

Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2025 Report (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)





City of Indianapolis, Indiana
2025 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Through funding from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which directs the United States Treasury to award federal funds to states and local governments for the purposes of responding to and recovering from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, and Marion County (City), Indiana was allocated \$419,769,453. To date, Indianapolis/Marion County has budgeted the entire allocation for ARPA funds and is on target to spend these funds by the end of the grant term.

After a successful planning stage, the city has outlined four primary Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery funding priorities: (1) Anti-Violence; (2) Economic Recovery; (3) Neighborhood Investments; and (4) Government Services. Specifically, the city plans to prioritize the following activities:

1. *Anti-Violence*
To combat pandemic-related increases in violence, the city has committed approximately \$150 million to support community investments, hire traditional law enforcement, and address root causes of violence.
2. *Economic Recovery*
To promote economic recovery and resiliency, investment efforts are targeted toward workforce development, access to capital for historically underserved business owners and communities, small business resources, innovation and entrepreneurship promotion through small business accelerators, and support of those industries hit hardest by the effects of the pandemic, such as our tourism and hospitality entrepreneurs.
3. *Neighborhood Investments*
Neighborhood Investment efforts focus on housing security, channeling approximately \$60 million into programs that target eviction prevention, creation of more affordable housing, and anti-displacement protection, as well as redevelopment efforts through several neighborhood grant programs. Over \$70 million additional dollars will go to support improvements to parks, arts, and culture programming, and needed stormwater infrastructure projects.
4. *Government Services*

The government services priority aims to provide capacity for agencies impacted most by the pandemic, such as the services provided by the Coroner, Prosecutor, and Public Defender Offices. Additionally, these dollars will help expand language access resources, hire additional staff for ARPA project and grants management, and public safety overtime.

In addition to the above priorities, the following activities are ongoing.

- In 2021, 2022, and 2023 initial planning activities focused on prioritizing those areas of greatest need, including services for individuals experiencing homelessness, rental assistance, food relief, violence interventions, and support for small businesses and the hospitality industry.
- Indianapolis now has 115 active or completed programs, as outlined in Section 8 and has allocated the entire \$419,769,453 grant award.
- Consistent with Treasury ARPA priorities, new and operational projects include those that focus on reducing violence in the community, assisting neighborhoods in qualified census tracts/SAVI-COVID-19 zip codes, and investments in stormwater infrastructure.
- Aside from operating ARPA programs, staff are working to ensure compliance with federal grant management guidelines, such as following procurement standards, negotiating contracts with subrecipients, establishing a formal process for reimbursements to community partners, and performing annual subrecipient monitoring.

Uses of Funds

Below is a summary of the programs and services Indianapolis has dedicated ARPA funds towards by expenditure category.

Please note: Project Inventory includes a comprehensive listing of all ARPA programs, budget, expense category, program summary, and progress toward objectives. Please refer to the Quarterly Program and Expenditure reports for current obligation and expenditure details.



Expenditure Category 1: Public Health

Indianapolis is spending public health investment dollars: to expand behavioral mental health services; to support increased capacity for the

[Consolidated City of Indianapolis/Marion County 2025 Recovery Plan](#)

Marion County Coroner; and to expand substance misuse programs. During the early months of the pandemic, ARPA funds supported vaccination education programs, portable handwashing stations for homeless residents, and contact tracing efforts. ARPA also has supported local grant programs for nonprofits as well as neighborhoods, adult education centers, reentry programs providing wraparound services, and youth transitional housing.



Expenditure Category 2: Negative Economic Impacts

Indianapolis is using ARPA funds to support the following programs: homeowner financial assistance; food relief; tenant assistance; utility assistance; job training; small business assistance; tourism, travel, and hospitality assistance; WIFI and playground replacements for parks;

downtown safety and cleaning efforts; affordable housing. During the early months of the pandemic, programming concentrated on assisting business and nonprofit sectors financially impacted by the pandemic, non-congregate housing for homeless individuals, and financial assistance to homeowners. Indianapolis has developed areas to help long term housing security by investing ARPA dollars into affordable housing units.



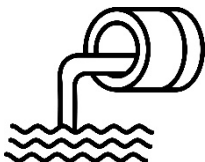
Expenditure Category 3: Public Health -Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Indianapolis has implemented the following programs as part of expenditure category 3: increased staffing to help the case backlog in the Marion County Superior Court System, public safety payrolls, and a language access program.



Expenditure Category 4: Premium Pay

Indianapolis provided premium pay to 3,590 essential city employees from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Indianapolis Fire Department, and Department of Metropolitan Development.



Expenditure Category 5: Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure

Indianapolis is using infrastructure funds to make needed water and sewer updates in several neighborhoods. Section 8 details each of these investments, including the location of each stormwater project.



Expenditure Category 6: Revenue Replacement

The Consolidated City of Indianapolis and Marion County have reported a total \$238,755,373.00 in estimated revenue loss for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. At this time, a revenue replacement plan for allocating these dollars is still being developed and will be reported in forthcoming reports. (Some of the current expenses for revenue replacement have gone to cybersecurity projects, government salaries, and revenue replacement.)



Expenditure Category 7: Administrative

Indianapolis is using administrative funds to provide grant management, compliance monitoring and evaluation services through the hiring of various contractors. This will also fund a software licensing package to help manage the number of awards generated through ARPA.

Other Recovery Funds: Emergency Rental Assistance Program Update

In addition to ARPA funds, Indianapolis is a recipient of Emergency Rental Assistance I & II funds, from CARES Act II and ARPA, respectively. Indianapolis received three separate allocations of funds: \$33,880,903.80 (ERA I award), \$35,100,016.42 (ERA II award), and an additional \$91,454,708 in reallocated funds from the State of Indiana.

Applicants applied for rental assistance at <https://indyrent.org>. The application software prioritized applications completed by households at or below 50% area medium income, or where at least one family member has been unemployed for 90 days at the time of application. Currently, the IndyRent program is no longer accepting applications for rental assistance. All applications for assistance were required to be submitted by July 6, 2023.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

The City of Indianapolis' efforts are heavily targeted toward traditionally underserved and marginalized communities, particularly (1) the re-entry community and (2) those with mental health service needs.

1. *Re-entry Support Services*

Re-entry efforts include services in the jail to provide wraparound service referrals, post-release employment and transportation assistance, re-entrant educational opportunities, and re-entrant and at-risk youth mental health services. These programs have been designed to provide resources to individuals at risk of violence or incarceration, as well as to prepare those who are already justice involved to re-enter and thrive in their communities with ongoing support and holistic wraparound services. Specific programs include expanded services at the Criminal Justice Center for wraparound services for newly released individuals; transportation services for re-entrants to unemployment assistance, job readiness training, job referrals, as well as to and from work; and food, clothing, and housing assistance.

2. *Mental Health Resources*

Historically, there has been a lack of investment in mental health resources and services in Indianapolis such that the need far outpaces the ability to serve.

Recognizing that mental health needs represent a root cause of other issues (food and housing insecurity, increased risk of being a victim of violence, and increased risk of incarceration), these programs are a priority of American Rescue Plan Act programming. Programs in development include:

- a. A large investment has been directed to establish Mental Health America of Indianapolis – a new, local division of Mental Health America. Funding will concentrate on a strategic effort to effectuate comprehensive mental health systems delivery, change in how care is delivered to high-needs populations, including juveniles and high-risk homeless individuals.
- b. City Connects, a mental health program designed to evaluate and assess the holistic needs of K-12 students beyond the classroom, is being deployed in 12 Indianapolis schools.
- c. A ‘Mental Health Toolkit’ is being developed by a team of licensed and experienced clinicians to educate the community on mental health first response and first aid.
- d. Overdose Lifeline, a nonprofit dedicated to helping individuals, families, and communities affected by substance use disorder, will expand services for residential treatment programs, as well as provide naloxone access services.

3. *Racial Equity*

Systemic disparities in education, housing, access to quality healthcare, and food security have long-affected minority communities, and were further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Feeding Indiana's Hungry, there are 1,009,700 individuals who experience food insecurity in the state, the location experiencing greatest food insecurity being Marion County at 19.4%. To combat the inequities and adverse health effects of food insecurity, ARPA investments include: a nutritional incentive program supplementing existing SNAP benefits; a retail program designed to help advance equitable food and nutritional access; an expansion for local foodbanks' curb pickup and meal delivery services for those in need.

4. *Educational Equity*

- a. In addition to the struggles caused by a lack of access to nutritious food, COVID-19 resulted in the widespread closure of schools across the nation. This resulted in a loss of instructional time, suboptimal language access for students and families whose primary language was not English, and insufficient access to necessary technology to facilitate learning and gauge academic progress. To help these impacted students and their school districts, ARPA investments include: a tutoring program for K-3 students with sub-proficient literacy rates and dyslexia; a program to assess the strengths and needs of classes and individual students and connect them with appropriate resources; a program expanding WiFi capability in public parks to access the internet for educational and vocational purposes. To further support those in need of vocational assistance, ARPA investments include: assisting adults seeking their high school diploma or equivalency with postsecondary certifications, and connecting high schoolers with local apprenticeship programs; a connection program to point current students and recent graduates to internships and jobs; an assessment program to identify employers of choice who pay adequate wages, have plausible paths to future careers within their organization, provide employee resources such as childcare or transportation assistance, and value diversity.

In addition to the programs noted above, Indianapolis has prioritized programming for disproportionately impacted communities, as well as those suffering negative economic impacts from the pandemic. To that end, the following parameters were used to establish those groups disproportionately affected by the pandemic, and these groups will be prioritized through programs and services.

- Indianapolis will define disproportionately impacted communities in two ways:
 - Communities that are in qualified census tracts (QCTs), which are low-income areas designated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, are automatically defined as disproportionately impacted.
 - Additionally, based on research from data experts at the Polis Center at IUPUI, Indianapolis zip codes were assessed to determine which neighborhoods were affected most by COVID-19 (SAVI's COVID-19 Impact Index). Residents living in zip codes with above average impact scores will automatically be defined as disproportionately impacted. Researchers are also assessing zip codes that have been disproportionately affected by crime and will identify those zip codes in an upcoming report.
- Negative economic impacts can be applied to those households or individuals who report any of the following.
 - Unemployment: Residents who have been without a job at any point since March 14, 2020, or are unable to secure enough employment, are defined as suffering economic harm from COVID-19.
 - Housing Insecure: Housing insecurity is defined as those individuals who have trouble paying rent or mortgage, live in an overcrowded residence, move frequently, stay with relatives, spend most of the household income on housing, experience an eviction/foreclosure, or experience homelessness.
 - Food Insecure: Food insecurity is defined as those who are unable to acquire adequate food for one or more household members because they had insufficient money and other resources for food.
 - Low or Moderate Income: Low income is defined as less than 50 percent of the area median income, while moderate income is at least 50 percent, and less than 80 percent, of the area median income. Additionally, individuals who receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Social Security

Income (SSI), Indiana Energy Assistance Program (EAP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) will be considered low- to moderate-income and be presumed to have suffered economic harm from COVID-19.

As noted below, Indianapolis has prioritized programs that are designed to address Expense Category 2 (negative economic impacts) and Expense Category 3 (disproportionately impacted communities). Program details are summarized below, and additional data will be reported in forthcoming reports and once programs have launched.

Expenditure Category 2: Negative Economic Impacts

The following proposed programs are intended to address the negative economic impacts that resulted from the pandemic. While not inclusive, as program planning is ongoing, these programs include food relief, tenant assistance, job training, small business assistance, tourism, travel, and hospitality assistance, rehiring public sector staff, and hiring staff to alleviate the backlog of court cases. Key programs include the following:

1. Home delivery of prepared meals to those residents who are food insecure.
2. Tenant assistance and advocacy efforts for housing insecure residents in danger of being evicted.
3. Relief grants for independent music venues.
4. Marketing campaign to support recovery and cultural tourism.
5. Recovery grants for independent artists and aid to the nonprofit arts and culture community.
6. Job training programs for displaced workers to obtain necessary skills to acquire promising jobs.

Expenditure Category 3: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The following proposed programs are intended to address disproportionately impacted communities. While not inclusive, as program planning is ongoing, these programs include aid to high poverty districts, mental health services, community violence intervention, support for homeless residents, and hiring additional law enforcement officers. Key programs include the following:

1. Non-congregate housing for homeless residents.

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2. Neighborhood improvements of public spaces in impacted neighborhoods.
 3. Mental health services for high-risk groups, such as homeless, at-risk juveniles, and residents with behavioral health and substance use disorders.
 4. Expansion of community-based violence prevention grants.
 5. Gun violence intervention programs.
 6. Hiring additional law enforcement officers.

Community Engagement

Community Engagement activities that have occurred throughout the grant term, with a primary focus on planning efforts during 2021 and 2022:

- In April and May 2021, all City-County Councilors were engaged to understand feedback they were receiving from their constituents.
- On May 11, 2021, a fiscal ordinance was introduced to the Administration and Finance Committee of the Indianapolis/Marion County Council that detailed a small portion of ARPA funds (\$3,621,300), and public comment was taken during this meeting.
- In May and June 2021, city leadership engaged civic stakeholders, and on June 30, received proposals from over 20 organizations of suggested program investments.
- On August 10 and 17, 2021, city leadership presented initial ARPA priorities to the Administration and Finance Committee of the Indianapolis/Marion County Council and heard public testimony at both meetings.
- On February 22, 2022, city leadership presented an update on ARPA funding the Indianapolis/Marion County Council Administration and Finance Committee, including Interim Report to United States Department of Treasury.
- On March 16, 2022, city leadership presented an update on ARPA Group Violence Intervention Programming and the Elevation Grant Program to the Indianapolis/Marion County Council Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee.
- On April 11, 2022, city leadership presented an update on ARPA Affordable Housing programs the Indianapolis/Marion County Council Metropolitan and Economic Development Committee.

- On May 18, 2022, city leadership presented an update on ARPA Arts and Culture investments, Neighborhood Beautification grants, and School Mental Health grants to the Indianapolis/Marion County Council Community Affairs Committee.
- On June 15, 2022, city leadership presented an update on ARPA Law Enforcement Technology investments to the Indianapolis/Marion County Council Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee.
- On June 22, 2022, city leadership presented an update on ARPA Safe Summer programs to the Indianapolis/Marion County Council Community Affairs Committee.
- On July 27, 2022, city leadership presented an update on ARPA Trauma-Informed Care for Non-Fatal Shootings program to the Indianapolis/Marion County Council Community Affairs Committee.
- At various dates in 2023, the Department of Metropolitan Development sought public input on the ARPA-funded affordable housing programs, ensuring that local neighborhoods have a voice in the development of these programs.
- Additionally, agency staff continue to encourage public input through a series of meetings with community stakeholders and residents with respect to parks improvements, sewer improvements, and neighborhood needs.

Labor Practices

Although ARPA funding is not subject to the Davis-Bacon Act, the Consolidated City of Indianapolis and Marion County have established a prevailing wage for all City/County employees. Infrastructure projects funded through SFLRF are managed by contractors, thus the prevailing wage requirement does not exist.

In fact, Indiana repealed its prevailing wage statute (known as the Common Construction Wage Act) in 2015, and no longer imposes a prevailing wage requirement. Furthermore, state law now provides municipalities like Indianapolis may not establish, mandate, or otherwise require a wage scale or wage schedule for a public works contract (Indiana Code 5-16-7.2-5). Subject to that constraint imposed by state law, the Indianapolis/Marion County's procurement practices are designed to select for responsible bidders, and its subcontracting requirements contain robust inclusion targets for minority-owned, women-owned, disabled-

owned, and/or veteran-owned enterprises. As noted in the Project and Expenditure report, infrastructure projects do not utilize project labor and community benefit agreements.

Use of Evidence

The Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Office of Community Engagement will be responsible for managing a comprehensive evaluation of Indianapolis State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds programs. Specifically, IUPUI will facilitate a learning agenda, develop, and collect program metrics, conduct an evaluation on key programs.

1. **Learning Agenda:** The learning agenda includes a monthly workshop series. The series repeats each quarter as new programs are funded. The first month is focused on developing a logic model (vision, goals, theory of change) and specifying the output and outcome variables each program will report. The second month is focused on managing and collecting data. The third month teaches how to report data in our project management tools. Each session is recorded and distributed to program managers, and each is followed by an open period of one-on-one help.
2. **Collect Program Metrics:** Each program is required to develop goals and metrics specific to their activities. Program managers define a vision, goals, and the theory of change for each program. They also specify output measures, program outcomes, and community outcomes. Program managers are required to report quarterly on program outputs and outcomes. This data will be used to evaluate program efficiency and effectiveness.
3. **Qualitative Study:** A full-scale evaluation will be conducted on a subset of larger initiatives. Researchers from the Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy (CRISP) and the Center for Health and Justice Research (CHJR) are conducting a qualitative study on twelve organizations that received SLFRF funding. The purpose of the study is to understand the following:
 - How each grantee defines and measures program success.
 - The perceived impact of SLFRF/ARPA funding on grantees and communities they are serving.
 - The barriers and facilitators to program implementation and service delivery.

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- Researchers divided the twelve organizations into cohorts based off when implementation started. For Cohort 1, the following organizations are included: Tenant Advocacy Project; Midwest Food Bank; Faith, Hope, and Love; Seascope, Inc.; and New Breed of Youth Mentoring. For each of these grantees, researchers conducted interviews with the following:
 - Program leadership (e.g., founder, director, board member).
 - Program staff (e.g., direct services staff).
 - Program beneficiaries by attending events and activities (e.g., participants, parents/guardians of program participants).
 - Partner organizations (e.g., organizations working either directly or indirectly with the grantee).

Interview responses were transcribed, and key themes were identified after each set of inquiry was completed. Findings were compiled and interpreted into five reports—one for each of the grantees in Cohort 1. Key sections of each report include how grantees define program success, key strengths, and opportunities to improve implementation, perceived benefits of ARPA funding, and recommendations for improving program impact and practices. It is important to note that the purpose of the study is to collect qualitative information, and not conduct a program evaluation, thus, researchers cannot assess the fidelity of each program. However, through theming and interpreting findings, researchers are working on providing the city and grantees’ considerations for improving processes. This includes examining local policies that could hinder or help grantees implement programs more successfully. Information gleaned from the interviews can be used for both grantees and the city to improve processes from programmatic and legislative levels.

Performance Report

The City of Indianapolis has worked with a consultant who has established a Project Management Office (PMO) to implement projects funded by State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The PMO worked directly with over 30 program managers managing 120 projects across the City-County enterprise to develop and monitor project timelines, expected outcomes, and budgets for the duration of the Project Term. The PMO held monthly office hours, schedules individual sessions when needed, provides ongoing training sessions as necessary, and tracks the status of all grant projects. After the programs were established and

ongoing, the PMO transitioned out and The City of Indianapolis Grants Department worked more directly with program managers to accurately track project timelines, expenses, and data.

PROJECT INVENTORY

The City of Indianapolis has demonstrated a strong commitment to transparency in its use of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) awarded through the American Rescue Plan Act. Recognizing the importance of public trust, city officials prioritized clear communication about how these critical funds were allocated and spent.

The following pages list all the programs and projects executed with the City of Indianapolis' SLFRF award. They contain all activity as of June 30, 2025.





Project: Addressing the Marion Superior Court Backlog

ID Number: 1

Expense Category: 3.4

Award Amount: \$2,477,447.17

Narrative:

The COVID-19 public health emergency significantly disrupted judicial operations in Marion County, leading to a severe backlog of criminal cases. In response, the Marion County Public Defender Agency (MCPDA) and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office (MCPO) experienced over a 50% increase in caseloads compared to pre-pandemic levels. These burdens resulted in attorneys being assigned an unsustainable number of cases, threatening timely access to justice and effective representation for both defendants and victims.

To mitigate the backlog, ARPA funds have been utilized to expand staffing capacity within both agencies. MCPDA has hired 21 contract public defenders who have focused on Level 6 and Major Felony Courts. As of the reporting period, these attorneys have provided legal representation in 1,131 criminal cases, successfully closing 898 and representing 1,038 unique clients.

Similarly, MCPO has hired five Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys and one Victim Advocate to manage the increased volume of backlogged felony cases. These attorneys have worked on 2,941 felony cases that had been delayed since the start of the pandemic. The Victim Advocate has provided direct support on cases involving serious charges, including domestic battery and homicide.

This initiative aims to restore pre-pandemic case flow and ensure that justice is served in a timely and equitable manner. The backlog reduction effort was completed in December 2023.

MCPO has hired one Victim Advocate, and five Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys to work on backlog cases. Attorneys have handled cases that have been backlogged since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Attorneys have worked on 2,941 felony cases. Additionally, the Victim Advocate is assigned cases ranging from domestic battery to murder.



Project: Assistance to Unemployed and Underemployed Workers through Job Training

ID Number: 2

Expense Category: 2.1

Award Amount: \$8,800.00

Narrative:

This project provided targeted outreach to unemployed and underemployed youth aged 16 to 24 in Marion County, Indiana, to increase awareness of employment and training opportunities available through Project Indy, the Mayor's summer youth employment initiative.

Managed by EmployIndy, the Workforce Investment Board for Marion County, the program aimed to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young workers by connecting them to paid summer jobs, internships, and career-building opportunities. Outreach efforts included digital campaigns, direct community engagement, and partnerships with local organizations to recruit youth participants.

The project was successfully completed in 2021, supporting early economic recovery efforts by improving access to employment pathways for youth disproportionately affected by pandemic-related job losses and educational disruption.



Project: ARPA Grant Management

ID Number: 3

Expense Category: 7.1

Award Amount: \$2,051,903.50

Narrative:

To support the effective administration of ARPA funds, the City of Indianapolis engaged various contractors to provide comprehensive grants management, compliance monitoring, and evaluation services. These services include the preparation of federally required quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports, annual Recovery Plans, tracking of grant expenditures, monitoring of subrecipients, and evaluation of funded program activities.

Contracted staff led two citywide ARPA Workshops to support internal program managers and subrecipient vendors. The first, held in April 2022, focused on program implementation and readiness. The second, held in March 2023, emphasized data collection, performance metrics, and ongoing compliance obligations. In addition to these events, the grants team conducted one-on-one technical assistance meetings with program managers across all ~130 ARPA-funded projects. These meetings were designed to help staff define success metrics, capture short-term outcomes, and develop long-term data strategies to support future evaluation and impact analysis.

The City also partnered with Indiana University to conduct a qualitative analysis of twelve selected projects under the Office of Public Health and Safety. This included monthly interviews with project leaders, vendors, and beneficiaries to document implementation progress, challenges, and community outcomes.

Through this project, the City of Indianapolis Grants Team has maintained rigorous oversight of ARPA-funded initiatives, ensuring compliance with federal guidelines while promoting transparency and data-driven decision-making across all program areas.



Project: Indianapolis Arts & Culture Neighborhood Reactivation

ID Number: 4

Expense Category: 2.36

Award Amount: \$461,360.20

Narrative:

The Indianapolis Arts & Culture Neighborhood Reactivation initiative, in partnership with the Arts Council of Indianapolis, was launched to promote community revitalization and economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative strategically invested American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to re-engage residents and visitors with Marion County’s public spaces, while simultaneously supporting the recovery and growth of the local arts and culture sector.

Through four core components—the Sidewalk Galleries Program, Local Music Program, Cultural Connection Grant Program, and Public Information Resources—the project provided paid opportunities for artists and creative professionals to contribute to the vibrancy and beautification of Indianapolis. These activities brought life back to neighborhoods and commercial corridors affected by pandemic-related disruptions, with a particular focus on historically underrepresented and economically impacted areas.

