

CITY OF BAKERSFIELD

Recovery Plan



**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**
2025 Report

CITY OF BAKERSFIELD
2025 Project and Expenditure Report

Table of Contents

General Overview.....	2
Executive Summary.....	2
Uses of Funds	2
Promoting Equitable Outcomes	3
Community Engagement	3
Labor Practices	3
Use of Evidence	3
Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category	4
 Project Inventory.....	 7
Example Project	7
Additional Projects.....	7

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

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

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President in March 2021, in part, with the intent to continue many of the programs started by the CARES Act. ARPA included funding through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) of \$350 billion and the City of Bakersfield received a direct allocation of \$94.5 million. The City will use these funds to not only continue some of the important programs and services that were funded by the CARES Act but has establish new programs. These programs will be focused on economic recovery and revitalization, particularly within its disadvantaged communities, infrastructure related projects, lost revenue recovery, and health and wellness programs.

Uses of Funds

The City of Bakersfield recognizes the important role that the SLFRF allocation will have on the community's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as well addressing significant needs of its underserved population. The City has established a number of programs intended to address the negative impacts of the recent pandemic, especially related to the disproportionate impact it has had on disadvantaged communities, as defined by HUD's Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs). Many of these programs have established the requirements and method of distribution, but the related awards for contracted agencies are pending or have just been granted. Some are intended to build off the successes the City has seen with programs funded via the State of California through the CARES Act and the Emergency Rental & Housing Assistance programs funded both through CARES and APRA. Beyond leveraging successful programs, the City intends to provide a full-scope affordable housing program, focused on creating additional housing and removing blighted properties, providing an opportunity for new-builds. The City has also elected to use the standard allowance available for lost revenue recovery of \$10 million, per the Final Rule issued by the Department of Treasury, which will be used to provide various government services for the community.

The City has been able to direct portions of its SLFRF allocation in the current reporting period towards the continued funding of certain payroll costs for Public Safety Employees. In particular, funds are used to cover a portion of City Fire Department staffing to address the public health emergency that continues to affect the community. The City has funded staffing based on the number of medical callouts for service the Fire Department had during the reporting period, specifically in its firefighting division, meaning administrative and other operational units are not

included. This is similar to how public safety segments of the CARES allocation were used in 2020. This methodology is expected to continue throughout the funding period of SLFRF and is viewed as equitable and in line with the intent of the grant.

The operation of the City's arena, convention center and amphitheater suffered substantial negative financial impacts with event cancelations and an overall reduction in tourism in the local community. To supplement that tourism related activity, an amount of SLFRF funds was allocated by the City Council to ensure the continued operations of these venues. In particular, an amount was specifically assigned to cover shortfalls brought about during the 2019-20 and the 2020-21 fiscal years. This allocation will also be used to upgrade some of the more dated facilities in the current fiscal year.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The SLFRF funds approved by ARPA must be used in part to achieve or promote equal outcomes or progress toward equity goals. The City understands the importance of promoting those equitable outcomes, so the majority of programs and services that have been established, work on how best to achieve this. This includes programs meant to service historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups with a particular focus on QCT's utilizing a multi-faceted approach. Doing so will allow the design and delivery of these services to generate outcomes that close gaps, reach universal levels of service, and disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other relevant equity areas. These programs are targeting the growth a sustainable workforce, increasing community safety by building resilience, assisting impacted industries, and revitalizing local businesses. The programs have not begun in force but will gather both qualitative and quantitative data will be gathered to assess outcomes and determine that there is progress towards the important goal of equity.

The City continues to focus expenditures on payroll costs incurred by Public Safety employees providing medical services to members of the community and Housing Support for homeless individuals. Data related to service provided and paid for with SLFRF funds shows that roughly a third of medical call outs and another third of all emergency service calls responded to by the Bakersfield Fire Department were in QCT areas of the City. Support for local hospitals is also a priority as the City is providing an opportunity for local Acute Care hospitals Those eligible are currently applying for SLFRF allocations to off-set costs associated with providing Critical Pay to nurses. Critical pay refers to pay provided in addition to regular hourly pay as an incentive to provide coverage for hard-to-cover or essential shifts during the pandemic.

Bakersfield and the broader Kern County area have long suffered the effects of a high rate of death related to heart disease. Many existing adverse health conditions were exacerbated during the pandemic, where access to services was challenged. The City will utilize SLFRF to focus funding collaboration with various entities with a dedicated focus on improving citywide wellness through policy and practice changes.

The number of homeless and unhoused individuals and families has continued to grow over the last several years in Bakersfield. As such, in October 2020, the City of Bakersfield opened the Brundage Lane Navigation Center (BLNC), a 150-bed shelter offering comprehensive supportive services to residents. In December 2021, the City Council approved the expansion of BLNC to 260+ beds, for which SLFRF funds were incorporated among additional local funding. An additional expansion was approved in June of 2024 increasing the BLNC capacity to 318 beds. As part of the SLFRF programming, funding was provided to the BLNC to provide

operational support during the facilities expansion in 2022-2023. BLNC is a collaborative-focused endeavor, using a multi-agency service approach, allowing the BLNC to offer on-site medical, behavioral health and substance use disorder access and linkage to care.

Community Engagement

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

Labor Practices

Potential infrastructure projects will be pursued using strong labor standards that will result in high-quality facilities. The City's standard practice when planning for these types of federally funded projects focus on project labor agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions, not only to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects but also to support economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. The City also formulated projects to address the needs of the community for improved Water and Sewer service in underserved areas. Those programs included working with contractors who provided wages at or above prevailing rates.

Use of Evidence

When applicable, the City will identify if and when SLFRF funds are to be used for evidence-based interventions and/or if projects will be assessed through program evaluations that are designed to build evidence. Similar to our approach with Community Engagement, the City will look to leverage evidence-based interventions that are already in place or that are being deployed through other funding sources and initiatives that will be well-aligned with the intent and parameters for SLFRF funds.

Current projects and related expenditures focus on actual medical services provided and recovery efforts in the tourism industry, with the related outputs reported in the Project Inventory section of the current Performance Plan. The use of an evidenced-based intervention does not appear to be applicable for these programs but other programs have been assessed and evidence-based results have been gathered and are included in the accompanying Project Inventory. This inventory includes descriptions of the evidence-based approaches used for the applicable programs.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.14	Public Health – Other: Blue Zones	\$1,333,316	\$333,316
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)	\$400,000	\$0
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts		
2.10	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)	\$2,043,609	\$1,101,452
2.13	Healthy Childhood Environments	\$1,095,580	\$786,237
2.15	Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing	\$3,236,995	\$2,036,995
2.16	Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons	\$8,500,000	\$1,967,761
2.22	Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety	\$2,016,380	\$702,491
2.23	Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties	\$3,060,195	\$477,131
2.29	Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship	\$1,594,031	\$977,124
2.35	Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality	\$4,169,700	\$2,852,155
2.37	Economic Impact Assistance: Other	\$5,181,711	\$4,443,433
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
3.1	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19	\$27,839,590	\$13,242,712
3.3	Public Sector Workforce: Other	\$823,672	\$144,600
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance	\$1,266,136	\$1,063,696
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater	\$4,148,313	\$410,507
5.8	Clean Water: Water Conservation	\$1,230,405	\$514,454
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
7.1/7.2	Administrative Expenses and Evaluation	\$100,299	\$61,932
Total		\$78,039,932	\$44,181,512

Project Inventory

Cost Reimbursement for COVID-related expenses

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

Funding amount: \$27,839,590

Annual Budgeted amount: \$8,000,000

Amount spent to date: \$27,839,590

Anticipated Start Date: 04/01/2021

Anticipated End Date: 06/30/2025

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 3.1** Public Health

Project overview: Cost Reimbursement for COVID-related expenses

The City of Bakersfield Fire Department has provided emergency medical services to the community since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The SLFRF funds budgeted in the project cover a portion of the costs incurred by Fire Department staff based on the monthly EMS callouts. These costs cover the applicable percentage of the department's Fire Fighting division and do not include the costs of the Administration, Training, Arson, or other ancillary operations. This project is complete as of June 30, 2025.

