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Cook County of Illinois State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2025

RECOVERY PLAN REPORT



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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Cook County of Illinois

State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds



Executive Summary

In 2021, Cook County received \$1,000,372,385 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an award under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The County's use of these funds is grounded in its core values of excellence, engagement, and equity with the intention of promoting long-term economic growth across the county.

As of December 31, 2024, Cook County successfully obligated 100% of its SLFRF award allocation – marking a major milestone in the County's commitment to responsible stewardship of federal dollars and delivering meaningful outcomes that advance long-term recovery and development for its residents. These dollars have been obligated across 79 transformative community initiatives, each committed to enhancing the well-being of all residents post-pandemic. These initiatives span six County policy pillars, complimented by various funding themes that were developed through community engagement efforts and highlight the County's priorities during and post-pandemic.

Now that all SLFRF funds have been obligated, Cook County is focused on continuing to ensure funds are fully and compliantly expended by December 31, 2026. To accomplish this, the County is committed to overseeing timely, results-oriented, innovative programming to efficiently and effectively address the multifaceted challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the ARPA funding period approaches its end, the County is also exploring additional funding opportunities to ensure that this important work is supported beyond 2026.

Policy Pillars

Cook County's [Policy Roadmap](#) documents the County's collective vision to improve outcomes for all residents. These goals are outlined in six priority areas, referred to as policy pillars. The first five policy pillars relate directly to the services provided to County residents. To achieve a high standard of efficiency and excellence, the sixth policy pillar describes how the County delivers services to its residents. Together, these policy pillars create the means to provide innovative and essential services for residents, establishing Cook County as an exceptional place to live, work, and visit.

With the collaboration and feedback from Cook County employees, partners, and community members, Cook County has aligned all 79 ARPA initiatives with one of the six policy pillars established in the Policy Roadmap. These community engagement efforts were essential to ensure that Cook County's usage of its ARPA funds responds to the broader objectives of the grant – to build strong and resilient recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity.

Healthy Communities

Health and Wellness - Integrating health and social services, addressing the social determinants of health, and improving the health and wellness of county employees and communities.

Vital Communities

Economic Development - Creating and retaining jobs, developing industry-sector strategies, supporting workforce training and development, quality housing, safety net services, and investments in infrastructure.

Safe and Thriving Communities

Safety and Justice - Implementing violence-reduction strategies proven to improve community safety, advocating for sustainable reforms within the criminal justice system, and investing in community-based services for residents.

Sustainable Communities

Climate Resiliency - Prioritizing environmental justice, addressing climate change, investing in clean energy and green jobs, and creating equitable access to open spaces.

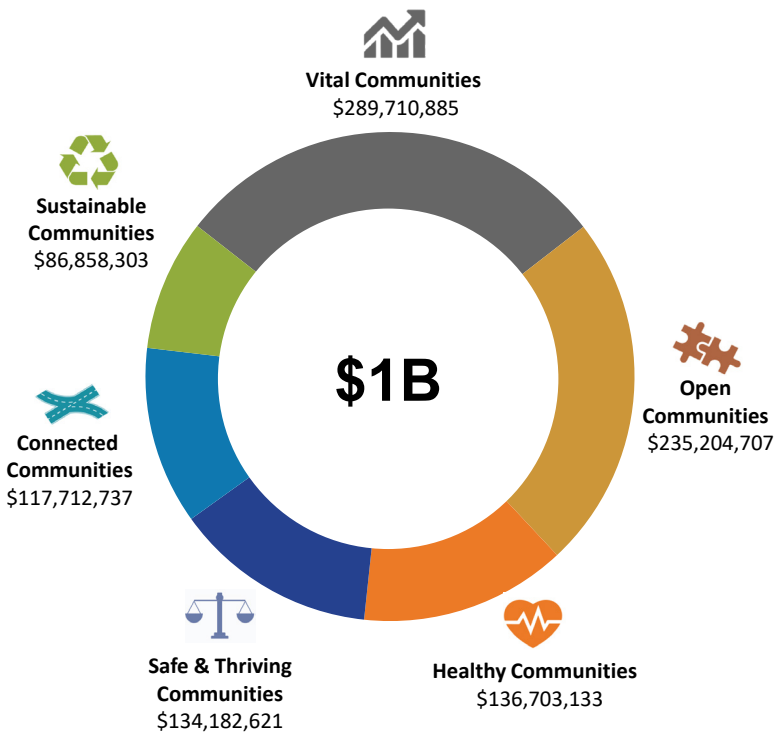
Connected Communities

Infrastructure and Technology - Maximizing the benefits of County buildings, improving transportation systems, and managing enterprise technology services.

Open Communities

Good Government - Achieving operational excellence by being accountable to residents, investing in the area workforce, and continuously improving County services.

Cook County's \$1,000,372,385 SLFRF award is dispersed across Cook's six policy pillars. Total allocation amounts by policy pillar can be seen below.



Policy Pillar Total Allocations

Vital Communities	\$290M
Open Communities	\$235M
Healthy Communities	\$137M
Safe & Thriving Communities	\$134M
Connected Communities	\$118M
Sustainable Communities	\$87M
Total Allocation	\$1,000,372,385

Funding Themes

The community engagement efforts and the feedback mechanisms have also led to the identification of key funding themes. These themes complement the policy pillars and expand on those pillars by building out ideas for implementation.

Support Healthy, Thriving Communities



All communities provide safe and healthy environments, quality housing and access to nutritious food

Themes include:

- Expand county-wide, community-based access to physical and mental health services especially in schools
- Invest in alternative first-responder initiatives for those experiencing mental health crises and others at the intersection of health and justice
- Expand supportive and permanent housing for specific populations
- Support local food growers and producers
- Support replacement of lead water service lines

Produce Services for Residents



Residents can access services that improve their quality of life

Themes include:

- Continue supporting basic resident needs including access to childcare, food, housing assistance, utility and cash assistance
- Expand violence prevention and reduction wrap-around services to individuals and communities at highest risk of violence
- Develop and scale justice programs that specifically serve youth and young adults
- Assist residents facing evictions and foreclosures, including with financial assistance and legal aid support

Drive Recovery and Growth



Comprehensive recovery and growth improves economic opportunities for all residents

Themes include:

- Continue and expand programs for workers and small businesses
- Expand workforce development efforts
- Support industry and sector efforts focused on manufacturing, food processing, transportation, distribution and logistics, and the green community
- Support the expansion of affordable and quality housing and other wrap-around services that lift residents out of poverty
- Invest in additional transportation projects that support equitable economic growth

Strengthen Local Governments



Local governments can access Cook County's scale and expertise to support key functions

Themes include:

- Provide capacity and technical assistance to local governments to support:
 - Capital improvement projects
 - Transportation investments
 - Emergency preparedness
 - Energy efficiency and sustainability
- Support efforts by local governments to share services or assets

Invest in Key Infrastructure



High-priority infrastructure projects impact more residents, more quickly

Themes include:

- Jumpstart broadband expansion to increase digital equity in communities of need
- Expand "Invest in Cook" program
- Broaden brownfield remediation efforts to more communities
- Invest in green infrastructure to address sewer backups and flooding
- Expand electric vehicle charging station infrastructure, especially in the south suburbs

Support the Metropolitan Region



Governments across the region have a collective interest in working together - "We all do better when we all do better"

Themes include:

- Support Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to enhance its transportation and development activities
- Continue collaborating with the City of Chicago on projects that support the County's policy priorities
- Support the "We Rise Together" initiative and others that focus on regional economic growth opportunities
- Assist with the creation of a region-wide 311 system to address non-emergency calls regarding service delivery

Figure 1. Cook County Funding Themes

Program Sustainability

Cook County's ARPA programing has had a transformative impact on communities across the County over the past four years. As the period of performance for ARPA funding approaches its final stretch, Cook County has begun planning for a post-ARPA future. To ensure that the needs of County residents continue to be met, the County has launched an exploratory effort to identify funding strategies to continue high-impact programing currently funded by SLFRF, known as Program Sustainability.

In the Spring of 2023, the County convened a Program Sustainability Working Group to holistically examine the County's priorities and determine how to allocate resources to vital programs post-2026. The working group conducted an assessment of the financial and programmatic impact of its SLFRF-funded programs, community engagement via the Cook County Voices survey, and alignment to County priorities as outlined in the Cook County Policy Roadmap. Activities related to the Program Sustainability initiative are currently ongoing, as the County continues to assess program results and perform financial planning for future years.

Uses of Funds

Funding Framework

Cook County allocated its \$1,000,372,385 of ARPA funding based on the six policy pillars identified in the Policy Roadmap. Cook County's Funding Framework reflects core County principles, including a focus on making progress toward equity; working towards achieving the goals outlined in the policy pillars; addressing the need for increased capacity within the County to support timely design, implementation, and community engagement; ensuring effective compliance reporting of the programs created through ARPA funding; and providing necessary support for local governments. These core principles and objectives play a critical role in determining the uses of ARPA funds in the form of the following key components:

- **Target ARPA funding** to support County policy priorities.
- **Center decision-making on core values** of equity, engagement and excellence.
- **Build on foundation** of existing County and regional efforts, including the County's [Policy Roadmap](#), [Equity Fund](#) and [We Rise Together](#).
- **Avoid duplication of resources** by leveraging existing efforts and infrastructure.
- **Maximize ARPA funding** by cross-mapping initiatives against more restrictive funding streams first.
- **Implement best practices** from the COVID-19 response.
 - Stand up additional capacity, infrastructure and expertise early.
 - Offer technical assistance to local governments regarding effective administration of ARPA funds.
- **Maintain flexibility** to reallocate funding as needed and as federal guidance evolves.
- **Have a path to program sustainability** or use one-time funds for one-time uses.

Identification and Approval of Projects

As a first step to ensure strategic and appropriate use of funds, the County led an extensive process beginning in the summer of 2021 to identify proposals addressing the most urgent County needs. These ideas for SLFRF spending stemmed from a variety of stakeholders, including County Commissioners, County Bureaus, non-profit partners, community surveys, separately elected officials and advisory bodies.

This process resulted in 426 proposals submitted for the County's consideration. In its next phase, the County provided its established Policy Pillar Teams, groups of about 10-20 subject matter experts in each of the six policy pillars, with each proposal for evaluation. All proposals were reviewed collaboratively, incorporating multiple evaluation criteria and metrics through a multi-phased approach. The various review committees worked to identify and streamline overlapping proposal ideas, ultimately advancing proposals aligned to the County's priorities. After proposal refinement and prioritization, the Policy Pillar Teams voted upon the remaining proposals.

Proposals that advanced from the Policy Pillar Teams were then considered by the Executive Leadership Council (ELC), a collection of Bureau Chiefs and Department Heads, together with County leadership who further prioritized and approved these proposals holistically across all six Policy Pillars. The ELC chose to fund 79 community initiatives, which it deemed the best programs to address County priorities.

Project Management Office (PMO)

To usher program ideation into program administration, Cook County developed a thorough project management review and an implementation process. In doing so, it incorporated a comprehensive assessment of each program into the process and evaluated the support needed to stand up the initiatives.