The program launched on August 26, 2021, and achieved significant impact, including:

- Installation of 90 murals in vacant storefronts and public-facing spaces throughout downtown Indianapolis and across Marion County.
- Direct support to 70 local artists and businesses through the Sidewalk Galleries Program.

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- Engagement of musicians and performers through the Local Music Program, providing cultural enrichment and accessible programming to residents.
 - Targeted grants through the Cultural Connection Grant Program, enabling artists and cultural organizations to continue their work and foster community connection.

In addition to directly supporting local creatives, the initiative helped restore public trust in community gatherings and cultural events, contributing to increased foot traffic, civic pride, and neighborhood vitality. The program also invested in strategic communications and public information campaigns to amplify its reach and highlight the return of cultural activity across the city.

The project's outcomes align with ARPA priorities by advancing economic stabilization, addressing negative economic impacts on artists and arts organizations, and promoting equitable recovery across Indianapolis neighborhoods. The murals remain on display through 2024, serving as a lasting visual legacy of the city's commitment to recovery through creativity.



Project: Music City Strategy Recovery Grant

ID Number: 5

Expense Category: 2.35

Award Amount: \$250,000.00

Narrative:

The City of Indianapolis launched the Music City Strategy Recovery Grant to support the survival and recovery of the city's independent music venues severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These venues are not only critical to the city's cultural and creative identity but also serve as vital economic drivers that support local artists, hospitality businesses, and neighborhood vibrancy.

While larger businesses and corporate venues were able to reopen more quickly, many local music venues remained significantly constrained due to public health mandates issued by the Indiana State Department of Health and the Marion County Public Health Department. To remain operational, many were limited to outdoor events or had to make costly adjustments to comply with health regulations. These limitations contributed to prolonged revenue loss and increased financial strain.

Using State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) allocated through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the City provided targeted financial assistance to independent music venues in need. The Music City Strategy Recovery Grant offered relief in the form of rent or mortgage support, reimbursement for expenses incurred to meet public health requirements, and coverage for pandemic-related revenue loss.

This initiative played a key role in preserving critical components of the city’s creative economy, helping ensure that Indianapolis’s local music scene would not only survive the impacts of the pandemic but remain positioned to grow and thrive in the years ahead. While not tied to a formal evidence-based intervention, the program supports ARPA’s broader goals of economic recovery, cultural revitalization, and small business stabilization.



Project: Vaccinate Indy

ID Number: 6

Expense Category: 1.7

Award Amount: \$47,558.00

Narrative:

The Vaccinate Indy campaign was a creative public health initiative funded by the City of Indianapolis through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support the city's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Recognizing the importance of culturally relevant outreach, the City partnered with five local artists to produce original artwork that served as public service announcements (PSAs) encouraging residents to get vaccinated.

Launched in 2021, the campaign strategically installed these vibrant and engaging pieces in high-visibility areas throughout the city, including all ten of the Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate districts and other locations with significant pedestrian traffic. By incorporating trusted local voices and placing messaging within the communities they represented, the campaign sought to build trust, reduce vaccine hesitancy, and boost participation in vaccination efforts.

In addition to the public installations, smaller posters and clings featuring the commissioned artwork were produced and distributed to merchant and neighborhood associations, further expanding the campaign's reach and impact across Indianapolis.

While the Vaccinate Indy project was not tied to an evidence-based intervention, it aligned with ARPA’s public health objectives by promoting community vaccination through locally tailored outreach. The initiative combined public health messaging with the creative economy, supporting both immediate health goals and local artists during a period of uncertainty.

This project was completed in 2021 and served as a key component of the City’s broader COVID-19 response strategy.



Project: Visit Indy Heads in Beds Campaign

ID Number: 7

Expense Category: 2.35

Award Amount: \$1,250,000.00

Narrative:

The Visit Indy – Heads in Beds Campaign was a targeted tourism and economic recovery initiative supported by the City of Indianapolis through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The campaign was launched in 2021 in response to the severe economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which disproportionately affected Indianapolis’s hospitality, tourism, and service sectors.

In partnership with Visit Indy, the City implemented two strategic marketing efforts aimed at driving economic activity and increasing hotel occupancy: the “Find Your Place” and “Find Your Space” campaigns.

The “Find Your Place” campaign ran from May through September 2021 and was designed to promote Indianapolis as a destination for leisure travel. It specifically targeted regional travelers in Chicago, Central Illinois, Western Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and within

the state of Indiana. Outreach channels included social media, television, radio (including live and streaming), email marketing, and outdoor signage such as billboards and vehicle wraps. The campaign yielded impressive results:

- Paid Media Clicks: 1,201,679
- Impressions: 122,803,880
- Revenue Generated (Hotels & Restaurants): \$2,299,715
- Estimated Economic Impact: \$14,933,213

The “Find Your Space” campaign followed from July through December 2021 and focused on restoring Indianapolis’s reputation as a safe and clean location for business travel, meetings, and conventions. It highlighted pandemic-related safety protocols and cleanliness across hotels, restaurants, and event venues. This campaign focused on trade show marketing, targeted email outreach, and print displays, resulting in:

- Hotel Room Nights Booked: 703,938
- Planning Appointments Booked at Trade Shows: 826

Both campaigns played a critical role in revitalizing downtown Indianapolis, supporting the hospitality workforce, and accelerating recovery to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity. While the campaign does not constitute an evidence-based intervention, it strongly aligns with ARPA’s goals of supporting economic stabilization for households and businesses affected by the pandemic.



Project: Tenant Advocacy Project

ID Number: 8

Expense Category: 2.18

Award Amount: \$1,229,587.00

Narrative:

The Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP) was established to mitigate the significant risk of eviction faced by thousands of Indianapolis residents because of COVID-19 and its economic fallout. In partnership with three legal service providers, TAP placed tenant advocates in Marion County small claims courts to proactively support tenants facing eviction proceedings.

Advocates connect eligible tenants—those involved in eviction or emergency possessory cases—with rental assistance resources, negotiate with landlords, offer legal advice, and refer cases for full legal representation when appropriate. This intervention aims to reduce evictions and stabilize housing, particularly for households most at risk of housing insecurity.

Since 2021, TAP has expanded its presence from two township courts to eight out of nine, significantly increasing its reach. Between July 2021 and September 2022, the program supported 1,327 tenants with legal assistance, provided in-court representation to 210 individuals, and helped 1,562 tenants through navigation services. Legal partners also hosted eviction sealing clinics, and courts such as Lawrence Township have begun offering additional wraparound services like food access support.

Through ARPA and other funding sources, TAP has continued to scale. These navigators have served 3,057 households, while legal aid providers assisted 6,796 households. This program remains a critical lifeline in preventing displacement and ensuring housing stability for vulnerable Indianapolis residents.



Project: Winter Housing for Homeless Neighbors

ID Number: 9

Expense Category: 2.18

Award Amount: \$674,527.00

Narrative:

The Winter Housing for Homeless Neighbors program, also known as Winter Contingency, was funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide non-congregate shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness during the cold weather months when shelter capacity is most strained. The initiative operated from fall 2021 through spring 2022, responding to seasonal increases in housing insecurity and the heightened risks posed by exposure to extreme temperatures.

The program offered safe, temporary non-congregate housing options for individuals who might otherwise remain unsheltered, with a focus on health, safety, and dignity. Services were targeted toward vulnerable populations, many of whom face compounding challenges during winter months due to chronic health conditions, disabilities, or limited access to community support systems.

Prior to program launch, the Office of Public Health and Safety (OPHS) convened community meetings with local neighborhood associations to increase awareness of available resources and to provide clear guidance on how individuals could access assistance. These outreach efforts helped ensure that both residents and stakeholders were informed and engaged.

For individuals placed in Winter Contingency housing, program staff conducted engagement and outreach activities to assess additional needs and provide connections to wraparound supports such as food, clothing, and healthcare. These efforts were essential to promoting stability and supporting longer-term recovery pathways.

From April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, Winter Contingency and broader non-congregate housing programs collectively served 531 individuals. Among those served, 54% had a disabling condition and 30% met the definition of chronically homeless, underscoring the program's targeted impact on high-need populations.

While the Winter Contingency program concluded its operations in spring 2022, the City's investment through ARPA played a critical role in mitigating housing insecurity and safeguarding public health during a time of elevated risk. The program exemplifies how flexible ARPA resources were used to address both immediate needs and longer-term housing instability.



Project: Non-Congregate Housing for Homeless Neighbors

ID Number: 10

Expense Category: 2.18

Award Amount: \$ 2,945,675.34

Narrative:

The Non-Congregate Housing for Homeless Neighbors program was funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide safe, temporary shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Operating from April 2021 through June 2022, this initiative addressed the urgent need for socially distanced sheltering at a time when traditional congregate shelters were operating at or above capacity and could not safely accommodate individuals in compliance with public health guidelines.

The program was critical in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 among one of the city's most vulnerable populations. Individuals experiencing homelessness are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 due to preexisting health conditions, limited access to medical care, and the inability to safely isolate or quarantine. By providing private, non-congregate accommodations, the program not only protected the health and safety of residents but also reduced strain on local healthcare systems.

This intervention provided temporary housing and case management services, while also supporting clients in transitioning to longer-term housing options. Of the 531 individuals served by both the Non-Congregate Housing and Winter Contingency programs, 39% successfully exited into Rapid Re-Housing—a key indicator of improved housing stability.

Demographic data for program participants reflects the disproportionate impact of homelessness across communities. Among those served, 51% identified as Black, 38% as White, and 3% as Hispanic/Latino. Additionally, 21% of clients were members of families with children, highlighting the broad reach of the program beyond single individuals.

Although program operations concluded on June 30, 2022, the Non-Congregate Housing initiative represents a meaningful example of how ARPA funds were used to address both public health and housing instability in an integrated, equity-focused manner. The program helped to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while creating pathways to safer and more stable housing for hundreds of Indianapolis residents.



Project: Premium Pay for Essential Workers

ID Number: 11

Expense Category: 4.1

Award Amount: \$14,687,609.93

Narrative:

Through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, the City of Indianapolis provided premium pay to essential workers who performed critical, in-person duties during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This initiative recognized the extraordinary risk and service of frontline government employees who were required to interact directly with the public to maintain vital city-county operations.

A total of 3,634 employees received premium pay for work performed in 2021 and 2022. These employees held positions deemed essential to the continued functioning of public safety, public health, emergency response, and critical infrastructure maintenance. All qualifying personnel were required to work in-person and had frequent contact with the public, increasing their exposure risk during the pandemic.

The following groups were eligible for premium pay under this program:

- Sworn employees of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
- Sworn firefighters and fire marshals of the Indianapolis Fire Department
- Telecommunicators within the Indianapolis Fire Department

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- Deputy coroners, autopsy technicians, and others performing deputy coroner duties in the Marion County Coroner’s Office
 - Operations staff within the Department of Public Works (DPW), including employees involved in trash collection, infrastructure maintenance, and stormwater work—many of whom are among the lower-earning workers in city employment.
 - Marion Superior Court employees working in the Juvenile Detention Center
 - Sworn staff of the Marion County Sheriff’s Office assigned to the Marion County Jail
 - Marion County Sheriff’s Office 911 dispatchers

This program aligns with ARPA’s eligible use category of providing premium pay for essential workers, particularly those in lower-income and high-risk positions. The initiative supported equity by compensating public-facing workers who played a critical role in ensuring continuity of essential services during a time of public health crisis. The use of funds helped offset the physical and emotional toll of frontline duties, and affirmed the City’s commitment to recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of its workforce.



Project: Pathology Support for the Marion County Coroner's Office

ID Number: 12

Expense Category: 3.4

Award Amount: \$425,168.09

Narrative:

The Pathology Support program, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), provided critical resources to the Marion County Coroner's Office in response to a significant increase in caseloads during the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning in May 2022, this initiative addressed the surge in deaths—particularly those related to substance use and overdoses—that strained the capacity of the Coroner's Office.

Using State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), the Coroner's Office was able to secure additional forensic pathology support, enabling the office to perform a higher volume of autopsies and reduce turnaround time for case completion. This increase in capacity helped alleviate a growing backlog of cases and improved the timely delivery of results to grieving families, law enforcement, and public health officials.

Between the program's launch and its most recent reporting period, pathology services funded by ARPA supported examinations and services for 1,835 decedents and their families. These services were essential to maintaining public trust, supporting justice and public health investigations, and responding to the opioid crisis, which was exacerbated by the pandemic.

The program aligns with ARPA’s public health goals by enhancing medical examiner capacity during a period of elevated mortality, and by addressing the broader health impacts of the COVID-19 emergency—including rising overdose deaths. This investment allowed the Marion County Coroner’s Office to uphold its critical role in public health and safety during a time of unprecedented demand.



Project: Arts Organizations COVID-19 Relief Fund

ID Number: 13

Expense Category: 2.36

Award Amount: \$500,000.00

Narrative:

The Arts Organizations COVID-19 Relief Fund, supported by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), was created to provide emergency financial assistance to nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Marion County that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These organizations—many of them small, community-based institutions—faced significant disruptions due to declines in tourism, reduced earned revenue, and increased operating costs during the public health emergency.

The Relief Fund ran from December 2021 through February 2022, during which time \$494,970 in total funding was distributed to 60 nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. The objective of this program was to stabilize operations and ensure the survival of these institutions by helping cover essential expenses, such as rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and other operational needs.

This funding played a critical role in supporting local arts organizations as they endured temporary closures, lost audiences, and uncertainty related to public health restrictions. By preserving these institutions through the most challenging periods of the pandemic, the program helped ensure that Marion County's arts and culture ecosystem could continue contributing to the community's vibrancy, economic development, and social connection in the post-pandemic recovery phase.

Though the program concluded in early 2022, it provided timely and targeted relief to a sector that is central to the identity and quality of life in Indianapolis. The Relief Fund aligns with ARPA’s broader goal of supporting small businesses and nonprofit organizations disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis.



Project: Arts and Culture Education and Marketing Services

ID Number: 14

Expense Category: 2.36

Award Amount: \$248,950.00

Narrative:

The Arts and Culture Education and Marketing Services program, administered by the Arts Council of Indianapolis and supported through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, was designed to support the post-pandemic recovery of Marion County's arts and culture sector. As local institutions reopened following extended COVID-19 closures and cancellations, this initiative sought to rebuild public engagement, restore audience confidence, and elevate the value of arts and culture in the region's broader economic and social recovery.

Running from December 2021 through March 2023, the program launched a comprehensive education and marketing campaign with the following goals:

1. Celebrate and support the reopening of Indianapolis' arts and culture sector.
2. Encourage residents and visitors to confidently re-engage with cultural events and experiences, with attention to public health and safety.
3. Promote broad awareness of the sector's role in Marion County's economic recovery and social well-being.
4. Provide equitable access to marketing tools and platforms for arts organizations, artists, and cultural institutions.

To accomplish these objectives, ARPA funds supported two major digital media campaigns aimed at driving traffic to the Explore Indy Arts website—a central hub featuring a community calendar and event listings. The campaign included:

- 20 strategically placed billboards in high-traffic areas
- A digital toolkit shared and presented to 80 partner organizations to assist in promoting the fall/winter Explore Indy Arts campaign.
- Curated content featured on Explore Indy Arts, social media, the Indy Arts Guide newsletter, PATTERN magazine, and the Indianapolis Business Journal
- Content production and editing by 20+ local creatives, including writers, filmmakers, and graphic designers.

The campaign’s reach was significant, resulting in:

- 30 million impressions
- 225,000 total ad clicks
- 30 earned media features across outlets such as WRTV, WISH-TV, FOX 59, WTTS, WICR, Nuvo, and The Indianapolis Recorder

By investing in strategic communication and promotion, this program not only revitalized engagement with the arts but also helped rebuild the visibility and sustainability of local organizations emerging from pandemic-related challenges. While the program concluded in March 2023, it had a lasting impact on reestablishing connections between artists, institutions, and the public. It aligns with ARPA’s goal of fostering economic recovery and community well-being in sectors deeply affected by the pandemic.



Project: Fresh Bucks
ID Number: 15
Expense Category: 2.1
Award Amount: \$654,710.98

Narrative:

The Fresh Bucks program, administered by the Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD), uses American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support food and nutrition security for low-income residents by providing a \$1-for-\$1 match on fresh fruit and vegetable purchases made using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. By doubling the purchasing power of SNAP users, Fresh Bucks improves access to healthy foods, addresses inequities in food affordability, and helps combat chronic diet-related diseases among residents at or below 130% of the federal poverty level.

Fresh Bucks has been operating in Marion County since 2018. With ARPA funds, the program upgraded from a paper-based incentive system to a streamlined electronic token (e-token) system beginning in April 2022. These enhancements have improved user convenience, vendor tracking, and overall program efficiency.

Fresh Bucks was available at four farmers markets and seven retail locations. Key activities and outcomes during this reporting period included:

- Community Engagement & Operations:

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- Market operations transitioned into the winter season with new site openings, such as Broad Ripple Farmers Market's winter location at Broad Ripple High School.
 - The Indy Winter Farmers Market experienced a temporary pause in Fresh Bucks participation due to a SNAP reauthorization process tied to new management at 16Tech. While Fresh Bucks incentives could not be earned at this time, existing balances remained usable, and 16Tech offered temporary relief tokens to SNAP cardholders to maintain food access.
 - The Nutrition Incentive Project Specialist (NIPS) continued partner site visits, marketing updates, and engagement activities such as distributing cooking utensils, reusable thermos-totes, and recipes during outreach events at five Safeway stores.

Technology & Infrastructure:

- Fresh Bucks staff collaborated with Epic Technology Solutions to maintain and adapt e-token programming, including a planned transition from a 6-month to a quarterly expiration period for new balances starting January 1, 2025.
- Marketing materials, including shelf labels and signage, were redesigned to align with Double Up Indiana branding, enhancing the in-store experience and simplifying eligible item identification for participants.

Since program expansion to retail outlets in November 2022, 3,725 unique users have participated. Fresh Bucks continues to be a cornerstone of equitable food access in Marion County. The program directly supports ARPA's goals by addressing the public health impacts of the pandemic, particularly among vulnerable populations. ARPA funds have expanded Fresh Bucks' operational capacity, digital infrastructure, and outreach, enabling thousands of SNAP participants to access nutritious food during a time of elevated economic and health insecurity.



Project: Second Helpings Food Assistance

ID Number: 16

Expense Category: 2.1

Award Amount: \$675,000.00

Narrative:

The Second Helpings Food Assistance program, supported through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, addresses food insecurity across Indianapolis and Marion County by providing prepared, nutrient-dense meals to residents negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Delivered in partnership with community organizations, this initiative ensures that households experiencing job loss, income reduction, increased reliance on food pantries, or other pandemic-related challenges have consistent access to healthy meals.

Since launching in August 2021, Second Helpings has produced and distributed over 1.4 million meals to food-insecure individuals and families. This includes:

- 730,412 family-packaged meals
- 145,990 individual meals
- 457,201 hearty sandwiches

Meal distribution has taken place through two primary channels:

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1. Home delivery, coordinated by Nine13 Logistics, ensuring that residents with mobility or transportation barriers continue to receive meals directly to their homes.
 2. On-site meal service at trusted neighborhood locations and community hubs, including:
 - Urban League
 - Edna Martin Christian Center
 - Fay Biccard Glick Community Center
 - Recovery Café
 - Hawthorne Community Center
 - Boys and Girls Clubs
 - Cathedral Kitchen

The program prioritizes households that have been disproportionately impacted by the economic and health effects of the pandemic. By leveraging existing community networks and trusted local organizations, Second Helpings has maximized its reach and delivered support where it is needed most.

This initiative aligns directly with ARPA's core objectives of addressing negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency and supporting disproportionately impacted households. Through the provision of high-quality, ready-to-eat meals, the Second Helpings Food Assistance program has played a vital role in stabilizing food access for thousands of Indianapolis residents.

Meals were distributed for home delivery (delivered by Nine13 logistics) and on-site through community centers including, Urban League, Edna Martin Christian Center, Fay Bicard Community Center, Recovery Café, Hawthorne Community Center, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Cathedral Kitchen.



Project: Drexel Gardens Neighborhood Drainage Improvement

ID Number: 17

Expense Category: 5.5

Award Amount: \$1,863,513.36

Narrative:

The Drexel Gardens Neighborhood Drainage Improvement project, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), addressed long-standing infrastructure deficiencies and stormwater management issues in one of Marion County's most economically vulnerable neighborhoods. With a service area median household income of \$27,600, the Drexel Gardens community had experienced chronic flooding, frequent street ponding, and associated public health and safety risks due to inadequate drainage infrastructure.

This project involved the construction of hybrid ditches and reinforced concrete pipe culverts to modernize the stormwater system and improve resilience against heavy rainfall events. These improvements were essential in reducing surface flooding, protecting residential properties, and enhancing overall quality of life for residents.

The project was competitively bid in October 2021, with construction beginning in February 2022 and concluding in November 2022. The timeline of key milestones included:

- March 9, 2022 – Tree trimming completed to prepare the site.
- April 20, 2022 – Utility relocation finalized.

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- September 12, 2022 – All punch list items completed.
 - October 19, 2022 – Site repairs and restoration completed.
 - April 14, 2023 – All construction phases officially certified and marked as complete.

By investing in critical stormwater infrastructure, this project directly aligns with ARPA’s goal of promoting equitable recovery through infrastructure improvements that serve disadvantaged communities. The Drexel Gardens project not only resolved immediate flooding concerns, but also contributed to long-term neighborhood stability, environmental protection, and improved public health outcomes.



Project: Violence Reduction Partnership with Indianapolis Public Safety Foundation

ID Number: 18

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$5,696,741.89

Narrative:

Through ARPA funding, the City of Indianapolis has partnered with the Indianapolis Public Safety Foundation (IPSF) to implement and expand the Indy Peace Fellowship—an evidence-based violence reduction initiative aligned with the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform’s (NICJR) Gun Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRs). This strategy targets individuals and groups at the highest risk of gun violence, aiming to reduce violent incidents through direct intervention, personalized support, and credible community engagement.

The program, launched in January 2022, is administered by the Office of Public Health and Safety (OPHS) and focuses on interrupting cycles of violence by engaging those most impacted. A key element of the approach includes deploying trained peacekeepers—credible messengers often with lived experience and strong ties to impacted neighborhoods—to initiate contact with high-risk individuals. Peacekeepers build trust and connect participants to wraparound services that include mentorship, job training, mental health care, and educational support.

ARPA funding has supported the continuation and expansion of this work by enabling the hiring of additional peacekeepers, broadening community outreach, and strengthening cross-sector partnerships. The Fellowship program is designed as a 12–18 month intensive support model, targeting a reduction in homicides and improving community safety and cohesion.

Program Highlights (as of latest reporting):

- 974 conflicts have been safely interrupted.
- 87 individuals identified as “high risk” have been enrolled in the Fellowship.
- 6 participants have graduated the full program.
- Over 2,000 additional community members not eligible for the Fellowship have been connected to alternative support resources.
- Following the program’s launch, homicides declined by 16.67%, surpassing the original goal of a 10% annual reduction.

