



State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

Prepared for Cameron County Residents

&



August 31, 2021

CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS
2021 Recovery Plan

Table of Contents

General Overview	1
Executive Summary	2
Uses of Funds	2
Promoting Equitable Outcomes	3
Community Engagement	4
Labor Practices	4
Use of Evidence	4
Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category	5
Project Inventory	8
EXHIBIT A: Preliminary Budget Allocation	11
EXHIBIT B: State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Power-Point Presentation	12

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Cameron County, hereafter referred to as County, is on course in the implementation of the State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds granted to its jurisdiction. It is the County's contention that its intended and actual uses of the funds, its approach will help support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.

The County has established an internal program implementation and management team strategy to maximize the programmatic impact and effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes. The County further maintains that the broad eligible uses of funds couple with the specific needs of the County and its residents will enable the County to better support its communities and populations.

The County will use funds to work with and assist nonprofit organizations and groups as a significant response to the public health emergency (COVID-19) and its negative economic impacts. As its first major project, the County is utilizing a significant percentage of the funds to provide a financial incentive for students to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine.

The County has afforded premium pay to its eligible employees who continue to protect the health and well-being of the residents during the COVID-19 pandemic and now with emerging variants. All County employees who continue to provide essential services to County residents.

The County has determined the amount of Revenue Loss due to COVID-19 for period ending December 31, 2020, and will earmark such funds to provide general services, services that were curtailed and/or stopped during the pandemic year, to the constituents. While the County has broad latitude to use the Fiscal Recovery Funds for the provision of government services, the County intends to use these funds for improving County roads; modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure.

Finally, the County will be making necessary investments for extending water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure to unserved areas and the residents therein.

Uses of Funds

The County has established an initial allocation of funds as illustrated on Exhibit A to this report.

The County's recently created an internal program implementation and management team strategy which will maximize the programmatic impact; thus, achieving effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes.

The broad eligible uses of funds couple with the specific needs of the County and its residents will enable the County to better support its communities and populations.

The County, as allowed by the SLFRF, intends to use funds to:

1. To respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts;

2. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to such workers of the recipient, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who performed essential work;
3. To provide government services with funds that the County lost due to the COVID–relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the recipient prior to the pandemic.
4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

This will be accomplished by direct intervention projects and by partnering with private, nonprofit groups, water supply corporations, and small incorporated communities all involved in providing much needed assistance and services to the County’s rural areas, Colonias and underserved populations in the community overall.

Revenue Replacement

The County has determined the revenue replacement for the period ending December 31, 2020, is \$11,636,925.36. The intend use of these funds is being developed by identifying and prioritizing the services and projects which were decreased and/or deleted due to the loss of such revenue.

Other ARPA Funds - Cameron County’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA)

ERA-1: Grant amount \$12,786,338 These funds must be spent by September 30, 2022. The County contracted the implementation of this grant to the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville (CDCB). CDCB has expended \$1,500,000 as of July 31, 2021.

EPA-2: The second grant consisting of two allocation amounts \$10,117,231.00 and \$3,198,494.20 (High Need) for a total of \$13,315,725.

The slow implementation process of these grants has prompted the County to add additional nonprofit groups and to create an Inhouse Program Operation to expedite the process of helping families.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

The County will continue to make use of all funding, especially SLFRF funds, to provide needed services and assistance to the County residents with the highest investment priority allocation to the residents with the most need and with a history of being underserved. All projects will be developed and approved to strategically positively impact the minority and low-income population.

While program planning and implementation is still at an early stage, the County will promote equitable outcomes by designing such planning and implementation with equity in mind. This will be accomplished by considering and measuring equity at the various stages of the program, including:

- a. Goals: The County will target rural and Colonia residents, as well as those residents of small incorporated, but-low income communities.
- b. Awareness: The County will be developing appropriate promotional stratagems and taking it into the geographical areas of concern – not wait for them, but go to them.
- c. Access and Distribution: In addition to “b” above, the County will utilize its offices as well as the offices of small communities to operate within the geographical areas of concern.
- d. Outcomes: The County will develop and assess projects with intended outcomes focused on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service, or disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective.

The County’s planned and current use of funds prioritizes economic and racial equity as a goal. Again, the County will target rural and Colonia residents as well as residents of incorporated small communities. The residents of these localities unfortunately tend to be low-income. As for racial equity, the vast majority are Hispanic.

Negative Economic Impacts and Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: The County will continue using its Emergency Rental Assistance Grants 1 and 2 to address these factors.

Community Engagement

The County conducted a “Public Hearing” during the August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting of the County Commissioners Court. A power point presentation (Copy included as Exhibit B to this report) was presented at the beginning of the public hearing. The County will continue to inform the public and solicit their input, especially through the County’s website.

The County is soliciting input, but more importantly, asking for funding proposals from community-based organizations and small incorporated communities.

The County will be funding rural water supply corporations to enable them to improve and expend their water treatment and distribution and raw sewer collection and treatment infrastructure systems. This will improve the quality of life for rural county (Colonias) residents still residing in substandard physical conditions. The vast majority of them are Hispanic, very low-come and limited English proficiency populations.