The PMO team spanned many County contributors from across departments to provide support and expertise for program startup. The departments represented in the PMO team included:

- Office of the President
- Office of the Chief Financial Officer
- Department of Budget and Management Services
- Bureau of Asset Management
- Bureau of Human Resources
- Bureau of Technology
- Office of the Chief Procurement Officer
- Office of the Public Information Officer
- Legal Department
- Contract Compliance
- Department of Research, Operations, and Innovation
- Office of the County Auditor
- Office of Legislative Affairs
- Comptroller

PMO review at Cook County included the following phases, ensuring the efficient rollout, management and oversight of all community initiatives.



Phase I

Intake

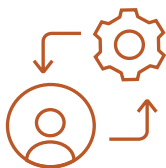
- Departments identified program leads to complete a comprehensive information packet for all proposals approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- Program leads created proposals, including budgets, Treasury Expenditure Categories, and metrics to track program effectiveness.



Phase II

PMO Review

- PMO reviewed information packets and met with program leads to move proposals toward implementation.
- PMO reviewed elements critical to implementation success (procurement processes, budget, metrics, technology support).



Phase III

Implementation Readiness

- PMO finalized Treasury Expenditure Categories, program metrics, and set up necessary program codes and accounts to transfer program funding.
- Programmatic Teams set up technical assistance for each program.



Phase IV

Monitoring & Compliance

- Processes have been implemented to select and sign agreements with contractors and subgrantees, with appropriate fiscal reporting structures, to ensure County partners comply with contract terms and Treasury requirements.



Phase V

Reporting & Impact Evaluation

- Departments identified program leads to complete a comprehensive information packet for all proposals approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- Program leads created proposals, including budgets, Treasury Expenditure Categories, and metrics to track program effectiveness.

As of the publication of this report, 79 community initiatives have undergone PMO review and are reported in the Project Inventory below (Page 21 onwards).

In creating this thorough review process and service group to oversee and manage ARPA programming, Cook County has worked to ensure that all its initiatives include a rigorous eligibility analysis and display its core values of excellence, engagement, and equity.

Innovative Programming and Accomplishments

Throughout the process of selecting and standing up the community initiatives, Cook County has prioritized innovative programming to address the multifaceted challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the programs developed during this process have also been nationally recognized for their potential long-standing impact both locally and nationally.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, Cook County has received 90 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards, of which over a dozen awards have been given to ARPA funded initiatives. Some examples include the Build Up Cook Program (2024 Awardee), which helps communities access infrastructure funds, implement projects and set up new internal systems and processes to support capital investment, and the Manufacturing Reinvented Program (2023 Awardee), which utilizes technical assistance and \$5 million in SLFRF funding, to support manufacturers in implementing solutions to address specific company needs such as adopting automation, improving cyber security, and building supply chain resiliency.

Through these initiatives, Cook County has made significant strides in ensuring residents have access to essential services and opportunities for growth. These accomplishments underscore the dedication and work of all County employees, and the County remains committed to continuing this work to further enhance the well-being of its residents.

To maintain transparency and keep residents up to date on these accomplishments, Cook County has established a [public-facing ARPA website](#) dedicated to providing regular updates on their progress in relation to the grant and the accomplishments of funded initiatives. Specifically, the [Cook County ARPA Dashboard](#) is updated monthly to provide real time updates on statuses and the spending progress of Cook's various innovative programs.

Board Resolutions

Cook County's Board of Commissioners has been committed to a rigorous oversight process of proposed SLFRF programming. The Board plays a crucial role in the approval of proposed initiatives and oversight of program administration. Through Board reviews of detailed initiatives or subrecipient agreements of over \$1 million, the County has consistently ensured a thorough review of allocation of SLFRF monies.

The following outlines the key decisions approved by the Cook County Board of Commissioners regarding SLFRF allocations and budget recommendations from 2021 to 2025:

Date	Decisions Approved by the Board of Commissioners
June 29, 2021	Approved initial SLFRF allocations totaling up to \$25 million to be spent through December 31, 2021, to enable continued ARPA-funded support for certain County initiatives established using the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) in 2020, as well as immediate County personnel support needs for ARPA implementation.
January 13, 2022	Voted to approve allocations of funds per Policy Pillar for Fiscal Year 2022
March 17, 2022	Voted to approve allocations of funds for all the of proposed initiatives detailed in the project inventory below for Fiscal Year 2022
November 17, 2022	Voted to approve the Executive Budget Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2023
November 16, 2023	Voted to approve the Executive Budget Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2024
November 21, 2024	Voted to approve the Executive Budget Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2025

Strategy and Goals by Treasury Expenditure Category

Public Health

Cook County has focused on initiatives such as expanding access to physical and mental health services and programs to address community violence. The Cook County Department of Public Health's (CCDPH) In-Home Vaccination Program and Hyperlocal Vaccination Program have worked to ensure that Cook County residents have access to COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations. Other initiatives include the expansion of existing prevention activities for disorders exacerbated by COVID-19—such as opioid and substance use in suburban Cook County—the hiring of full-time behavioral health care coordinators at Housing Authority of Cook County's (HACC) affordable housing properties, and millions in additional funding to enhance behavioral health care at the community level by increasing the numbers of social workers to CCH's Ambulatory Care sites and adding after-hours behavioral health clinics in the community. With the understanding that community violence is a public health emergency, Cook County's Justice Advisory Council (JAC) is has hosted several projects that adopt a holistic approach to community violence that focus on community engagement and community partners.

NT897: Violence Prevention and Reduction Grant Portfolio

The Violence Prevention and Reduction Grant Portfolio has leveraged \$85 million in ARPA funding to expand community-based services supporting residents at risk of experiencing gun violence as a victim or perpetrator. Services are focused in communities within Chicago and Suburban Cook County with the highest rates of shooting incidents and gun homicides. The initiative takes a holistic approach to building safer communities by funding Community Violence Intervention (CVI) services including street outreach, case management, and victim services as well as job training and youth programs.

"The Firehouse changed my life for the better. If it wasn't for their outreach team not giving up on me, ain't no telling where I would be. I've lost a lot of friends and two brothers to gun violence.

Waking up everyday not knowing if today is gonna be your last just didn't sit right with me so I made a decision I didn't want to be a part of that life anymore. The Firehouse outreach team came to me once again and I was finally ready. I told myself that I was going to stand out in the program and that's exactly what I did. Now I am proud to say that I am a Firehouse employee, working with and mentoring guys like me."

Preston
Former Firehouse Participant
Current Firehouse Professional Mentor

Since its launch in 2022, over 15,000 people have received services under the initiative. Cook County is experiencing reductions in rates of gun violence with over 25% fewer gun homicides from 2024 and an over 40% reduction from 2021.

One grant recipient, The Firehouse Community Arts Center, uses a hyperlocal approach to interrupt cycles of violence in the North Lawndale community and engage young people through the arts. The funded Very Important Process (VIP) program works with at-risk young men, providing mentorship, therapeutic services, workforce development opportunities and access to the arts. Outreach teams form connections with young people, create a supportive environment, and keep them engaged. Young men in the program are exposed to fields with high placement rates, including culinary arts and construction. All currently enrolled VIP participants have achieved employment as a result of consistent mentorship, strong partnerships with workforce development programs, and the deep trust outreach staff have cultivated with participants.

Another partner, BUILD, has been serving westside families for over 50 years with a mission to inspire hope and offer opportunities to youth facing systemic obstacles and challenges including involvement in the justice system and chronic exposure to violence. ARPA funding has allowed BUILD to significantly expand its services for youth and families, including extended hours until midnight and broader community access. The organization now offers inclusive programming for all ages and collaborates with partner organizations to provide additional resources, creating a safe and supportive space for entire families to grow, connect, and thrive



Negative Economic Impacts

Cook County is going to great lengths to address the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 through a comprehensive strategy targeting assistance to households, neighborhoods, small businesses, and impacted industries. Assistance to households includes cash assistance, food assistance programming, support to hotel-based sheltering models to house Cook County's unhoused, and legal aid for housing and debt (which provides legal aid and mediation services to those at risk of eviction or foreclosure stemming from COVID-19 impacts). One of Cook County's initiatives, Cook County Manufacturing Reinvented, is supporting manufacturers countywide in implementing projects to improve their business competitiveness as they continue to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic.

NT100: Cook County Manufacturing Reinvented (Rebound and Recover Programming)

With the onset of COVID-19, Cook County Manufacturing Reinvented partnered with the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) to conduct an historic outreach and census of suburban Cook County manufacturers to ascertain the impact of the pandemic on their businesses. Over 1,000 manufacturers completed the survey prioritizing their urgent needs into ten assessment categories essential for long-term competitive success.

Manufacturing Reinvented utilizes technical assistance from the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center to assist manufacturers in addressing these identified priorities and needs. Eligible projects cover the following themes: market growth, workforce training, operational improvements, and leadership as these align with the survey priority results. These investments made by manufacturers into their businesses are reimbursed through Cook County's ARPA funding.



"Funding for Manufacturing Reinvented has been essential to our growth. This allows us to grow our workforce and augment our ability to create more careers. We compete nationally and are aware of the challenges of being in business in Illinois and neighboring states. These programs allow us to compete and grow with minimal impact to taxpayers."

**Apparel Redefined
Manufacturing Reinvented Participant**

Specifically, the program is designed to be highly customized to address company needs regardless of size. This is essential particularly for the very small manufacturers, defined as less than 20 employees. This program serves as an ongoing method of gaining market insights from county manufacturers to further help Cook County adapt and plan for the ever-changing needs of the manufacturing sector and highlights manufacturing as a critical component to the local economy.

Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure

Cook County is focusing on initiatives such as increasing water and energy efficiency and expanding broadband to increase digital equity for all residents.

NT096: Chicago Southland Fiber Network Expansion

The Chicago Southland Fiber Network (CSFN) Expansion is a transformational infrastructure investment designed to close the digital divide and unlock economic opportunity in the South Suburbs of Cook County. This long-term initiative focuses on building and expanding high-speed fiber broadband connections to critical anchor institutions such as schools, libraries, government offices, healthcare facilities, and public safety agencies that serve as lifelines for local residents.

This initiative is driven by a commitment to equity and impact. The CSFN Expansion prioritizes communities with the highest Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) in Illinois. These are areas where poverty, unemployment, housing instability, and limited transportation options have historically limited access to opportunity. In these communities, reliable internet is not a luxury—it is essential for education, healthcare, employment, and civic engagement.

By delivering gigabit-speed fiber to municipal corridors and commercial zones, the CSFN strengthens public services and builds a digital backbone for economic development. It helps attract new businesses, support local entrepreneurs, and provide a competitive edge to the region's workforce. Free public Wi-Fi at anchor sites ensures that residents who cannot afford home broadband are still able to access essential services.

Increased investment in broadband infrastructure has already demonstrated real impact. By expanding CSFN, Cook County is not just installing fiber—it is laying the foundation for a more connected, resilient, and prosperous future for the Southland.



Revenue Replacement

As of 2024, Cook County has an estimate total revenue loss of \$428,263,699.51, which is being used to support County Operations and provision of government services, including administrative costs, capacity building activity, capital infrastructure and sustainable ongoing personnel costs. These activities are capped at an amount equal or less than the amount of revenue loss calculated.