Community engagement has remained a cornerstone of the initiative. Events such as “Meet the Peacemakers” have provided public forums for transparency, progress updates, and community input. Peacekeepers have also been embedded in schools, mentoring programs, and community organizations to reach individuals where they are. Additionally, the #IChoosePeace campaign, launched in June 2023, served as a high-visibility summer effort to promote nonviolence and community solidarity.

Through strategic investment in this public safety initiative, ARPA funding has allowed Indianapolis to implement an innovative and results-driven response to gun violence—one rooted in community trust, long-term support, and data-informed action.

For more information: <https://www.indypeace.org>.



Project: Violence Reduction Team

ID Number: 19

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$2,440,984.17

Narrative:

The City of Indianapolis has utilized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support the Violence Reduction Team (VRT)—a citywide initiative focused on reducing gun violence by engaging individuals at the highest risk of violence involvement. This project, operational since January 2022, is built on a two-pronged approach that pairs Intensive Life Coaches with Outreach Workers to address the root causes of violence and provide sustained, personalized intervention.

The VRT targets individuals who are most vulnerable to being involved in gun violence—those with significant criminal justice histories, gang affiliations, prior gunshot injuries, or proximity to recent shootings. Life Coaches establish trusted, long-term relationships with participants to reduce risk factors and connect them to vital services, such as education, employment, mental health care, and housing support. Simultaneously, Outreach Workers actively locate and engage high-risk individuals, respond to shooting incidents and hospitalizations, and offer lighter case management while connecting individuals to Life Coaches for deeper intervention.

ARPA funding has allowed the program to scale its operations, now employing a full team including:

- 13 Life Coaches

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- 13 Violence Interrupters
 - 28 Outreach Workers
 - 3 Program Managers
 - 1 Data Manager
 - 1 Program Director

All staff members have successfully completed critical training certifications, including Stop the Bleed, CPR/First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Conflict Resolution Training, and Narcan Administration. These certifications equip the team with the tools to respond not only to physical trauma but also to mental health crises and overdose emergencies—further enhancing the program’s holistic approach to public safety.

Key Accomplishments to Date:

- 46 community safety meetings held to build trust and awareness.
- 147 very high-risk individuals identified through comprehensive shooting reviews.
- 60 individuals engaged through direct contact with Outreach Workers or Violence Interrupters.
- 87 individuals enrolled in the intensive 12–18 month Fellowship Program.
- 281 individuals engaged in violence mediation efforts.
- 60 Fellowship members have reported successful employment placements.

Through this layered, person-centered model, the Violence Reduction Team has become a critical component of the city’s comprehensive public safety strategy. With support from ARPA funds, the program continues to foster safer neighborhoods, reduce recidivism, and build pathways for individuals most impacted by violence to pursue positive, long-term change.



Project: Public Safety Payroll
ID Number: 21
Expense Category: 3.1
Award Amount: \$5,910,967.71

Narrative:

The City of Indianapolis utilized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support Public Safety Payroll expenses incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, these funds covered overtime costs for 1,057 essential public safety personnel who played critical roles in pandemic response and emergency services during a time of unprecedented public health demands.

In alignment with the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Final Rule, funding was allocated to eligible public safety employees, including:

- Police officers
- Sheriffs and deputy sheriffs
- Firefighters
- Emergency medical responders
- Correctional and detention officers
- Dispatchers
- Supervisory and support personnel directly tied to frontline public safety services.

These employees were deemed essential to the continuity of government operations and public health and safety throughout the pandemic. Their responsibilities included emergency response, COVID-19-related health, and safety operations, and maintaining secure environments within detention and correctional facilities—all of which required extended hours and increased staffing flexibility.

The ARPA-supported overtime ensured that the City could meet increased demand without service disruption, while also recognizing and compensating public safety workers for their extended commitments. These efforts helped maintain public confidence and safety during a time of extraordinary challenge and strain on municipal resources.



Project: Domestic Violence Self Sufficiency Fund

ID Number: 22

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$64,784.34.00

Narrative:

The City of Indianapolis utilized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) resources to support the Domestic Violence Self-Sufficiency Fund, administered by the Domestic Violence Network (DVN). This project provides direct financial assistance and supportive services to individuals experiencing or at risk of domestic violence, with a focus on eliminating immediate financial barriers that prevent survivors from leaving abusive situations. These barriers were significantly exacerbated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Program operations began on March 10, 2022, and since then, the project has supported 62 survivors of domestic violence and 60 children. Funding from the Self-Sufficiency Fund has covered a wide range of eligible expenses, including:

- Utility bills
- Short-term hotel stays
- Car payments and repairs
- Cell phone bill assistance
- Security deposits
- Moving and storage expenses

All participants received wraparound services, including the development of personalized safety plans and referrals to essential community support partners, such as Firefly, Coburn Place, IYG, Marion County Prosecutor’s Office, Gender Nexus, Eskenazi Gender Health, Nurse-Family Partnership, Silent No More, and Holy Family Shelter.

In addition to providing direct assistance, DVN hosted sessions for the Advocates Network—a collective of professionals who work with domestic violence survivors and perpetrators. These sessions included best practices training and resource sharing to enhance support services throughout Marion County. DVN also educated Advocates Network members on how to access the Self-Sufficiency Fund on behalf of their clients, broadening the program’s reach and effectiveness.

This project has played a critical role in promoting safety, stability, and independence for domestic violence survivors in Indianapolis, especially during a time of heightened vulnerability due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic.



Project: Portable Handwashing Stations and Toilets for Homeless Neighbors

ID Number: 23

Expense Category: 1.7

Award Amount: \$24,000.00

Narrative:

In response to public health challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Indianapolis partnered with the Indianapolis Public Safety Foundation (IPSF) to deploy portable toilet units and handwashing stations throughout the downtown area for use by individuals experiencing homelessness. This initiative was essential in supporting hygienic practices among a vulnerable population with limited access to clean and safe restroom facilities.

The Office of Public Health and Safety (OPHS) regularly consulted with key service providers—including the IMPD Homeless Unit and Professional Blended Street Outreach (PBSO) teams—to identify high-traffic areas and ensure that stations were placed in locations where they would have the greatest impact. These temporary facilities served as a critical mitigation strategy to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and preserve public health in outdoor congregate settings.

The project provided necessary public health infrastructure during a period of heightened risk for both housed and unhoused residents and emphasized the City's commitment to equitable and accessible health resources for all.

This project was successfully completed in 2021, with no additional programmatic activity occurring after that time.



Project: ARPA Communications Coordinator

ID Number: 24

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$106,783.22

Narrative:

The ARPA Communications Coordinator position was created within the Office of Public Health and Safety (OPHS) to support outreach and public engagement efforts related to ARPA-funded initiatives. This role was instrumental in ensuring that the community, media partners, and stakeholders were informed about available resources, key accomplishments, and ongoing programs supported by the City's allocation of ARPA funds.

The Communications Coordinator led strategic messaging and public relations campaigns to promote awareness of ARPA programs, particularly those targeting vulnerable populations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Responsibilities included organizing media events, coordinating press releases, developing content for social media and newsletters, and working closely with program leads to highlight success stories and share impact data.

By increasing visibility of the City's ARPA programming, the Communications Coordinator helped build trust, improve transparency, and ensure that residents had access to vital information about services and supports made possible through federal recovery dollars.

This position has played a critical role in maximizing community impact and engagement with ARPA-funded initiatives across Indianapolis.



Project: Group Violence Intervention Programming

ID Number: 25

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$1,574,910.60

Narrative:

As part of the City of Indianapolis' comprehensive strategy to reduce gun violence, the Office of Public Health and Safety (OPHS) partnered with the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) to implement and expand the Group Violence Intervention (GVI) model. This evidence-based approach targets the small number of individuals at the highest risk of involvement in gun violence and aims to reduce shootings through direct engagement, accountability, and supportive services.

NICJR is providing ongoing technical assistance to the City through several key components of the GVI model:

1. Shooting Reviews – NICJR facilitates structured reviews of recent shootings to identify trends, high-risk individuals, and the dynamics driving gun violence.
2. Call-Ins and Individual Notifications – High-risk individuals are engaged directly with a clear message: violence must stop. These interactions also offer access to intensive services and support for those willing to change.
3. Case Conferences – Regular multidisciplinary team meetings coordinate outreach and support strategies for individuals identified through shooting reviews.
4. Focused Enforcement Coordination – Law enforcement agencies collaborate to apply strategic enforcement on individuals and groups who continue to engage in violence despite outreach efforts.

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5. Data Tools and Performance Metrics – NICJR provides the City with data collection tools, performance benchmarks, and management reports to ensure accountability and transparency.

This initiative supports the City’s data-driven violence reduction framework and helps build cross-agency coordination. ARPA funding is critical to sustaining NICJR’s technical assistance and enhancing the City’s capacity to reduce gun violence, save lives, and improve public safety outcomes for Indianapolis residents.



Project: Marion County Coroner Morgue Capacity Expansion

ID Number: 26

Expense Category: 1.7

Award Amount: \$125,525.00

Narrative:

In response to the surge in opioid-related deaths, increased homicides, and the overall rise in mortality associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Marion County Coroner's Office undertook a capacity expansion project to better manage the growing number of decedents. Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), this initiative aimed to ensure respectful, timely, and efficient handling of the deceased during a period of unprecedented need.

Beginning in May 2021, the project supported the purchase of a 53-foot refrigerated storage trailer, significantly expanding the morgue's capacity to store decedents during peak surges. This critical infrastructure addition allowed the Coroner's Office to maintain operations without delays and reduced the burden on existing storage facilities.

In addition to physical infrastructure, ARPA funds supported staffing increases to help manage the elevated caseload brought on by the pandemic and its secondary effects, particularly gun violence and drug overdoses. This additional staffing allowed the Coroner's Office to conduct timely investigations, perform autopsies, and provide closure for grieving families.

To date, the expanded morgue capacity and staffing resources have enabled the office to serve 1,835 decedents and their families with dignity and efficiency. This project has been essential in supporting the public health response and in maintaining critical coroner services throughout Marion County.



Project: Trauma Informed Care for Nonfatal Shootings

ID Number: 27

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$487,023.25

Narrative:

In May 2022, the City of Indianapolis launched its first trauma-informed care initiative focused specifically on supporting survivors of nonfatal shootings. This innovative program, supported through ARPA funding, is grounded in six core principles: safety, trust and transparency, support, collaboration, empowerment, and responsiveness. The program represents a new model of public safety and victim services, emphasizing healing and long-term support for those most directly impacted by gun violence.

The initiative deploys three full-time Victim Advocates who coordinate closely with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Victim Assistance Unit, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, and the Office of Public Health and Safety. Advocates respond to shooting scenes and actively follow up on unsolved nonfatal shooting cases to provide outreach, build trust, and connect survivors to critical services.

Programmatic highlights include the launch of a dedicated support group for nonfatal shooting survivors, with three meetings held to date and additional sessions scheduled. Victim Advocates have also provided individualized support, including assistance with counseling and therapy, childcare, housing stabilization, food access, utility assistance, prescription support, and navigation of the victim compensation process.

Client survey data underscores the profound need for comprehensive support. Of those served:

- 23% reported unstable or uncertain housing situations.
- 32% experienced utility shutoffs or threats of shutoff in the prior year.
- 41% reported a lack of reliable transportation limiting access to daily necessities.
- 40% expressed varying levels of food insecurity over the past 12 months.

This data has informed strategic partnerships with agencies such as Prescription for Hope, Indy Peace Fellowship, and Diversion Indy to deliver wraparound support tailored to the needs of survivors.

By addressing the broader socioeconomic impacts of gun violence and fostering trust between survivors and the justice system, this program not only supports individual healing but contributes to greater community safety and resilience.



Project: Modern Crime Fighting Technology

ID Number: 28

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$2,697,669.00

Narrative:

To address the rise in violent crime during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) launched a comprehensive modernization initiative supported by ARPA funds. This initiative focused on equipping law enforcement officers with enhanced technology to improve investigative capabilities, increase situational awareness, and reduce response times.

Beginning in early 2022, IMPD utilized ARPA funds to purchase and deploy a range of cutting-edge tools, including:

- 50 covert radios to improve real-time communication between covert and patrol units,
- 107 public safety community cameras with 293 total views (featuring pan, tilt, and zoom capabilities),
- 190 solar-powered license plate readers (LPRs),
- 6 mobile surveillance camera trailers,
- Automated transcription software,
- A new virtual training classroom, and
- A pilot Gunshot Detection System, launched in September 2022.

The new covert radios have improved coordination between investigative and patrol officers, enhancing the safety and effectiveness of operations. Public safety cameras have expanded surveillance capabilities in high-priority areas, allowing for better monitoring and deterrence of criminal activity.

The installation of solar-powered LPRs has tripled the number of license plate identifications used in investigations, significantly advancing case resolution timelines. Automated transcription services have also improved departmental efficiency: where transcriptionists previously completed 27–32 pages per day, the new system now allows for more than 40 pages daily—accelerating the pace of case documentation and legal processing.

The opening of a virtual training classroom has allowed IMPD to continue training and upskilling officers efficiently, while the gunshot detection system pilot is testing innovative ways to improve real-time responses to firearm incidents.

Together, these investments represent a critical step forward in modernizing the City’s public safety infrastructure and strengthening the tools available to address both immediate and long-term public safety challenges. The initiative reinforces IMPD’s commitment to data-driven, technology-supported, and community-informed policing strategies.



Project: 30th Street and Kessler Blvd Area Drainage Improvements

ID Number: 29

Expense Category: 5.5

Award Amount: \$ 3,677,413.65

Narrative:

The 30th Street and Kessler Boulevard Area Drainage Improvements project addresses long-standing stormwater management challenges across several residential neighborhoods in Indianapolis. With funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the City of Indianapolis implemented critical infrastructure improvements aimed at reducing flooding, improving roadway safety, and enhancing overall neighborhood resiliency.

The project area includes Moreland Avenue, Halifax Road, 29th Street, Medford Avenue, the Burris Subdivision, Kessler Boulevard North Drive, and Colerain Drive. Construction began in February 2022 and substantial completion is expected by the end of July 2023.

Key project accomplishments to date include:

- Installation of 14,534 linear feet of new storm sewer pipe,
- Construction of 172 new stormwater manholes,
- Completion of 5.3 out of 8.2 lane miles of new roadway,
- Installation of approximately 92% of new sidewalks and ADA-accessible curb ramps.

The drainage upgrades are designed to mitigate street and property flooding, improve stormwater conveyance, and ensure compliance with ADA accessibility standards. Remaining work includes final paving, curb construction, sidewalk completion, and site restoration across the project area.

This project represents a critical infrastructure investment that not only improves public safety and protects residential property, but also enhances neighborhood connectivity and quality of life for residents in historically underserved areas.



Project: Broad Ripple Village Area Drainage Improvements

ID Number: 30

Expense Category: 5.5

Award Amount: \$ 4,415,543.89

Narrative:

The Broad Ripple Village Area Drainage Improvements project is designed to address flooding and stormwater management issues along a key commercial and residential corridor in Indianapolis. Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), this infrastructure investment enhances drainage capabilities and pedestrian safety along Broad Ripple Avenue, between College Avenue and Primrose Avenue.

Construction began in September 2022, with an anticipated completion date of August 2023. At present, the project is approximately 84% complete. As part of the improvements, new ADA-compliant curb ramps have been installed at the northeast quadrant of Winthrop Avenue and Broad Ripple Avenue, improving accessibility and pedestrian navigation in this high-traffic area.

In March 2023, the City held a public outreach meeting at Average Joe's to update community members on project progress and gather feedback. This engagement provided an opportunity for residents and business owners to share concerns and ask questions directly related to the ongoing construction.

Once complete, the project will provide long-term stormwater relief to this popular mixed-use district, reduce flooding risks, and improve the functionality and safety of the streetscape—supporting both economic activity and quality of life in the Broad Ripple area.



Project: Keystone Avenue South Stormwater Outfall

ID Number: 31

Expense Category: 5.5

Award Amount: \$20,331,612.82

Narrative:

The Keystone Avenue South Stormwater Outfall project is a major infrastructure initiative aimed at improving stormwater management and mitigating flood risks along Keystone Avenue between 30th and 37th Streets. Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the project also supports long-term resilience by establishing a critical outfall to serve future stormwater separation projects within the Minnie Creek Watershed.

Construction began in January 2022 and is scheduled for completion by December 2023. As of June 2023, substantial progress has been made, including the installation of approximately 5,207 linear feet (around 1 mile) of 78-inch stormwater pipe, 1,234 linear feet of 66-inch pipe, and 1,202 linear feet of 60-inch pipe. These large-diameter pipes significantly increase the stormwater system's capacity to manage heavy rainfall and runoff.

In addition to pipe installation, the project features extensive environmental and streetscape improvements. These include the planting of 459 deciduous trees, construction of two dry detention basins, approximately 740 feet of berms, and 1,500 linear feet of channel improvements along Minnie Creek. Infrastructure enhancements also include 8,848 linear feet of new curb installation and 1 mile of new hot mix asphalt (HMA) pavement.

This ARPA-funded project not only addresses immediate stormwater needs but also provides critical infrastructure to support future improvements in the watershed, improving neighborhood resiliency and enhancing quality of life for residents.



Project: Downtown Safety

ID Number: 32

Expense Category: 1.1

Award Amount: \$5,952,989.85

Narrative:

The Downtown Safety Program is a multi-faceted initiative supported by ARPA funding to enhance public safety, cleanliness, and perception of the downtown Indianapolis Mile Square. In response to pandemic-related increases in crime and public health concerns, this program funds bike patrols, safety ambassadors, cleaning teams, and homeless outreach professionals to create a more welcoming and secure environment for residents, workers, and visitors.

Key components of the program include:

1. Enhanced IMPD Bike Patrols: Off-duty, uniformed officers conduct foot and bike patrols to address problem areas, respond to “hot zones” based on business input, discourage illegal panhandling, and engage in community policing. Officers regularly visit street-level businesses, provide visibility during peak hours, and staff special events. From January to December 2024, officers deployed for 7,954 hours, staffed 46 special events, conducted 11,518 property engagements, and made 52 arrests.
2. Safety Ambassadors and Outreach: Safety Ambassadors provide public engagement, escort services, and serve as liaisons between businesses and security personnel. With the addition of a Community Outreach Coordinator and six Homeless Outreach Professionals (HOPs) through Horizon House, this team now provides daily services, reaching 630 unique individuals experiencing homelessness. Property engagement efforts reached 3,713 locations, supporting a safer, more informed

downtown.

3. Enhanced Cleaning Services: Cleaning Ambassadors, now fully staffed with 24 full-time employees, are responsible for daily maintenance of downtown sidewalks and public areas. Between January and December 2024, they removed 1,317 instances of graffiti, 1,958 stickers, power-washed 831 blocks, and collected 17,440 fifty-pound bags of trash. These efforts have significantly improved the overall appearance and cleanliness of the area.
4. Public Restroom Access: Two mobile restroom units were installed near Monument Circle beginning in July 2023. These facilities have reduced unsanitary waste issues and improved public health conditions downtown.
5. Community and Business Engagement: A central goal of the program is to foster a perception of safety and hospitality in the downtown area. From January to December 2024, safety ambassadors and bike patrol officers conducted 16,364 property engagement visits to downtown businesses, retail, and hospitality partners.

Performance indicators for the Downtown Safety Program include arrests, property-based crime data, direct services (e.g., escorts), event attendance, hotel occupancy, and business satisfaction levels. With a strong focus on visibility, response, and cleanliness, the program has made significant strides in restoring a safe, vibrant downtown environment.



Project: Neighborhood Beautification Grants

ID Number: 34

Expense Category: 2.22

Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Narrative:

The Neighborhood Beautification Grants Program, launched on May 1, 2022, is designed to support neighborhood-driven projects that promote community cohesion, beautification, and local pride in historically marginalized communities across Indianapolis. Funded through ARPA, the program directly addresses the social and economic disconnection exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including increased food and housing insecurity, unemployment, and health disparities.

The program provides financial support to projects that foster engagement, collective action, and neighborhood identity. All funded projects are located within Qualified Census Tracts or SAVI-identified zip codes, with an intentional focus on neighborhoods beyond the traditionally supported downtown and high-traffic areas. By investing in grassroots initiatives, the program helps counter the long-term effects of disinvestment and avoids the outcomes associated with the “broken window theory.”

Grant priorities have included:

- Beautification of shared spaces
- Enhancing physical and social connectivity
- Creating or improving neighborhood gathering spaces

-
- Promoting resident leadership and community identity

To ensure equitable access and transparency, the program held 10 public informational sessions across 5 grant rounds, attended by a total of 514 community members. These sessions helped residents understand application processes and encouraged inclusive participation.

Grant Management Progress by Round:

- Round 1 & Round 3: 100% of grants successfully closed.
- Round 2: 25 of 26 grants closed.
- Round 4: 19 of 26 grants closed.
- Round 5: 4 of 14 grants closed to date.

Administered in partnership with the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC), the program has received overwhelmingly positive community feedback. Residents have reported that the grants not only helped improve the physical appearance of their neighborhoods but also facilitated new relationships and a greater sense of shared purpose.

As of Quarter 2, 2025, INRC continues to explore sustainable funding sources to extend the Neighborhood Beautification Grants beyond the ARPA period. The program has proven to be a catalyst for community-led transformation, empowering residents to shape the futures of their neighborhoods through creativity, collaboration, and direct investment.



Project: WIFI in Parks

ID Number: 35

Expense Category: 5.21

Award Amount: \$498,862.00

Narrative:

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the critical need for reliable internet access, as residents increasingly relied on broadband for remote work, virtual education, telehealth services, and access to vital information. However, affordability remains a major barrier for many households, even in areas where broadband infrastructure is technically available. To address this digital divide and promote long-term community resilience, the City of Indianapolis launched the WIFI in Parks initiative using ARPA funds.

This project aims to provide free high-speed internet access to the public by equipping 20 Indy Parks locations with wireless internet service. By bringing broadband to public parks, the City expands equitable access to a basic necessity—ensuring that residents, particularly those in underserved neighborhoods, can participate in the digital economy and stay connected to essential services.

The Department of Parks and Recreation has:

- Purchased all necessary wireless access points and equipment.
- Completed floor plans for all 23 facilities.
- Secured vendor quotes for wiring and installation across sites.

This infrastructure investment will transform community parks into digital access points, supporting education, workforce development, and social connectivity in neighborhoods that need it most. Once fully implemented, the WIFI in Parks program will contribute to closing the digital gap, enhancing equity, and strengthening Indianapolis' pandemic recovery and future resilience.



Project: Mental Health Competitive Grants

ID Number: 36

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$70,000.00

Narrative:

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the mental health of individuals across all demographics, particularly youth and young adults already facing adversity. The disruption of support systems heightened economic instability, and social isolation have increased the prevalence of anxiety, depression, and trauma-related conditions. The Mental Health Competitive Grants program was created to provide targeted, evidence-based counseling services for youth, young adults, and their families who are at increased risk of violence, justice system involvement, or who are currently involved in the justice system.

Recognizing that the mental health impact of public health emergencies often outlasts their physical effects, this program uses ARPA funds to ensure timely intervention and long-term support for the most vulnerable populations. Grants were awarded to two subrecipient organizations—Reach for Youth (RFY) and Recycle Force—to expand access to critical mental health care and address service gaps for justice-involved individuals and their families.

To date, Reach for Youth has used funding to provide mental health treatment to 49 youth and their parents, with a focus on removing barriers that disproportionately affect youth and families of color. Approximately 90% of families served meet federal poverty guidelines or fall within the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed (ALICE) population—far exceeding Indiana’s

state average. To address language access needs, RFY onboarded a bilingual therapist and translators, as 34% of their clients are Spanish-speaking.