Use of Evidence:

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

Performance Report:

GARP30 - Public Safety	04/2021- 06/2021	07/2021- 06/2022	07/2022 - 06/2023	07/2023 – 06/2024	07/2024 - 06/2025
FIRE EMS CALLS	7,061	28,974	20,016	22,488	28,420
FIRE EMS CALLS IN A QCT	2,980	9,427	8,445	7,012	*N/A
CONFIRMED/SUSPECTED COVID-19 CALLS	2,180	1,493	47	198	No Longer Tracked

*Data for the current year is not available at this time. The Fire Department has shifted data management systems and the QCT call information was not available at the time this document was published.

Support for Unhoused Persons Project

Project [Identification Number]: LUZ211 and LRP231

Funding amount: \$8,500,000

Annual Budgeted amount: \$2,830,000

Amount spent to date: \$8,500,000

Anticipated Start Date: 01/01/2023

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.16** Housing Support: Services for Unhoused Persons

Leading Department: Economic and Community Development

Project overview:

The City of Bakersfield will utilize ARPA funds to increase access to services for unhoused men, women and children. Through two entities, the Brundage Lane Navigation Center and the Open Door Network. Brundage Lane Navigation Center funding was utilized to provide operations support as the center underwent expansion to increase beds. The Open Door Network portion of the project will begin in 2024 and will focus on providing support for construction costs allowing for a 40% increase from its current count of 252 beds in the number of beds. As part of the project, the existing campus will be merged to allow for merging of all on-site services, including: on-site childcare, social services, dormitories, administrative offices and warehouse space for donated items.

Brundage Lane Navigation Center:

Over much of the last decade, Bakersfield and the adjoining communities making up Kern County have seen growth in the number of identified homeless individuals reported during annual Point in Time Counts. Existing services became overwhelmed to the point that the existing shelters were constantly at maximum capacity leading to increasingly high numbers of adults, youth and families being forced into street homelessness. Kern County and the City of Bakersfield have been proactive in combating the need for increased services, shelters and access to affordable housing. In October 2020, the City of Bakersfield opened the Brundage Lane Navigation Center (BLNC).

The BLNC provided 150 beds in its 24/7/365 emergency shelter, focused on linking homeless individuals to affordable housing. In its consideration for the needs of the population served, the City incorporates an on-site collaborative health center which is staffed by clinical and social work professionals from the Kern County Department of Human Services, Kern Medical Center and Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. Clients can begin to address physical and behavioral health or substance use care needs while also applying for cash aid, health benefits or nutrition assistance on site. Dogs are also welcomed, allowing those who would be apprehensive to sheltering an opportunity to exit street homelessness without surrendering or abandoning their animal.

First and foremost, the goal of the BLNC is to help individuals obtain housing. Case managers assist clients interested in obtaining voucher housing and other resources necessary to exit homelessness permanently. From its opening in October 2020 to April 1, 2022, 127 individuals have exited to housing by the BLNC.

Continued growth trends in the numbers of homeless individuals in Kern County demonstrated the need for additional services as the Point-in-Time count totals increased from 1580 in 2020 to 1603 in 2021 and 1948 in 2022. With the addition of the BLNC services and shelter, more people are able to begin the process to become housed, however, there is

a shortage of affordable housing options that often leave clients waiting for a vacancy. The SLFRF will address this need through at least one additional program aimed at increasing affordable housing units.

Understanding that the need is growing, Bakersfield's City Council approved in December 2021, began work on an expansion of the BLNC, increasing bed numbers from 150 to 269. Factors including COVID and the climate have created fluctuations in the number of residents. Other expansion pieces included on-site recuperative care, kenneling and cafeteria space. An additional expansion of the facility was approved in June of 2024 which will increase the capacity to 318 beds.

The physical expansion of the center was budgeted using local funds. The project will also increase the amount of funding necessary for operations. The City of Bakersfield is utilizing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for expanded service operation at the BLNC site, to accommodate the higher capacity. The SLFRF is intended to fund two years of expanded homeless services at the BLNC. Mercy House, an experienced organization working with multiple counties to provide comprehensive homeless services, is the contracted operator on-site. As part of their work, they will continue to collect and report data and outcomes, which will be included in SLFRF reporting. As such, data from year one operations will serve as baseline data from which to measure ongoing outcomes through project duration.

Current program challenges include the number of clients who leave BLNC abruptly, before data can be obtained on where they are going. Because the BLNC client population often struggled with mental health and/or substance use concerns, behavior can be unpredictable. Clients may return to the facility but will need to be referred by a homeless services provider in the community.

The ARPA funds authorize the use of funding for emergency programs and services for homeless individuals including temporary residences for persons experiencing homelessness. The requested appropriation will be utilized to reimburse the City for costs incurred to date for the expansion project, as well as cover the additional costs of the expansion.

Use of Evidence:

The service provider for the City of Bakersfield owned and operated facility contracts direct services with Mercy House, Inc. Founded in 1988, the model used by Mercy House incorporates comprehensive supportive services to those experiencing homelessness. Through collaboration with county entities, the City is also able to provide on-site linkage to physical and behavioral health care services as well as necessary resources to help individuals exit homelessness. The approach mirrors ideas of Housing First and Harm Reduction, with the goal of providing shelter and services to those in need regardless of their status. As such, the BLNC serves a number of homeless subpopulations, including men, women, veterans, chronically homeless, individuals experiencing mental health and or substance use disorders, etc.

Performance Report:

LUZ211 - APRA Housing Support				
Outcomes	FY 21-22 (July-June)	FY 22-23 (July – June)	FY 23-24 (July – June)	FY 24-25 (July-June)
Number of Clients (Unduplicated)	789	796	884	914
First-time enrollments	197	684	139	111
Exits to Permanent or Temporary Housing	85	116	130	135
Exits to Unknown Destinations	551	419	507	473

Demographics FY 24-25

Gender:

Male:481 Female: 426 Non-Binary: 7 Declined: 0

Age:

18-24: 64 25-44: 367 45-64: 406 65+: 77

Race:

Caucasian: 361
Black/African American: 199
Multi-racial: 230
Asian: 6
Native Hawaiian or API: 3
American Indian/Alaskan Native: 18
Hispanic/Latino: 94
Middle Eastern/N. African: 2

Veteran Status:

Veteran: 11 Non-Veteran: 903

Chronically Homeless

Chronically Homeless: 399 Non-Chronically Homeless: 515

Aid to Travel, Tourism or Hospitality

Project [Identification Number]: LRP223, LRP224 and P4L102

Funding amount: \$4,169,700

Annual Budgeted amount: \$2,000,000

Amount spent to date: \$4,169,700

Anticipated Start Date: 07/01/2022

Anticipated End Date: 06/30/2025

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.35** Aid to Travel, Tourism or Hospitality

Leading Department: Economic and Community Development

Project overview:

The City of Bakersfield, in normal years, has a robust catalog of ongoing community activities drawing audiences throughout the City, County and surrounding areas. Bakersfield's premier venue for sporting events, concerts and shows has been the Mechanics Bank Arena and Theater.