NT099: Build Up Cook

Build Up Cook, administered by the Bureau of Asset Management (BAM), was designed to meet the critical infrastructure needs of the municipalities and neighborhoods throughout Cook County. Since its inception in 2023, Build Up Cook has become a vital force in addressing long-standing infrastructure challenges across vulnerable communities by combining Cook County's technical expertise, skilled workforce, and funding resources. Through close collaboration with municipalities, the program has successfully executed critical projects such as replacing aging water mains and repairing essential civic structures, while also empowering local leaders through transformative workshops on budgeting, grant management, and community resource development. These efforts have not only delivered tangible improvements but also fostered stronger municipal networks and capacity. In recognition of its impact, Build Up Cook received the 2024 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award and the American Planning Association – Illinois Chapter's Advancing Diversity and Social Change Award for its commitment to equity and innovation in public service.

"Build Up Cook is providing the City of Chicago Heights with invaluable technical assistance and engineering expertise for infrastructure maintenance and repair. We appreciate the team and their collaboration with city staff for sharing the knowledge, direction and resources to assist the city moving forward."

Mayor David Gonzalez
Chicago Heights, IL

Recognizing the urgent need for safe and reliable water systems, Build Up Cook has dedicated a significant portion of its ARPA funds to upgrading critical water infrastructure across the county. Through extensive community engagement, including site visits and meetings, the program identified high-priority projects such as replacing hydrants, valves, and upgrading pumphouses—many of which had previously been found unusable during fire emergencies. By shifting from a reactive to a proactive approach, Build Up Cook is helping municipalities address water system vulnerabilities before they become crises. A standout example of this work is the partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete a major watermain replacement in the Village of Dixmoor. This new infrastructure proved vital during a recent magnesium factory fire, where it successfully delivered 1,500 gallons per minute overnight to extinguish the blaze.



Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Cook County recognizes that its public sector capacity is critical to delivering COVID-19 programming and other essential services. To that end, it has invested into capacity building resources such as a public health emergency preparedness expansion, digital equity analysis and planning, and robust evaluations of priority programming. Examples include food deserts in Cook County preventing residents from access to nutritious food, an analysis of Cook County's criminal justice budgets and efforts and Cook County's 2-1-1 and community information exchange linking health, human and social services to better care for its residents.

Premium Pay

To support employees for work done to mitigate COVID-19 since the public health emergency was declared in March 2020, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved certain one-time payments over a series of Board meetings for certain Cook County employees. The Board approved one-time payments of \$3,000 for FY2021 and \$1,000 for FY2022 per applicable employee, with limited exceptions as identified in the County's Collective Bargaining Agreements. The County distributed \$45.13 million to applicable employees between FY21-23. The County has acknowledged and has been in full compliance with the guidance from the Treasury that due to the end of the Public Health Emergency, premium pay could only be administered to essential workers for work completed through April 10, 2023.

Other Federal Recovery Funds

Coronavirus Relief Fund

Cook County received \$428.6M from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund, which was administered by the Department of the Treasury and concluded December 2021.

- \$308.6M to operational initiatives and direct costs incurred by the County in order to address COVID-19 and ensure continuity of services in compliance with public health guidance and mandates, including costs incurred to reorganize the County's public space for social distancing, the purchase of equipment to allow workers to telecommute, and funding used to defray the cost of public health and public safety workers directly involved in the response to the pandemic;
- \$50.8M to assist 134 suburban municipalities and units of local government pursuant to an equitable distribution strategy, which recognized that a historic disinvestment in certain communities within the County resulted in an unequal capacity for suburban local governments to respond to the challenges that COVID-19 presents; and
- \$69.2M distributed via the Bureau of Economic Development to direct service providers within Cook County to address critical social service needs as well as economic and community development needs which launched The Cook County Community Recovery Initiative that includes, but is not limited to, the following: Cook County COVID-19 Small Business Assistance Program, The Southland Development Authority Business Growth Services, Cook County Job Training and Placement, Cook County Rental Assistance Program, Cook County Mortgage Assistance Program, and Cook County Critical Social Service Programs (Homeless Sheltering Program, Legal Aid, Housing Counseling and Foreclosure Mediation Program, Food Assistance Program, Direct Financial Assistance Program).

Emergency Rental Assistance Funds

Cook County received \$72.8M from the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) in December 2020, for use in its Emergency Rental Assistance Program which launched in March 2021. The Treasury requires at least 90% of the total award be used to provide rent and utility financial assistance and that no more than 10% of the total award be used for administrative costs and that no more than 10% of the total award be used for housing stability services. At program inception, Cook County has budgeted \$65.5M - or 90% of the total award - for rent and utility financial assistance and \$7.3M - or 10% of the total award - for administrative and housing stability services costs. As of the date of this report, however, Cook County obtained a total of \$15.5M in four rounds of ERA 1 Reallocated Funds. The County allocated \$11.3M of the Reallocated Funds and diverted \$3M in funds originally allocated for administrative costs to rent and utility assistance. Thus, the County has allocated a total of \$84M to rent and utility assistance, with all funds obligated to date (100%) and 9,550 applications supported (representing over 95% of total funds used for direct assistance).

With the passing of the American Rescue Plan Act, the County received an additional allocation of \$75.17M which was used for a supplementary phase of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The second phase of the program launched in the fourth quarter of 2021. The program targeted low-income renters in Suburban Cook County who meet the criteria of:

- Households with income under 80% Area Median Income (AMI) based on the number of people in the household
- Those who show financial hardship during or due, directly or indirectly, to the Coronavirus pandemic
- Those who demonstrate risk of homelessness or housing instability

In ERA2, the County provided \$77.6M for rent and utility assistance, with \$85.2M of funds obligated to-date (100%) and 9,551 applications supported. Cook County originally budgeted \$66M for rent and utility financial assistance and \$9M, or 12% of the total award, for administrative and housing stability services costs. The County was able to lower the program's budgeted administrative cost from 12% to 9% by close-out. In addition, Cook County obtained a total of \$10M additional funds over three rounds of ERA 2 Reallocations from the Treasury.

Other Federal Recovery Funds, cont'd.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Funds

On March 9, 2020, the Governor of Illinois proclaimed the COVID-19 pandemic a state disaster, noting that COVID-19 is a novel, severely acute respiratory illness that spreads through respiratory transmissions, with certain populations being at higher risk of more severe illness. During the incident period for disaster, DR- 4489-IL, the COVID-19 pandemic created an immediate threat to the health and safety of the public requiring an emergency response and institution of protective measures throughout Cook County and the rest of the State of Illinois. Beginning January 20, 2020, Cook County has been legally required to provide emergency medical care to its population. On March 26, 2020, a Presidential declaration of a major disaster was issued for the State of Illinois (DR-4489-IL). The declaration established the start of the COVID-19 pandemic as January 20, 2020 (and ongoing). It also determined that the emergency conditions in the state were of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq. (the "Stafford Act"). On February 10, 2023, FEMA announced the closure of the incident period, effective May 11, 2023, for all COVID-19 emergency and major disaster declarations under the Stafford Act, coinciding with the end of the public health emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cook County has been actively working with FEMA and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) on its COVID-19 project applications covering labor, materials and supplies, and vaccination expenses incurred as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency since March 2020.

As of the date of this report, Cook County has been fully reimbursed by FEMA on its labor, materials and supplies, and vaccination operations projects. These reimbursements total \$313.7 million across 106 projects. An additional \$7.2 million associated with administrative costs remains pending submission to IEMA and FEMA.

As the FEMA Public Assistance lifecycle approaches its end, the County is working to complete programmatic closeout activities. The FEMA PA closeout process involves collecting and reconciling 100% supporting documentation to validate project expenses once reimbursed. To date, 105 projects representing \$224.9 million have been submitted for closeout. Programmatic closeout is anticipated to be complete by September 30, 2025.

HHS National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities Grant

Cook County received \$25.2M from HHS as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021. The purpose of the funding opportunity is to build the infrastructure, capacity and capabilities of the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) to implement a coordinated and holistic approach with partners that builds on culturally, linguistically and locally tailored strategies and best practices to reduce COVID-19 risk, builds and sustains trust with communities and populations disproportionately affected by COVID, and ensures equitable access to COVID-19 related services and advance health equity.

CCDPH implemented activities with partners across all four of the following strategies:

- Expand existing or develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.
- Increase or improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness and death to guide COVID-19 pandemic response.
- Build, leverage and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved.
- Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities.

This funding was available for use during the period of June 1, 2021, through June 1, 2023.

Other Federal Recovery Funds, cont'd.

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) COVID-19 Contact Tracing Grant

Cook County received \$38,935,752 from IDPH to rapidly scale up its COVID-19 contact tracing program. Cook County used these funds on several initiatives to increase contact tracing capacity such as hiring additional personnel and engaging contractual services (for research and communication resources) ahead of the spend deadline of March 31, 2022.

IDPH COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Grant

Cook County received \$9.9M from IDPH to perform mass vaccination efforts. Cook County targeted the use of these funds on CCDPH programs and costs not covered by FEMA for mass vaccination efforts, ahead of the December 31, 2022, deadline to spend the funds.

IDPH COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Grant

Cook County received \$3.15M from IDPH for scaling up the public health workforce in the face of COVID-19. Cook County used these funds for establishing, expanding, training, and sustaining public health workforce to support jurisdictional COVID-19 response needs ahead of the spend deadline of June 30, 2023.

IDPH COVID-19 Response Grant

Cook County received \$3.5M from IDPH for accelerating its overall efforts in response to COVID 19 response. Cook County continued its prevention and response efforts through this grant ahead of the spend deadline of June 30, 2023.

Election Assistance Funds

Cook County received \$3.56M from the Illinois State Board of Elections to protect the 2020 elections from the effects of COVID-19, as part of the CARES Act which provided new Help America Vote Act (HAVA) emergency funds. Cook County used these funds on a variety of expenses including software for mail ballot printing/mailling; COVID-19 related supplies including masks, gloves, disinfectant, sanitizer, face shields and additional election equipment such as scanners. These funds were used by Cook County during the period of May 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020.

Additionally, Cook County received \$1.16M through the Illinois State Board of Elections for postage reimbursement associated with the increased costs for mailings due to COVID-19 for the November 2020 General Election. These funds were used by Cook County during the period of July 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020.

Local Assistance and Tribal Recovery Fund (LATCF)

Cook County has received \$100,000 through the LATCF program. The LATCF was established under the American Rescue Plan to eligible revenue sharing county governments for which there is a negative revenue impact due to implementation of a federal program.

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Violence Prevention Grant

Cook County received \$25M from IDHS to reduce firearm violence through funding a diverse array of service providers focused on supporting residents at high risk of experiencing gun violence, ahead of the spend deadline of June 30, 2024. The close-out for the grant was completed as of August 2024.

IDHS Emergency Rental Assistance Funds

Cook County received an additional \$15M in Emergency Rental Assistance Funds from IDHS' allocation.

Community Engagement

Community engagement was an important piece of the selection and implementation of projects funded under ARPA. Cook County believes it is critical that feedback comes directly from its residents and businesses to help guide how funding should be allocated in communities. To build capacity to ensure robust engagement over the course of the planning and implementation of SLFRF, Cook County engaged a local, well-established organization that provided professionalized engagement activities, partnering with a diverse group of community-based organizations, and coordinated councils rooted in that have disproportionately suffered the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. Community-based organizations and coordinating councils have deep networks in the communities where they operate and a high degree of trust among members of those communities. Therefore, these community-based organizations and coordinating councils play a critical role in maximizing community-based engagement and increasing equitable opportunities to participate in Cook County's planning and decision-making processes.