Additionally, RFY is developing new workforce development partnerships with organizations such as Exploradoor and TeenWorks, expanding the wraparound support services available to youth as part of a broader strategy to reduce justice system involvement and improve long-term outcomes.

The Mental Health Competitive Grants program is advancing equity in mental health care and building a more resilient support system for underserved communities as part of Indianapolis' pandemic recovery strategy.



Project: After Hours Resource Coordinators at the Criminal Justice Center

ID Number: 37

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$710,786.03

Narrative:

The After Hours Resource Coordinators initiative addresses the urgent needs of individuals released from the Marion County Criminal Justice Center (CJC) outside of regular business hours, a time when access to essential support services is often limited. Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), this program is designed to reduce recidivism and promote successful community reentry by providing immediate, tailored support to individuals at a critical transition point.

Launched in April 2022, with After-Hours Resource Coordinators added in July 2022, the program includes two major components:

1. CJC Release Space Referral Program
2. Night Lyft Program (began January 2022)

These services are available seven days a week, including holidays, with on-site staffing from 9:45 PM to 6:15 AM on weekdays and 24/7 on weekends and holidays. Each individual is offered a voluntary needs assessment, which helps staff connect them to resources such as employment services, food assistance, mental health care, and housing support.

As of 2025:

-
- 11,895 individuals have been assessed and connected to reentry services.
 - 5,673 individuals were assessed under the CJC Release Space Referral Program.
 - 4,176 individuals received free transportation support through the Night Lyft Program.
 - 3,087 re-entrants were connected to employment opportunities.
 - 2,831 individuals were referred to food and nutrition assistance.
 - 3,512 reported housing instability, helping to identify and address disparities.
 - 1,472 individuals were connected to mental health support and other community-based care.

Key reentry partners working within the CJC space include Unite Indy, Hope Haven, Aspire, Overdose Lifeline, and Community Action of Greater Indianapolis. Together, they provide a collaborative support network that addresses the complex needs of those returning to the community.

By offering targeted assistance at the point of release, this ARPA-funded program removes common barriers to reentry and reinforces the City's broader public safety and equity goals. The program continues to demonstrate measurable impact on individual outcomes and long-term community well-being.



Project: Elevation Grant Program

ID Number: 38

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$36,000,000.00

Narrative:

The Elevation Grant Program is a strategic partnership between the City of Indianapolis and The Indianapolis Foundation, designed to invest \$36 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds across 2022, 2023, and 2024. The initiative addresses the root causes of violent crime through a comprehensive, community-centered approach that emphasizes neighborhood empowerment, grassroots innovation, and infrastructure development for local organizations.

The program features multiple grant rounds aimed at fostering resident-led solutions, supporting emerging strategies to reduce violence, and advancing community resilience through investments that reflect local voices and priorities. Special focus is placed on funding grassroots organizations, particularly those led by residents of the neighborhoods they serve, to strengthen the capacity and sustainability of community-rooted efforts.

Since its launch, the Elevation Grant Program has awarded 150 grants to nonprofit organizations, investing \$26 million directly into Indianapolis neighborhoods. These investments have supported programs and services that have collectively reached over 57,000 residents. The initiative also seeks to elevate community well-being using both quantitative and qualitative measures such as increased hope, peace, resilience, and safety.

More details are available at <https://www.cicf.org/not-for-profits/elevation-grant>.



Project: Towne and Terrace Redevelopment

ID Number: 40

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$13,497,713.71

Narrative:

The Towne and Terrace Redevelopment Initiative is a transformative housing project funded through the City of Indianapolis's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The initiative addresses longstanding public health, safety, and housing challenges at the Towne and Terrace complex, located on the Far Eastside of Indianapolis near 42nd Street and Post Road.

Launched in August 2022, the project aims to acquire the remaining 152 non-City-owned properties within the 258-parcel Towne and Terrace development. Once properties are acquired, the City supports the relocation of residents—both tenants and homeowners—into safe, sanitary, and decent housing in accordance with the federal Uniform Relocation Act (URA). These efforts are part of a broader strategy to stabilize neighborhoods, support vulnerable residents, and reimagine the future of this historically neglected area.

To foster community trust and ensure an equitable process, the City onboarded two Community Engagement Specialists at the

project's inception to provide individualized case management and to build relationships with residents. Since then, affected households have been supported with direct financial assistance (including moving stipends and relocation support), and have gained access to critical resources such as banking services, legal aid, employment support, and public benefits enrollment.

Acquisition and relocation efforts began in June 2023 and are ongoing. As of June 30, 2025, the project has successfully relocated 312 individuals from 152 households. Once all residents are relocated and properties are acquired, demolition of the complex will proceed to remove unsafe structures and eliminate persistent health and safety hazards in the area.

This initiative exemplifies the City's commitment to using ARPA funds to not only resolve critical infrastructure challenges but also uplift historically underserved communities through dignified housing solutions and holistic resident support.

For more information, visit the Towne and Terrace Information Guide: <https://www.indy.gov/activity/towne-and-terrace-information-guide>.



Project: Sherman Park Redevelopment

ID Number: 41

Expense Category: 2.23

Award Amount: \$5,007,511.61

Narrative:

The Sherman Park Redevelopment project, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), is a key step in revitalizing Indianapolis's east side by addressing long-standing environmental and infrastructure barriers to redevelopment. The project targeted the former RCA Sherman Park site, a location burdened by more than 175,000 cubic yards of geotechnically unstable and potentially hazardous construction materials, debris, and contaminated soil that had long prevented productive reuse of the land.

Project excavation and removal efforts began in July 2022 and were completed by January 2023. In total, 191,446 cubic yards of unstable fill material were removed in 14,349 truckloads, with all material properly transported and disposed of in accordance with environmental regulations.

This significant remediation effort now clears the way for future commercial or mixed-use development that can benefit residents of Tuxedo Park and surrounding neighborhoods. Beyond enabling economic growth, the project supports environmental justice goals by remediating contamination in a historically underserved area, and it directly contributes to improving public health and quality of life for residents.

Throughout the process, ongoing community engagement ensured transparency and local involvement. Regular updates were provided to residents and stakeholders through Sherman Park Community Advisory meetings and other outreach efforts. The successful completion of this project represents a foundational step toward the broader redevelopment and revitalization of Sherman Park and the east side of Indianapolis.



Project: Indy Parks Playground Replacements

ID Number: 42

Expense Category: 2.22

Award Amount: \$17,727,223.89

Narrative:

The Indy Parks Playground Replacements project, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), is designed to invest in the health, equity, and vitality of Indianapolis neighborhoods by replacing aging and deteriorating playgrounds and court surfaces. This initiative prioritizes sites based on current playground conditions and racial equity scores to ensure investments are made in communities with the greatest need.

The project aims to upgrade approximately 10–15 playgrounds and 50 court surfaces throughout the city. To ensure these upgrades reflect the needs and preferences of residents, Indy Parks hosted 10 public engagement meetings across Indianapolis. More than 3,400 postcards were mailed to community members and organizations to promote these meetings, and over 150 residents attended, offering valuable input, and selecting preferred playground equipment designs.

As of mid-2023, the project has made significant progress. 22 of 28 playground designs are complete, 22 sites have received zoning approvals, and 2 have obtained drainage permits, with construction scheduled to begin in fall 2023. These upgrades are expected to not only enhance park infrastructure but also increase access to safe, high-quality recreational spaces—particularly in historically underserved neighborhoods.

The ARPA-funded playground replacements reflect a strategic investment in equitable community development, public health, and neighborhood engagement, providing long-term benefits for families and children across Marion County.





Project: Nuisance Properties Task Force

ID Number: 43

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$331,353.69

Narrative:

The Nuisance Properties Task Force, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), is a coordinated public safety initiative established to reduce crime and improve quality of life in Indianapolis by targeting problem properties that generate disproportionate public safety risks. The task force enhances the investigative and enforcement capacity of the IMPD Nuisance Abatement Unit and partnering agencies by improving interagency data collection, research, inspection coordination, and legal enforcement strategies.

The Task Force—led by a contracted project manager and supported by two analysts—works across city departments to gather and analyze data on high-risk nuisance properties, including bars, nightclubs, restaurants, hotels, and residential rental units. These properties are identified through high volumes of police calls, health and safety violations, and community complaints. The Task Force develops collaborative, cross-departmental enforcement plans and coordinates onsite inspections with IMPD and other agencies. Coordination also occurs through the City’s “nuisance properties working group,” which helps set enforcement priorities and guide policy responses.

Since the launch of the program, the task force has successfully filed and adjudicated fourteen civil legal actions in Marion County Superior Court related to unlicensed or illegal alcohol sales, zoning violations, and contempt of court. All cases resulted in favorable

rulings for the City, with courts issuing permanent injunctions and imposing a total of \$40,825 in fines. Importantly, none of the nuisance properties targeted in these actions has reopened.

In addition, the task force's analysts participate in weekly Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership (IVRP) meetings, where they provide intelligence on at-risk events and nuisance locations. Since Q4 2022, over 81 high-risk events have been identified and assigned risk levels, giving IMPD a targeted framework for weekend patrols and crime prevention.

This ARPA-funded initiative represents a proactive, evidence-based public safety strategy, aimed at reducing crime and nuisance activity through multi-agency collaboration and strategic enforcement, improving safety and livability across Indianapolis neighborhoods.



Project: City Connects - Addressing Educational Outcomes Disparities

ID Number: 44

Expense Category: 2.25

Award Amount: \$4,251,170.00

Narrative:

The City of Indianapolis used American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to implement City Connects, an evidence-based student support program designed to reduce academic disparities by addressing out-of-school factors that limit learning. Implemented in partnership with Marian University's Center for Vibrant Schools and developed by Boston College, City Connects has provided a systematic approach to addressing students' academic, social-emotional, and health-related needs in schools across high-need areas.

The program launched in July 2022 across eleven schools in Marion County—specifically in zip codes 46218, 46266, and 46235—targeting areas with pronounced educational and economic disparities. Through ARPA support, each participating school was staffed with a full-time site coordinator responsible for developing personalized support plans for students, connecting them with tailored services, and collaborating with school staff and community partners.

To date, the program has:

- Developed 10,552 student support plans.
- Delivered 16,219 services to individual students and families.
- Established 347 community partnerships.

- Provided 3,761 Tier 1 prevention and enrichment services, exceeding last year's totals.
- Spent \$2,448,025 on evidence-based interventions.

In addition to service delivery, the program emphasized strong school-community collaboration. Coordinators facilitated school-based

professional development, conducted 2–3 meetings with administrators per school, and supported community events such as back-to-school nights, family engagement nights, summer resource fairs, and fall festivals.



The City Connects model also places a strong emphasis on continuous improvement. End-of-year review meetings are held with each school's principal, site coordinator, and program manager to evaluate individual and whole-class data. These meetings guide summer support strategies and help plan services for the upcoming school year. For schools not continuing implementation, efforts are made to archive and extract all relevant student data to preserve continuity of care.

While Creston will no longer participate due to the conclusion of grant funding, the program will continue at other sites through June 2025, including the rehiring of staff at Anna Brochhausen Elementary for the 2025–2026 school year.

Through its evidence-based design and holistic, student-centered approach, City Connects has made a measurable impact on educational equity in Indianapolis, aligning closely with ARPA’s goal of mitigating the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and families.



Project: Martindale Brightwood Affordable Housing Program

ID Number: 45

Expense Category: 2.15

Award Amount: \$1,300,000.00

Narrative:

The Martindale-Brightwood Affordable Housing Program, funded in part by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), supports equitable housing access and economic empowerment through the construction and sale of affordable single-family homes in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood. This initiative is part of the broader Lift Indy Martindale-Brightwood strategy aimed at revitalizing historically disinvested areas and providing sustainable pathways to homeownership for low- to moderate-income families.

Through a partnership with Renew Indianapolis and its affiliate Intend Indiana, ARPA funds contributed to the construction of 12 new homes within Qualified Census Tracts. Construction of the homes was completed in January 2023, with six homes sold to date, three currently under purchase agreements, and three remaining available. New homeowners are realizing an average of 37% equity at closing, providing immediate wealth-building opportunities that support long-term financial stability and community investment.

The program also achieved strong supplier diversity, with 75% XBE (minority-, women-, or veteran-owned business enterprise) participation in construction and contracting, meeting a key equity benchmark for local economic inclusion.

Comprehensive community engagement and education were central components of the initiative. Events such as the Empowering Communities for Success series (June 3–10, 2023), Homebuyer Education sessions (June 7–28, 2023), and Homeownership 101 workshops (February 16–March 1 and March 4, 2023) helped equip prospective buyers with knowledge and resources to navigate the path to homeownership.

This ARPA-supported project represents a model for equitable community development—promoting affordable housing, economic inclusion, and wealth generation within historically underserved neighborhoods in Indianapolis.



Project: Overdose Lifeline Treatment Program

ID Number: 47

Expense Category: 1.13

Award Amount: \$536,175.94

Narrative:

Through support from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Overdose Lifeline launched the Holistic Recovery Center for Women and Children, a groundbreaking initiative designed to address gaps in services for women affected by substance use disorder, including pregnant and parenting women. The Center responds to the ongoing substance misuse crisis and its socioeconomic consequences with a trauma-informed, stigma-free residential and community service model.

The Center provides approximately 23 beds, serving an estimated 125 women annually through both residential and community-based services. The program offers a multi-phase continuum of care that integrates recovery support with essential life services, including job training, financial literacy, scholarship and tuition assistance, childcare, parenting skills development, and life skills education. To support stabilization during early recovery, rent is subsidized for the first 90 days, after which 20 beds are available for transitional affordable housing for extended stays.

Participants are connected to Community Health Network for behavioral health services and are enrolled in the Making Our Moms Stronger (M.O.M.S.) evidence-based program. Additional partners include WeCare, First Steps, and Second Helpings. These partnerships help provide wraparound support to address the complex needs of women in recovery.

To date, the Center has:

- Served 82 women through residential programming.
- Maintained a 16.4% successful program completion rate, with programmatic enhancements underway to improve outcomes.
- Achieved 100% participation in financial literacy programming.
- Completed two full rounds of the Nurturing Parent Program, with the third round currently in progress.
- Reported no relapses among residents while enrolled in the Heart Rock residential program.
- Documented that 90% of participants experienced growth in parenting self-esteem, self-efficacy, and knowledge across all three domains of the Early Parenting Attitudes Questionnaire (EPAQ).

The ARPA-funded Holistic Recovery Center offers a long-overdue response to the needs of mothers in recovery, helping to stabilize families, prevent relapse, and build pathways to self-sufficiency—ultimately advancing both public health and community resilience.

This program has expensed approximately \$40,000 in evidence-based interventions.

For more information, please visit <https://heartrockrecovery.org/>.



Project: Unite Indy Re-entry Support Services

ID Number: 48

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$2,177,520.46

Narrative:

Through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, Unite Indy launched 2nd Chance Indiana, a comprehensive reentry initiative based at the Marion County Adult Detention Center (MCADC), to support justice-involved individuals in securing employment and reestablishing stability post-release. The overarching goal is to reduce recidivism and community violence by providing immediate and long-term workforce and reintegration support.

The program offers full-time, on-site staffing at MCADC, where job counselors and resource coordinators assist individuals prior to release. Services include online job application support, job readiness training, employment referrals, and personal development resources. The program emphasizes that 89% of individuals rearrested post-release are unemployed, and early employment is shown to reduce recidivism risk by up to 90%.

Key components of the program include:

1. Job Counseling and Readiness Training

Unite Indy’s job counselors operate within the jail’s reentry office, enabling individuals to apply for employment before release. In 2024 alone, the team:

- Provided 2,531 individuals with job counseling services.
- Registered 966 reentrants on the 2ndChanceIN.com job platform.
- Facilitated the submission of 1,797 job applications.

Cumulatively from 2021–2024, the program served 3,790 individuals, helping file 2,547 job applications.

In June 2024, after extensive advocacy, Unite Indy gained access to provide in-jail job preparation training. Four cohorts were trained in 2024, with 25 graduates and two additional cohorts underway, scheduled to complete in 2025.

2. Reentry Transportation Program

Addressing the primary obstacle to reentrant employment—lack of reliable transportation—the program launched a Reentry Transportation Program:

- In 2024, 324 reentrants were transported to and from work.
- Since inception, 1,006 reentrants received transport services.
- Participants were 100% justice-involved and primarily within the 25–55 age range.
- Demographics: 51% Black, 44% White, 3% Hispanic/Latino.

This program enabled sustained employment by providing consistent, reliable commuting support for those with limited mobility options.

3. Mentoring and Ongoing Support

To improve long-term tracking and outcomes, Unite Indy partnered with organizations such as Trusted Mentors, Corrections Ministry, Christian Business Men’s Connection, and Workforce Chaplains to pair program graduates with post-release mentors. These relationships help build accountability and offer critical feedback on reentry challenges.

4. Outcome Tracking and Sustainability

To measure impact, Unite Indy secured access to data from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, allowing them (with participant and employer consent) to track employment status, wage changes, and retention outcomes. Only aggregate data is publicly reported to ensure privacy.

The program’s success and partnerships led to increased visibility, resulting in a 2025 grant from the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet to sustain and expand the Reentry Transportation Program. Unite Indy has also presented the model to over a dozen regional employers and reentry-focused organizations to build support and scale efforts.

Since the beginning of the program on 9/21/2021, Unite Indy has served 5,253 people.

For more information, please visit <https://www.2ndchancein.com>.



Project: Arts Council Grant Enhancement Program

ID Number: 50

Expense Category: 2.36

Award Amount: \$1,150,000.00

Narrative:

The City of Indianapolis allocates ARPA funding to the Arts Council of Indianapolis (ACI) to support its Annual Grants Program (AGP), which invests in the growth and sustainability of Marion County’s arts and cultural sector. This program provides critical financial support to local arts organizations, with a strong emphasis on equity and community impact.

The AGP is a three-tiered grant initiative that awards funding based on rigorous evaluation by an independent public panel. Applications are assessed on community impact (50%), artistic merit (25%), and organizational capacity (25%). In alignment with the City’s commitment to racial equity, 70% of the top awards are granted to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-led and serving organizations.

Grant awards range from \$2,000 to \$75,000, enabling a diverse array of organizations to thrive and serve Indianapolis residents. The top-scoring organizations from recent cycles include notable groups such as Asante Art Institute of Indianapolis, Big Car Collaborative, the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, Fonseca Theatre Company, and others, with grants ranging from \$8,000 to \$75,000.

The program funded 75 nonprofit organizations in 2022 and 85 organizations in 2023, collectively reaching an estimated 8 million residents and visitors annually. Beyond cultural enrichment, these grants contribute to a robust local economy, generating more than \$440 million in economic impact and supporting approximately 30,000 jobs in the region.

This ARPA-supported grant program has played a pivotal role in sustaining and enhancing Indianapolis’s vibrant arts community, ensuring continued access to diverse cultural experiences, and strengthening the creative economy as part of the City’s broader pandemic recovery efforts.



Project: Youth Transitional Housing

ID Number: 53

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$4,284,298.00

Narrative:

Youth Transitional Housing, through the programs 91 Place and VOICES, provide emergency and transitional housing for youth and young adults in Marion County, Indiana. These programs incorporate trauma-informed wraparound services, including case management, mental health care, education support, and workforce development, aimed at helping participants achieve long-term stability and independence.

Program activities are grounded in evidence-based practices, including the use of BASC-3 behavioral assessments and Healing Centered Engagement models. These interventions are designed to assess client needs and tailor service delivery accordingly. The initiative represents a sustainable, long-term response to systemic youth homelessness and the housing crisis in the community.

For the VOICES program, primary delivery mechanisms include on-site case management and therapy, structured housing with individualized service plans, and ongoing internal assessments to track outcomes and satisfaction. A new supportive housing expansion, Cookie's Corner—offering nine additional units for families—is expected to open in Q4 2025. The central goal of the VOICES Housing Programs is to support the long-term stabilization and independence of vulnerable youth, young adults, and families in Marion County. The program uses internal monitoring tools, resident assessments, and qualitative feedback to evaluate

effectiveness and inform improvements. VOICES staff will submit web based monthly reports of progress to Housing Director outlining goals, progress, and areas for improvement by the 10th of each month following service delivery. Residents will complete a web-based exit interview upon discharge from the program within 30 days of completion to measure the success of the program from the program participants' views. The estimated allocation toward evidence-based interventions is about \$80,000, this includes assessments, therapy, staff training, and program implementation. To date, the program has served 69 individuals.

The 91 Place program provides low-barrier, transitional housing, and wraparound support for youth ages 18–24 experiencing homelessness in Marion County. Residents can stay up to two years while working toward goals in education, employment, and independent living. Services include case management, weekly therapy, financial literacy training, and employment support. The program follows a Housing First model and integrates evidence-based practices such as trauma-informed care, harm reduction, motivational interviewing, and restorative practices. Their Transitional Living Program continues to maintain strong occupancy with eight of nine beds filled, and they remain on track to open Ace's Place, their emergency intake shelter, in September 2025. The individualized case management approach continues to show positive outcomes, with over twelve residents demonstrating measurable progress on their personal goals. To date, the program has served 289 individuals.



Project: The Plaza at Central Greens

ID Number: 54

Expense Category: 2.15

Award Amount: \$3,000,000.00

Narrative:

The Plaza at Central Greens is a transformative affordable housing project designed to address the critical need for quality, affordable rental housing in Indianapolis. This new construction project will develop 122 rental units on a currently vacant 4.5-acre parcel located at 3010 W. Washington Street.

All residential units will serve individuals and families earning at or below 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI), providing a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments to accommodate diverse household sizes. The development will also feature vital onsite amenities to enhance residents' quality of life, including a community room, computer lab, fitness center, and a playground.

In addition to housing, the project will incorporate street-level commercial space designed to foster local economic activity and community engagement. The Plaza at Central Greens will not only increase affordable housing capacity but also contribute to neighborhood revitalization and sustainable community development, supporting Indianapolis's ongoing recovery and equitable growth.



Project: Midwest food Bank Neighborhood Outreach Pop - Up Food Distribution Program

ID Number: 55

Expense Category: 2.1

Award Amount: \$2,358,068.21

Narrative:

Midwest Food Bank Indiana utilized ARPA funding to implement a weekly Neighborhood Outreach Pop-Up Food Distribution Program designed to address food insecurity among Marion County residents, particularly those disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provided mobile, large-scale food distributions in targeted neighborhoods, bringing regular emergency food assistance directly to communities in need.

Key goals of the program included:

1. Increasing access to emergency food assistance through consistent, community-based pop-up events.
2. Connecting residents to federal nutrition programs such as SNAP, WIC, and free/reduced school meals by providing application assistance and information.
3. Referring individuals to supportive services, including Cooking Matters nutrition education classes, Indiana Legal Services for SNAP appeals, and programs offering utility and basic needs assistance.

Midwest Food Bank established formal partnerships with local churches to host and facilitate these events, signing MOUs with Church 52 and Eastern Star Church in 2022, and expanding to Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in March 2023. The organization invested in key infrastructure, including a semi, trailer, and lift gate, to increase the scale and efficiency of food distributions.

