

Cobb County Government **Recovery Plan**

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2022 Report

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2022 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Cobb County's top priorities for the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act funding is to maximize the economic value by helping with long-term economic recovery and growth, addressing capacity building, and supporting the public health response. A consulting firm was hired in September 2021 to help advise the County on how to best deploy the funds across a wide spectrum of program priorities as well as codifying constituency and partner requests for funding and administering program management throughout the duration of the project.

Uses of Funds

Cobb County, like many other jurisdictions across the United States, has experienced significant strains while trying to provide increased services related to setting up emergency medical facilities, stand up vaccination sites, supporting struggling small businesses, and assisting households while also addressing the loss of local revenue. The County is still in the process of developing their overall plan for the use of funds, but the following Expenditure Categories have been addressed or considered for the use of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds thus far:

- a. *Public Health (EC 1) – the County has several projects for Public Health under the Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities and Payroll Costs for Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19.*

For the Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes, the County has appropriated funds to renovate various County courtrooms to implement COVID-19 safety measures while facilitating court operations. The Courts have been severely impacted by COVID. Many constitutionally required hearings and other statutorily required duties were delayed, cancelled or stayed. In order to mitigate and prevent the spread of COVID, the court system adopted detailed protocols pursuant to health guidance. While PPE, mandatory masks, plexiglass barriers and other things are the most visible precautions, social distancing is one of the most effective but also most challenging issues to court operations. Courts have a legal duty to hear cases in a timely manner and sometimes within time periods set by state law. For criminal cases, the confrontational clause of the United States Constitution requires in-person confrontation of the witness against an accused. Courtroom improvements are further described in the Project Inventory section.

For Payroll Costs for Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19, the County has appropriated funds for Court personnel to assist with the Emergency Rental Assistance Program created by the County in February 2021. Due to an increase in filing of eviction cases as the CDC Moratorium nears an end, the personnel will aid in the administration and facilitation of the rental assistance program as well as help with the planning, developing and implementing of additional housing stability programs such as Eviction Diversion.

b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

The County will continue to respond to the needs of those negatively impacted by COVID-19 by providing food and housing assistance. Currently, the County has the Food Program Assistance in which local nonprofits will be able to purchase food vouchers, food boxes, food from food banks or pantries and distribute food. The primary goal is to distribute emergency food to insecure populations.

c. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3) – no projects at this time

d. Premium Pay (EC 4) – no projects at this time

e. Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5) – no projects at this time

f. Revenue Replacement (EC 6) – no projects at this time

In addition, the County received funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA). These funds are providing Cobb County residents with rental and utility assistance who are affected directly or indirectly by COVID-19. The ERA Funds have rigorous eligibility requirements in which applicants must provide thorough documentation and go through a screening process. The program is for rental and utility assistance for renters. Applicants are eligible for up to 12 months of assistance and must meet income eligibility requirements and provide proof of COVID hardship.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The projects mentioned are in the early stages. An online portal was established for organizations to apply for grants allocated by funds to five priority areas – community health, support services, economic development, county infrastructure and public safety. The application will be reviewed on a rolling basis and must support communities impacted or disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The type of assistance provided as well as the strategies for these projects will be reported. Organizations receiving funding will need to provide key performance indicators and intended outcomes.

Community Engagement

The County opened an online portal on June 6, 2022 for organizations to apply for grants, project funding or to submit ideas that align with at least one of the five priority levels and at least one subtopic. Projects must serve Cobb County and its residents. Currently, 28 local nonprofits applied for and received Food Program Assistance to support the significant need for food to those negatively affected by COVID-19. Funding supported food vouchers, food boxes, food banks or pantries and for food distribution.

Use of Evidence

No current evidence-based interventions and/or projects at this time.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination		
1.2	COVID-19 Testing		
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing		
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)	\$1,486,684.10	\$1,486,684.10
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment		
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)		
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency		
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)		
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19		
1.10	Mental Health Services		
1.11	Substance Use Services		
1.12	Other Public Health Services		
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts		
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs		
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid		
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers		
2.34	Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs		
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention		
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers		
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)		
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*		
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)		
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality		
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries		
2.13	Other Economic Support		
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff		
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning		
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts		
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services		
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services		
3.5	Education Assistance: Other		
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care		
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting		
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System		
3.9.	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other		
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing		
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons		
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance		
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other		
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators		
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation		
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions		
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay		
4.1	Public Sector Employees		
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers		
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment		
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance		
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater		
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows		
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure		
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater		
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation		
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source		
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment		
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution		
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation		
5.13	Drinking water: Source		
5.14	Drinking water: Storage		
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure		
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects		
5.17	Broadband: Other projects		
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services		
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$1,802,000.00	\$1,791,285.72
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis		
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government		
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)		

Project Inventory

Project

Project ARP3: Courtroom Renovations

Funding amount: \$3,957,800.00

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4, Public Health-Prevention in Congregate Settings

Project overview

- To make improvements in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs and allow for social distancing.
- This project includes courtroom improvements for the following: Grand Jury room expansion to allow grand jury proceedings; Superior Court 12th jury trial courtroom build-out; Superior Court multi-purpose courtroom and probate courtroom.

Project

Project ARP1: Food Program Assistance

Funding amount: \$1,575,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34, Negative Economic Impacts

Project overview

- Food assistance for Cobb citizens continues to be an urgent need. Providing this assistance will alleviate some of the economic and emotional tolls on the families in

need. \$1,500,000 will be available to nonprofits and awarded on an application basis. Funds can be used to for the purchase of food vouchers, food boxes, food from food banks or pantries and for food distribution.

- \$75,000 will go towards the administration services for the food allocation to develop the grant application, conduct the application reviews and general monitoring and oversight of the program until the funds are fully reimbursed and expended.

Project

Project ARP4: Magistrate Court Personnel and Technology

Funding amount: \$1,778,429.16

Project Expenditure Category: 3.1, Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project overview

- To restore and bolster public sector capacity to support the County's ability to deliver critical COVID-19 services. This project includes ancillary administrative costs related to hiring with the County's judicial system.

Project

Project AR10: County-wide COVID-19 Cleaning

Funding amount: \$125,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4, Prevention in Congregate Settings

Project overview

- To provide heightened cleaning and disinfecting services and supplies to reduce the effects of the COVID-19 virus in County-owned facilities.

Project

Project AR11: Personnel Reimbursements

Funding amount: \$750,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 3.1, Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety or Human Services Workers

Project overview

- To restore and bolster public sector capacity by covering eligible payroll and covered benefits for Public Safety, Public Health and Human Services Staff.

Project

Project AR13: ARPA Consulting Services

Funding amount: \$2,788,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 7.1, Administrative Expenses

Project overview

- Direct and indirect administrative expenses involved in administering ARPA Funds.

Performance Report

- As the County moves forward with future projects, those that involve funding for individuals negatively impacted by their current economic situation will be presented with performance data to include race, ethnicity, gender, income, and other relevant factors, if possible.