The community engagement approach included three tiers:

- 1. Broad Outreach:** Broad engagement and outreach across all of Cook County including engagement of Commissioner districts through town halls in impacted communities as well as the launch of the [interactive survey](#) for community-wide input on July 4, 2021.
- 2. Impacted Communities:** Hyper local engagement and outreach in the impacted communities that have been historically disinvested in and those hardest hit by COVID-19.
- 3. Place-Based Outreach:** Longer-term, place-based engagement for the transformative initiatives being developed by the County's Equity Fund Taskforce, an advisory body established prior to the County's receipt of SLFRF funds.

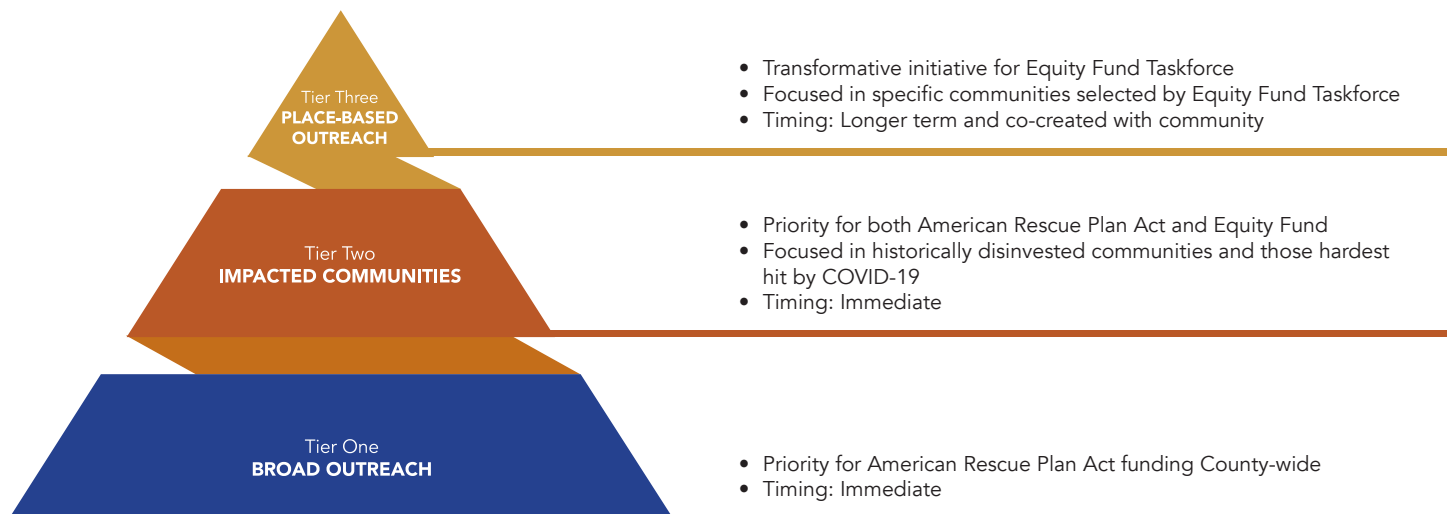


Figure 3. Cook County Community Engagement

Over 30,000 participants engaged in Cook County's robust surveying and community town halls, generating 270 individual ideas. The full report, published on December 10, 2021, primarily highlights healthcare (particularly mental health), housing and infrastructure as areas of key concern.

These priorities align with the proposed and approved initiatives by Cook County Board of Commissioners. As programs are facilitated, many have incorporated their own community engagement focus and outreach efforts to best reach all residents.

As Cook County considers continued investment in programming beyond ARPA through the Program Sustainability initiative, community engagement will remain a priority for the County. The County's Program Sustainability initiative will incorporate community outreach by rolling out a community survey, hosting community conversations with residents, and finally, releasing a report that will provide the results of these efforts in order to provide transparency and insight into what and how the County plans to prioritize and sustain specific ARPA programs.

Labor Practices

As Cook County conducts infrastructure programs that serve communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency, a specific review of labor practices is incorporated into the program design. The infrastructure programs and contracts that utilize ARPA funds may include various labor standards, prevailing wage requirements, local hiring goals, as well as premium pay plans for onsite workforce.

The infrastructure projects are evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine what labor standards and/or project labor agreements may be considered to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of high-quality skilled labor. All infrastructure projects that fall under the definition of “public works” require the payment of wages no less than the prevailing rate of wages that the Illinois Department of Labor publishes and revises annually on its website at <http://labor.illinois.gov/>. Local hiring goals or coordination of employment opportunities through various workforce programs may be negotiated to provide economic opportunities for workers in Cook County and projects may include a provision for premium pay for workers performing services on-site.

Where relevant, the County provides documentation to the Treasury of wages and labor standards for capital expenditure projects and infrastructure projects over \$10 million.

The County’s attention to labor practices are meant to promote the effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects while also supporting the economic recovery of Cook County through employment opportunities for workers.

Use of Evidence

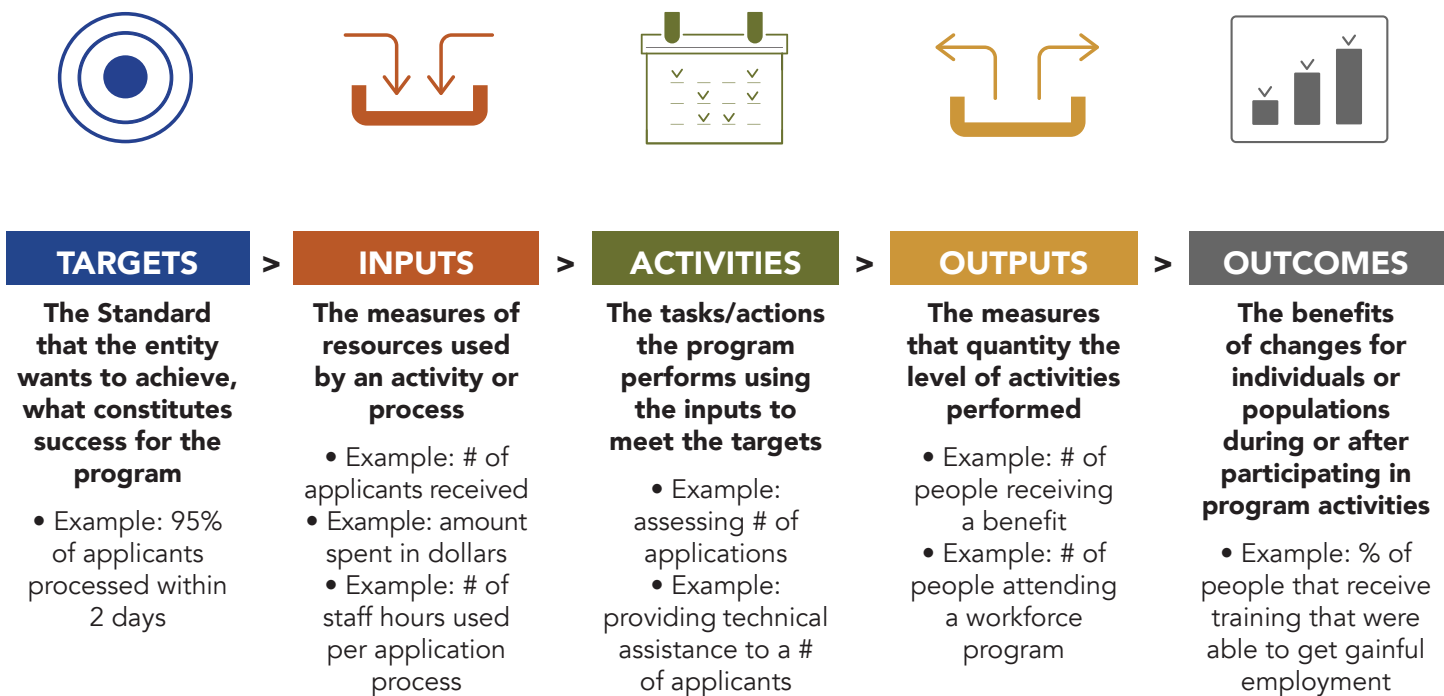
As Cook County evaluated the initiatives submitted by stakeholders and the community, it determined which initiatives are to be assessed through an evidence-based intervention or rigorous program evaluation. This consideration has been factored into Cook County’s overall strategy to ensure SLFRF funds are being used efficiently, effectively and serving communities to the highest degree.

By standing up proposed initiatives through a rigorous PMO review process, the County ensured that project budgets are allocated toward established, evidence-based interventions. In the project inventory below, appropriate projects are evaluated with relevant evidence clearinghouses and assessed as having a medium or strong evidence basis. Almost every program with this requirement has an evidence-based approach, with the few exceptions being unique approaches (such as personalized small business assistance). Furthermore, programs continue to partner with community partners and academic institutions to facilitate thorough program review. With each Recovery Report, the County will report evaluations and link to literature if applicable.

Performance Report

Each new near-term or transformative initiative that has been approved for funding is required to have performance indicators and/or programmatic data. The Treasury has defined specific programmatic metrics that the County must report on based on the assigned Expenditure Category for certain initiatives, as detailed in the [SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#). Additionally, the County also may require these programs to develop and report on program-specific and county equity metrics, based on the scope of the programs. These metrics are factored into Cook County's overall strategy to demonstrate progress, transparency, and compliance with the use of SLFRF.

In the ideation of each initiative, program leads proposed a logic model for the project, including outputs and outcomes as performance indicators. In doing so, Cook County has designed accountability and review structures to ensure impactful and engaging programming for Cook County residents and visitors.



PROJECT INVENTORY

Cook County of Illinois

State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The following section inventories Cook County's near-term (NT) and transformative (TR) initiatives that have launched with this funding. Cook County is proud to usher forward these ambitious projects with the potential to transform health and wellness, community and economic development, criminal justice and community safety, environmental sustainability and public capacity and infrastructure within our geographic region.

Projects included in this inventory have completed PMO review and have been allocated a budget. They have been designed with feedback and guidance from residents, community partners, suburban municipalities, and policy experts. In a few instances, similar programs are combined as a single project to Treasury.

Cook County looks forward to progressing these programs for a better, stronger, and more resilient County over the coming years.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



NT017 Urban Farming Initiative Gap Analysis Research

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Environment and Sustainability

Project Identification Number: 65564

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$150,000

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$122,556

Project Term: 2023-2025

Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

South Suburban Cook County municipalities contain many areas that have been identified as food deserts, or urban areas in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food. Initiating or supporting current urban farming projects in these areas will help deliver healthy and sustainable food options while educating community members on sustainable farming practices and composting organics. Cook County will conduct a gap analysis study to get a more in-depth understanding of how to best support current and future initiatives in the short-, medium-, and long-term. In doing so, Cook County can address its food deserts with comprehensive programming and development.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of individuals interviewed	238
# of local incubation opportunities identified	52
# of agriculture hubs and co-ops identified	3

NT033 Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 65656
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$3,186,040
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$881,962
Project Term: 2022-2025
Project Expenditure Category: 2.2 Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation

Project Overview

The Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund supplies funding for the Cook County Department of Public Health's lead program, supporting staff who work to prevent and address children's lead exposure in suburban Cook County, as well as lead hazard remediation for low- to middle-income families. ARPA dollars are extending the work of the Department for an additional three years, allowing continued services to families with lead-exposed children, including lead exposure prevention education, lead risk assessments to identify lead-based hazards in the home, and remediation of identified hazards to remove or control them and protect children.