In January 2023, the program began prioritizing the purchase of high-nutritional-value food for these events to enhance the health outcomes of recipients. Throughout the project period, Midwest Food Bank served 61,057 individuals across 17,143 unique households, demonstrating a significant and widespread impact.

As the program enters its final phase, Midwest Food Bank is focused on completing food purchases and distributing remaining inventory before the conclusion of the ARPA grant cycle. The initiative has not only alleviated food insecurity but also strengthened neighborhood partnerships and improved access to vital community services.



Project: Faith, Hope, and Love Food Pantry Support

ID Number: 56

Expense Category: 2.1

Award Amount: \$100,220.00

Narrative:

Faith, Hope & Love (FHL) utilized ARPA funding to strengthen food access services through a partnership-based model that engaged local churches and faith-based organizations—where over 70% of food distribution sites are located. The initiative was designed to support and enhance existing food pantries by providing structured training and resources to improve both operations and the overall service experience.

The program was built on three core pillars: training, service, and evaluation. Training components focused on food pantry best practices, servant leadership, volunteer recruitment and retention, diversity, equity and inclusion, empathy, sustainability, and effective collaboration. Congregational leaders and volunteers were equipped not only to run more efficient food access programs but also to serve participants with dignity, compassion, and cultural competency.

To support continuous improvement and long-term sustainability, the program also included evaluation tools such as reporting software and outreach materials. These resources helped measure impact, track participation, and support the broader goal of reducing racial disparities in food access.

As a result of this initiative:

- 451 individuals were directly served,
- 888 meals were provided,
- 15 nonprofit partners were supported, and
- A total of 1,690 beneficiaries were reached through training and service activities.

This holistic approach to food insecurity strengthened community infrastructure and built capacity within local organizations, ensuring continued support for vulnerable populations beyond the life of ARPA funding.



Project: HHC - Mental Health Toolkit

ID Number: 58

Expense Category: 1.12

Award Amount: \$658,577.39

Narrative:

The Sandra Eskenazi Mental Health Center (SEMHC), through the Mental Health Toolkit program, expanded mental health outreach, education, and access to critical services for vulnerable and underserved communities in Marion County. Funded by ARPA, the program focused on training community members in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), building a sustainable network of certified MHFA trainers, and providing care coordination and connection to behavioral health services—especially for minority populations and clients at the Wheeler Mission.

Since its inception, the program has provided 180 MHFA trainings, reaching 2,047 participants. During the most recent quarter alone, 33 MHFA sessions were completed, training 420 individuals. The program also successfully recruited and trained 50 community members to become certified MHFA trainers, seven of whom are bilingual. These trainers have since led 44 additional trainings, reaching 516 community members. SEMHC continues to work closely with the National Council on Mental Wellbeing to ensure trainers are supported and able to deliver ongoing sessions in their respective communities.

The Mental Health Toolkit program held 8 community events during the most recent quarter and has conducted 57 events across Marion County to date. These events helped expand awareness and reduce stigma surrounding mental health services, particularly

within historically underserved populations. Engagement efforts were designed to meet people where they are—through trusted organizations, community spaces, and in collaboration with faith-based groups.

An integral component of the program was the placement of a dedicated Care Coordinator at Wheeler Mission. Between October and December, the coordinator served 146 unique individuals and facilitated 354 services, including connections to SEMHC services and long-term housing assistance. Since the start of the grant, 761 individuals have been served through 2,361 service interactions, resulting in 200 clients beginning SEMHC care and 7 individuals securing permanent housing.

All 50 MHFA trainer slots funded by the ARPA grant have been filled. The program continues to support these trainers with mentorship, technical assistance, and coordination to ensure sustainability beyond the grant period ending in 2024. SEMHC is actively working on long-term strategies to maintain the community mental health training infrastructure and strengthen support for vulnerable individuals needing behavioral health services.

Through education, outreach, and direct care coordination, the Mental Health Toolkit program has made a significant impact on reducing barriers to mental health services in Marion County while building lasting capacity for community-based mental health support.



Project: Overdose Lifeline - Naloxone Program

ID Number: 59

Expense Category: 1.13

Award Amount: \$56,144.69

Narrative:

In response to the urgent public health crisis of opioid overdoses among justice-involved individuals, Overdose Lifeline, Inc. (ODL) implemented a naloxone distribution and education program targeted at individuals exiting incarceration in Marion County. Funded by ARPA, the initiative addresses a critical gap in services, recognizing that an estimated 65% of those incarcerated in Indiana meet medical criteria for substance use disorder, and that individuals recently released from jail are at heightened risk of fatal overdose—with at least 20% estimated to die from an overdose post-release.

In collaboration with Marion County corrections leadership, ODL has worked to understand the local landscape of overdose deaths in jail and among individuals reentering the community. As part of this initiative, ODL introduced a promising practice model developed by Wayne State University's School of Social Work Center for Behavioral Health and Justice. This model outlines best practices for implementing naloxone access and distribution in correctional settings and has guided strategic planning for this program in Marion County.

ODL's outreach includes a consistent, in-person presence at the Marion County Adult Detention Center Release Lobby every Friday afternoon, where trained staff members offer direct engagement, distribute naloxone, and provide critical recovery and harm

reduction resources to individuals being released. For times when staff are not on site, the reentry center has been equipped with regional maps indicating naloxone access points and informative literature designed to support overdose prevention.

Because many components of the program, such as naloxone distribution through vending machines and anonymous resource collection, do not require personal identification, the number of individuals served cannot be precisely quantified. However, anecdotal feedback and ongoing engagement efforts indicate a strong demand for these life-saving resources.

This program represents a vital harm reduction strategy aimed at improving the health and safety of formerly incarcerated individuals as they transition back into the community. By meeting individuals at a high-risk moment with education, resources, and access to naloxone, ODL is helping to reduce preventable overdose deaths and promote recovery among some of the community's most vulnerable residents.

This program has expensed approximately \$30,000 in evidence-based interventions.



Project: Mobile Crisis Assistance Team

ID Number: 60

Expense Category: 1.12

Award Amount: \$13,796.94

Narrative:

The Mobile Crisis Assistance Team (MCAT) is a collaborative diversion initiative in Marion County that brings together staff from Indianapolis Emergency Medical Services, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), and Eskenazi Health to respond to mental health, substance use, and medical crises in the community. Funded in part by ARPA, MCAT is designed to de-escalate behavioral health crises and redirect individuals from the criminal justice system and emergency departments to appropriate treatment and social services.

Currently, the MCAT program includes approximately 10 IMPD officers and 10 mental health clinicians. Teams are deployed to incidents where behavioral health concerns are identified, ensuring that individuals in crisis receive a health-focused response rather than a punitive one. This cross-disciplinary model prioritizes safety, treatment, and dignity for those experiencing acute mental health needs.

A critical component of the program's success is the ability to distinguish MCAT members from traditional law enforcement. To that end, ARPA funds were used for one-time support to procure uniquely branded uniforms for MCAT personnel. The new uniforms,

which feature a distinct color and style, visually set the teams apart from standard police attire—sending a clear signal to the community that MCAT is a specialized, non-punitive crisis response team.

The introduction of these new uniforms has been met with broad community approval. The visual distinction enhances both the visibility and the approachability of MCAT staff during crisis responses, helping to foster trust and de-escalate tense situations. Community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, reinforcing the value of this program and its trauma-informed approach.

As the MCAT program continues to grow and evolve, the positive reception from residents and stakeholders underscores its role as a critical public health and public safety initiative. Through ARPA funding, the program has taken an important step in improving behavioral health crisis response and reinforcing the commitment to compassionate, community-centered care in Indianapolis.



Project: EmployIndy - Choice Employers' Program

ID Number: 61

Expense Category: 2.10

Award Amount: \$1,059,038.04

Narrative:

The Choice Employers Program, launched by EmployIndy and supported by ARPA funding, aims to help Indianapolis employers—especially those in sectors hardest hit by the pandemic—improve job quality, increase retention, and build inclusive workplaces. The program focuses on four pillars: Good Wages, Inclusive Cultures, Career Pathways, and Employee Supports.

The Good Wages Initiative (GWI) certifies employers paying a starting wage of at least \$18/hour. As of July 2025:

- 127 employers are certified as Good Wages Employers.
- 37 employers raised wages to meet the \$18/hour threshold within six months prior to certification.
- Over 1,249 workers benefited, representing more than \$5.82 million in new annual wages—an average of \$4,658 per person.
- The program hosted its first GWI hiring event, with 375 job seekers and 15 employers attending. The next hiring event is scheduled for October 2025.
- EmployIndy completed a six-month strategic planning process (GWI2.0) involving broad community stakeholder input, with findings to be presented later in the year.

The Inclusive Cultures pillar (formerly Culture and Diversity) supports employers in improving internal culture and retention. Despite funding challenges and the loss of a grant partner, the cohort is still scheduled to launch by the end of 2025:

- Content and speakers for the cohort are finalized.
- Targeting five employers and 15 employee participants for the first cohort.

The Career Pathways pillar focuses on building sustainable pipelines into skilled trades:

- Completed career mapping with employers in HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, and Carpentry.
- Identified priority roles (e.g., HVAC Installer, Electrician, Foreman) and second-tier roles (e.g., Project Manager, Safety Specialist).
- Engaged education/training providers to assess program alignment with employer needs.
- Finalizing a worker survey to inform outreach, training gaps, and talent attraction strategies.

The Employee Supports pillar is still in early development due to limited capacity. However:

- A network of service providers is in place.
- Resources are actively maintained through an online hub.
- Insights from employer partners continue to inform future program design.

Additional Milestones

- GWI2.0 planning included four stakeholder meetings, three steering committee meetings, and multiple one-on-one engagements.
- Hosted two in-person pathway mapping events with employers.
- Presented at national conferences, including the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals and the National Youth Employment Coalition.



Project: EmployIndy - Connect Talent

ID Number: 62

Expense Category: 2.10

Award Amount: \$3,256,597.65

Narrative:

The Connect Talent program, a partnership between EmployIndy and Ascend Indiana, was designed to increase access to employment opportunities for high school and college students, adult learners, and un/underemployed job seekers—particularly those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The initiative focused on bridging gaps between job seekers and employers in a complex and evolving labor market by expanding access to career navigation, job-matching tools, and professional networks.

Launched in January 2022, the program utilized Ascend Indiana’s Network platform to connect job seekers to meaningful employment. The platform was supported by one-on-one career coaching and strategic partnerships with higher education institutions and workforce training providers. Key partnerships were formed with Ivy Tech Community College, Western Governors University, and other regional institutions to expand outreach and engagement.

Throughout the grant period, the initiative exceeded its three-year goals:

- Over 9,000 job seekers were supported.
- More than 16,000 jobs were posted by 653 Central Indiana employers.

-
- 730 job seekers were placed in meaningful employment or work-based learning opportunities between June 2024 and June 2025.
 - 3,051 total job seekers were supported in the most recent program year (1,645 by Ascend; 1,406 by EmployIndy).
 - Ascend signed seven data-sharing agreements with education providers to support pipeline expansion.
 - A new role-scraping tool was added to the platform, enabling access to 80,000–100,000 additional job opportunities.

Key Program Elements:

- Employer Engagement: Employers offering jobs at \$18+/hour with benefits were prioritized.
- Job Seeker Support: Personalized coaching and resume development were provided.
- Technology Platform: The Ascend Network served as a centralized digital hub for job matching and tracking.
- Strategic Partnerships: Collaboration agreements with talent providers ensured broader access to career resources.
- Marketing & Outreach: Targeted campaigns promoted the platform to underserved communities.

Outcomes Achieved:

- 653 employers onboarded (exceeding target).
- 16,000+ jobs posted.
- 9,000+ job seekers supported.
- 730 job connections made in final reporting year.
- Over 3,000 job seekers served in the final year alone.

Connect Talent created a lasting infrastructure for workforce development in Marion County. As the ARPA grant concludes, Ascend and EmployIndy are committed to sustaining this momentum, expanding their platform, and continuing to align talent with good and promising jobs across Indiana.



Project: EmployIndy - Talent Pipelines

ID Number: 63

Expense Category: 2.10

Award Amount: \$1,598,882.00

Narrative:

The Talent Pipelines initiative, led by EmployIndy in partnership with Ascend Indiana, is an ARPA-funded effort designed to strengthen Central Indiana's workforce through the development of sustainable, sector-based training programs. Focused on industries disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the program works to close workforce gaps, improve economic mobility, and better align education and training with employer demand. By engaging employers and education partners, the initiative helps identify labor market misalignments and builds customized workforce development strategies that train individuals for good and promising jobs.

Over the course of the project, EmployIndy and Ascend launched five talent pipelines. The first focused on advanced manufacturing through the expansion of Catapult Indiana at Ivy Tech, which trained 90 individuals in 2024 and an additional 19 in 2025, with more cohorts scheduled through the end of the year. In the behavioral health sector, two pipelines were established in partnership with Sandra Eskenazi Mental Health Center (SEMHC). The Care Coordinator Pathway, in collaboration with Indiana University and the University of Indianapolis, enrolled 22 participants in 2024 and 25 so far in 2025. The Peer Recovery Coach Program has enrolled 22 individuals to date and is on track to meet its goal of training 25 recovery coaches by May 2025.

Additional pipelines include a Medical Assistant program launched with Ascension St. Vincent in early 2025, which has already enrolled 36 participants. A fifth pipeline, the Indiana Plan Construction Pre-Apprenticeship, began in 2024 and has served 53 participants to date. It offers a two-week, 80-hour training experience that prepares individuals for careers in construction, supported by a training wage and job-related supplies.

In total, 134 individuals were enrolled in sectoral training programs in 2024, exceeding the annual goal of 90. As of June 2025, another 147 individuals have enrolled across all five pipelines. With more cohorts scheduled through the end of the year, EmployIndy and Ascend anticipate enrolling at least 100 more participants, significantly surpassing the initiative's original three-year enrollment goals.

Beyond participant enrollment, the project has also supported long-term planning by delivering strategic toolkits, sustainability models, and collaborative program designs that will allow these pipelines to continue beyond the grant period. Wraparound services and wage reimbursements helped reduce barriers to participation, particularly for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds.

The Talent Pipelines initiative has proven to be a vital investment in workforce recovery and economic resilience. By linking job seekers with in-demand careers and aligning training with employer needs, the program has created a replicable framework for sector-based workforce development that will continue to benefit Central Indiana long after ARPA funding concludes.



Project: Gleaners Food Bank Operating Support

ID Number: 64

Expense Category: 2.1

Award Amount: \$750,000.00

Narrative:

In response to the heightened food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Gleaners Food Bank expanded its operations to include new and innovative models of food distribution to meet the evolving needs of Marion County residents. With support from ARPA funding, Gleaners sustained and scaled two critical initiatives: the Home Delivery (HD) Program and the Gleaners2Go (G2G) grocery ordering system—each designed to eliminate barriers to food access for vulnerable households.

The Home Delivery Program, launched in partnership with the Indy Hunger Network and Nine13 Sports and made permanent in April 2021, targets residents who are homebound or lack reliable transportation. Eligible neighbors receive a 20-pound meal box for every two people in the household, one produce box per household, and prepared frozen meals from Second Helpings for those unable to cook or without kitchen access. Deliveries are available weekly, ensuring consistent access to nutritious food. Gleaners leverages partnerships with Amazon Flex and local food pantries such as The Sharing Place, Shepherd Community Center, and Northside Food Pantry to support operations.

The Gleaners2Go (G2G) program addresses the physical and social barriers associated with traditional pantry visits. This web and mobile-based grocery ordering system allows residents to discreetly shop online, select a pick-up time, and receive free groceries with

minimal contact. G2G promotes dignity, privacy, and convenience for users and is supported by key partners including Goodwill Excel Center West, Goodwill Excel Center University, the Boner Center, and Just For Him Ministries.

Through ARPA-supported operations:

- The Home Delivery Program has served 21,112 households, distributed 39,652 food boxes and 20,442 produce boxes, and currently supported approximately 660 households weekly.
- The Gleaners2Go Program has served 2,174 households and serves an average of 375 households each week.

These programs have become essential components of the hunger relief network in Marion County. By leveraging innovative delivery models and technology, Gleaners has created sustainable, community-based food access solutions that continue to serve residents disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.



Project: EmployIndy - Micro Programs

ID Number: 65

Expense Category: 2.10

Award Amount: \$5,000,000.00

Narrative:

The EmployIndy Micro Programs, supported by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), were designed to address the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on marginalized workers and job seekers in Indianapolis. These micro-grants focus on removing employment barriers and expanding access to foundational education, credentialing, and employment opportunities—particularly for justice-involved individuals, women, youth, and young adults, and those experiencing housing insecurity.

Through funding 12 local organizations, EmployIndy created flexible, community-based workforce programs tailored to the needs of high-barrier populations. Sub-recipients were empowered to provide wraparound services, job readiness support, and training aligned with good and promising jobs—especially in sectors most affected by the pandemic.

Key components of the Micro Programs included:

- Access to EmployIndy's Learning Hub and Resource Network for staff development.
- Creation of a Preferred Training Provider Network and Talent Finance Clearinghouse.
- Development of an eligibility tool to streamline access to education and training funds.

As of Q2 2025, six sub-recipients completed their funding cycle, while five received extensions through December 31, 2025. One sub-recipient also received reallocated funding to continue services. Sub-recipients reported combined ARPA expenditures of \$653,676.21 between April and June 2025. EmployIndy continues to offer technical assistance, ETO system training, and data support, with a program-wide evaluation underway.

Program Impact:

Metric	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
Enrolled in Workforce Development Services	1,132	2,904	256.46%
Completed Job Readiness	863	1,826	211.50%
Enrolled in Recognized Credential	669	2,296	343.19%
Earned Recognized Credential	604	1,323	114.74%
Placed in Unsubsidized Employment	487	1,034	224.64%

Despite scheduling challenges, EmployIndy has maintained ongoing engagement with partners and is planning a Community of Practice convening to further collaboration. Evaluation services have been secured to assess long-term impact across ARPA-funded programs.

The Micro Programs initiative has significantly exceeded benchmarks and continues to demonstrate how strategic investment in community workforce partnerships can accelerate inclusive economic recovery and build a more resilient workforce in Indianapolis.



Project: EmployIndy - Make Additional Resources and Learning Opportunities Available

ID Number: 66

Expense Category: 2.10

Award Amount: \$2,438,366.56

Narrative:

To address talent gaps and support career mobility for Marion County residents, EmployIndy partnered with Ascend Indiana to expand access to adult education, training, and career pathways. Through ARPA funding, this initiative supported both adult learners and employers by connecting job seekers to occupational skills training, integrated education and training (IET) programs, and high school equivalency (HSE) opportunities aligned with employer demand.

Following a competitive request for proposals, EmployIndy contracted four subrecipients to deliver services and credentialing programs in high-demand fields including:

- Certified Nursing Assistant, Certified Medical Assistant
- HVAC and Plumbing Foundations
- Welding, Construction (OSHA-10, NCCER)
- Pharmacy, EKG, Phlebotomy, and Sterile Device Processing Technicians
- Dental Assisting, Medical Office Admin Assistant
- Paraprofessional Education Support

These adult education providers leveraged ARPA funds to enhance capacity, fund instructors and wraparound services, and remove barriers to training for underserved populations, including English language learners and those without a high school diploma.

Originally set to conclude by June 30, 2024, the project was extended through June 30, 2025, allowing all funds to be fully expended. Providers have completed final reporting, with trailing indicators still being monitored.

Outcomes Achieved:

- 2,119 total individuals enrolled.
- 1,548 measurable skills gains.
- 977 industry-recognized credentials earned.
- 211 high school equivalency diplomas completed.
- 1,730 IET enrollments.
- 1,445 IET completions.
- 1,293 IET certifications earned.
- 203 placed in A-level jobs (part-time/seasonal).
- 174 placed in B-level jobs (promising jobs with upward mobility).
- 108 placed in C-level jobs (good jobs paying \$18+/hr with benefits).

This initiative successfully enhanced the adult education and workforce development ecosystem in Marion County, helping hundreds of residents gain critical skills and connect to sustainable employment.



Project: Marion County Homeowner Financial Assistance

ID Number: 67

Expense Category: 2.3

Award Amount: \$27,371,800.00

Narrative:

The Marion County Homeowner Financial Assistance program was developed to provide direct financial relief to residents in response to a sharp and unexpected increase in property values. Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), this program aimed to mitigate the financial burden placed on homeowners by offering a one-time property tax credit to eligible households.

The program targeted owner-occupied single-family residential properties in Marion County. Homeowners with a 2022 assessed property value of up to \$250,000 received a \$150 credit, while those with properties assessed between \$250,001 and \$400,000 received a \$100 credit. These credits were applied directly to property tax bills, easing the strain on household budgets.

Approximately 190,000 households—representing about 90% of all owner-occupied single-family homes in the county—benefited from this initiative. By delivering targeted assistance, the program helped stabilize housing costs for low- and moderate-income homeowners disproportionately impacted by pandemic-related economic pressures and market volatility.

This program reflects Marion County’s ongoing commitment to using ARPA funds to promote housing stability, protect residents from displacement, and support long-term economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.



Project: Mental Health America of Indianapolis

ID Number: 68

Expense Category: 1.12

Award Amount: \$13,250,000.00

Narrative:

Mental Health America of Indianapolis (MHAI) was established in Fall 2022 in response to the growing and unmet mental health needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly among justice-involved youth. Indiana and the Indianapolis area have long been under-resourced in terms of accessible, coordinated mental health services—an issue made more urgent by the crisis in youth behavioral health and rising community violence.

With support from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), MHAI has worked to reimagine and strengthen the city's mental health infrastructure by:

- Consolidating key stakeholders through a newly formed board of directors representing juvenile justice, schools, healthcare, courts, service providers, and youth voices.
- Conducting a comprehensive juvenile justice mental health needs assessment, which incorporated feedback from youth in detention, formerly detained youth, families, school staff, judges, probation officers, and community-based organizations.
- Launching “Vitality Grants,” a two-phase grant initiative to fund community mental health centers (CMHCs), grassroots organizations, and innovative mental health delivery models, with the first round awarded in July 2023.

Vitality Grant subrecipients have addressed urgent and ongoing mental health needs by offering barrier buster funds to support program participants facing issues such as eviction, homelessness, and economic instability. These funds help stabilize youth and families, allowing for better engagement with mental health services.

One of the program's greatest successes has been fostering collaboration among previously siloed mental health organizations. For the first time, all grant recipients have formally partnered or collaborated with one another, working collectively to address the root causes of youth violence and behavioral health crises across Indianapolis.

Informed by real-time community incidents, MHAI has also coordinated specialized trainings and support sessions in response to emerging needs, making the effort both reactive and proactive in supporting vulnerable youth populations.

Outcomes to Date:

- 18,112 individuals served.
- 15 nonprofit organizations received funding and capacity-building support.

By prioritizing community-led mental health strategies, system-wide collaboration, and justice-centered approaches, MHAI is transforming how mental health services are delivered and accessed in Indianapolis. This initiative demonstrates the impact of ARPA funding in creating sustainable, equity-focused mental health systems that address both individual needs and systemic gaps.



Project: Fountain Square Drainage Improvements

ID Number: 69

Expense Category: 5.5

Award Amount: \$1,155,965.05

Narrative:

The Fountain Square Drainage Improvements project is a critical infrastructure initiative designed to address long-standing flooding and stormwater management challenges in the historic and densely populated Fountain Square neighborhood of Indianapolis. This ARPA-funded project targets the intersections of Virginia Avenue, Prospect Avenue, Shelby Street, and Morris Street, which have experienced recurring flash flooding and drainage issues, particularly during heavy rainfall events.