Labor Practices

All projects, but most specifically infrastructure projects will be developed and approved with highest labor practices as integral component.

Use of Evidence

Based on the development of the County’s Recovery Plan, at this point none of the approved ongoing or planned projects would require the Use of Evidence for project evaluation. The County will make the necessary adjustments if and when the circumstances change.

TABLE OF EXPENSES BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination		
1.2	COVID-19 Testing		
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing		
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)		
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment		
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)		
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID19 public health emergency		
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)		
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19		
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		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
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		
Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
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	\$3,377.04	\$3,377.04
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis		
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government		

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project Number: CC-001 **Approved 06/08/2021**

Project Name: Back-up Power

Project Funding Amount: \$101,500

Project Expenditure Category: Public Health 1.7

Project Overview:

The purchase of a 400 KW Generator for the County's Emergency Operations Center located at 964 E. Street, that will assist in implement the mitigation tactics for COVID-10 and other emergency events.

Project Number: CC-002 **Approved 08/10/2021**

Project Name: Air Conditioning Improvement

Project Funding Amount: \$109,640

Project Expenditure Category: Public Health 1.7

Project Overview:

The NINOS Head Start Center needs replacement based that AAON HVAC System is not operational. The current two-system HVAC will be replacing with a one-unit to cover NINOS area, to include current HVAC software controls, that will assist in implement the mitigation tactics for COVID-10 and other emergency events.

Project Number: CC-003 **Approved 08/10/2021**

Project Name: Premium Pay

Project Funding Amount: \$6,301,468

Project Expenditure Category: Premium Pay 4.1

Project Overview:

The County Executive, with the advice and consent of the Commissioner, determined that all County employees as of August 10, 2021 are considered essential , and is taking into account the lower income eligibility in connection with the ARPA Premium Pay for employees deemed essential as critical infrastructure workers in the amounts indicated by Commissioner' Court as necessary and appropriate to respond to the heightened and risk to workers who must be physically present at the jobsite, in connection with the continued threat and risk associate with the COVID-19 and its emerging variants, and the decision made by Commissioners Court is based on the ARPA requirements and the analysis of Commissioners' Court with respect to essential workers. Such premium pay is being afforded to employees according to the below scale.

Employees earning up to \$40,000 will receive:	\$3,500
Employees earning from \$40,001 to \$59,999 will receive:	\$3,000
Employees earning more than \$60,000 will receive:	\$2,500

Project Number: CC-004 **Approved 08/17/2021**
Project Name: COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive
Project Funding Amount: \$150,000
Project Expenditure Category: Public Health 1.1 Vaccination

Project Overview:

This COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive project provides a financial incentive of \$50 for students from the ages of 12 to 18 years of age for obtaining the vaccine (First Shot).

This project will be implemented during the period of time of August 10, 2021 through September 30, 2021.

Verification process will be performed by the Cameron County's Health Department.

The intent of the project is to have as many as possible students take the vaccine as they start classes this school year of 2021-2022.

Project Number: CC-005 **Approved 08/17/2021**
Project Name: COVID-19 Pay
Project Funding Amount: \$230,554
Project Expenditure Category: Public Health 1.9

Project Overview:

Compensation for the Cameron County Health Authority for services provided associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, retroactively effective June 1, 2021 through the end of the calendar year.

Project Number: CC-007 **Approved 08/17/2021**
Project Name: Expending Broadband
Project Funding Amount: \$70,000
Project Expenditure Category: Infrastructure 5.17

Project Overview:

Expansion of broadband infrastructure into unserved areas of the County is one of the County's highest priorities. The initial step will be done with overhead infrastructure. This project is basically a pilot approach to the overall broadband expansion effort.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

The County intends to provide this type of assistance through its Emergency Rental Assistance Grants as per below.

Other ARPA Funds - Cameron County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA)

ERA-1: Grant amount \$12,786,338 These funds must be spent by September 30, 2022. The County contracted the implementation of this grant to the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville (CDCB). CDCB has expended \$1,500,000 as of July 31, 2021.

EPA-2: The second grant consisting of two allocation amounts \$10,117,231.00 and \$3,198,494.20 (High Need) for a total of \$13,315,725.

The slow implementation process of these grants has prompted the County to add additional nonprofit groups and to create an Inhouse Program Operation to expedite the process of helping families.

However, the County will adhere to the evaluation and reporting requirements if project proposals for such assistance are approved.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRAMMATIC DATA

(Not applicable at this point and same statement as above.)