Use of Evidence

The goals of the program as lead hazard remediation and provider education.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Evaluation of HUD- funded lead hazard control treatments at 6 years post-intervention	ScienceDirect	The US Department of Housing and Urban Development provided grants to state and local governments to control lead- based paint hazards in low income, private homes. Using a stratified random sampling scheme, this study found that this intervention significantly reduced environmental lead levels on floors, windowsills and window troughs.	Non-Experimental
The impact of low-level toxicity on school performance among children in the Chicago Public Schools: a population-based retrospective cohort study	Environmental Health	The study examined 58,650 children born in Chicago and examined the association between lead concentration and academic performance. Researchers estimate that 13% of reading failure and 14.8% of math failure cases can be attributed to higher blood lead concentrations.	Non-Experimental
Health Effects of Lead Exposure	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	The CDC outlines how lead exposure harms children's health including damaging the brain and nervous system, slowing growth and development, learning and behavior problems, and hearing and speech problems.	Non-Experimental

NT033 Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund, cont'd.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of units where lead hazards were identified	103
# of units where lead hazards were removed	50
% of units where lead hazards were removed	49%
# of applications submitted for lead hazard remediation	69
# of applications approved for lead hazard remediation	61
% of applications approved for lead hazard remediation	88%
# of medical providers trained on lead screening and reporting requirements	52
# of nurse home visits conducted	225

NT036 Opioid Overdose and Substance Use Prevention Initiative

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
 Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 63711
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$7,069,513
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$4,106,084
 Project Term: 2023-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 1.13 Substance Use Services

Project Overview

The Opioid Overdose and Substance Use Prevention Initiative expands existing prevention activities to address the impact of COVID-19 on opioid and substance use disorder in suburban Cook County. The initiative includes: (1) distributing naloxone and other harm reduction supplies and providing community outreach and public education on how to recognize and respond to an overdose; (2) bolstering capacity for harm reduction services in the South and West suburbs where harm reduction non-profits are few and far between; (3) expanding community-based drug checking programs; and (4) expanding initiatives to leverage existing and new data sources to inform substance use prevention efforts. Cook County Department of Public Health analysis shows a strong connection between poverty and overdose risk, and increases in opioid overdose deaths for middle-aged, African American men in suburban Cook County.

In addition to the metrics captured below, in 2024, 4,579 naloxone kits were distributed by CCDPH's Health Educator to community-based organizations, libraries, law enforcement, and other organizations. At least 36 kits of naloxone that were distributed by CCDPH were used in overdose events in 2024.

CCDPH's funded partner also trained staff at three community-based organizations to analyze and share drug-checking data with people who use drugs. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIRs) were placed with the technicians at the three organizations to expand the availability of drug checking services in suburban Cook County.

In collaboration with the Village of Maywood, CCDPH held a substance use event series with faith and school leaders, violence interrupters, business leaders, and older adults. Sixty violence interrupters were trained in how to recognize the signs of an overdose and administer naloxone; each person at the training was also provided a naloxone kit. Ten countertop community naloxone boxes were also placed with west suburban businesses, behavioral health treatment providers, and other organizations.

Lastly, between October and December of 2024, five naloxone vending machines were placed with courthouse probation offices with the Cook County Office of the Chief Judge. Analysis published in the Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment found that people on probation are 15 more likely than Cook County residents to die from overdose. Two-hundred and fourteen kits were dispensed through these naloxone vending machines by the end of 2024.

NT036 Opioid Overdose and Substance Use Prevention Initiative, cont'd.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to increase naloxone access, increase access to harm reduction services, increase access to drug checking services and improve understanding of the illicit drug market composition.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Impact of a community-based naloxone distribution program on opioid overdose death rates	Drug and Alcohol Dependence	This study evaluated a naloxone distribution program implemented in North Carolina in August 2013. They did a one-group, pre-post design study using county-level data. Researchers found that distributing naloxone kits was associated with lower opioid overdose death rates. They estimate that 353 deaths were avoided by this program. Additionally, on average for every dollar spent on the program, \$2,742 were saved due to avoiding opioid related deaths.	Non-Experimental
Perspectives on rapid fentanyl test strips as a harm reduction practice among young adults who use drugs: a qualitative study	Harm Reduction Journal	From May to September 2017, this study gave 93 young adults in Rhode Island rapid fentanyl test strips and taught them how to use them. They then returned in 90 days to see how the tests affected their behavior. The study found that 87% of the participants used at least one of the test strips, and a majority found them useful and straightforward to use. Additionally, a positive result from the test led participants to alter their drug use behavior, including discarding the drug supply, using with someone else and keeping naloxone nearby.	Non-Experimental
Opioid overdose rates and implementation of overdose education and nasal naloxone distribution in Massachusetts: interrupted time series analysis	The BMJ	This study evaluated the impact of a state-supported overdose education and naloxone distribution program on rates of opioid related deaths from overdose in Massachusetts. They found that communities that implemented this program saw a reduction in overdose related deaths.	Non-Experimental

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of clients referred to additional support services	8,306
# of individuals that received harm reduction counseling conducted by Community-based Organizations (CBOs)	16,559
# of naloxone kits given out by subrecipients	19,874
# of naloxone training sessions performed by subrecipients	13,131
# of naloxone training sessions performed by CCDPH	3
# of sample drugs checked	2,796
# of total individuals trained	13,599
# of various harm reduction safer use supplies given out by CBOs	43,105

NT037 Sustaining Mental Health Hotline for Suburban Residents

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 63810
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,485,000
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$668,732
Project Term: 2023-2025
Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview

The Cook County Department of Public Health and NAMI Chicago are expanding an existing mental health support line in the City of Chicago to provide support and referral for suburban Cook County residents. The hotline will be staffed seven days a week and will provide emotional support; refer callers to mental health treatment, substance use, and other resources; and provide intensive case support for callers with significant needs through its clinical support program. ARPA funding will be used to provide service to suburban Cook County residents through November 30, 2025.

Use of Evidence

The goal is to provide mental health support to approximately 3,500 to 4,000 callers per year.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Are crisis lines meeting new mental health needs?	American Psychological Association	This article explains how there are no randomized controlled trials for crisis lines because it is both ethically and logistically difficult to do so. They highlight a study by Madelyn Gould, PhD, who found that 80% of callers who were interviewed 6 to 12 weeks after assessing the lifeline said the crisis line kept them from carrying out suicide.	Non-Experimental
Follow-up with Callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Evaluation of Callers' Perceptions of Care	Suicide Life Threat Behavior	This study included 550 callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 6 to 12 weeks after they called. 70.6% of participants said the call stopped them from taking their life and 90.6% said the call kept them safe.	Non-Experimental
Crisis line services: A 12-month descriptive analysis of callers, call content, and referrals	National Library of Medicine	This study looked at various aspects of a crisis line service center in the US over 12 months. They found that 99.5% of the callers (n=3,068) reported that the call was helpful.	Non-Experimental

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of callers to hotline	1,043
# of referrals provided to callers	2,597

NT041 Building Healthy Communities Initiative

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
 Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 65262
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$5,634,755
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$272,000
 Project Term: 2022-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) Building Healthy Communities Initiative is strengthening the capacity of and collaboration across CCDPH and local organizations to advance community solutions to improve health outcomes for all residents. Participating organizations across Cook County continue to provide programs and services for mental health, positive youth development, and healthy food access. Working with local, community-based organizations is critical in reaching priority populations and building trust with communities for sustainable, transformative change.

Use of Evidence

The Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center (P3RC) at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health partnered with CCDPH to conduct a multi-method developmental evaluation of the Building Healthy Communities Initiative. This evaluation sought to understand how community engagement and capacity-building are realized at the organizational, community, and systems levels by the initiative and CCDPH more broadly.

Reports reflecting evaluation activities between October 2022 – June 2023 can be found here: [COVID-19 Initiative Evaluation](#)

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of participants or people serviced by beneficiaries	78,669
# of additional meals serviced, distributed, or delivered	532,551
# of youth reached (program participation) by beneficiaries	1,760
# of education/information sessions held by beneficiaries to promote federal nutrition assistance programs	122
# of referrals by beneficiaries to federal nutritional assistance programs	15,350

NT042 Good Food Purchasing Program

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
 Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 63962
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$4,258,180
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$3,088,825
 Project Term: 2022-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) is a procurement strategy that directs institutional food purchasing toward five core values: local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, and nutrition.

GFPP provides a metrics-based, flexible framework to assess progress of public institutions as they work to become a recognized Good Food Provider. In 2018, Cook County passed a resolution promoting GFPP. This program can support transforming the local food system by investing in local food producers and businesses and ensuring safe and fair working conditions for frontline food chain workers.

This program will: (1) advance GFPP implementation in partnership with food-procuring County departments and agencies to support a more just, resilient, and healthy food system; (2) accelerate implementation of good food purchasing by further aligning the County's procurement regulations with GFPP and transforming institutional procurement processes; and (3) provide food workers, producers, and suppliers from various communities opportunities for growth and access to institutional supply chains.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of GFPP trainings (e.g. food chain workers or others within our communities)	35
# of hours of technical and strategic assistance to non-County governmental institutions	248
# of relationship building events (buyer and supplier relationship events)	8

NT043 Suburban Cook County Worker Protection Program

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
 Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 61912
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$7,676,538
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$3,835,174
 Project Term: 2022-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

The Suburban Cook County Workers Protection Program continues to equip employers and workers, including temporary and gig workers, with the information, resources, and supports to minimize the transmission of diseases, including COVID-19, in workplaces. The program works to advance sustainable tri-directional, worker-centered systems for education, reporting and compliance, and support policy changes that promote worker rights, health, and safety for precariously employed workers. Given the exposure that precariously employed workers experienced during COVID-19, and the groups that belong to these classes of workers, training this group on prevention, transmission, and safety policy will improve the public health of these populations.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of community/worker-led solutions	206
# of violations tracked	135
# of workers reached, educated, or trained	84,643
# of workplaces or communities that establish a worker safety committee	14

NT053 Food as Medicine

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
Department: Cook County Health

Project Identification Number: 64712
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,451,116
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$754,596
Project Term: 2022-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

Cook County Health (CCH) will expand efforts to identify and address food insecurity among patients, while also improving their health outcomes. Food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected minority populations. Specific interventions include piloting food pantries at CCH facilities and providing medically tailored meals to patients who have diet-related chronic conditions. Food as Medicine interventions can lead to improved health outcomes, and CCH will document impact on patients' clinical outcomes, utilization, and behavior change and partner with payers to sustain this work.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of patients accessing on-site food pantry connected with SNAP/WIC	46
# of program participants reporting positive impact of participation in medically tailored meals program	14
# of food boxes distributed	4,217

NT118 Food Security Assistance

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 60713
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$2,298,005
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$305,493
Project Term: 2022-2025
Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview

ARPA funding is being leveraged to support the operation of food distribution sites in low-income areas throughout Cook County. Funding has been distributed to a number of local pantry partners to ensure they have access to the equipment needed for food provision in impacted communities, particularly in priority areas in South and West suburban Cook County. The program is also expanding the provision of fresh food in these communities through purchase of cold storage vans for some site partners and increased refrigerated storage at food pantries. As the program responds to the public health and economic crisis, the County has a unique opportunity to build a better, stronger, more resilient emergency food system that not only copes and recovers in emergency but thrives in a way that it provides stability for anyone in need. This effort aims to transform the emergency food system by investing in new food partners where needed and building the capacity of existing partners to meet community needs.