The project scope includes the construction of a new, dedicated storm sewer trunk line that will run from its outfall at Pleasant Run Creek and extend north along Shelby Street to Woodlawn Avenue. This new infrastructure will separate stormwater from the combined sewer system, improving capacity and performance during storm events while laying the groundwork for future expansion to surrounding areas.

As of this reporting period, the design scope has been finalized and a notice to proceed has been issued to the selected engineering design firm. On May 24, 2023, a public outreach strategy session was conducted with agency partners to initiate stakeholder engagement and ensure community input is incorporated throughout the process.

Construction is scheduled for completion by August 2025. Once finished, the project will reduce localized flooding, enhance public safety, and support long-term environmental resilience in one of Indianapolis' most culturally significant neighborhoods.



Project: Indiana University Contact Tracing

ID Number: 70

Expense Category: 1.3

Award Amount: \$950,000.00

Narrative:

Through a partnership with the City of Indianapolis and the Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD), the Fairbanks School of Public Health (FSPH) at Indiana University led the county's COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing efforts. This initiative was critical to the city's public health response to the pandemic, helping to reduce community transmission and protect vulnerable populations.

FSPH received daily case reports from the Indiana Department of Health and worked directly with local colleges and K-12 schools—including public, charter, and private institutions—to identify clusters, respond to concerns, and provide technical assistance. This proactive engagement enabled the program to address emerging outbreaks swiftly and effectively.

Beyond data collection and disease surveillance, the program emphasized community support. FSPH distributed at-home COVID-19 test kits, face masks, and sanitation supplies to homeless shelters, schools, and childcare providers. The team also coordinated with MCPHD to provide temporary housing for individuals experiencing homelessness who tested positive for COVID-19, ensuring access to safe isolation and recovery space.

This ARPA-supported initiative played a vital role in both the immediate pandemic response and the broader goal of public health infrastructure resilience in Marion County.

Staff also provided referrals for food, legal services, and housing assistance to cases when requested. During the phone-based interview process, staff completed the online form to register residents for free home COVID tests on the USPS website.

Occasionally, when cases lived alone and voiced the need for urgent medical assistance, FSPH staff contacted emergency medical services so a trained medical professional could assess if the person needed to be transported to a local hospital. Staff consistently strived to provide residents with the resources and means needed to make recovery from COVID-19 as manageable as possible while reducing community transmission.



Project: Marion County Coroner Violent Crime Response

ID Number: 71

Expense Category: 3.4

Award Amount: \$2,065,164.71

Narrative:

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated ongoing crises related to gun violence and opioid abuse in Indianapolis and Marion County. In response, the Marion County Coroner's Office (MCCO) utilized ARPA funding to enhance its capacity to support violent crime investigations and overdose responses through expanded staffing, improved evidence processing, and increased family support services.

With ARPA support, MCCO strengthened its role in public safety by providing timely autopsies, toxicology testing, and evidence recovery—including ballistic evidence critical to criminal investigations. To meet increased demand, MCCO hired additional personnel, including a Forensic Investigation Specialist to assist with documentation and investigation follow-up, and a Medico-Legal Death Investigator to conduct thorough investigations related to violent deaths and overdoses.

A pivotal addition to the team was the hiring of a full-time Social Worker, whose role is to support families of decedents by connecting them with grief resources, mental health counseling, and substance use treatment services. Since the program's launch, MCCO's social workers have connected with more than 400 families impacted by homicides and overdose deaths from 2021 to 2023.

These outreach efforts have been further supported through active participation in community events in collaboration with law enforcement and public health partners.

Additionally, the program has promoted harm reduction strategies by distributing Naloxone and sharing education about overdose prevention. ARPA funding has enabled MCCO to provide faster, more compassionate service to grieving families and to play a more proactive role in reducing the long-term impacts of violent crime and substance abuse across Marion County.



Project: Circle City Readers
ID Number: 72
Expense Category: 2.25
Award Amount: \$1,400,773.32

Narrative:

Circle City Readers is a foundational K–3 literacy tutoring program aimed at supporting students in Marion County who are behind in reading proficiency and at risk of not passing state reading assessments. The program provides on-site, small-group tutoring delivered 3–4 times per week during designated intervention periods—ensuring that students receive critical literacy support without missing core classroom instruction.

The model prioritizes consistent student-tutor pairings to build rapport and track progress more effectively. Tutoring occurs during independent work time, giving students high-quality, supplemental instruction at a pivotal stage in their academic development. The intended outcome is to increase both reading proficiency and overall academic confidence among the participating students.

- In the 2023–2024 school year, 343 students received consistent literacy tutoring through the program.
- Circle City Readers is currently partnered with 9 of the 10 schools from the previous year, with Matchbook Learning replacing Global Preparatory Academy for the 2025–2026 academic year.
- 52% of tutors from the 2023–2024 school year are returning for the 2024–2025 year, signaling strong tutor engagement and continuity.

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- The tutor population remains intergenerational, providing a diverse support system for students and reinforcing community involvement.
 - A Fall 2024 Partner Survey was conducted to assess effectiveness and guide continuous improvement efforts.
 - The program is actively pursuing long-term philanthropic funding through outreach to organizations such as United Way of Central Indiana, Marian University’s Center for Vibrant Schools, and Indiana SportsCorp.

The primary goal of Circle City Readers is to increase K–3 reading proficiency and confidence for students in Marion County who are most at risk of falling behind. This project aligns with the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s guidelines on addressing educational disparities and lost instructional time, utilizing evidence-based interventions such as high-dosage tutoring—a strategy recognized by the Department of Education for accelerating literacy gains.

The total ARPA allocation for Circle City Readers is dedicated to delivering this evidence-based intervention, supporting direct service delivery, staffing, and program evaluation.

Individuals Served:

- 1,243 students have been served to date.
- All students are K–3, attending schools in Marion County and identified as needing additional reading support.

Website: [indy.gov: Circle City Readers](https://indy.gov/circle-city-readers).



Project: B-Link Neighborhood Grant Program

ID Number: 73

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$156,822.82

Narrative:

The B-Link Neighborhood Grant Program is an expansion of the City of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's (IMPD) existing B-Link public safety camera network. Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), this initiative established a competitive grant program to support commercial property owners in installing B-Link-compatible security cameras that can be accessed by IMPD in the event of an emergency.

Grant application rounds were launched, allowing commercial real estate owners to apply for funding to assist with the purchase and installation of security cameras and signage. Applications were evaluated based on several criteria, including:

- Geographic location of the proposed installation,
- Crime trends and data in the area,
- Demonstrated financial need for assistance.

The overarching goal of the program is to enhance community safety and support emergency response efforts, particularly in areas affected by high rates of community violence and gun-related crime. By expanding the B-Link camera network, IMPD can more rapidly respond to incidents and better investigate crimes, improving both community safety and public trust.

Program Outcomes:

- The B-Link Neighborhood Grant Program successfully deployed 140 cameras across 56 commercial locations throughout Marion County.
- These installations strengthen IMPD's ability to monitor public spaces, deter criminal activity, and support investigative efforts in real time.

The program reflects a strategic and data-informed investment in public safety infrastructure, aligning with ARPA's goals of reducing violence and improving emergency response capacity in communities most impacted by the pandemic and its economic consequences.



Project: Mortgage Refinancing

ID Number: 74

Expense Category: 2.2

Award Amount: \$380,000.00

Narrative:

The Mortgage Refinancing Program, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), is designed to reduce the financial burden of high-cost mortgages for homeowners in historically disinvested and disproportionately impacted communities. This program targets residents living in Qualified Census Tracts or SAVI-designated zip codes, many of which align with formerly redlined neighborhoods in Marion County that continue to face systemic barriers to homeownership stability and wealth-building.

Through this initiative, eligible participants are offered refinancing opportunities to lower their monthly mortgage payments and reduce interest rates—ultimately creating long-term financial stability and housing security. Homeowners who successfully refinance are also eligible for up to three months of mortgage relief, providing immediate economic relief during their transition into a more sustainable mortgage structure.

Recognizing that not all applicants may qualify for refinancing due to credit or financial constraints, the program also offers personalized case management services to all denied applicants. These services include financial counseling, budgeting support, and connection to other housing resources to help stabilize housing conditions and move residents closer to refinancing eligibility in the future.

By reducing monthly housing costs and increasing access to refinancing—especially in communities hardest hit by the pandemic—this program works toward closing the racial wealth gap, preventing foreclosure, and strengthening household resilience.



Project: Language Access

ID Number: 75

Expense Category: 3.4

Award Amount: \$142,381.76

Narrative:

The Language Access Program, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), is designed to improve equitable access to City and County services for residents with limited English proficiency (LEP). Recognizing that language barriers can prevent individuals from accessing vital public services, especially during emergencies or periods of crisis, this program aims to enhance communication, reduce disparities, and ensure that all residents—regardless of language—can engage with and benefit from city resources.

The program consists of four key components:

1. Hiring a Bilingual Language Access Coordinator to lead and implement the City's language access strategy. This position ensures centralized oversight and coordination of language access services across departments.
2. Purchasing in-house interpretation equipment for all City departments and agencies to enable real-time communication with non-English speaking residents. This investment supports both day-to-day operations and high-volume public engagements.
3. Developing best practices and protocols for emergency language access preparedness, allowing the City to respond effectively to future emergencies with multilingual communication and interpretation capacity in place.
4. Creating customized language access materials for various City and County departments. These include translated forms, signage, digital communications, and public education materials tailored to meet the specific needs of each agency's clientele.

By investing in language equity, the City is ensuring that its increasingly diverse population can safely and fully participate in civic life. The Language Access Program represents a proactive step toward removing systemic barriers and fostering inclusivity in public service delivery.



Project: Creation and Preservation of Affordable Housing: Grand Meridian
ID Number: 78
Expense Category: 2.15
Award Amount: \$1,200,000.00

Narrative:

The Grand Meridian Affordable Housing Project, supported by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, aims to expand access to safe, quality, and affordable housing in Indianapolis by repurposing a long-abandoned structure located at 3470 N. Meridian Street. This project will facilitate the acquisition and rehabilitation of a nine-story vacant building situated along the Red Line transit corridor, within a Qualified Census Tract disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ARPA funds are being used to acquire the property, with additional financing, including Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and other public subsidies, supporting the full redevelopment. Upon completion, the building will offer 100 affordable rental units for individuals and households earning at or below 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The unit mix will include 73 studio apartments and 27 one-bedroom units, designed to meet the needs of single adults, seniors, and smaller households.

Planned renovations will modernize the property and significantly improve energy efficiency and accessibility. Upgrades include energy-efficient windows, appliances, HVAC systems, ADA-compliant unit conversions, new flooring, cabinetry, lighting, and fixtures. Additional investments will be made in site improvements, such as asphalt parking and landscaping, as well as in common amenities to support resident well-being.

This development directly addresses the City's urgent need for affordable housing, particularly in high-opportunity areas near public transit, while also revitalizing a long-vacant building and contributing to neighborhood stabilization.



Project: Creation and Preservation of Affordable Housing: Garfield Park
ID Number: 80
Expense Category: 2.15
Award Amount: \$1,500,000.00

Narrative:

The Garfield Park Affordable Housing Development is a new construction project supported in part by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, aimed at expanding affordable housing options for families in Indianapolis. This project consists of the development of 47 newly constructed three-bedroom, one-bathroom townhomes, each approximately 1,075 square feet, offering spacious and energy-efficient living environments for moderate- to low-income households.

The development spans two sites: 401 E. Southern Avenue, located outside a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), and 1258 Martin Street, located within a QCT. The dual-site nature of this project allows for a broader geographic impact, serving both areas with high housing need and areas with increasing housing demand.

Each unit is designed and built to meet the National Green Building Standard (NGBS) Silver Rating, ensuring energy efficiency, long-term durability, and sustainability. This not only reduces utility costs for residents but also supports the city's environmental goals.

The Garfield Park project meets presumed eligibility criteria under the HOME program, allowing it to efficiently deploy ARPA resources in alignment with federal housing goals. The provision of three-bedroom units specifically supports larger households, which often face greater difficulty finding affordable, appropriately sized housing.

By investing in high-quality, affordable family housing, this project contributes to neighborhood stability, supports housing equity, and addresses the ongoing shortage of affordable homes in Indianapolis. Construction is underway, and the development is expected to begin leasing upon completion in alignment with program timelines.



Project: Creation and Preservation of Affordable Housing: 46th Street Flats
ID Number: 81
Expense Category: 2.15
Award Amount: \$2,750,000.00

Narrative:

The 46th Street Flats development is a workforce housing project located at 2511 E. 46th Street on the near northeast side of downtown Indianapolis. Supported in part by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, this project will provide 173 affordable rental units through a combination of new construction and the rehabilitation of existing structures.

The development spans 8.57 acres and will include the new construction of five apartment buildings along with the rehabilitation of two existing structures. The completed project will offer a mix of one- and two-bedroom units across seven buildings, designed to serve individuals and families earning between 50% to 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI) in Marion County.

Located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), the project also meets presumed eligibility under the HOME program, ensuring alignment with federal priorities for affordable housing in historically underserved areas. The 46th Street Flats development will provide safe, modern, and energy-efficient housing to support workforce stability and neighborhood revitalization.

By preserving existing structures and constructing new high-quality residences, this initiative addresses both the shortage of affordable rental housing and the need for sustainable community development. The project plays a key role in advancing housing equity and economic opportunity for low- to moderate-income residents of Indianapolis.



Project: Creation and Preservation of Affordable Housing: Vacant to Vibrant

ID Number: 82

Expense Category: 2.15

Award Amount: \$4,805,977.00

Narrative:

The Vacant to Vibrant program, supported by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, is designed to transform underutilized city-owned properties into high-quality, affordable homeownership and rental opportunities throughout Indianapolis. Through this initiative, the Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) will facilitate the creation of 143 affordable housing units on vacant lots across the city.

This program strategically aligns federal resources with discounted property disposition in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) and COVID-impacted zip codes to revitalize neighborhoods most affected by the pandemic. Developers will apply through a competitive process to acquire city-owned parcels and will be eligible for ARPA-supported development funding or direct buyer subsidies.

By pairing ARPA investment with a streamlined development approach, the Vacant to Vibrant program ensures affordability for households earning up to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The program encourages both new construction and rehabilitation, supporting a mix of ownership and rental housing options to meet diverse community needs.

In addition to expanding the affordable housing inventory, the program supports broader city goals of neighborhood stabilization, equity in development, and reactivation of vacant land into productive community assets. The result will be more inclusive growth and sustainable housing outcomes for Indianapolis residents disproportionately impacted by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Project: Intimate Partner Violence Intervention

ID Number: 83

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$242,237.00

Narrative:

Through funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Intimate Partner Violence Intervention (IPVI) program provides critical wrap-around support services to individuals experiencing domestic and intimate partner violence in Marion County. Managed by the Indy Public Safety Foundation, this program aims to remove immediate barriers survivors face as they seek safety, stability, and healing.

A key component of the program includes \$250,000 in “barrier buster” funds, which are flexible resources used to meet urgent survivor needs, such as emergency shelter, transportation, food and nutrition, security enhancements, therapy, rental assistance, utilities, and storage costs. These funds help survivors address the often complex and compounding challenges that prevent them from safely exiting abusive situations and beginning recovery.

To date, the program has served approximately 2,700 survivors of intimate partner violence, demonstrating both the scale of community need and the effectiveness of the intervention model. Services are survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and designed to provide holistic support in coordination with public safety, community health, and social service partners.

The program supports broader public safety and public health goals by addressing the root causes and impacts of domestic violence, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. By providing these comprehensive supports, the IPVI program plays a crucial role in promoting survivor safety, long-term recovery, and community well-being.

For more information, visit: www.indychampions.org.



Project: Increase in Gun Violence (Forensics)

ID Number: 84

Expense Category: 3.4

Award Amount: \$286,493.56

Narrative:

The Increase in Gun Violence (Forensics) initiative, supported by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, addresses the sharp rise in homicides and non-fatal shootings in Marion County over past several years. The increasing volume of firearms-related crimes has placed a significant demand on the forensic services infrastructure, particularly within the Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency (MCFSA).

To meet this demand, ARPA funds were allocated to expand staffing and upgrade forensic equipment—specifically to enhance processing capacity for ballistic evidence submissions through the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). NIBIN is a national system that allows law enforcement agencies to capture and compare ballistic evidence, enabling the timely identification of crime gun connections and suspects.

Key ARPA-funded enhancements included:

- Hiring an additional NIBIN Technician in the Firearms Section to support the growing number of submissions.
- Purchasing and implementing a third NIBIN Data Acquisition Station, significantly increasing MCFSA's capacity to process evidence quickly and efficiently.

As a result of these investments, MCFSA has already processed 1,899 firearm-related case submissions and analyzed 4,064 ballistic evidence items. The increased capacity is expected to result in:

- An approximate 10% reduction in turn-around time for expedited NIBIN entries.
- A 25% reduction in case completion times by firearms examiners.

These improvements in forensic processing timelines directly support the work of the Indiana Crime Guns Task Force (ICGTF)—formerly known as the Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC)—and allow detectives and prosecutors to investigate and solve gun-related crimes more effectively. Ultimately, this program enhances public safety by accelerating the identification of shooters and the recovery of crime guns, helping to prevent further violence in the community.



Project: IMPD Police Athletic League JTV Hill Improvements

ID Number: 85

Expense Category: 2.22

Award Amount: \$770,607.26

Narrative:

The IMPD Police Athletic League (PAL) JTV Hill Improvements project, supported by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, focuses on enhancing critical infrastructure at the JTV Hill Center, located in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood. As a longstanding hub for the Indy Parks Department, IMPD youth engagement, and PAL programming, the facility plays a central role in fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and neighborhood youth through athletics, mentorship, and community programming.

ARPA funds are being used to complete essential upgrades to ensure that the facility remains a safe, welcoming, and fully functional space for continued community engagement. The planned improvements include:

- Renovations to the facility's kitchen and restrooms to support increased program participation and improve accessibility and sanitation.
- Resurfacing and upgrades to the parking lot to enhance safety and accessibility for visitors.
- Rehabilitation of outdoor sports fields, ensuring high-quality, safe play spaces for PAL athletic programs.

These investments will directly support the continuation and expansion of youth development and violence prevention efforts in an area disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. By improving the infrastructure of the JTV Hill site, this project

strengthens the foundation for long-term community impact through recreational and mentorship programming, offering youth constructive alternatives and supportive relationships with law enforcement and trusted adults.

Ultimately, this project ensures that PAL and IMPD can continue delivering effective and equitable services to Marion County youth, supporting broader ARPA goals of promoting public safety, youth development, and neighborhood resilience.



Project: Excel Centers – Phases 1 and 2

ID Number: 86

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$1,999,402.48

Narrative:

The Excel Centers – Phases 1 and 2, operated by Goodwill Education Initiatives (GEI), leverage ARPA funding to connect justice-involved individuals with high-quality secondary education and support services. The Excel Center Southeast officially opened its doors to the public on July 31, 2023, with the goal of providing flexible, year-round education to adult learners—many of whom face systemic barriers to employment and economic opportunity due to past justice involvement.

ARPA funding has been essential in launching and expanding this initiative by supporting the staffing of student success coaches, justice-involvement intervention programming, and strategic planning and recruitment efforts. Students at the Excel Center pursue a CORE 40 high school diploma along with industry-recognized certifications and/or college dual credits that prepare them for workforce entry or postsecondary education.

Since its opening, the Excel Center Southeast has demonstrated measurable success:

- The school exceeded its 2024–25 active enrollment goal of 250 students, enrolling over 280 students.
- 38% of enrolled students are justice-involved, nearing the goal of 40% and reflecting strong outreach to the intended target population.

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- The center has graduated 26 students with CORE 40 diplomas, all of whom earned either an industry certification or college credits.
 - A diverse student body includes 39% multilingual learners, 11% special education students, and racially includes 40% Black, 22% White, 20% Hispanic, and 8% identifying as Other.

The Young Learners Childcare Center (YLCC), located on-site, serves as a key barrier-removal resource, providing free childcare for student-parents. During the school year, the YLCC supported up to 23 children daily, spanning infants, toddlers, and Pre-K.

The Southeast team has also engaged deeply with community stakeholders to enhance wraparound services:

- A partnership with the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office provides quarterly expungement events and driver’s license reinstatement for up to 50 students per session.
- Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic offers legal consulting for multilingual students.
- The school regularly hosts community engagement events—including the Harvest Festival, Spring Spectacular, and Family Fun Festival—drawing over 100 attendees each.
- Staff actively participate in the Marion County Reentry Coalition to better support justice-involved students.

In 2024, the Excel Center Southeast celebrated its ribbon cutting with Mayor Joe Hogsett and Goodwill leadership. The fully renovated facility now includes eight classrooms, a computer lab, a student café, and the upgraded YLCC.

Thanks to ARPA funding, the Excel Center Southeast is successfully meeting its objectives by expanding access to education, workforce readiness, and reentry support—ultimately improving outcomes for justice-involved and underserved adult learners in Indianapolis. They have spent approximately \$231,881.67 towards evidence-based interventions.



Project: Kheprew - Community Controlled Food Initiatives

ID Number: 87

Expense Category: 2.1

Award Amount: \$295,823.00

Narrative:

The Community Controlled Food Initiative (CCFI), supported by ARPA funding, is a comprehensive program focused on increasing equitable access to fresh, local, and healthy food while building community resilience and food sovereignty in Indianapolis. The initiative integrates food aggregation and distribution, urban agriculture, educational programming, and community engagement to address food insecurity and promote sustainable food systems.

Last Progress (Oct–Dec 2024):

- Distributed fresh local food monthly, partnering with four local farms, including home deliveries to seniors.
- Expanded the Alchemy+ platform to 250 members and launched Soil Society, a specialized forum for urban farmers and gardeners.
- Conducted 13 Sunday Foodshare events, rescuing over 9,200 lbs of surplus food and training 10 community volunteers.
- Advanced urban farming efforts at Octavia’s Visionary Campus, including soil health improvements and volunteer engagement of 250 individuals.
- Held community events and educational programs to strengthen connections and promote sustainable practices.
- Built partnerships with local organizations and coalitions to address food access and promote food sovereignty.

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- Improved data tracking with QR codes and applied sustainable practices like composting and reuse of materials.

CCFI serves as a vital hub for food access and community empowerment, addressing immediate hunger while fostering long-term sustainability and wellness.

For more information, please visit these sites: <http://alkhemy.kheprw.org/> and <https://kheprw.org/growingood/>.



Project: HHC - Behavioral Health Clinicians

ID Number: 88

Expense Category: 1.12

Award Amount: \$3,750,141.00

Narrative:

Behavioral Health Clinicians develops and scales a behavioral health workforce talent pipeline to address the increased demand for care coordinators and peer recovery specialists—populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. It includes an apprenticeship for peer recovery specialists and an intensive paid internship for bachelor’s-level behavioral health students, alongside ongoing training for incumbent workforce members to ensure skill parity.

Their primary delivery in in-person training and apprenticeship programs conducted in partnership with educational institutions and community mental health providers.

Progress Highlights (Oct–Dec 2024):

- The project team remains fully staffed and active.
- Care Coordinator Pathway (CCP):
 - Five students from the 2024–25 cohort have been hired (four at Sandra Eskenazi Mental Health Center, one at Community Health Network).