During 2019, the largest venue in Bakersfield's Downtown District did well, operating with relatively minimal operating loss. At the close of Fiscal Year 2020, with the pandemic onset at the final quarter, the operating loss for the local Mechanics Bank Arena and Theater closed with an operating loss at five-times over that of the previous year and a revenue drop by nearly 19 percent. Losses resulted in a reduction of employees resulting from a lack of events. By the close of fiscal year 2021, the Arena experienced an additional 80 percent revenue loss while operating losses more than doubled, topping over \$2 million. That loss was exacerbated by ninety events being canceled during the pandemic resulting in an estimated reduction of \$1.3 million in lost ticket sales.

As such, the City had originally dedicated up to \$2,000,000 to aid the Mechanics Bank Arena operations and necessary infrastructure repairs as they strive to regain revenues by welcoming new and traditional events and activities. Increased need for structural and technology repairs led to the City allocating an additional \$1,500,000 to be spent during FY 23-24 and FY24-25.

Remaining funds have been dedicated to providing financial assistance to non-profit organizations and private businesses operating tourism-related event venues financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In December 2023, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP), requesting proposals from such entities for grant funding. Of the twenty proposals received, 11 applicants were awarded, totaling \$699,700 in funding. This increases the originally proposed \$4,000,000 budget for the project to \$4,200,000.

Use of Evidence:

Evidence-based practices were not used for this project.

Performance Report:

Eleven tourism-related non-profit and business owned venues were awarded \$699,700 in recovery funding. An anticipated \$3,500,000 in funding was additionally provided for operations, infrastructure, structural and technology repairs for Mechanics Bank Arena. This project will be closed as of June 30, 2025.

Community Violence Intervention and Prevention

Project [Identification Number]: GCM00300

Funding amount: \$1,249,656

Annual Budgeted amount: \$400,000

Amount spent to date: \$823,672

Anticipated Start Date: 07/01/2023

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: 3.3 Public Sector Workforce: Other

Leading Department: City Manager's Office

Project overview: Community Violence Intervention and Prevention

Intervention Strategy

Gun violence remains a serious public health and safety concern in the City of Bakersfield, where homicide rates have historically been twice the state and national averages. In response to a sharp rise in gun violence between 2020 and 2021, the City launched a targeted Gun Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS) in 2022. This approach integrates law enforcement data, community outreach, and the provision of supportive services to individuals at highest risk, with the goal of reducing group-involved and retaliatory gun violence.

The GVRS initiative was initially supported by Cohort 3 CalVIP funding and implemented with technical assistance from the California Partnership for Safe Communities (CPSC). Following the launch of GVRS in January 2022, Bakersfield experienced a notable decline in its homicide rate that year, reversing a longstanding upward trend.

With the conclusion of CalVIP Cohort 3 funding in June 2023, the City allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in 2024 to sustain momentum. These funds enabled continued collaboration with CPSC and local community-based organizations, including Garden Pathways and the Compassion Christian Center. This support has ensured the ongoing presence of community-based front-line workers committed to advancing the GVRS initiative. Between 2021 and 2024, Bakersfield saw a 74% reduction in both fatal and nonfatal shootings.

Key Results from the GVRS Program During ARPA Funding Support Include:

- **114+ referrals** of individuals at the highest risk of gun violence (as victims or perpetrators)
- **32+ individuals** enrolled in long-term support services and opportunities
- **74% reduction in both fatal and nonfatal shootings** citywide
- Homicide rates in 2024 dropped **61%** from 2021 levels

These results highlight the City's success in implementing a data-driven, community-centered approach to violence reduction. Continued ARPA funding has played a vital role in sustaining partnerships with community-based organizations and ensuring the ongoing delivery of essential intervention services.

Prevention Strategy

Youth violence is an increasing concern in the City of Bakersfield, posing a serious threat to the safety and well-being of individuals, neighborhoods, and the broader community. According to the City's 2022 California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Problem Analysis, the proportion of young perpetrators involved in gun violence is on the rise. These incidents not only cause physical harm but also lead to lasting impacts on mental health, academic achievement, and the future opportunities of affected youth.

Recognizing the urgent need for effective prevention strategies, the City has committed to promoting positive youth development as a long-term solution. In 2022, the City Council directed staff to research violence prevention programs with proven success. In 2023, staff delivered a comprehensive report highlighting a range of evidence-based practices, with a strong emphasis on improving literacy and educational attainment factors shown to significantly reduce youth violence. Literacy empowers youth to express themselves more clearly, improving communication skills, social interactions, and overall relationships.

To support these goals, the City allocated ARPA funds to establish partnerships with several key organizations. The data, to date, is categorized below for each entity providing services:

- **Kern Literacy Council** (*January 24, 2024 – December 2024*) *Program Complete*
 - Served **20,917** children by enrolling them in comprehensive, collaborative programs fostering positive youth development, educational empowerment, and critical life skills.
 - Delivered over **278,040** books to children.
 - Conducted **30** community-wide outreach events within disadvantaged communities.
- **Youth Connection of Kern** (*Planned Program Duration: February 28, 2024 – December 2024*)
 - Served **77** at-risk youths by connecting them with essential community services addressing their educational, physical and emotional needs by offering a spectrum of support from educational assistance to providing enriching extracurricular activities for personal growth and to ensure academic success.
- **County of Kern – Library Services** (*Planned Program Duration January 9, 2024 – December 2025*)
 - Expanded open hours and provided services on additional days at library branches within the city limits.
 - Issued **3,131** library cards
 - Held **1,018** literacy focused events (including 9,807 attendees)
 - Held **2,752** additional library events (including 39,194 attendees)
- **The Open-Door Network** (*March 13, 2024 – June 2024*) *Program Complete*
 - Served **82** youths between the ages of 11-14 and 14-18 who resided in their homeless shelter by providing evidence-based, social-emotional learning and character development program to improve academic and behavioral outcomes among at-risk youth to reduce violence, bullying, suspensions and disciplinary referrals while improving academic skills like reading and math.

Through these collaborations, the City aimed to promote positive youth development, strengthen youth-adult relationships, and build safe, healthy communities, responding directly to recent research emphasizing the importance of youth well-being in violence prevention efforts.

Use of Evidence

Through comprehensive research and analysis of national best practices, staff worked in partnership with its technical assistance contractor to evaluate multiple models and frameworks.

This process led to the development and implementation of targeted programs focused on both prevention and intervention, designed to address the root causes of violence and support at-risk individuals and communities.

This funding has been instrumental in enabling the City of Bakersfield to respond to the public safety crisis of gun violence with strategic, evidence-based solutions. Investments in both place-based and person-centered programs have yielded measurable impacts on safety, community trust, and individual opportunity. By combining this youth-focused initiative with the Gun Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS), the City is addressing both immediate risks and long-term prevention. These coordinated efforts prioritize individuals at the highest risk of involvement in gun violence while simultaneously working to prevent future violence among vulnerable youth.

Performance Report:

Gun Violence Reduction Strategy:

Total Annual Non-Fatal Injury Shootings:

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
88	109	73	73	44

Total Homicides:

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
47	60	39	27	26

Prevention Efforts:

Youth Connection of Kern:

Referrals: 77

Service Enrollments: 75

Kern Literacy Council:

Strategy	No. Served
No. of new library cards issued	3,131
No. of Literacy-focused events held	1,018
No. of Literacy-focused event attendees	9,807
No. of Wi-Fi sessions	46,354
No. of Computer Users	15,099
No. of Physical Materials reserved	95,393
No. of Library-hosted events held	2,752
No. of Library event attendees	39,194

Open Door Network:

This program provided service to 82 youth residing in the homeless shelter aged 11-18.