Use of Evidence

The goal of the program is to increase access to nutritious food and improve food access locations in suburban Cook County. Partners are the Greater Chicago Food Depository and their network of community partners.

Evidence-base Determination: Strong evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Feeding America Map of Cook County	Feeding America	Feeding America's "Map the Meal Gap" estimate of food insecurity for 2019 pre-COVID-19 was 9.3% for Cook County overall and 12.3% for households with children.	Non-Experimental
Food insecurity among household with children during the COVID-19 pandemic results from a study among social media users across the United States	National Journal	US survey data (n=5,606) indicate exacerbation of food insecurity during the pandemic. The study offers preliminary data from the national health emergency that will be instrumental in guiding additional research and time-sensitive interventions targeted towards vulnerable, food insecure subgroups.	Non-Experimental
The impact of novel and traditional food bank approaches on food insecurity: a longitudinal study in Ottawa, Canada	BMC Public Health	This study found that the majority of people who were food insecure at baseline remained food insecure at the 18-month follow-up, although there was a small downward trend in the proportion of people in the severely food insecure category. Conversely, there was a small but significant increase in the average perceived mental health score at the 18-month follow-up compared to baseline. Researchers found significant reductions in food insecurity for people who accessed food banks that offered a Choice Model of food distribution and food banks that were integrated within Community Resource Centers.	Experimental

NT118 Food Security Assistance, cont'd.

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Food insecurity and hunger: A review of the effects on children's health and behavior	National Library of Medicine	Longitudinal studies in Canada indicate that hunger is related to poor health outcomes, including a higher risk of depression and suicidal ideation in adolescents, and chronic conditions, particularly asthma. In addition, nutrient deficiencies, such as iron deficiency, are known to impair learning and cause decreased productivity in school-age children, and maternal depressive disorders.	Non-Experimental

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of households/individuals served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs)	99,335
Program-specific Metrics	
# of facility improvement projects invested in under this program	61
# of new refrigerated food transport vans purchased under this program	3
# of total food partner's sites GCFD invested in under this program	66
Total pounds of fresh food (fresh produce, proteins, dairy, breads, food rescue) distributed at each site that has been invested in under this program	17,227,004

NT513_BD – Crisis Intervention Pilot Program for Cook County

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
 Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 67464
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$477,134
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$64,573
 Project Term: 2022-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

Cook County Department of Public Health aims to better understand the needs of the community as it pertains to the crisis care continuum, with the goal of reducing fragmentation and strengthen the County's ability to impact the behavioral health needs of the community. The first phase will be a County-wide Behavioral Workforce Study to further understand areas of need across the County, led by Cook County Health's Office of Behavioral Health in collaboration with the health department. The second phase, led by the health department, will be an assessment of the crisis response system and needs in suburban Cook County.

Cook County Health's Office of Behavioral Health, in collaboration with Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), issued a report on the [behavioral health workforce study](#), and hosted a symposium to share the findings. The study found that at least 28,700 people are needed by 2028 to meet today's demand and fill the gap created by people leaving the behavioral health workforce.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics

# of individuals engaged through surveys and interviews for Cook County crisis care continuum needs assessments	318
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NT793 Care Coordination Specialists at HACC Properties (Behavioral Health Specialists)

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities

Department: Cook County Health

Project Identification Number: 64310

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$5,788,507

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$2,257,139

Project Term: 2023-2026

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview

Cook County is partnering with the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) to provide full-time care coordinators at all HACC affordable housing properties. Many HACC residents have complex behavioral health needs that threaten their ability to live independently and negatively affect quality of life for themselves and others. This proposal reaches some of the County's most marginalized and isolated residents by bringing services directly to them and allowing them to build ongoing relationships with service providers. Consistent service by a trusted professional helps many of these individuals remain stably housed and participate fully in their communities.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to reduce the number of behavior-related lease violations and evictions, reduce frequency of emergency healthcare visits, and increase resident quality of life and enjoyment of community.

Evidence-base Determination: Strong evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Systematic review of psychosocial factors associated with evictions	Health and Social Care	This systematic review included 10 peer-reviewed studies on evictions from the United States, Canada, Amsterdam, and Britain. 80% of the studies included indicated that physical and mental health problems are associated with evictions. One study found that 11% to 40% of the tenants with mental health problems were evicted in 2003.	Non-Experimental
Impact of supported housing on clinical outcomes: analysis of a randomized trial using multiple imputation technique	National Library of Medicine	In 1992, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Experimental and the US Department of Veterans Affairs established the HUD-VA Supported Housing Program (HUD-VASH) to provide integrated clinical and housing services to homeless veterans with psychiatric and/or substance abuse disorders. This study included a randomized control sample that assigned participants to either HUD-VASH, case management only, or standard VA care. Researchers found significant benefits for HUD-VASH participants in drug and alcohol abuse outcomes.	Experimental

NT793 Care Coordination Specialists at HACC Properties (Behavioral Health Specialists), cont'd.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of residents meeting with staff members	6,024
# of residents receiving therapeutic services	825
# of residents connected to external services	2,901
# of lease violations associated with residents	114
# of eviction cases associated with residents	23
# of residents receiving additional preventative/standard healthcare	432

NT884 Community Health Worker Initiative

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 64912
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$478,170
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$95,000
Project Term: 2025-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

The Cook County Department of Public Health's Community Health Worker Initiative supports the local community health worker (CHW) workforce to improve access to healthcare, social resources and health education in suburban Cook County. This initiative support CHWs at CCDPH in providing resource coordination, referrals and education to residents living in communities most impacted by health inequities. Funding also supports the maintenance and expansion of learning collaboratives for CHWs and their supervisors that create space for networking, peer learning, and resource sharing. Funding also supports training and resource development for suburban Cook organizations employing CHWs to improve the health literacy of our public health system.

Use of Evidence

Funding just began to support this program in FY25. Metrics being tracked are as follows and will be reported in future reports:

- # of referrals to services
- # of community members reached with education and messaging
- # of Learning Collaborative meetings for CHWs or supervisors held

NT885 & NT896 Behavioral Health Support and Expansion

Policy Pillar: Safe and Thriving Communities, Healthy Communities
 Department: Cook County Department of Public Health and ACHN

Project Identification Number: 62410
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$22,889,478
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$10,755,145
 Project Term: 2022-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview

Cook County Health (CCH) and the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) are increasing the capacity of their mental health programs and services while expanding access for Cook County residents. CCH will enhance community behavioral health care and access by adding social workers and licensed behavior health therapists to CCH's Ambulatory Care sites. CCDPH will expand behavioral health prevention community-based mental health treatment programs in priority communities of suburban Cook County. The health department will focus on several key areas, including prevention and positive youth development programs during and outside of school hours, suicide prevention, and promoting trauma-informed care at CCH. Additional priorities include building community capacity to use behavioral health data and advancing upstream strategies such as restorative justice and school discipline reform. CCDPH will also convene partners through regional convenings and leverage Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan processes to increase community engagement and incorporate those with lived experience into its behavioral health efforts. CCH's focus will be on expansion of existing direct behavior health services in community clinics.

In addition to the outcomes from grantees listed below, for NT885, CCDPH completed a report on youth suicide in Proviso Township. Data on youth suicide was requested by a community partner in Proviso Township, and the report was shared with community partners in the western suburbs. In surveys of suburban Cook County 9th through 12th graders, 15% of high school students reported seriously considering suicide. The full report is available in English and Spanish at this [webpage](#).

Project description of NT885 funded partners and some early outcomes of their work are collected in this [document](#).

Use of Evidence

The goals are to develop a CCDPH Behavioral Health metrics dashboard to analyze and track trends in behavioral health risk factors and outcomes, increase the percent of Cook County residents with access to behavioral health services, expand community-based treatment groups, increase referrals from primary care providers, and expand access to mental health prevention programs.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Connect: An Effective Community-Based Youth Suicide Prevention Program	National Library of Medicine	This study evaluated Connect, a community-based youth suicide prevention program. They evaluated 648 adults and 204 high school students and saw significant changes in knowledge and attitudes about suicide, increased belief in the usefulness of mental health care, and reduction in stigma associated with seeking help.	Non-Experimental

NT885 & NT896 Behavioral Health Support and Expansion, cont'd.

Primary Prevention Mental Health Programs for Children and Adolescents: A Meta-Analytic Review	Wiley Online Library	Used meta-analysis to review 177 primary prevention programs designed to prevent behavioral and social problems in children and adolescents. The outcome reflects an 8% to 46% difference in success rates favoring the prevention groups. Most programs had the dual benefit of significantly reducing problems and significantly increasing competencies.	Non-Experimental
The views of mental health nurses on continuing professional development	Wiley Online Library	This study did face-to-face interviews with 50 mental health nurses. They found that the majority of participants valued continuing professional development, with 40% expressing a desire for professional development through remaining in service, 30% want an emphasis on the importance of collegial support amongst peers and management, and 30% want to further their tertiary studies.	Non-Experimental

NT885 Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of participants or people serviced	49,346
# of clients referred to additional support services	14,839
# of communities reached	3,676
# of youth reached (program participation)	3,117

NT896 Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of patients serviced by behavioral health provider	11,215
# of behavioral health providers receiving training	831
# of training hours provided	402
# of social workers retained (from baseline)	350

NT886 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Expansion

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
 Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 65064
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$847,124
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$148,103
 Project Term: 2022-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) is expanding its Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit. This expansion is filling positions that were not available during the pandemic, including positions focused on volunteer management, local healthcare readiness and logistics, and coordination in planning. The initiative enhances the agency's capacity in preparedness planning and response. While CCDPH has made great strides towards ensuring the health and safety of all Suburban Cook County residents, the COVID-19 pandemic shed light on gaps in infrastructure and systems, especially related to communication and coordination. Opportunities exist for the agency to strengthen current relationships and engage in new ones to address the needs of communities and populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and underserved populations.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# regional and county-wide Hazard Vulnerability Assessment planning efforts attended	6
# of new protocols identified	4

NT899 Housing for Health

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 63637
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$13,459,851
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$3,714,331
Project Term: 2022-2025
Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

Housing for Health is improving the health of Cook County Health patients and CountyCare members who are at risk for homelessness by funding supportive housing through the two avenue – the Flexible Housing Pool and the Homeless Housing Navigation program. The Flexible Housing Pool provides care to patients at-risk of homelessness who need post-discharge clinical support being provided by CCH's medical respite program, RISE. The Homeless Housing Navigation program intercepts at-risk patients in the emergency room to help them apply for longer-term housing options. This program serves people in the emergency departments, Cermak jail, as well as CCH clinics.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to create clinically-appropriate, temporary and permanent housing placements for patients experiencing homelessness after hospital discharge, increase the number of patients experiencing homelessness or housing instability that achieve stable housing, reduce the number of avoidable emergency department visits for patients experiencing homelessness identified as persistent utilizers, and increase access to community-based healthcare and housing resources for people experiencing homelessness and patients experiencing housing insecurity.