STATE LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
PRELIMINARY BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	ELIGIBLE USES	DOLLAR AMOUNT ALLOCATION		Public Health & Economic Impact	Loss of Revenue	Premium Pay	Infrastructure	Administration	Total
2									
3	HEALTH RELATED PROJECTS	8,219,445		8,219,445					8,219,445
4	ASSISTANCE TO FOOD BANK								-
5	FACILITIES	4,109,723		4,109,726					4,109,726
6	PARKS	8,219,445		7,487,280	106,092	656,070			8,249,442
7	LAW ENFORCEMENT	4,109,723		355,727		3,753,996			4,109,723
8	BRIDGE SYSTEM	2,465,834		1,832,819	90,411	542,604			2,465,834
9									-
10	SALARIES(Other Departments)	3,287,778			1,560,704	6,354,182			7,914,886
11									-
12	IT IMPROVEMENTS/BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY	2,465,834					2,465,834		2,465,834
13	TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS	8,219,445			8,219,445				8,219,445
14	ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS	4,109,723			132,292	1,120,084	2,857,347		4,109,723
15									-
16	INFRASTRUCTURE	8,219,445					8,219,445		8,219,445
17	FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECTS								-
18	WATER PROJECTS								-
19	SANITARY SEWER PROJECTS								-
20	CONTINGENCIES	28,768,058			15,000,000		7,549,697	1,561,253	24,110,950
21	TOTAL	82,194,453		22,004,997	25,108,944	12,426,936	21,092,323	1,561,253	82,194,453
22	PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT	100%		26.77%	30.55%	15.12%	25.66%	1.90%	
23					\$ 11,636,925			\$ 82,194,453	

STATE & LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 10, 2021




Program Summary

The American Rescue Plan Act established the Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. These funds are intended to provide support to State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments in responding to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19. Also, to support them in their efforts to contain the impacts of COVID-19 on their residents, businesses, and communities,

The US Treasury Department's [Interim Final Rule](#) details recipients' compliance responsibilities and provides additional information on eligible and restricted uses of these funds and reporting requirements. Cameron County must review and comply with the information contained in the US Treasury's Interim Final Rule, and [the final rule](#) when building appropriate controls for these funds.

Cameron County, as a recipient of these funds, is required to inform the County residents about the County's proposed use for these funds and to obtain, as best as possible, residents' input for the use of the funds.



GRANT AMOUNT & DEADLINES

Cameron County has been awarded \$82,194,452.


The County must:

Obligate the funds by:
December 31, 2024

Expend the funds by:
December 31, 2026




Cameron Count will use these funds according to the following principles:

- ❑ Ensure that the funds are not used for ineligible purposes – and that there is no fraud, waste, and abuse in the program.
 - ❑ Implement the funds in a swift and effective manner but maintaining a robust documentation and compliance regime.
 - ❑ Promote equitable delivery of benefits and opportunities to underserved communities.
 - ❑ Provide transparency and public accountability upholding program integrity and trust.
- 

Statutory Eligible Uses

As a recipient of these funds, the County has substantial discretion to use the funds in the ways that best fit the needs of the constituents – as long as the use fits into one of the following four statutory categories:

1. To respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts;
 2. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to such workers of the recipient, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who performed essential work;
 3. To provide government services with funds that the County lost due to the COVID–relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the recipient prior to the pandemic.
 4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
- 

Reporting Requirements

Recovery Plan Report

Provide initial overview of status and uses of funding. This is a one-time report.

Due August 31, 2021

Project and Expenditure Report

Report on projects funded, expenditures, and contracts and subawards over \$50,000.

Due October 31, 2021

Afterwards, 30 days after the end of each quarter.

Reporting Requirements, continue

Recovery Plan Performance Report

Provide initial overview of status and uses of funding. This is also a one-time report. The Recovery Plan Performance Report will provide the public and the US Treasury information on the projects that recipients are undertaking with program funding and how they are planning to ensure program outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner.

The plan will also provide information to the County's constituents on efforts the county is taking to respond to the pandemic and promote an equitable economic recovery.

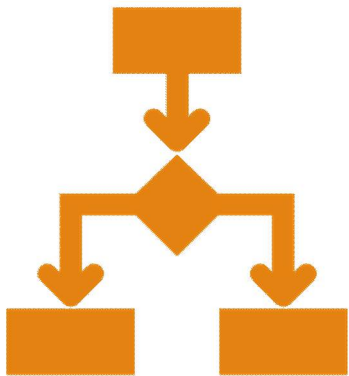
Due August 31, 2021



COMPLIANCE!

COMPLIANCE!

COMPLIANCE!



Partnership Opportunities



Private, Nonprofit Groups



Small Incorporated, but
None CDBG Entitlement
Communities



Water Supply Corporations
serving Colonias and other
Rural County areas



School Districts

Cameron County's Other Federal Recovery Funds

Emergency Rental
Assistance

Grant I:

\$12,786,338

Must be used by:
September 30, 2022

Emergency Rental
Assistance

Grant II:

\$13,315,725

Must be used by:
September 30, 2025

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

Cameron County is currently providing Emergency Rental Assistance through the private non-profit organization “Come Dream, Come Build” (CDCB).

As such, the public is encouraged to apply for this assistance by contacting CDCB at:

888 – 814 – 4744

Cameron County is requesting approval from the Federal Government to use some of these funds for Emergency Mortgage Assistance as well.

The public is encouraged to submit questions and input to:

Victor G. Treviño, Fiscal Analyst Supervisor
County Administration Department

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