant contract to develop a citywide public engagement strategy and create content related to the ARP Spending Plan. While the contract supported key deliverables during implementation, not all funds were obligated by the federal deadline. Remaining uncommitted funding was reallocated to revenue replacement, in accordance with Common Council approval.

**ARP7.1-29: ARP Technical Assistance**

*Adopted Budget: \$32,500*

*Cumulative Obligations: \$*

*Cumulative Expenditures: \$*

*Project Expenditure Category: 7.1, Administrative Expenses*

Through this allocation, the City advanced its partnership with the University at Buffalo Regional Institute (UBRI) to provide technical assistance. This included the development of a standardized tracking system for programmatic progress. While the contract continued through 2024, some funds remained unobligated and were reallocated to revenue replacement as part of year-end adjustments approved by the Common Council.