Critical Pay Reimbursement for Local Acute Care Hospitals

Project [Identification Number]: LRP226

Funding amount: \$400,000

Annual Budgeted amount: \$400,000

Amount spent to date: \$400,000

Anticipated Start Date:07/01/2022

Anticipated End Date:12/31/2023

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 1.6 Medical Expenses**

Leading Department: City Manager's Office

Project Overview:

In 2022, the City of Bakersfield approved \$500,000 to be made available to acute care hospitals located within the City for reimbursement of critical pay provided to nursing staff as incentive over regular hourly pay for working additional shifts during the pandemic.

For much of the pandemic, local acute care hospitals were inundated with COVID-19 and non-COVID cases for which their staffing levels were not sufficient to cover. As such, hospitals employed strategies including contracting with travel nurses and utilizing incentive pay options to encourage staff to work critical shifts when necessary. This allowed hospitals to maintain an acceptable staff-to-patient ratio. CARES Act funding helped keep hospitals operational in many cases as they were hit hard, pivoting to provide necessary care to patients with COVID-19.

Bakersfield hospitals applied for funding based on need, for which one application has been received to date.

Use of Evidence

Evidence-based practices were not used in the development of this program.

Performance Report

This project closed December 31, 2023, awarding two hospitals a total of \$400,000 and providing 4,946 hours of critical pay. There were no other applications received and the final \$100,000 was reallocated to continuing projects.

Blue Zones Citywide Wellness Initiative

Project [Identification Number]: GARP60

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Annual Budgeted amount: \$1,000,000

Amount Spent: \$1,333,316

Anticipated Start Date: 07/01/2022

Anticipated End Date: 06/30/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 1.14 Public Health - Other**

Leading Department: City Manager's Office

Project Overview:

The City of Bakersfield and larger Kern County has for years been inundated with poor health outcomes including obesity leading to higher occurrence of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. During the COVID-19 pandemic unhealthy practices were exacerbated by encouraged isolation, challenges in accessing regular health care and in some cases, trouble accessing healthy foods.

To align with the City's goal of creating a healthier community, part of the SLFRF programming will be dedicated to working in collaboration with multiple public and private entities to begin the collaborative process certifying Bakersfield as a Blue Zone. The City intends to provide funding for the Foundation phase, which will initiate the project and focus on developing the workplan driving which will drive the five-year Transformation process. Additional funding will be provided through at least Transformation Year 1. Throughout each phase of the project, the City will provide input as part of the ongoing Blue Zones Steering Committee.

Blue Zones is a project dedicated to transforming communities using policy change and the adoption of healthy habits over a five-year certification period. Certified Blue Zones have been developed in partnership with communities around the world, who have been successful in driving down negative health outcomes. The project works to create a safer, healthier environment by working with private and public sector entities to optimize community space and create access that promotes healthy lifestyle changes. Some of the targeted areas for improvement in communities around the United States have been decreased occurrence of overweight and obese children and adults, decreased rate of smoking among adults, lowered perception of stress and increased annual healthcare savings for employers.

The Blue Zones project and aligned principles have been featured in periodicals including *Men's Health* magazine and the *American Heart Association* journal, particularly focusing on dietary and activity practices fundamental to increasing longevity.

Use of Evidence

While the Blue Zones project is not an evidence-based project, it is considered a systems approach which utilizes "long-term, evidence-backed policies and interventions to optimize environments."

Performance Report

During the Foundation period 09/2022-06/2023:

The Blue Zones team was recruited and established to begin identifying key community efforts to be designed and addressed.

Local leaders from the community were engaged and appointed as the Steering Committee. Members of the Steering Committee come from various government entities and community-serving organizations.

The Blue Zones team performed a policy environment analysis on alcohol, tobacco, environmental and food systems, concluding with a Policy Summit to align goals to move forward.

Project Sectors were identified to be led by Leadership Team members, dedicated to project sectors identified in the Blue Zones workplan.

Traditional and social media campaigns were initiated to create community awareness of the project and goals.

During the Transformation period, the Blue Zones had:

- Received approval of the community Blueprint from the Steering Committee and Leadership team. In addition, the Blue Zones project team outlined strategies and tactics for the project to include public relations and marketing plans.
- A Community Kick-Off was held
- Gained community project commitment through pledged participation from: 11 worksites, 13 schools, one grocery store and 15 restaurants as of November 2023.
- The Blue Zones team is also in progress on development of multiple policies including three built environment policies and two tobacco-related policies.
- Web-based resources have also been made available to the community.

Other Measurable Impacts Resulting from the Blue Zones Initiative:

- Bakersfield Active Transportation Summit (500 attendees)
- Bakersfield Complete Streets Workshop (55 attendees)
- Establishment of 9-Committees
- Hundreds of hours of community outreach.
- Substantially greater awareness for the built environment, active movement benefits, healthy and balanced eating habits, and the Power Nine.

Blue Zones Initiative efforts continued in Mid-FY 24-25 during the Transformation Phase. This period precludes the Certification phase and has a goal of being highly engaging among various entities and community-based groups throughout the community. Activities during this phase have reached religious groups, healthcare agencies and providers, community-based advocacy groups and others primarily to educate individuals and groups on the nine principles of Blue Zones and promoting Blue Zones sponsored and supported activities.

From January to May, Blue Zones participated in events with a community reach of 4,483 individuals.

Event highlights included:

- Local park and community clean up event
- Participation and community education at local Farmer's Market events through Partnership with Kaiser Permanente
- Working with community groups to identify, discuss and support healthy activity and wellbeing
- Collaborate with community leaders to determine ways to strategize policies that support a more connected and engaged downtown Bakersfield Community
- Earth Day festival sponsorship to promote eco-friendly and self-care activities
- Increasing participation by collaborating efforts with local health clubs

The project will continue to progress through the contributions of pledges from various entities throughout the community.

Neighborhood Stabilization Project

Project [Identification Number]: LRP250

Funding amount: \$3,100,000

Annual Budgeted amount: \$1,600,000

Amount Spent to Date: \$2,016,380

Anticipated Start Date: 1/01/2024

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health**

Leading Department: Economic and Community Development

Program Overview:

The Neighborhood Stabilization program consists of three main project sections to better support families in the community.

The first part of this program centered around providing one-time funding to youth-serving organizations in need of structural site improvements or expansion to increase the quality of services provided to youth. Community-based organizations chosen for one-time funding are established entities with a proven track record of successfully providing supportive enrichment activities and services for local youth.

The second part of the Neighborhood Stabilization program provided funding for mitigation of code compliance issues which put residents at risk of being displaced from home on the basis of inhabitability. The program assisted with bringing homes up to code, preventing recurring risk of displacement.

Lastly, the Neighborhood Stabilization program prevents family and resident displacement through providing education and advocacy for tenants and landlords on rights and responsibilities of both parties. The goal is to prevent potential homelessness and recurrence of issues which can lead to tenants becoming evicted from residence.

Use of Evidence:

Evidence-based practices were not used in the development of this program.

Anticipated Outcomes:

The Boys and Girls Club of Bakersfield was awarded \$900,000 in funding dedicated to expanding their existing clubhouse to create a Teen Center/Life & Workforce Readiness Center. Funding was dedicated to site development and preparation for the project and off-site improvements (curbs, gutters, sidewalk). The Boys and Girls Club is located within a QCT and acts as a central hub for local youth.

The Bakersfield Police Activities League was awarded \$1,000,000 to provide expansion and upgrades to their facility. The funding was dedicated to expanding outdoor sporting enhancements, provide improved accessibility and security as well as vital indoor renovations. Part of the building renovations included upgrades to the training space in the gym and boxing facilities and upgrades in the kitchen to support nutrition programs for youth. The Bakersfield Police Activities League is located within a QCT and acts as a central hub for local youth.