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- 24 students have been accepted for the 2025–26 academic year across five educational partners, with Community Health Network hosting 11 students. Ongoing engagement with Martin University to improve participation continues.
 - Peer Recovery Apprenticeship (PRA):
 - One apprentice hired full-time at Sandra Eskenazi MHC.
 - The eighth cohort started with nine apprentices: six achieved certification this quarter.
 - The ninth cohort onboarded five new apprentices in May 2025.
 - Continued partnerships with Indiana Certified Addiction Counselors Association (ICAADA) and healthcare providers to support certification and employment.
 - Incumbent Workforce Training:
 - Since June 2024, 295 workforce members completed revised orientation trainings, and 166 received advanced Motivational Interviewing training, enhancing clinical skills.

Outcomes to Date:

- 33 peer recovery apprentices certified and trained through the PRA program as of June 2025.
- 33 bachelor’s-level students trained and graduated through the CCP program as of May 2025.
- Workforce training programs in place to maintain continuity and skill development for incumbent staff.

Evidence-Based Practice:

- Peer recovery support is a SAMHSA and Mental Health America-endorsed evidence-based practice.
- Motivational Interviewing training is a validated, evidence-based approach integrated into the program’s curriculum.
- The program adheres to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) standards to ensure quality clinical training.

Funding:

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- Approximately \$3.75 million allocated to evidence-based workforce development and training interventions.

This program addresses critical behavioral health workforce shortages by training qualified professionals, strengthening community mental health capacity, and supporting equitable recovery and care access across Indianapolis.



Project: Indy Parks Sports of All Sorts Mental Health Program

ID Number: 89

Expense Category: 2.22

Award Amount: \$471,280.00

Narrative:

Through ARPA support, Indy Parks and Recreation delivered a wide range of community wellness, recreation, and arts programming designed to support mental health, promote physical activity, and increase equitable access to resources. These programs directly addressed the ongoing social and emotional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in underserved neighborhoods.

Key program areas and projects:

1. Mental Health and Wellness – This offered yoga, meditation, wellness walks, the Sound Bath program, and “Beautifully Broken” workshops focused on coping skills.
2. Arts and Cultural Engagement – With this they partnered with ArtMix and Arts for Learning to provide pottery, dance, sculpture, anime classes, and storytelling for older adults.
3. Youth and Sports Programing – Programs included lacrosse, archery, Amazing Athletes Program, Girls Sports Field Day, and Bike Indy.

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4. Outdoor Recreation – For this they partnered with Aspire House to offer beginner-friendly camping retreats, men’s wellness retreat, and seasonal skate instruction.
 5. Older Adult Programs – This included bowling, wellness classes, and storytelling events aimed at reducing isolation and promoting movement.
 6. Community Events – They hosted Flow Fest, two Toys for Tots holiday events, and Creative Collaboration in neighborhood parks.

The Indy Parks Sports of All Sorts Mental Health Program has addressed urgent post-pandemic needs while laying the groundwork for long-term community resilience. Through this initiative, they have served about 1201 people.



Project: Lift Indy: Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Centers Neighborhood Development Program

ID Number: 90

Expense Category: 2.22

Award Amount: \$75,203.00

Narrative:

Through support from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC) is advancing its mission to strengthen neighborhoods by building the skills of local leaders and enhancing the capacity of community-based organizations. As part of the Lift Indy initiative, this program focuses on empowering residents to create more engaged, responsive, and sustainable neighborhood associations.

INRC's Neighborhood Development Program uses ARPA funding to offer its flagship Indianapolis Community Building Institute (ICBI) curriculum, a proven framework that equips community members with the tools to identify local priorities, activate community assets, and build partnerships for long-term neighborhood improvement. In addition to the ICBI, the program includes tailored workshops, training sessions, and technical assistance to help neighborhood leaders navigate challenges and implement inclusive, resident-driven solutions.

This initiative recognizes that local leadership is central to community recovery and resilience, especially in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. By fostering collaborative problem-solving and neighborhood self-determination, the program builds the social infrastructure necessary for long-term stability and growth.

The program has directly served five communities and 23 individual leaders, providing them with the resources and support needed to strengthen civic engagement, drive neighborhood development, and promote equity at the grassroots level.

This program aligns with ARPA's goals of addressing the social and economic impacts of the pandemic by investing in community empowerment, civic leadership, and neighborhood revitalization.



Project: Creation and Preservation of Affordable Housing: Colonial Bakery
ID Number: 91
Expense Category: 2.15
Award Amount: \$1,848,061.00

Narrative:

The Colonial Bakery project, funded through the City of Indianapolis's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation, is a transformative affordable housing development that will create 12 new townhome-style homeownership units for households earning no more than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Located on a currently vacant 1.3-acre parcel within a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), the Colonial Bakery site represents a strategic opportunity to revitalize underutilized land in alignment with key local planning efforts. The project supports the goals of both the 25th and Monon Vision Plan and the City's Anti-Displacement & Inclusive Growth Policy Agenda, prioritizing equitable development and long-term housing affordability in historically underserved neighborhoods.

By focusing on homeownership opportunities for low- to moderate-income residents, the project will help stabilize the surrounding community, prevent displacement, and build generational wealth among households that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and systemic housing inequities.

This investment directly aligns with ARPA’s goal of addressing the negative economic impacts of the pandemic by increasing access to safe, affordable, and stable housing, while also supporting inclusive neighborhood revitalization and community resilience.



Project: City Connects Partnership with Boston College

ID Number: 92

Expense Category: 2.25

Award Amount: \$481,235.00

Narrative:

The City of Indianapolis is using Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) provided under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to implement the City Connects program in twelve public schools located in underserved neighborhoods on the city's Far East Side (ZIP codes 46218, 46266, and 46235).

City Connects is a nationally recognized, evidence-based model developed by Boston College to improve student outcomes by addressing out-of-school factors that affect learning. Through this investment, site coordinators will be embedded in each participating school and will work in collaboration with existing school staff to assess the strengths and needs of every student. The coordinators will then connect students to targeted supports and enrichment opportunities, both within and beyond the school system.

Funds are being used to support the following eligible activities:

1. Development of a Dashboard Services System. This will track trends, program impact, and student-level outcomes. This tool will facilitate internal evaluation, stakeholder communication, and public transparency, in line with federal reporting standards.

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2. Pilot Training Program for Site Coordinator. In partnership with Marian University's Center for Vibrant Schools, a training pilot is being launched to prepare site coordinators for program implementation. This program will ensure that staff are fully trained in the City Connects model and equipped to carry out individualized student support planning.

This initiative aligns with Treasury guidance by responding to the educational disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting long-term recovery in disproportionately impacted communities. The program is designed to produce measurable improvements in student well-being and academic success.



Project: Local Initiatives Support Coalition - Technical Assistance Hub

ID Number: 93

Expense Category: 2.30

Award Amount: \$924,581.26

Narrative:

The Technical Assistance Hub (TA HUB), launched by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and supported through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, was designed to deliver targeted support services to minority- and women-owned small businesses, with a particular focus on those located in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs). The TA HUB addresses critical gaps in Indianapolis's small business ecosystem by connecting entrepreneurs with expert consultants, service providers, and capacity-building resources.

Since its launch, the TA HUB has:

- Provided direct technical assistance to 1,051 clients and businesses, including 436 through partnerships with Indy Black Chamber and Butler University.
- Supported 91 individuals with individualized services such as accounting, legal aid, tax evaluation, marketing, and HR assistance.
- Delivered capacity-building support to 13 community-based organizations, helping them strengthen internal operations and better serve their local business ecosystems.

Notably, 96% of businesses served were minority- or women-owned, reflecting the program’s strong alignment with equity and inclusion goals.

Key Program Components and Partnerships:

- CapMap digital training, executive coaching, and implementation plans completed by partners such as Indy Black Chamber, Martindale Brightwood CDC, NEAR CDC, Pitch Feast, SHE Event INDY, BACI, and CAFÉ.
- Be Nimble and Pitch Feast hosted workshops and networking events, including pitch competitions and educational sessions engaging over 75 entrepreneurs.
- Capacity BESO (Black Entrepreneurship Support Organization) launched accelerator-style initiatives through partners like the Indiana Fashion Foundation, P30 Inc., SHE Event INDY, and 2 Degrees, producing ecosystem maps, mobile app MVPs, CRMs, and new funding platforms.

These activities addressed systemic barriers facing minority entrepreneurs, including limited access to capital, legal and marketing support, and scalable mentorship opportunities.

The TA HUB’s success showcases the power of collaborative, equity-driven technical assistance, and underscores how ARPA funds can be leveraged to bolster small business resilience, drive inclusive economic development, and build long-term community wealth.



Project: Kheprw - Alkhemy Entrepreneurial Incubator Accelerator

ID Number: 94

Expense Category: 2.32

Award Amount: \$497,574.00

Narrative:

The Alkhemy Entrepreneurial Incubator Accelerator, operated by the Kheprw Institute and funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), is a community wealth-building initiative focused on supporting low-income entrepreneurs of color through training, coaching, and technical assistance.

The program provides a virtual incubator and cohort experience where entrepreneurs receive support in launching or scaling their businesses, with a focus on business planning, marketing, legal literacy, and storytelling. To date, a cohort of 25 entrepreneurs has created LLCs and completed coursework, while a new digital curriculum is under development to expand access to those unable to participate directly in the incubator.

Additional achievements include:

- Growth of the Alkhemy online community to over 250 members.
- Launch of the Alkhemy Community Wealth Building space during the Ujima Grand Opening.
- Partnership with Afrofuturist Sheree Renee Thomas to launch the Translocal Afrofuturism Network.

Café Creative, a core element of Alkhemy, supports creative entrepreneurs through workshops, pitch sessions, and collective projects. It fosters artistic expression as a tool for liberation and economic empowerment.

Program Outcomes (to date):

- 893 businesses served.
- 11 workers enrolled in sectoral job training.
- 9 workers completed training.

Through its unique blend of entrepreneurial education, cultural programming, and cooperative economics, Alkhemy exemplifies the power of ARPA funding to promote equity-driven economic development and community-led resilience.

Learn more: <https://alkhemy.kheprw.org>.



Project: Indy PAL Programming

ID Number: 97

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$323,857.46

Narrative:

With support from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Indianapolis Police Athletic League (Indy PAL), in partnership with the Indy Public Safety Foundation and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), is expanding access to positive youth development programming aimed at reducing crime, building life skills, and fostering trust between youth and law enforcement.

Indy PAL offers a broad range of affordable and accessible activities that promote physical health, teamwork, mentorship, and personal growth. ARPA funding has helped to subsidize program costs, keeping the average cost of participation to \$50 or less per youth, ensuring that underserved families can access enriching opportunities regardless of income.

Programming includes:

- Athletics: football, basketball, baseball, cheer/dance, archery, soccer, boxing, and volleyball
- Enrichment and mentorship: IMPD CARES high-intensity mentor program, chess, Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT), and Juvenile Justice Jeopardy

As of the reporting period, Indy PAL has served approximately 1,000 youths, with 50% residing in one of the top five ZIP codes for gun violence in Indianapolis. These targeted efforts focus on reaching youth in communities disproportionately impacted by crime, poverty, and the pandemic. The program has spent about 100,000 dollars on safe, quality sports equipment.

By creating consistent, structured opportunities for engagement and mentorship, Indy PAL plays a crucial role in violence prevention, community healing, and youth empowerment—directly aligning with ARPA’s goals of public safety and equitable recovery.

For more information, please visit: www.indypal.org.



Project: Local Initiatives Support Coalition - Food Justice Collaborative

ID Number: 99

Expense Category: 2.1

Award Amount: \$1,319,210.04

Narrative:

Through funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) supported the expansion and coordination of the Equitable Food Access Initiative's (EFAI) Food Justice Collaborative—a citywide effort to address systemic food insecurity and improve health outcomes for underserved communities in Marion County.

As the subrecipient, LISC administered ARPA funds to support several key objectives:

- Hiring consultants to provide technical assistance, business planning, and logistical support to members of the Food Justice Collaborative.
- Issuing subgrants to community-based organizations to build operational capacity and enhance the delivery of food and nutrition services.
- Supporting home food delivery, which began at-risk in January 2023 and concluded in June 2024, after providing critical support to thousands of food-insecure households.

Throughout the project period, the Collaborative advanced a community-driven, place-based approach to building an equitable local food system. While the program did not utilize evidence-based interventions as defined by U.S. Treasury, it delivered meaningful impact through targeted community engagement and localized capacity building.

Key accomplishments include:

- Overall, 34,836 individuals were served.
- 280,980 meals delivered to 6,919 households.
- 807 pounds of fresh produce harvested through SEND's ReGrowth Program.
- 1,300 individuals served by CAFÉ, along with the distribution of 6,000 educational materials on healthy eating.
- Capacity expansion through the hiring of Community Food Builders, who designed innovative solutions for addressing food insecurity, especially in areas considered the largest food deserts in the city.
- Weekly training and education sessions hosted by Growing Places Indy focused on urban agriculture and personal development.
- Seasonal farm operations supported by Edna Martin Christian Center with the purchase of essential supplies.

Community engagement played a central role throughout the program. The Food Justice Collaborative hosted regular meetings, including a final 2024 session focused on collective visioning for 2025. These gatherings brought together stakeholders across sectors to align strategies and identify emerging needs.

This project demonstrates how ARPA funding can strengthen local food systems, reduce disparities in food access, and build community resilience through collaborative partnerships and targeted investment in grassroots infrastructure.



Project: Release Lobby Resources at the Criminal Justice Center

ID Number: 100

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$297,915.12

Narrative:

Administered by the Office of Public Health and Safety, the Release Lobby Resources program provides immediate and sustained reentry support to individuals exiting the Marion County Adult Detention Center. Through a competitive RFQ process, care coordinators and peer recovery specialists from community organizations offer pre- and post-release services, focusing on housing, employment, healthcare, and mental health connections.

The Reentry Space in the Criminal Justice Center enables engagement with individuals prior to and immediately following release. Given that the average length of stay is five days or less, many individuals exit custody within 48 hours, limiting pre-release engagement. To address this, reentry packets with essential resource information are distributed, and phones are available so individuals can contact family or service providers upon release.

Peer specialists conduct screenings, provide immediate assistance like transportation and weather-appropriate supplies, and help initiate or resume coverage through HIP 2.0. They also begin intake processes and schedule follow-up appointments to ensure connection to longer-term support. When individuals are not ready to engage, providers follow up post-release.

To date, the program has served 1,860 individuals, investing approximately \$120,000 in evidence-based interventions. This initiative plays a vital role in reducing recidivism and strengthening support for justice-involved individuals as they return to the community.



Project: Second Chance Re-entry Assistance Program

ID Number: 101

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$1,329,173.25

Narrative:

The Second Chance Re-entry Assistance Program (SCRAP), operated by students at the IU McKinney School of Law in partnership with 1 Like Me, is a community-based initiative funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The program is dedicated to helping formerly incarcerated individuals reintegrate into society by addressing the structural and social barriers that impede stability and long-term success.

SCRAP offers comprehensive re-entry support, including:

- Assistance with food, clothing, and housing,
- Help securing identification and government documents,
- Employment readiness and job placement support,
- Access to pro se legal assistance and wraparound social services.

The program prioritizes justice-involved, indigent individuals and integrates evidence-based practices, including prosocial modeling, collaborative problem-solving, and community network building. It specifically targets factors with the greatest influence on recidivism, such as access to stable employment and transportation, particularly for individuals with felony convictions.

Key Program Outcomes:

- 12,683 individuals served.
- 2 participants enrolled and completed sectoral job training.
- Recidivism rate across all participants: 6.05%.
- Recidivism rate for Violence Reduction Cohort: 4.44%.
- 3353 individuals served by Hope Hustler Outreach (a SCRAP initiative) over 18 months.
- Hundreds of participants assisted with criminal record expungement.
- Over half of participants assisted in securing driver's licenses.
- 45 participants enrolled in the Violence Reduction Cohort, achieving a 50% employment rate with job placements at employers including IndyGo and Cisco.

Due to high demand, the program temporarily ceased new appointment scheduling in late September of 2024 to address a growing waitlist. By December 31, 2024, SCRAP successfully cleared this waitlist, ensuring all individuals received services prior to the end of the program period.

The Second Chance Re-entry Assistance Program is a powerful example of how ARPA funding can be leveraged to address the root causes of incarceration, promote economic independence, and build safer, more equitable communities through structured, evidence-based re-entry support.

For more information, please visit: 1likemereentry.org.



Project: Youth Media Initiative

ID Number: 102

Expense Category: 1.11

Award Amount: \$558,090.33

Narrative:

The Youth Media Initiative, a partnership between VOICES Corporation and WISH-TV, is an innovative, ARPA-funded program designed to create safe, empowering platforms for youth expression, civic engagement, and storytelling in Marion County. Through a youth-centered model, the initiative equips young people with transferrable life and workforce skills while encouraging them to explore journalism, broadcasting, and media production.

Launched in collaboration with local youth-serving organizations and schools, VOICES implemented a peer-led application and selection process, ensuring authentic youth engagement and leadership from the outset. Participants engage in structured training around advocacy, communication, and creative media, and contribute directly to project outcomes.

Key features of the initiative include:

- Monthly, youth-led podcast production (12 total anticipated).
- Quarterly town hall conversations, co-facilitated by youth, focused on community issues and civic discourse.
- Individualized training and mentorship focused on media, communication, and leadership development.

The program has served 149 youth and young adults, including 10 participants enrolled in summer youth employment programs. Of these, 18 youth formed the core cohort, with an average age of 16, representing 22 ZIP codes across Indianapolis. Nearly 48% had prior involvement in the juvenile or criminal justice system, and the cohort was racially and ethnically diverse: 72% Black, 11% White, 9% Hispanic/Latino, and 8% Other.

Key Program Outcomes:

- 83% of participants reported increased interest in journalism or broadcasting.
- 97% would recommend the program to peers.
- 96% felt their voices and opinions were heard and respected.
- 89% reported greater awareness of community issues.
- 76% reported increased soft skills in communication, teamwork, and media production.

This initiative demonstrates how ARPA funds can be strategically deployed to amplify youth voices, build media and civic literacy, and provide justice-involved and marginalized youth with pathways to personal and professional growth. By centering youth leadership and authentic expression, the Youth Media Initiative helps foster the next generation of engaged, informed, and empowered community leaders.

More information can be found at: [VOICES Corporation](#) and [WISH-TV Real Talk](#).



Project: Indy Hunger Network: Marion County Food Resource Centers

ID Number: 103

Expense Category: 2.1

Award Amount: \$614,098.55

Narrative:

The Indy Hunger Network’s Food Resource Services Hub (FRSH) program, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), was established to improve long-term food security in Marion County by creating centralized locations where residents can access multiple food assistance programs and emergency food services in one place. The FRSH initiative formally launched on February 12, 2024, following the grant award on November 1, 2022.

The FRSH model integrates federal nutrition program navigation, emergency food access, and evidence-based nutrition education. Food Resource Navigators help eligible residents apply for and enroll in programs such as SNAP, WIC, free and reduced-price school meals, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, while also offering referrals to local food pantries and distributing food boxes on-site to meet urgent needs.

Additionally, the program incorporates Cooking Matters, an evidence-based curriculum proven to improve healthy eating habits, increase nutrition knowledge, and build practical cooking skills among families. FRSH has committed approximately \$850,000 to evidence-based interventions to date.

Key Accomplishments:

- 2,134 households served.
- 6,555 individuals served.
- 7,158 emergency meals provided, including 1,814 meals in Q4 of 2024 alone.
- 56 successful SNAP applications completed, unlocking up to \$173,600 in benefits.
- 11 families trained in healthy meal preparation through Cooking Matters.
- 1,548 individuals received food assistance and referrals across multiple sites in Q4 of 2024.
- Expanded staffing and reach with the hiring of a second Food Resource Navigator.



FRSH has developed a strong presence through engagement with nearly 40 partner organizations across Indianapolis and the state.

Notable outreach and collaboration activities include:

- Presentations at the Indiana Health Equity Summit and updates shared with the Indiana Hunger Coalition and the Indy Hunger Network Projects Committee.
- Staff training in Narcan administration, reinforcing public health preparedness.
- Active participation in community events, including the D.A.D.D. Resource Fair, Indy Parks Health & Food Resource Expo, and outreach at local food pantries, libraries, and recovery centers.

By addressing both immediate hunger and systemic barriers to food access, the FRSH initiative is making a meaningful impact on nutrition

security, community health, and equitable access to federal food resources. This program is a strong example of how ARPA funding can be leveraged to strengthen local food systems, support families in crisis, and build long-term community resilience.

Learn more at: indyfoodresourceshub.org.



Project: HHC - Food as Medicine

ID Number: 104

Expense Category: 2.1

Award Amount: \$420,000.00

Narrative:

The Food as Medicine initiative, launched by Eskenazi Health and funded in part through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), aims to improve health outcomes and food access for vulnerable residents by integrating food insecurity interventions directly into the healthcare system. Central to this effort is the Fresh for You Market on Wheels, a mobile pantry-market hybrid that travels to 12 Indianapolis neighborhoods identified for high health disparities.

Patients screened as food insecure during clinical visits receive \$30 food vouchers redeemable at the Fresh for You Market on Wheels. These vouchers, paired with wraparound services, connect individuals and families to healthier food options and long-term supports. To date, the program has redeemed 16,783 vouchers, reflecting strong and sustained community need.

Between October and December 2024 alone:

- 2,751 individuals or families redeemed vouchers, totaling \$84,307.79 in food assistance.
- The food insecurity rate remained over 36%, with nearly 80% of Eskenazi patients screened for food insecurity.
- The gap in screening rates between English-preferred and non-English-preferred patients dropped to just 0.3%, marking a major milestone in language equity.

As ARPA funding concluded in April 2024, Eskenazi Health adapted for sustainability by:

- Combining roles (e.g., cashier and nutrition navigator) to streamline staffing.
- Securing ongoing support through philanthropic, grant, and health care payor sources.

The program also garnered national interest. In September 2024, Eskenazi hosted partners from the Association for Diabetes Care and Education Specialists and Emory University to discuss replicating the model in other Federally Qualified Health Centers. Collaborative planning for continued provider education and data-informed referrals began in October.

The Food as Medicine initiative is a powerful example of how ARPA funds can be used to address the social determinants of health, reduce barriers to nutrition, and create sustainable, community-driven health equity strategies.

Learn more: www.eskenazihealth.edu/programs/food-as-medicine/fresh-for-you-market.



Project: Centers of Wellness for Urban Women Operational Support

ID Number: 106

Expense Category: 2.1

Award Amount: \$72,859.55

Narrative:

Through funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Centers of Wellness for Urban Women (CWUW) expanded its Neighborhood Food Champions initiative, a community-based program designed to engage and empower underrepresented residents of Marion County to address food insecurity and food justice in their neighborhoods.

ARPA resources have provided operational support to fund two key staff positions, enabling CWUW to broaden its outreach and strengthen program delivery. The Neighborhood Food Champions program trains participants to become advocates and leaders in their communities, equipping them with knowledge and skills to implement local food projects and influence policy discussions around food access.