Evidence-based Determination: Strong evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Housing First for Long-Term Shelter Dwellers with Psychiatric Disabilities in a Suburban County: A Four-Year Study of Housing Access and Retention	The Journal of Primary Prevention	This was a randomized controlled experiment where the treatment group was assigned to a shelter that used the Housing First Model and the control group was assigned to a shelter that did not use this model. Over four years, the Housing First group's retention rate was just below 80%, which is significant considering the sample's chronic homelessness and high rates of shelter recidivism. Members of the control group continued to cycle in and out of the system, while those in the treatment group average returns to the shelter was 3.6 with an average length of those returns lasting 13.3 nights.	Experimental
Health care utilization following a homeless medical respite pilot program	Public Health Nursing	The study evaluated a homeless medical respite program using a pre-post program evaluation. There were 29 participants in the study and data was collected one year prior and one year post treatment. The participants reduced their hospital admissions by 36.7%, spent 70.2% fewer inpatient days when admitted, and increased their outpatient provider visits by 192.6%.	Non-Experimental

NT899 Housing for Health, cont'd.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of households/individuals served	951
# of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	0
# of affordable housing units preserved or developed	0

The above metrics are required by Treasury and align with the program's Expenditure Category. Due to program design, not all initiatives yield outcomes that directly correspond with the Treasury's performance indicators. As a result, some metrics may reflect zero values.

Program-specific Metrics	
# of enrolled patients (at Medical Respite Center)	320
# of enrolled patients who complete clinical stay (at Medical Respite Center)	171
# of patients who exit to stable housing post-discharge (at Medical Respite Center)	58
# of patients across all aspects of program	1,971
# of patients connected to additional healthcare services	207
# receiving housing stability services	845
# of ongoing enrolled patients across all aspects of the program	1,971

TR011 Cook County Behavioral Health Services

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
Department: Cook County Health (Hospitals)

Project Identification Number: 67210
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$66,841,290
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$23,658,177
Project Term: 2022-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview

To meet the growing behavioral health needs of Cook County residents, Cook County Health (CCH) is transforming its current Behavioral Health footprint to offer a robust menu of mental and behavioral health services to ensure easy access to services for all County residents. The department is using its funding to transform its Behavioral Health services, enhancing care for all Cook County residents. This is being achieved through providing grants to organizations addressing specific community needs; the expansion of existing CCH programs; and the creation of a new CCH Office of Behavioral Health to oversee these initiatives. Additionally, funds are being used to build out four spaces in Cook County to support and house mental health services.

Use of Evidence

The goals of this program are to have more referrals made to outpatient behavioral health care services by CCH primary care clinics, inpatient care teams, urgent care, etc.; reduce emergency department utilization for acute behavioral health patients; establish a 90-day discharge clinical pathway for detainees receiving behavioral health services in Cook County Jail; and establish a continuum of care for substance abuse disorder patients.

Evidence-based Determination: Strong evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Health care utilization following a homeless medical respite pilot program	Public Health Nursing	This study evaluated a homeless medical respite program using a pre-post program evaluation. There were 29 participants in the study, and data was collected one year prior and one year post treatment. Researchers found that participants reduced their hospital admissions by 36.7%, spent 70.2% fewer inpatient days when admitted and increased their outpatient provider visits by 192.6%.	Non-Experimental
Evaluations of Methadone Treatment in Malaysia: Findings from the Malaysian Methadone Treatment Outcome Study (MyTOS)	Substance Use & Misuse	This study included a cross-sectional evaluation in 103 methadone maintenance treatment centers in Malaysia. Researchers found that those patients that received treatment had a significant reduction in opioid use, HIV risk-taking score, and showed improved outcomes in terms of social functioning and health. There were also significant improvements in quality of life in physical, psychological, social, and environmental domains.	Experimental

TR011 Cook County Behavioral Health Services, cont'd.

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Even a Little Bit Helps: An Implementation and Experimental Evaluation of Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for High-Risk Probationers	Criminal Justice and Behavior	This study uses a randomized field trial to evaluate the "Choosing to Think, Thinking to Choose" cognitive behavioral therapy program. High-risk probationers were assigned to either intensive probation or intensive probation with a 14-week cognitive behavioral therapy program. Those in the therapy program were significantly less likely to reoffend, although this effect is concentrated in measures of nonviolent offending.	Experimental

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of patients or participants services	13,067
# of patients provided with external referrals (ex. food pantry, rental assistance program)	1,954
# of patients receiving mental health screenings	220
# of patients scheduled receiving same-day behavioral health care	254

NT045 & NT046 Hyperlocal and In-Home Vaccination Program

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
 Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 63201
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,382,793
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: 0
 Project Term: 2023-2024
 Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination

Project Overview

The Cook County Department of Public Health's (CCDPH) In-Home Vaccination Program and Hyperlocal Vaccination Program worked to ensure that Cook County residents have access to crucial vaccinations. The Hyperlocal Vaccination program created mobile clinics for COVID-19 vaccination, including boosters and annual influenza vaccinations. The funds also supported community engagement, education, and outreach needed to develop and promote mobile vaccination clinics in high-risk communities, including those with low vaccination rates and a high COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index. In addition, the In-Home Vaccination Program funded vaccination providers to continue in-home vaccinations for COVID-19, including boosters and annual influenza vaccinations.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of households/individuals served	19,130
Program-specific Metrics	
# of mobile vaccination clinics stood up	1,215
# of people vaccinated at mobile clinics	14,943
# of individuals who received outreach and educational efforts	6,646
# of in-home vaccinations given	3,077

NT887 Contact Tracing Initiative

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
 Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Project Identification Number: 61503
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$5,705,560
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0
 Project Term: 2022-2023
 Project Expenditure Category: 1.3 COVID-19 Contact Tracing

Project Overview

The Cook County Department of Public Health has completed this project conducting COVID-19 contact tracing for congregate settings like nursing homes, schools and other spaces at risk of high-risk and high-volume exposures (e.g., factories) through 12/31/2022.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of households/individuals served	2,287,122
Program-specific Metrics	
# of linked cases to CCDPH from IDPH who are ≥ 65 years as part of congregate living facilities to outbreaks	2,390
# of schools requesting Technical Assistance (TA) through email box	654
% of requests whereby Technical Assistance (TA) was provided within 24 business hours	98%
% of cases linked to outbreaks within 5 business days	87%

NT895 A, B & C Vaccine Incentives Program

Policy Pillar: Healthy Communities
 Department: Cook County Health (Hospital); Cook County Department of Public Health; Ambulatory & Community Health Network of Cook County

Project Identification Number: 61701
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$4,999,994
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0
 Project Term: 2022-2024
 Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination

Project Overview

Cook County Health (CCH) provided \$100 incentive gift cards to any individual who received a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at a CCH community health center or community event hosted by the Cook County Department of Public Health. Additionally, CountyCare implemented a one-time \$25 reward loaded onto a member's Over the Counter (OTC) Rewards Card to buy approved health and personal care items at participating stores.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of people receiving \$100 gift cards by agreeing to receive a COVID-19 vaccination (CCDPH)	7,987
Increase in first dose vaccination rates in priority populations and communities and protect them from severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 (CCDPH)	348
# of gift cards distributed	24,780
# of members receiving the COVID-19 vaccine (CountyCare)	65,814
# of gift cards given out or replenished with \$25 (CountyCare)	65,814
% of members who received \$25 gift cards (of number who received vaccine) (CountyCare)	100%

VITAL COMMUNITIES



NT092 Cook County Water Affordability Program

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 63314
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$11,500,000
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$10,946,619
Project Term: 2024-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview

The Cook County Water Affordability Program will provide water utility bill payment assistance to help households suffering from income loss and mounting bills during the pandemic, focusing on residents in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) and other low-income suburban residents.

The anticipated focus of the program is on communities with the highest level of QCTs. These focus communities face water affordability challenges and frequently have a high-water burden, meaning that the households spend a significantly larger portion of their income on the water and sewer bill. The Water Affordability Program will also assist residents without water access and those dealing with significant leaks that are contributing to high water bills, while also helping municipal water utilities address water affordability challenges.

Use of Evidence

Water utility assistance aims to keep water access affordable for residents, thereby reducing stress and financial insecurity caused due to a lack of access to this basic resource.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Water insecurity and psychological distress: case study of the Detroit water shutoffs	Journal of Public Health	This article analyzed the psychological dimensions of water insecurity in Detroit, Michigan using a community-based participatory study. Their model found a statistically significant effect of water insecurity on psychological distress, and that paying for water and sanitation causes financial stress, regardless of water status.	Non-Experimental
The impact of low-income home energy assistance program participation on household energy insecurity	Contemporary Economic Policy	This article looked at the impact of the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP), the single largest energy assistance program available to low-income households. The results show that LIHEAP significantly increases energy security in low-income households, and simulations suggest that ending the program will decrease the number of low-income energy secure households by 17%.	Non-Experimental

NT092 Cook County Water Affordability Program, cont'd.**Treasury-required Metrics**

# of people or households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	0
# of affordable housing units preserved or developed	0

The above metrics are required by Treasury and align with the program's Expenditure Category. Due to program design, not all initiatives yield outcomes that directly correspond with the Treasury's performance indicators. As a result, some metrics may reflect zero values.

Program-specific Metrics

# of applications received for leak repair during the collection timeframe	572
# of households that receive water efficiency upgrades during the collection timeframe	39
# of municipalities that express interest in water affordability technical assistance	17

NT093 Emergency Mortgage Assistance

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 66514
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$14,721,929
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$10,557,143
Project Term: 2023-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview

The Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program is comprised of two parts, Manufactured Housing and Down Payment Assistance. The Manufacturing Housing Production is supplying a source of funding for ordering of the homes, site development and construction of the homesites. Utilizing a portion of the proceeds sales to subsidize the home prices to promote both affordability and development impact, the creation of multiple new home sites across the County, development could produce up to 250 to 400 homes. The Down Payment Assistance Program allows a 3-5% incentive towards the purchase price of a single-family home. The goal is to establish reasonable pricing for ongoing downpayment assistance loans such that buyers will be able to participate in home purchases, stabilizing their long-term housing options and cost structure. Primary lending areas will be the Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) under HUD and the Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIA) under the State of Illinois.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to redirect mortgage debt, redirect participants to alternative housing services, and to mediate legal cases.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
A Case-Control Study of Home Foreclosure, Health Conditions, and Health Care Utilization	Journal of Urban Health	This article performed a case-control study using data on homeowners who received a home foreclosure notice from 2005 and 2008 in Philadelphia. They found that two years prior to the foreclosure, participants were more likely to visit the emergency department, have an outpatient visit, and have a no-show appointment. Six months after the foreclose, participants were less likely to have a primary care physician.	Non-Experimental
Does Temporary Mortgage Assistance for Unemployed Homeowners Reduce Longer-Term Mortgage Default? An Analysis of the hardest hit Fund Program	Journal of Policy Analysis and Management	This paper uses data from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund to analyze longer-term effects of temporary mortgage payment subsidies. They found that receiving subsidies led to a 40% reduction in the probability of mortgage default and foreclosure through four years post assistance.	Non-Experimental
What Can We Learn from New State and Local Assistance Programs for Renters Affected by COVID-19	Urban Institute	This study identified 43 local and state assistance programs. They found that there were four properties of successful programs: they leverage existing programs with adaptive capacity, they maximize flexibility, they focus on populations with the greatest unmet need, and they manage current resources while pushing for more money.	Non-Experimental

NT093 Emergency Mortgage Assistance, cont'd.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics

# of households receiving eviction prevention services	0
# of affordable housing units preserved or developed	0

The above metrics are required by Treasury and align with the program's Expenditure Category. Due to program design, not all initiatives yield outcomes that directly correspond with the Treasury's performance indicators. As a result, some metrics may reflect zero values.