The community partnering agency reviewing code violation cases has, since program inception identified 100 potential illegal Additional Dwelling Units and six confirmed illegal Additional Dwelling Units as part of the program.

Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance provided education and advocacy to local tenants and landlords centering on several areas. Among instances where services were provided, there were also 85 attendees for 17 community workshops, which were recorded and posted online, with views totaling 1,324.

Program Services by Type:

Service Type	No. Served
Unlawful Detainers	103
Habitability	104
Rent Increases	24
Security Deposits	15
Termination Notices	44
Housing-related Resource Referrals	23

City of Bakersfield Park Improvements Project

Project [Identification Number]: P2C068

Funding amount: \$6,500,000

Annual Budgeted amount: \$1,400,000

Amount Spent to Date: \$1,095,580

Anticipated Start Date: 11/01/2022

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.13 Healthy Childhood Environments**

Leading Department: Recreation & Parks

Project Overview: Parks Improvement Project

The Parks Improvement Project aims to increase access to quality community parks through a series of renovations or improvements guided by feedback from the community. Benefits to the community include an aim to increase outcomes for Social Determinants of Health improving the neighborhood environment by creating safe areas for recreational and social activity. Two parks in the Bakersfield area benefit from the ARPA funds allocated through this project: Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Jastro Park. Both parks are imbedded in residential areas within a block of elementary schools.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Project:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (MLK) is deeply rooted in the Southeast Bakersfield Community. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the park was a community hub, bustling with activity weekly and the home of many annual neighborhood events. After hours programs, which took place 2-3 days each week prior to the pandemic, something which has not continued since the pandemic's cooling off period. Since COVID the deteriorating conditions of the park caused by the impact of homelessness and crime has had a significant impact on the users and surrounding community.

At various times during the week 20-40% percent of the park areas are covered with encampments. Approximately 50% of park users are unsheltered individuals. Participation rates at the Community Center has decreased by an average of 1500 monthly (duplicated count) visits.

The City made the determination that given the age and conditions of the park's Community Center, of which parts are in disrepair with costly necessary improvements, the decision was made to invest in the removal and replacement of the Community Center. The current construct of the park also provides various zones which are inactive and unavailable to families and which can attract illicit activity. As such it was determined that the current amenities and space use does not support nor represent the recreational preferences of the neighborhood.

To garner community support in determining how the park should be reimagined, the Bakersfield City Recreation and Parks Department hosted a series of community engagement opportunities. Council leadership met with neighborhood residents and community leaders to discuss how the parks project for MLK could be restored, reimagined, and optimized for its users.

Some of the top priorities identified were Safety, a Community and Cultural Center to support the arts, sports activities and provide a wellness and resource hub for the community, and the addition of a Community Garden.

At present, the City is working to complete 50% of the design with construction documents to be completed by December 2025. A project manager has been selected and is contracted and they will be going out to bid for 100% of construction documents, which are estimated to be completed by the end of summer 2026. The first phase of construction for the MLK project is slated to begin in FY 2025-2026.

The City's plan is to utilize SLFRF funding in part for the project design and first phase of construction, budgeted up to \$5,600,000 in total over fiscal years 2022-23 through 2025-26. This may include the addition of temporary facilities during construction periods to provide continuity of services for the surrounding neighborhoods residents. The project is currently estimated to total around \$30 million, with other funding sources including various grants (e.g. Community Development Block Grant), state and federal dollars as well as local funds.

Jastro Park Project:

Jastro Park was donated to the City by the Jastro family in the 1920s. The most unique amenity to the park is the outdoor amphitheater, one of only three gracing city parks. Over the years, deterioration to the amphitheater has decreased the appeal of the park, located in the well-traversed Downtown area of Bakersfield. Through this project, repairs and improvements to the amphitheater will include electrical upgrades to the stage and surrounding park areas. Structural repairs and amphitheater accessibility will also be improved. This project is currently 80% complete as of the end of Fiscal Year 2024-25. Construction is currently in progress and the project is slated for completion by December 2025.

Use of Evidence

This project will work to address Social Determinants of Health specifically centered on Social and Community Context by providing a safe space for community to gather and take part in recreational and leisure-time activities. Due to the nature of the project and community involvement in its reimagining, much effort is being provided by the City to enhance the natural and built environment of the park.

Performance Report

As part of a robust stakeholder process, the City's Recreation and Parks Department determined several priority areas that stakeholders felt should be incorporated into the redesign of the park. Some of those included increased safety and pedestrian access. Incorporated in design is a continuous sidewalk connection between King Street and Owen Street along California Avenue. California Avenue runs along the entirety of the north end of the park and is a six-lane, bi-directional stretch of high-traffic, high-speed capacity. Creating a continuous pedestrian path with a barrier edge will increase pedestrian safety along this highly traveled end of Martin Luther King Park. Stakeholders were also adamant that the park include a community swimming pool, basketball courts, picnic areas, a community garden. The basketball courts will be relocated to allow for additional parking and moved appropriately adjacent to the Community Center to leverage indoor/outdoor programming for park goers. Additional planning on lighting and surface treatment for the basketball courts will continue in the next phase of design. The Community Garden, at present, includes five garden beds. This feature will be designed to incorporate 48 total garden beds along with irrigation, storage and tools to support agriculture education for park goers.

The impact of this project is far-reaching as programming supported by the City at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park provides services to an average number of 2,543 park goers monthly across various programs. Programming includes meals, sports and fitness activities, youth camps and activities, access to Public Health programs and much more.

Safe Routes to Schools and Parks Project

Project [Identification Number]: T3K324

Total Funding amount: \$6,654,926

Annual Budgeted Funding: \$2,000,000

Amount spent to date: \$5,181,711

Anticipated Start Date: 01/01/2023

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

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

Leading Department: Public Works

Project overview: Safe Routes to Schools and Parks

The City of Bakersfield Public Works Department is charged with designing, constructing and maintaining infrastructure within the public rights-of-way throughout the City. Providing safe and effective transportation infrastructure that meets the present-day standard for multimodal transportation is critically important where infrastructure maintenance needs exist. This demand is most evident in disadvantaged areas within qualified census tracts where infrastructure was designed to move vehicular traffic quickly, with little regard for multimodal uses. Rather than maintaining rights-of-way under old policies the City is shifting toward new, innovative designs to address traffic safety and multimodal transportation.

This project has been established to design and build improvements within the public rights-of-way that are intended to improve the safety of multimodal users, particularly pedestrians, bicyclists and eScooter and eBike users, while continuing to effectively manage vehicular traffic. The project also emphasizes the needs of communities near parks and schools where the City's most vulnerable citizens travel to and from.

Use of Evidence

The projects being designed and implemented are tied to a variety of data, including crash reports, speed, volume, vehicular type, injury, fatality, and public input. As noted by Smart Growth America, the Bakersfield metropolitan is ranked 7th most dangerous in the Country for pedestrians. Car Insurance.org ranked the Bakersfield metro area as the 11th most dangerous for bicyclist in the country.

Anticipated Number of Individual Served Annually

Estimated 153,000 persons.

The Kern County High School District is the largest in California, with a population of 42,000 students.

The Bakersfield City School District is the largest K-12 school district in California, with a population of 30,000 students.

The City maintains more than a dozen parks within the disadvantaged zones.