As of May 31, 2024, the inaugural cohort completed its classroom training and began implementing grassroots food-related projects throughout Indianapolis. In parallel, CWUW continues to provide essential support services to connect residents with SNAP, WIC, and other food assistance programs, increasing access to healthy, affordable food in communities disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program has served:

- 339 households, through food access and assistance outreach
- 81 local businesses, through food-related initiatives and community engagement

This initiative reflects ARPA's commitment to addressing the social and economic consequences of the pandemic, particularly in communities facing systemic barriers to food security and public health. By building local leadership and supporting neighborhood-based solutions, CWUW is fostering long-term resilience and equity in Indianapolis.



Project: Lift Indy: CAFE Orchard Trail

ID Number: 107

Expense Category: 2.22

Award Amount: \$16,713.40

Narrative:

The CAFE Orchard Trail project, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as part of the Far Eastside Lift Indy initiative, is a community-driven placemaking and public space enhancement effort led by the Community Alliance of the Far Eastside (CAFÉ). This project is designed to improve neighborhood connectivity, encourage outdoor activity, and foster a stronger sense of community identity on Indianapolis's Far Eastside.

The project will create a pedestrian trail adjacent to a Purple Line bus rapid transit (BRT) stop and 38th Street, one of the city's major transit corridors. The trail will connect directly to CAFÉ's Far Eastside Orchard, a community green space that supports food access, education, and environmental engagement.

By linking transit infrastructure with accessible, community-oriented public space, the CAFE Orchard Trail supports both mobility and quality of life for residents. It also reflects key ARPA goals by investing in neighborhood revitalization, equitable public infrastructure, and the creation of inclusive community amenities in areas disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This placemaking project will serve as a lasting asset for the Far Eastside, promoting wellness, walkability, and community pride for years to come.



Project: Lift Indy: Mapleton Fall Creek Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment

ID Number: 108

Expense Category: 2.14

Award Amount: \$49,937.36

Narrative:

Through funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Mapleton Fall Creek Development Corporation is conducting an Early Childhood Education (ECE) Needs Assessment to better understand and address the gaps in early learning opportunities within the mid-north neighborhoods of Indianapolis.

This project is part of the broader Lift Indy initiative, which channels resources into community-driven strategies to promote equitable development. Recognizing the critical role of early childhood education in shaping long-term academic and social outcomes, this needs assessment seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of the current landscape of ECE services, including access, quality, affordability, and community perceptions.

The assessment will include a combination of:

- Community surveys.
- Formal and informal interviews.
- Focus groups with families, caregivers, providers, and other stakeholders.

By prioritizing unspoken needs and elevating unheard voices, particularly those of historically underserved families, the project aims to produce actionable insights that will inform future investments and policy decisions in the early learning sector.

This initiative aligns with ARPA's goals of supporting communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and investing in strategies that promote long-term educational equity and child development.



Project: Creation and Preservation of Affordable Housing: Christamore Courts

ID Number: 109

Expense Category: 2.15

Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Narrative:

The Christamore Courts project, funded through the City of Indianapolis's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation, is a targeted initiative to preserve and expand affordable housing for seniors while enhancing supportive services for both seniors and youth in the Haughville neighborhood.

This project will preserve 34 existing senior housing units and repurpose two nearby vacant buildings to create five additional senior units. In addition to the expanded housing footprint, the project includes the development of enhanced space for youth and senior services, directly benefiting clients of Christamore House, a long-standing community anchor in the area.

By combining housing preservation, new unit development, and programmatic space expansion, the Christamore Courts project addresses both the housing and service needs of vulnerable populations, particularly low-income seniors and youth impacted by the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This project aligns with ARPA's objectives by promoting housing stability, preventing displacement, and investing in supportive infrastructure that fosters long-term community well-being and equity.



Project: Creation and Preservation of Affordable Housing: ARPA Program Manager

ID Number: 110

Expense Category: 7.1

Award Amount: \$188,961.00

Narrative:

The Creation and Preservation of Affordable Housing Program, funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), is a key component of the City of Indianapolis's strategy to expand access to safe, stable, and affordable housing in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative addresses longstanding housing inequities that were further exacerbated by the economic and public health impacts of the crisis.

To effectively implement this program, the City designated an ARPA Affordable Housing Project Manager responsible for overseeing the management, coordination, and compliance of ARPA-funded housing initiatives. This role ensures that projects supported through this program align with Treasury guidelines, meet community needs, and deliver measurable outcomes related to housing stability and affordability.

The program supports both the creation of new affordable housing units and the preservation of existing housing stock, particularly in communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. By investing in affordable housing development, rehabilitation, and long-

term preservation, the City aims to prevent displacement, reduce housing cost burdens, and promote equitable neighborhood revitalization.

This program directly advances ARPA’s goal of addressing the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 by investing in critical housing infrastructure, stabilizing vulnerable populations, and supporting long-term community resilience.



Project: Krannert Avenue Parks Stormwater Project

ID Number: 111

Expense Category: 5.5

Award Amount: \$573,095.00

Narrative:

The Krannert Avenue Parks Stormwater Project, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), is a vital infrastructure effort focused on improving stormwater management and public access within Krannert Park on the west side of Indianapolis. This project addresses longstanding drainage and roadway issues that affect both park operations and community safety.

The scope of the project includes:

1. Improvements to the park entrance roadway and culvert system, enhancing safe access to the park during and after heavy rainfall events.
2. Upgrades to the dam and spillway, allowing for more efficient and controlled water flow, which will help reduce the risk of flooding and downstream erosion.

These improvements will not only bolster the park's stormwater infrastructure but also ensure that the surrounding community has continued and safe access to valuable recreational space, even during periods of high precipitation. By enhancing the dam and spillway functionality, the project contributes to better flood mitigation and improved environmental resilience in a heavily used public area.

This project exemplifies how ARPA funds are being used to modernize essential infrastructure, promote public safety, and improve the quality of life for Indianapolis residents, particularly in communities that have experienced underinvestment in stormwater systems.



Project: Eagle Creek Parkway/Lilly Lake Stormwater Project

ID Number: 112

Expense Category: 5.5

Award Amount: \$279,839.20

Narrative:

The Eagle Creek Parkway / Lilly Lake Stormwater Project is a critical infrastructure initiative funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address severe structural deterioration and flooding risks associated with aging stormwater systems in the Eagle Creek area of Indianapolis.

The project was initiated in response to the failure of the existing Lilly Lake outlet structure, which has resulted in uncontrolled water flow bypassing the spillway and entering the outlet through fractured concrete. Additionally, the dual-pipe system that connects the outlet structure to the downstream culvert has experienced significant deterioration, with failure deemed imminent.

To mitigate these urgent public safety and environmental concerns, the ARPA-funded project will:

- Construct a new outlet structure and spillway.
- Remove trees from the embankment to preserve its integrity.
- Replace the deteriorated culvert.
- Rehabilitate the recreational trail located along the top of the Lilly Lake embankment, which will be impacted during construction.

These improvements will restore safe and functional stormwater flow, reduce the risk of embankment failure, and enhance the environmental resilience of the surrounding area. The project will also ensure that adjacent park and trail amenities remain accessible and safe for public use once construction is complete.

This investment reflects the City's commitment to protecting critical natural infrastructure and ensuring long-term stormwater management in one of Indianapolis's key recreational and ecological areas. It aligns with ARPA's allowable use for water and sewer infrastructure and demonstrates how recovery funds can support both environmental protection and community well-being.



Project: Biltmore Gardens Neighborhood Drainage Improvements

ID Number: 113

Expense Category: 5.5

Award Amount: \$6,483,590.16

Narrative:

The Biltmore Gardens Neighborhood Drainage Improvements project was funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address chronic flash flooding and standing water issues in a residential area of Indianapolis. These flooding concerns have posed persistent challenges for residents, impacting property, roadways, and public safety.

Using ARPA funds designated for stormwater infrastructure improvements, the City of Indianapolis is implementing a series of targeted upgrades to modernize and improve the neighborhood's drainage system. The project scope includes ditch excavation, culvert replacements, the installation of new storm sewers, hybrid ditches, and spot repairs to existing ditch retaining walls.

These enhancements will improve stormwater flow, reduce surface water accumulation, and protect public and private property from damage due to intense rain events. The project also supports improved neighborhood accessibility and health by minimizing the risk of standing water, which can harbor pests and pollutants.

This initiative reflects the City's broader commitment to using ARPA resources to build climate-resilient, community-focused infrastructure, especially in neighborhoods historically affected by underinvestment in essential services. The Biltmore Gardens

project not only supports immediate public health and safety but also contributes to the long-term sustainability of Indianapolis's infrastructure.



Project: Dr. Andrew J Brown/30th Street/Keystone Drainage Improvements

ID Number: 114

Expense Category: 5.4

Award Amount: \$3,523,813.89

Narrative:

The Dr. Andrew J. Brown / 30th Street / Keystone Drainage Improvements project is a critical infrastructure initiative funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address stormwater management and water quality in flood-prone areas of Indianapolis. As permitted under ARPA guidelines, the City of Indianapolis is investing federal recovery funds in essential water and sewer infrastructure to improve public health, safety, and environmental outcomes.

This project focuses on the installation of new stormwater separation systems, including curb and yard inlets, hybrid ditches, and significant upgrades to existing combined sewer overflow infrastructure. These improvements aim to alleviate chronic street and yard flooding in the area—challenges that have become more frequent and severe due to the increasing intensity of storm events associated with climate change.

By separating stormwater from the combined sewer system and increasing the capacity for water conveyance and collection, the project will reduce the likelihood of overflow events and untreated discharges, thereby enhancing overall water quality and protecting local waterways.

This investment reflects the City’s commitment to strengthening community infrastructure, enhancing environmental resilience, and using ARPA resources to make long-overdue upgrades in historically underserved neighborhoods impacted by aging or inadequate stormwater systems.



Project: Keystone Avenue North Stormwater Outfall

ID Number: 115

Expense Category: 5.5

Award Amount: \$156,254.89

Narrative:

The Keystone Avenue North Stormwater Outfall project, funded in part through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), supports critical infrastructure improvements along the 38th Street corridor as part of the larger IndyGo Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) development. This initiative strengthens stormwater management systems and enhances environmental resilience in a historically underserved area of Indianapolis.

The project involves the installation of new stormwater infrastructure, including drainage pipes, inlets, hybrid ditches, crossing culverts, and bridge improvements, all of which contribute to more effective water conveyance and flood mitigation. These improvements help reduce the risk of flooding along the future Purple Line route, supporting reliable public transit operations while protecting adjacent homes, businesses, and roadways.

In addition to improving drainage capacity, the project includes stormwater quality enhancements, such as the development of detention areas and recessed inlets designed for trash collection. These features not only manage runoff volume but also help improve the quality of water being discharged into Fall Creek, contributing to broader environmental and public health goals.

This infrastructure investment demonstrates the City’s commitment to using ARPA funds to support climate-resilient, community-oriented infrastructure, reduce flooding risks, and enhance the long-term sustainability of vital public transportation routes in Indianapolis.



Project: HHC - Healthy Food Retail

ID Number: 117

Expense Category: 2.1

Award Amount: \$220,503.24

Narrative:

The Healthy Food Retail Program, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), was designed to improve equitable access to nutritious food in Indianapolis by supporting small grocers and food retailers in underserved neighborhoods. The initiative aimed to strengthen the local food system by increasing availability and visibility of healthy food options through strategic marketing support, technical assistance, and inter-agency collaboration.

At the core of the program was the Indy Local Grocers Coalition (ILGC), a forum supported by the City to facilitate peer learning, resource sharing, and coordination across grocers and partners such as Purdue Extension—Marion County, Marion County WIC, LISC, the Indiana Department of Health, and the Indianapolis Food Access Coalition.

Using the “4 Ps of Marketing”—Price, Product, Promotion, and Placement—each participating store received tailored support and tracked progress toward increasing the availability and visibility of healthy foods.

Key Outcomes:

- 77 businesses supported, including 29 stores receiving direct services.

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- 453 households and 233 individuals reached.
 - 355 store visits and 32 technical assistance consultations conducted.
 - 59% (17 of 29) of stores implemented Healthy Food Retail strategies.
 - 24 initial store assessments and 36 quarterly inventories completed.
 - 70 Instagram and 110 Facebook promotional posts shared to highlight participating stores.
 - Support for three rounds of Produce Prescription (Rx) programs reaching 453 individuals through Eskenazi Health.

The project also launched the Support Indy Groceries Instagram campaign, helping to build store visibility and community engagement. Participating grocers cited improvements in store appearance, customer satisfaction, and connections with local produce suppliers.

During the final quarter (Oct–Dec 2024), the project wrapped up with:

- Development of a resource packet and funding guide for store owners.
- Hosting of two educational sessions on food safety and local food procurement.
- Completion of infrastructure improvements through the Indy Local Grocer Fund, including installation of a new range hood at Mike’s Variety Store.

Though ARPA funds have concluded, technical assistance continues to be available to grocers via the City’s Food System Specialist, ensuring ongoing sustainability of the work.

With over \$100,000 encumbered toward evidence-based interventions, the Healthy Food Retail Program demonstrates how ARPA funding can be used to strengthen neighborhood food access, support small businesses, and promote long-term community health.



Project: ARPA Governmental Services

ID Number: 120

Expense Category: 6.1

Award Amount: \$103,172,463.20

Narrative:

The Governmental Services program, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), was utilized by the City of Indianapolis to maintain, and support critical public safety operations during the ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This investment ensured the continuity of essential services that protect residents and uphold the safety and well-being of the community.

ARPA funds under this category were directed toward sustaining staffing, operations, and core functions within public safety departments, including law enforcement, fire services, and emergency response. By offsetting revenue losses and operational pressures caused by the pandemic, the program helped stabilize service delivery and ensured uninterrupted public safety coverage across Indianapolis neighborhoods.

While this program did not involve direct evidence-based interventions, it aligns with ARPA's eligible use category for "government services," supporting the City's broader efforts to maintain essential operations and promote community resilience during the pandemic recovery period.



Project: ARPA V2V Environmental Research

ID Number: 121

Expense Category: 2.15

Award Amount: \$11,350.75

Narrative:

As part of the Vacant to Vibrant (V2V) initiative, the City of Indianapolis utilized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support environmental research on properties awarded through the program. V2V is focused on revitalizing underutilized and abandoned parcels by transforming them into sites for affordable housing development in neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Environmental research is a critical early step in this redevelopment process. Through this ARPA-funded effort, environmental assessments are conducted to identify any potential contamination, hazards, or site conditions that could affect future development. The research ensures that any environmental concerns are discovered prior to construction, and that appropriate remediation can take place when necessary.

By addressing environmental concerns upfront, the City ensures that all V2V sites are safe, buildable, and ready for transformation into quality affordable housing. This work is essential to maintaining public health and advancing the program's broader goal of equitable neighborhood revitalization.

Although this project does not involve direct service delivery or evidence-based interventions, it is a foundational investment that supports ARPA's goals of addressing public health risks, fostering housing stability, and advancing long-term community resilience.



Project: ARPA Retention Pay
ID Number: 122
Expense Category: 7.1
Award Amount: \$7,223,031.56

Narrative:

This project supported an employee retention initiative aimed at maintaining a stable and effective municipal workforce during the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 recovery period. Retention bonuses were distributed to 2,669 employees to recognize their continued service and reduce turnover in critical roles impacted by the pandemic.

These payments helped ensure continuity of government operations and public services, particularly in departments experiencing increased demands or staffing shortages due to COVID-19. This initiative aligned with ARPA's goals by investing in the workforce essential to delivering recovery programs and sustaining community resilience.



Project: ARPA eCivis Licenses

ID Number: 123

Expense Category: 7.1

Award Amount: \$361,100.00

Narrative:

To effectively manage the significant volume of funding and programs generated through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the City of Indianapolis expanded its use of the eCivis grants management platform. This project supported the licensing of eCivis software specifically for ARPA-related grants and subrecipient management.

The eCivis platform enables more efficient administration of federal funds by streamlining application reviews, monitoring subrecipient performance, tracking expenditures, and ensuring compliance with federal reporting requirements. This investment strengthened internal capacity to manage a historic level of funding and improved transparency, accountability, and data-driven decision-making throughout the ARPA grant lifecycle.

By enhancing its existing grants infrastructure, the City ensured responsible stewardship of ARPA resources and reinforced long-term administrative capacity for future federal funding opportunities.



Project: Sadlier & Hartman Area Drainage Improvements

ID Number: 125

Expense Category: 5.5

Award Amount: \$667,988.05

Narrative:

The Sadlier & Hartman Area Drainage Improvements project addresses long-standing drainage and pavement issues in a residential neighborhood along 38th Street on the northeast side of Indianapolis. This area has experienced frequent flooding and poor stormwater management, posing ongoing challenges to residents and local infrastructure.

ARPA funds are being used specifically to support the design phase of this project. Design efforts include planning for upgraded stormwater systems such as new culverts, storm sewers, hybrid ditches, and related drainage infrastructure. These improvements will be implemented in two construction phases, with Phase 1 scheduled for completion in 2026.

By funding the design phase, ARPA support ensures this critical infrastructure project can move forward in a timely and strategic manner. The project aligns with ARPA's goals of promoting resilient, safe neighborhoods and addressing the negative impacts of deferred infrastructure investment.



Project: SD-22-100 Drainage Improvements Area 1

ID Number: 127

Expense Category: 5.6

Award Amount: \$6,647,225.00

Narrative:

The Drainage Improvements Area 1 project, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), was designed to address persistent drainage and flooding issues along Meridian Street from 64th Street to 96th Street. This area has experienced stormwater challenges that impact roadway safety, property access, and long-term infrastructure durability.

The project involved the rehabilitation and replacement of essential stormwater infrastructure, including cross-culverts and storm pipes, along with pavement renewal to improve surface water flow. These improvements enhance roadway safety, prevent water accumulation, and support long-term resilience of public infrastructure.

This ARPA-funded investment aligns with the broader goal of building strong and healthy neighborhoods by mitigating environmental risks and supporting sustainable infrastructure in Indianapolis communities.



Project: SD-22-101 Drainage Improvements Area 2

ID Number: 128

Expense Category: 5.6

Award Amount: \$4,227,978.79

Narrative:

The Drainage Improvements Area 2 project is a two-phase infrastructure initiative funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address chronic drainage and flooding concerns in key areas of Indianapolis.

Phase 1 targets drainage improvements along Brookside Parkway (from Nowland Avenue to Rural Street) and McCarty Street (from Capitol Avenue to Delaware Street). Phase 2 focuses on Washington Boulevard, from 29th Street to 40th Street. In both phases, work includes the rehabilitation and replacement of stormwater infrastructure—such as cross-culverts and storm pipes—as well as pavement renewal to facilitate improved water flow and surface drainage.

This project reduces the risk of flooding, improves public safety, and extends the useful life of critical roadway infrastructure. It supports ARPA’s goals of enhancing community resilience and addressing public infrastructure needs in neighborhoods impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Project: SD-22-102 Drainage Improvements Area 3

ID Number: 129

Expense Category: 5.5

Award Amount: \$4,987,682.22

Narrative:

This infrastructure project, funded by ARPA, aims to resolve persistent drainage and stormwater management issues across several key corridors in Marion County. Specifically, the project addresses areas along Masters Road (from 96th Street to 86th Street), Craig Street (from 82nd to 86th Streets), and the corridor from Shadeland Avenue to Kensington Drive to 52nd Street.

The scope of work includes the rehabilitation and replacement of outdated or failing stormwater infrastructure such as cross-culverts and storm pipes. In addition, pavement renewal is planned to improve surface drainage and road longevity.

These improvements will reduce flood risk, improve roadway safety, and enhance neighborhood resilience to extreme weather events—outcomes that align with ARPA’s goal of building stronger, more sustainable communities, especially in areas disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.



Project: Parks Storm Water Garfield

ID Number: 130

Expense Category: 5.6

Award Amount: \$551,300.00

Narrative:

This ARPA-funded project addresses significant stormwater-related erosion at Garfield Park, specifically along the outer bank of Bean Creek near a sharp bend just upstream of the bridge at Conservatory Drive. The erosion, caused by the creek's natural flow pattern, is progressively threatening nearby sidewalks, the roadway, and potentially the structural integrity of a historic bridge that provides access to the Garfield Arts Center and MacAllister Amphitheater.

Using ARPA resources, the City will conduct a hydraulic analysis to assess the extent of erosion and develop engineered remediation solutions. These efforts aim to mitigate safety hazards, protect key park infrastructure, and preserve public access to vital community and cultural spaces.

The project supports long-term climate resilience and infrastructure stability while improving safety and environmental sustainability in one of Indianapolis's most historic parks.



Project: ARPA Indy ADMIN
ID Number: 131
Expense Category: 7.3
Award Amount: \$8,189,803.84

Narrative:

This program captures the indirect cost rate associated with the oversight, management, and administration of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds by the City of Indianapolis. These funds support essential internal functions such as fiscal oversight, compliance monitoring, reporting, procurement, and general program administration required to ensure the responsible and transparent use of ARPA dollars.

Allocating ARPA resources for indirect costs is a federally eligible expenditure and helps ensure the City maintains the administrative infrastructure necessary to deliver impactful, accountable recovery initiatives across Indianapolis.



Project: ARPA Trails Program
ID Number: 132
Expense Category: 2.22
Award Amount: \$2,028,801.00

Narrative:

The ARPA Trails Program supports the expansion of the Pogue’s Run Trail, advancing equitable access to outdoor recreation and promoting healthier, more connected neighborhoods. Phase 2 of the project includes critical infrastructure improvements: upgrades to the Nowland Avenue Bridge, lane restrictions at key intersections (Rural Street and Brookside Parkway S Drive), construction of a 100-foot pedestrian bridge within Brookside Park, and the installation of ADA-compliant ramps.

These enhancements improve trail safety, accessibility, and connectivity, encouraging physical activity and sustainable transportation. Located within a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), this investment directly supports communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, aligning with ARPA’s eligible uses to build strong, healthy neighborhoods.

Construction is currently underway, and all ARPA funds will be expended by the end of 2025.



Project: ARPA MLK Project
ID Number: 133
Expense Category: 2.22
Award Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Narrative:

ARPA funds have supported enhancements to Martin Luther King Jr. Park, located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT) and serving a community disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This project builds on the ongoing expansion of the Landmark for Peace Memorial and improves overall accessibility, safety, and visitor experience within the park.

ARPA funding specifically allowed for the installation of upgraded site lighting, security cameras, and the use of more durable materials for the memorial structure to ensure its long-term preservation. Additional improvements supported by the broader project include new walking paths and landscaping, promoting community wellness and gathering in a historically significant public space.

Construction began in May 2025 and is on track for completion by May 2026. ARPA funds will be fully expended by the end of 2025.

By enhancing a prominent civic landmark and investing in safe, inclusive public spaces, this project promotes equitable recovery and supports the social and emotional well-being of residents in one of Indianapolis' most historically underserved neighborhoods.



Project: ARPA Indirect Rate Supplement Project

ID Number: 134

Expense Category: 7.3

Award Amount: \$710,196.16

Narrative:

The ARPA Indirect Rate Supplement Project was established to cover unanticipated increases in indirect costs associated with the administration and oversight of the City of Indianapolis's ARPA-funded initiatives. As implementation progressed, indirect expenses exceeded original projections due to the expanded scope and complexity of program delivery, monitoring, and compliance requirements.

This project ensures continued administrative capacity to effectively manage ARPA investments, maintain compliance with federal requirements, and support timely reporting and oversight. By supplementing the City's indirect rate, this funding helps safeguard the fiscal integrity and operational sustainability of the broader ARPA portfolio.