Performance Report

- Sidewalk gaps filled;
- New bike lanes and paths created;
- New and enhanced crosswalk installations;
- Better protected and pedestrian activated crossing locations (rectangular rapid flashers, in-pavement crosswalk lighting, and overhead streetlighting, etc.);

- Modified intersection and roadway geometry for traffic calming (landscaped islands, speed humps and tables, chicanes, roundabouts, etc);
- Lane narrowing, road toning and road diets;
- Installation of Retroreflective Traffic Signal Backplates (13% safety improvement to intersections);
- Installation of Radar Feedback Signs for traffic calming and counting;
- Increased multimodal use of public spaces connecting parks, schools, and public rights of way;
- Lower vehicular speeds;
- Reduced crashes, injuries, and fatalities;
- Reduced motor vehicle volumes and increased pedestrian, bicycle, eScooter, and eBike rates;
- Decrease in impervious area (pavement), increase in previous (open) space.

T3K234 – Safe Route to Schools		
Outcomes	2016 - 2020	2030
Pedestrian Fatalities	152	
Bicycle Fatalities	9	
Overall Crashes	1,133	1,000
Vehicular Traffic Volume	Street Dependent See Detail	

- Total bike fatalities (last 4 years): 9
- Share of fatalities where cyclists wore a helmet: 0%
- Number of bike commuters: 768
- Average ped deaths/100k people per year: 3.41
- Pedestrian deaths (2016-2020): 152

Disadvantaged/Prosperity Park & School Areas for Projects

SCHOOLS

Freemont Elementary School
 Bessie Owens School
 Williams Elementary School
 South High School
 Plantation Elementary School
 Owens Intermediate School
 Owens Primary School
 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School
 Wayside Elementary School
 Sequoia Junior High School
 Rafer Johnson Community School

PARKS

Lowell Park
 Beale Park
 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park
 Wayside Park
 David Nelson Park
 Planz Park

Turf Replacement Project

Project [Identification Number]: GARP70

Total Funding amount: \$1,230,405

Annual Budgeted funding: \$500,000

Amount Spent: \$1,230,405

Anticipated Start Date: 10/01/2022

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 5.8 Water Conservation**

Leading Department: Water Resources

Project Overview: Water Conservation – Turf Replacement Project

The Turf Replacement Project is designed to reduce demand on the City of Bakersfield's water supply and focus on conserving potable water. The Program will reduce water demands and allow for water savings by replacing lawn and turf with drought friendly landscaping for commercial, industrial, and institutional customers served by the City of Bakersfield's domestic water system. The implementation of the Turf-to-Garden program will involve two options for

Use of Evidence:

Though there is research on evidence regarding turf replacement programs, this project did not use any evidence-based practice while developing or deploying the project.

Anticipated number of individuals served annually:

The number of participating customers will vary based on the type of turf-to-garden program chosen.

Performance Report:

The Turf Replacement Project will result in reduced water demands which will help the City's drought resiliency and help continue ensuring safe drinking water for the residents of Bakersfield. Fully optimizing the programs funding will result in a potential area benefit of 371,428 square feet and a water savings of 6,685,708 gallons of water.

Affordable Housing Project

Project [Identification Number]: LRP221

Total Funding amount: \$9,000,000

Annual Budgeted funding: \$2,250,000

Amount Spent: \$3,236,995

Anticipated Start Date: 07/01/2022

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing**

Leading Department: Economic and Community Development

Project Overview: Affordable Housing Project

This project is aimed at investing in programs and services to support long-term housing securing including the development, construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing. Funding will be used to support new construction and in-fill development projects. Through a Notice of Funding Availability process, the City received multiple proposals for development. At present, the City is working on developing affordable multi-family housing units in the Renaissance at Baker Street and Auburn Oaks, affordable senior housing on Letzring Lane and affordable single-family housing units at City View, all qualified census tract area.

Use of Evidence:

There were no evidence-based practices adopted in the development of this program.

Performance Report:

In total, it is anticipated that through this project, approximately 272 units will be created for individuals, families and/or senior citizens. To achieve the increase of 272 units, the City is leveraging additional grant funding. Along with grant funding, ARPA will accelerate affordable housing production to achieve the vision of all Bakersfield residents gaining access to housing that is safe, stable and affordable.

By the end of Fiscal Year 2024-2025, 85 units at the Renaissance at Baker prepared to open their doors for new tenants. Letzring Lane senior housing is near completion and City View and Auburn Oaks are under construction.

Business Security Project

Project [Identification Number]: LRP240

Total Funding amount: \$500,000

Annual Budgeted funding: \$250,000

Amount Spent: \$500,000

Anticipated Start Date: 1/01/2024

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship**

Leading Department: Economic and Community Development

Project Overview: Business Security Project

The City determined the need to support security needs of small businesses within and outside of the general Downtown QCT area using one-time grant allocations to provide a variety of security measures. The need has arisen as business break-ins have been an ongoing concern voiced by the business community. Three phases were included in the project: security equipment and window repairs, security patrols and site hardening (installation of fences/doors).

Phase one was dedicated to a \$5,000/applicant budget, with grantees applying for reimbursements for the installation of alarm systems, security cameras, lighting improvements and repairing damaged or destroyed windows. Sixty-four applications were approved, with security cameras as the most common application request.

Phase two garnered one application for security patrols in an established business district association or organization.

Phase three included site hardening, involving projects such as adding security gates and fencing, roll-up doors, security doors/windows/screens, removing visual obstacles such as landscaping and property updates that provide greater visibility and secure areas. There were six approved applications with all projects currently in progress.

The grant application period is closed, and projects will continue through completion.

Use of Evidence:

There were no evidence-based practices adopted in the development of this program.

Performance Report:

Through the course of the grant allocation, applicants were asked to provide feedback on their experience:

90% of respondents rated their satisfaction with the program and recommended the program at 5 of 5 (highest potential rating).

100% of respondents strongly agreed that the program has made a difference for their business.

Home Repair and Weatherization Project

Project [Identification Number]: LRP222

Total Funding amount: \$999,880

Annual Budgeted funding: \$500,000

Amount spent to date: \$626,630

Anticipated Start Date: 07/01/2022

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.23 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship**

Leading Department: Economic and Community Development

Project Overview: Home Repair and Weatherization Project

The City of Bakersfield's Home Repair & Weatherization Project ("Project") is designed to assist existing homeowners disproportionately impacted and burdened by the Covid-19 pandemic make the necessary home repair and weatherization improvements to preserve the health and safety of their homes. If eligible, recipients receive grants, up to a maximum of \$15,000 per household. Applicants are required to state if any members of the household with a disability could benefit from accessibility upgrades.

Recipient's approach to ensuring reasonable and proportional impact of Covid-19:

The City of Bakersfield requires that all applicants provide a general description of health and safety issues in the home and the associated negative COVID-19 impact. Applicants are screened either by the home's physical address being located within a Qualified Census Tract (QCT) or if an applicant is income eligible. Eligible improvements include; roof repair/replacement, window repairs, door replacement, wall or external façade/siding repairs, electrical and plumbing repairs, heating/AC system repairs and replacement, weatherization, accessibility improvements, appliance replacement or other options per City approval.

Use of Evidence:

There was no use of evidence-based practice in the development of this project.

Anticipated number of individuals served annually:

20 homes annually

Anticipated Outcomes:

The City anticipates that 58 homes within Qualified Census Tracts will be affected by grants made available through this project.

Performance Report:

By the end of Fiscal Year 2024-2025, 47 home repair and weatherization projects were completed with additional applications and projects pending.

Improvements to Blighted Properties Project

Project [Identification Number]: P2L003

Total Funding amount: \$6,380,079

Annual Budgeted Funding: \$2,500,000

Amount spent to Date \$2,433,565

Anticipated Start Date:07/01/2022

Anticipated End Date:12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.23 Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties**

Leading Department: Economic and Community Development

Project Overview: Improvements to Blighted Properties Project

This program will provide improvements to existing vacant and abandoned properties, including rehabilitation, rebuild, new construction or maintenance, renovation, removal, remediation, demolition, deconstruction and/or clean up. Within the City, there are a number of properties, both commercial and residential, that have long been empty as businesses or other entities have shut down or relocated. Because empty buildings can become a safety hazard in various ways, this project will allow the City to identify and target blighted properties for either acquisition or elimination of blight.

The City has acquired multiple blighted properties in qualified census tracts including a blighted motel with 35 units that will be rehabilitated into permanent supportive housing. City staff continue to work with the City's Code Enforcement Division to identify nuisance properties for abatement and the County to purchase tax default properties that can be used to develop more affordable housing units. As of close of Fiscal Year 2025, 37 lots, most currently without structures were purchased to be developed into single-family homes that once developed will be available for purchase by low-income families.

Use of Evidence:

There was no use of evidence-based practice in the development of this project.

Anticipated number of individuals served annually:

The number of individuals will be impacted by the neighborhoods surrounding blight removal. Because those locations have not been secured at present, the numbers served will be reported in the next iteration of this report.

Anticipated Outcomes:

Thirty-five dedicated units will be converted into permanent supportive housing and the 37 purchased lots will be developed into an undetermined number of single-family homes which will be made available for purchase by low-income families. The currently undeveloped lots vary in size and the number of homes is yet to be determined. This information will be updated in the next iteration of this report.

Workforce Development and Training

Project [Identification Number]: LRP227

Total Funding amount: \$750,000

Annual Budgeted Funding: \$375,000

Spent to date: \$98,934

Anticipated Start Date:01/01/2023

Anticipated End Date:12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers**

Leading Department: Economic and Community Development

Project Overview: Workforce Development and Training

Through this project the City will work with local educational institutions and partnering organizations to develop and implement an internship and/or apprenticeship program within the private sector. This program will focus on individuals residing in Qualified Census Tracts.

The City of Bakersfield's adopted Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) focuses on economic development goals towards creating a "destination for innovation" and a part of that plan is to support tech-worker, digital skills talent and other business services training that could support target industries including advanced manufacturing and environmental services that includes businesses in the bioeconomy, logistics technology, ag-tech, mobility innovation, renewable energy and carbon management fields.

To support EDSP goals and lasting economic recovery and long-term employment, the City implemented programs to focus on economic recovery and revitalization, particularly within its disadvantaged communities and Qualifying Census Tracts (QCTs). To mitigate barriers to employment that predated – but have been exacerbated by the pandemic – such as occupational training and career pathways. The pandemic has also led many adults to search for employment in new fields.

Through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process, the City solicited proposals from qualified organizations to partner in implementing a workforce development program that serves Bakersfield's low-income residents or those residing in QCTs.

Three organizations were selected to provide workforce development services because of their ability to provide workforce development, job skills training and job placement programs for Bakersfield low-income residents and/or those residing in QCTs. These organizations will provide supportive services for participants that address accessibility challenges for job training and obtaining employment and employment advancement. Through these services, the community is strengthened, and local talent is retained with assistance in mentorship and job coaching, interview and resume coaching, job readiness skill building, counseling, workshops, training and the opportunity to obtain certifications/apprenticeships.

The program will include resume and job search assistance services to at least 200 low-income Bakersfield residents. It will focus on skill-building workshops including topics surrounding goal setting, self-awareness, confidence and leadership, along with career counseling services. The program will provide individual and group job readiness skills training, supportive services case management and employer connectedness to prepare Bakersfield's low-income residents for future full-time employment.

Approximately 225 unduplicated low-income individuals with no or limited post-secondary education will be assisted with job skills development and employment readiness; increased

access to job training and retention opportunities by providing supportive services; increased access to employment and job training for eligible participants within a network of 30-50 local employers.

The program supports unemployed workers, underemployed workers and other populations who have experienced economic harm resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and provide essential workforce development services and education for low-income and disadvantaged residents.

Use of Evidence:

There was no use of evidence-based practice in the development of this project.

Anticipated number of individuals served annually:

225

Anticipated Outcomes:

200 low-income Bakersfield residents will receive resume and job search assistance.

225 low-income Bakersfield residents with no or limited post-secondary education will be provided with job skills development and employment readiness training.

Deployment of a network of 30-50 local employers to provide job training and access to employment for eligible participants.

At present, this project is in the contracting phase. As it begins and data is collected, intentional reporting around demographics, and performance indicators will include; Gender, homeless and incarceration history, race/ethnicity and details around participation, completion, job placement and participation by youth.

Performance Report:

As of the end of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 the following were served:

Total Individuals: 123

Female: 61

Male: 62

Minorities: 90

Veterans: 0

LGBTQ: 2

Persons with Disabilities: 3

Formerly Incarcerated: 4

Formerly Homeless: 13

Individuals returning to work: 5

New FTE Placements: 9

New PT Placements: 6

New Quality Jobs (\$21.80+/HR): 2

Job Skills Training Completion: 12

Façade Improvement Project

Project [Identification Number]: LRP228

Total Funding amount: \$1,390,000

Annual Budgeted Funding: \$460,000

Amount Spent to Date: \$0

Anticipated Start Date: 01/01/2023

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.31 Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvements**

Leading Department: Economic and Community Development

Project Overview: Façade Improvement Project

This program will assist local small businesses, non-profits or impacted industry operating in Qualified Census Tracts with storefront improvements and façade improvements.

The goal of the program is to assist with completing façade and property improvements to enhance business-use properties and improve the economic climate. One goal of the Façade Improvement Grant Program (FIGP) is to be a catalyst for improving the exterior of the business-use properties that result in quality improvements and enhancements that benefit those impacted by the pandemic and the City. The improvements must enhance the appearance of the property and the environment in which the property is located. The FIGP has been established as a one-time award program to provide grant funding for business owners and/or property owners of retail, commercial, industrial and office properties in the focus area to complete exterior improvements to business-use properties. The grant is not intended for new “ground up construction” but for improvement of existing large-scale commercial buildings and the property around them.

Use of Evidence:

There was no use of evidence-based practice in the development of this project.

Anticipated number of individuals served annually:

Three total rehabilitations are in progress for large buildings in the downtown Bakersfield area. As of the end of Fiscal Year 2025, all projects were in progress with construction.

Anticipated Outcomes:

Support revitalization in the downtown area to attract more business from local and visiting customers.

Projects funded under this category will need to demonstrate the following:

- Supports downtown revitalization and neighborhood prosperity by enhancing the public realm and creating a more livable, walkable and vibrant neighborhood with increased quality of life.
- The site is a vacant or underutilized structure; and either helps restore the tax base with a new or revitalized use or addresses a blighting influence of deteriorating property conditions.
- Makes a significant impact on improving the structure and surrounding neighborhood; supports the goals of the City's Complete Street Ordinance.
- Quality of proposed project, impact to the community and consistency with the goals and objectives of the Bakersfield City Council. City Council Goals can be viewed: www.bakersfieldcity.us/961/City-Council-Goals.
- Supports the goals and implements components of the Making Downtown Vision Plan and/or the Downtown Streetscapes Plan.
- Provides a public benefit feature as described in Bakersfield Municipal Code.

Local Business Expansion Project

Project [Identification Number]: LRP229

Total Funding amount: \$1,357,062

Annual Budgeted Funding: \$500,000

Amount spent to date: \$1,094,031

Anticipated Start Date: 01/01/2023

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship**

Leading Department: Economic and Community Development

Project Overview: Local Business Expansion Project

The City will use the existing Economic Opportunity Assistance program to provide financial assistance to support existing development with predominantly publicly visible rehabilitation and renovation of buildings, site and landscape enhancements and related development fees. Funds will also support future development with demolition, site preparation and property acquisition. Support will be provided for business growth and expansion by providing assistance with start-up costs for new businesses and support existing businesses wishing to expand by reducing the business owners cost of opening, moving and associated development fees. To date, the City has provided funding assistance to 29 small businesses.

Use of Evidence:

There was no use of evidence-based practice in the development of this project.

Anticipated number of individuals served annually:

At the end of Fiscal Year 2024-2025, 31 local businesses were awarded for site improvements, façade improvements and business expansion projects.

Anticipated Outcomes:

30+ small businesses are anticipated to be assisted with publicly visible building, site and landscape enhancements and related development fees as well as business growth and expansion by aiding with costs to start up new businesses and support existing businesses wishing to expand. Funds will also support future development with demolition, site preparation and property acquisition.

Entrepreneurial Assistance Project

Project [Identification Number]: LRP230

Total Funding amount: \$3,268,405

Annual Budgeted Funding: \$1,000,000

Amount Spent: \$1,944,675

Anticipated Start Date:07/01/2022

Anticipated End Date:12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 2.10 Aid to other impacted industries**

Leading Department: Economic and Community Development

Project Overview: Entrepreneurial Assistance Project

For low-income individuals starting a new business or businesses starting in Qualified Census Tracts, the City will provide funding to assist with the start-up, expansion and/or retention projects. This project will also dedicate funding toward providing applicants with technical assistance needed for the funding application process. At present, the City is working with California State University, Bakersfield, Kern Community College District and the Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce to identify and assist business owners and entrepreneurs.

The Entrepreneurial Grant Program, in partnership with Bakersfield College, Launchpad and California State University, Bakersfield – Small Business Development Center and Extended Education, is designed to support local small businesses and start-ups with access to grants and business education. This program supports realization of the City Council's strategic goal to strengthen and diversify the economic base by equitably, efficiently and strategically deploying ARPA-allocated funds. This program also implements the strategic small business and entrepreneurship goals of the Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) to foster economic resiliency and inclusivity within the city and expand access to capital/resources for business expansions and start-ups. The City has provided 99 entrepreneurship grants to date.

Use of Evidence:

There was no use of evidence-based practice in the development of this project.

Anticipated number of individuals served annually:

The number of businesses impacted will be determined by the number of applicants for funding and will be reported in the next iteration of this report.

Anticipated Outcomes:

Business owners will apply for and receive funding to support appropriate projects increasing the number of viable businesses in Bakersfield.

As of the end of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 data showed:

Total number of Businesses Served: 883

Types of Businesses Served (may be duplicate if chosen multiple options):

Women-owned: 530

Minority-owned: 720

Veteran-owned: 26

LGBTQ+-owned: 17

Family-owned: 141

Job Creation:

Full-time equivalent:290

Quality Jobs: 27

Start-Up Micro-businesses:477

Race/Ethnicity (duplicated if multiple options chosen):

Hispanic/Latino: 300

Caucasian: 318

Black/African American: 468

Asian: 34

Native Hawaiian/API: 8

American Indian/Alaskan: 17

Stormwater Collection, Conveyance and Treatment System Upgrade Project

Project [Identification Number]: E3K308

Total Funding amount: \$4,186,435

Annual Budgeted Funding: \$2,000,000

Amount Spent: \$4,148,313

Anticipated Start Date: 07/01/2022

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 5.6 Stormwater**

Leading Department: Public Works

Project overview: Stormwater Collection, Conveyance and Treatment System Upgrade

When originally developed in the early 1900's, the City of Bakersfield's stormwater management system was designed to accommodate a 10-year 1-hour storm event. Since that time, open spaces of the City have developed with more impervious area coverage and the effects of climate change have caused more intense rainfall events and a greater frequency of the 10-year, 1-hour storm. This design level storm can easily be seen once every two to four years. This has required the City to build greater resiliency to stormwater infrastructure.

The City is currently planning complete street designs that will integrate a stormwater management system as part of streetscape projects intended to have a multifaceted public benefit for transportation, public safety, aesthetics, redevelopment, and stormwater management. Implementation of the stormwater components directly affect disadvantaged neighborhoods and business centers along segments of Chester Avenue, H Street, 18th Street, 19th Street, V Street, and other locations within the downtown area and disadvantaged neighborhoods. This project includes survey, design, engineering, construction and construction inspection.

At present, the following pieces of this project have been completed:

- Curb and gutter repair/replacement at M Street and N Street from California Avenue to 14th Street
- Storm drain resiliency improvement to pipes, inlets and manholes at 20th Street and P Street
- Storm drain improvements at V Street between Truxtun Avenue and 20th Street
- Design Agreement for Downtown storm drain part circle culvert improvements for various locations
- Design Agreement for stormwater lift station rehabilitation at Chester Avenue and the BNSF Rail crossing

Use of Evidence

The various areas identified for improvement have demonstrated repeated flooding during intense storm events. Some have damage claims associated. project design would be based on field data related to underground utilities, storm event rainfall quantities, stormwater runoff coefficients related to land use, and stormwater quality. The level of stormwater drainage service would improve from a 10-year, one hour event to a greater storm event to be determined pending pipe sizing.

Anticipated Outcomes

- 240 acres of area benefiting from collection and conveyance
- Reduced flooding complaints.
- Improved drainage collection and conveyance for more intense storm events.
- Improved stormwater quality.

E3K308 - APRA Stormwater		
Outcomes	Current	Post Project
Stormwater Level of Service	10- Yr., 1-Hr.	25-Yr., 1-Hr. or better
Stormwater Quality Total Nitrogen Total Phosphorus Total Suspended Solids	100% 100% 100%	<i>(presumptive)</i> 50% reduction 25% reduction 80% reduction

Sanitary Sewer System Expansion Project

Project [Identification Number]: E3K303

Total Funding amount: \$4,330,652

Annual Budgeted Funding: \$1,000,000

Amount Spent: \$1,266,136

Anticipated Start Date: 07/01/2022

Anticipated End Date: 12/31/2026

Project Expenditure Category: **EC 5.2 Other Wastewater**

Leading Department: Public Works

Project overview: Sanitary Sewer System Expansion Project

Wastewater Treatment Plant #2 is currently at 80% of its designed capacity. It was built with the understanding that the sanitary sewer collection and conveyance system will be expanded to remove septic systems and accommodate future redevelopment areas, some of which are on septic disposal systems with leach fields. This would allow for new and redevelopment to be served by a comprehensive wastewater treatment system, with the goal of producing reuse irrigation water to offset potable water consumption. Plant #2 is located in the northeast area of the City and serves disadvantaged areas of the city in and around Cottonwood and White Lane. With the recent development of schools in the area this project is necessary for managing wastewater from homes, businesses, and industry. There is a significant need to expand the collection and conveyance system to the south.

This project would plan, design, permit and build a sanitary sewer collection and conveyance system expansion.

At present, the design has been completed and a contract has been awarded. Installation of the Lift Station is in progress.

Use of Evidence:

The project design is based on sophisticated wastewater flow modeling, land use, and build-out conditions for a 2,000 acre area around Cottonwood Drive and White Lane. The level of service would move from a septic disposal and leach field system to an integrated sanitary sewer collection and conveyance system

Anticipated Outcomes:

- By 2030 anticipated population impacted by expanded service area: 22,000
- Increased wastewater flows to Plant #2.
- Reduced in-ground septic disposal systems and leach fields.
- Increased development including affordable housing, businesses, and service

E3K303 - APRA Wastewater Support		
Outcomes	2016 - 2020	2030
Plant Processing (gallons per day)	16 M	18M+
Collection & Conveyance Coverage Area (acres)	32,000	32,515+