Program-specific Metrics

# of applications for downpayment assistance	164
# of individuals who received downpayment assistance	126
# of applications for interest rate buydown assistance	94
# of individuals who received interest rate buydown assistance	76
# of units under construction	6
# of units completed	3

NT095 Permanent Supportive Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 65937
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$9,409,135
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$8,091,669
Project Term: 2023-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

Cook County is creating 125 new units of permanent supportive housing, a nationally recognized best practice for ending homelessness. Permanent supportive housing is a housing model that pairs non-time-limited rental subsidies with individualized, intensive, and supportive services to help households maintain independent living and housing stability.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to develop additional affordable housing units, assist those in the target income/demographic, and the direct others to housing services.

Evidence-base determination: Strong evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Housing First for Long-Term Shelter Dwellers with Psychiatric Disabilities in a Suburban County: A Four-Year Study of Housing Access and Retention	The Journal of Primary Prevention	This was a randomized controlled experiment where the treatment group were assigned to a shelter that used the Housing First Model and the control group was assigned to a shelter that did not use this model. Over four years, the Housing First's retention rate was just below 80%, which is significant considering the sample's chronic homelessness and high rates of shelter recidivism. Members of the control group continued to cycle in and out of the system, while those in the treatment group the average number of returns to the shelter was 3.6 with an average length of those returns lasting 13.3 nights.	Experimental
Permanent Supportive Housing with Housing First to Reduce Homelessness and Promote Health among Homeless Population with Disability: A Community Guide Systematic Review	National Library of Medicine	This study analyzed the results from 26 studies in the United States and Canada. They found that housing first programs, compared to treatment first programs, decreased homelessness by 88% and improved housing stability by 41%. For clients living with HIV, housing first programs reduced homelessness by 37%, viral load by 22%, depression by 13%, emergency department use by 41%, hospitalization by 36%, and mortality by 37%.	Non-Experimental

NT095 Permanent Supportive Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness, cont'd.

Performance Report

This program is in progress, and metrics will be reported in future reports. The following represent measures for Permanent Supportive Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness, focusing on the intended outcome of providing additional permanent housing units for those experiencing homelessness or on the precipice of experiencing homelessness:

- Housing units created
- Total development costs of units created

Mandatory Performance Indicators:

Per reporting guidelines, projects in Expenditure Category 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons must include the following metrics:

- Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)
- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed

NT100 Cook County Manufacturing Reinvented (Rebound and Recover Programming)

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 62179
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$3,087,506
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$420,876
Project Term: 2022-2025
Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

Project Overview

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cook County partnered with the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) to ascertain the impact of this unprecedented situation and the unique challenges experienced by Cook County's manufacturing community due to structural changes to this sector brought upon by the pandemic. The program surveyed and connected with over 1,000 manufacturers in suburban Cook County to understand their most pressing needs as a result of the changed landscape. Based upon these findings, IMEC and Cook County will partner to provide a comprehensive set of solutions such as technical assistance and matching project grants for county manufacturers to rebound from the pandemic and improve their global competitiveness, focused on production, market growth, technology, and workforce.

Since the start of 2024, BED has hosted monthly informational events with its technical partner IMEC, various County Commissioners, local townships, and other community organizations. These events have been well attended, averaging 35 attendees with each producing between two-five new applicants per event.

Public Facing Website

[Cook County Illinois Manufacturing Reinvented Grant \(ccmfg.org\)](https://ccmfg.org)

Use of Evidence

Cook County Manufacturing Reinvented will utilize technical assistance and implementation grants to assist Cook County manufacturers to address the needs and priorities identified in the [Urgent Needs of Manufacturers report](#) completed by the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center IMEC) in partnership with Cook County. The goal is to assist over 300 manufacturers in areas of greatest need, including market growth productivity automation, workforce development, and leadership.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Manufacturing and service supply chain resilience to the COVID- 19 outbreak: Lessons learned from the automobile and airline industries	Technological Forecasting and Social Change	This study looked at the impact COVID-19 had on automobile and airline supply chains and analyzed the short and long-term supply strategies. They found that developing localized supply sources and using advanced industry technology along with using Big Data Analytics were perceived as the best strategies.	Non-Experimental

NT100 Cook County Manufacturing Reinvented (Rebound and Recover Programming), cont'd.

[Survival of the fittest: Technical assistance, survival and growth of small businesses and implications for public policy](#)

This study analyzed a multiyear survey sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Entrepreneurial Development to examine the relationship between managerial and technical assistance and firm survival, as well as the relationship between the characteristics of technical assistance and financial and employment growth. Overall, findings suggest that managerial and technical assistance have a positive effect on both survival and growth, but these effects depend on the size of the firm, characteristics of the counseling experience, as well as age and other demographic differences.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics

# of small businesses served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate small businesses assistance programs)	360
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Program-specific Metrics

Estimated # of jobs created by projects closed that month	588
Estimated # of jobs retained by projects closed that month	3,830
Productivity and cost savings (\$) as a result of projects closed that month	\$24,410,263
\$ amount of investments made (technology, marketing, digital expansion, etc.) by projects closed that month	\$28,656,114
# of hours of technical assistance provided	17,230
# of projects completed	280
# of active projects	452
Outreach: Website Activity - # of visitors to the web page	41,193
Outreach: Website Activity - # of mass email recipients	82,630
Outreach: Activity -# of people who attended an event or meeting in that month	998
Outreach: Activity - # of one-on-one activities (calls, emails, etc.)	1,404

NT104 Suburban Cook County Travel, Tourism, and Hospitality Economic Recovery Initiative

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 61232
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$10,000,000
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$2,956,278
Project Term: 2022-2025
Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Project Overview

Suburban Cook County's five Convention and Visitors Bureaus (CVBs), representing over 100 municipalities, banded together to develop a coordinated strategy to recover from the devastating losses due to COVID-19. ARPA funds are being used to fund a program to support the resiliency of the suburban travel, tourism and hospitality sectors. Funding for this 3-year program will be used to formulate an action plan to aggressively pursue meetings and events; participate in regional leisure promotional campaigns; and assist hotels and restaurants with their sales and marketing. Chicago's North Shore CVB will serve as both a subrecipient and as the fiscal agent to distribute funds to the other 4 CVBs, Chicago Southland CVB, Meet Chicago Northwest, Rosemont CVB, and Visit Oak Park.

Public Facing Website

<https://cookcountytourism.com/>
<https://www.outsidechicago.com/>

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
Aggregated for Suburban Cook: Average daily rate	116
Aggregated for Suburban Cook: Short-term rental average daily rate	164
Aggregated for Suburban Cook: Share of targeted markets	100
Aggregated for Suburban Cook: Average length of stay (in days)	2
Aggregated for Suburban Cook: Total credit card transactions	145,900,000
Aggregated for Suburban Cook: Total credit card spend	8,482,200,000
Aggregated for Suburban Cook: Average spend per credit card transaction	58
Regional Tourism Campaign: # of social media posts/marketing activities	150
Regional Tourism Campaign: Marketing campaigns impressions	34,913,980
Regional Tourism Campaign: Marketing campaigns cost per impression	158
Regional Tourism Campaign: Marketing campaigns click through rate	13
Regional Tourism Campaign: Marketing campaigns conversion rate	165
Chicago's North Shore CVB: Hotel occupancy	1,942
Chicago's North Shore CVB: Hotel room nights	2,751,623
Chicago Southland CVB: Hotel occupancy	2,191
Chicago Southland CVB: Hotel room nights	4,212,021

NT104 Suburban Cook County Travel, Tourism, and Hospitality Economic Recovery Initiative cont'd.

Meet Chicago Northwest CVB: Hotel Occupancy	2,073
Meet Chicago Northwest CVB: Hotel room nights	5,812,522
Rosemont CVB: Hotel occupancy	2,232
Rosemont CVB: Hotel room nights	9,701,998
Visit Oak Park CVB: Hotel occupancy	2,063
Visit Oak Park CVB: Hotel room nights	1,695,877

NT106 Advancing Equitable Recovery in the Southland – Southland Metals Hub

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 64879
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,225,000
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$300,000
Project Term: 2022-2025
Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

Project Overview

The Southland Metals Hub is developing the region's cluster of small and medium-sized metals, machinery, and equipment (MM&E) firms. The Metals Hub is helping firms recover from disruption to supply chains caused by the pandemic, using existing strengths and capacity to bolster productivity. Resource combination includes market research, inter-company cooperation, networking, collaboration for market penetration, technology acquisition, and economies of scale development. Outreach to potential members includes a focus on enterprises and businesses located in communities composed of those most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Southland Development Authority (SDA), the subrecipient for the program, promotes Metals Hub members at manufacturing events and tradeshow that might otherwise be cost prohibitive and helps connect them with other manufacturing support focused organizations. The Metals Hub was able to pursue additional funding from the US Department of Energy, which allowed Metals Hub members to hire 10 local interns.

Public Facing Website

<https://southlanddevelopment.org/metals-hub>

Use of Evidence

The Southland has experienced severe disinvestment in the last several decades, driving substantial increases in poverty and unemployment. Despite the fact that Southland MM&E firms fared better than the Chicago region, the Southland lost nearly 200 firms and 33% employment between 2009-2015. As of June 2020, the Southland's poverty rate was 36.9% (national average is 31.0%) and unemployment was 21.6% (national average is 14.4%).

Though nearly half the Southland's population is represented by people of color, business ownership by people of color is under 10%. The Southland continues to have twice the MM&E density of the broader Chicago region (LQ of 2.03 and 1.02 respectively). But many of the Southland's MM&E firms are small businesses, lacking the resources necessary to scale, and their supply chains have been disrupted due to COVID-19. About 25% of Southland MM&E businesses have less than 5 employees – and most (80%) have less than 50 employees.

While there is a demonstrated necessity to invest in manufacturing capabilities, the personalized nature of the assistance results in no clear evidence basis.

Sources: [SSEGI Phase 1 Report](#) and [SDA Metals Hub Concept Paper](#)

NT106 Advancing Equitable Recovery in the Southland – Southland Metals Hub, cont’d.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of small businesses served	106
Program-specific Metrics	
# of new business opportunities (e.g., trade shows, client visits, trade missions, etc.)	251
# of manufacturers that receive technical assistance and/or business support services	59
# of Metal Hubs meetings held	8

NT108 & NT110 Small Business Assistance

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 60521
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$30,422,180
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$7,995,100
Project Term: 2021-2025
Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

Project Overview

The Cook County Small Business Source (formerly called the Cook County Small Business Assistance program) provides direct business advising services or technical assistance, at no cost, to small businesses in Cook County. The program consists of the following components: one-on-one business advising, also known as technical assistance, available to Chicago and Cook County small businesses to help address their unique needs, use new tools, and navigate resources. Webinars and toolkits are available to Chicago and Cook County businesses to explain program resources and guide small businesses through information that will help analyze their business needs with a COVID-19 recovery lens.

The Southland Development Authority (SDA) (formed in 2019 with support from Cook County) launched the Business Growth Services program in response to the onset of COVID and its impact on local businesses. The SDA drives comprehensive, transformative and inclusive economic growth in Cook County's South Suburbs. The SDA developed a unique multi-faceted assistance program that connects small businesses to industry experts, mentors and other resources.

Public Facing Websites

<https://cookcountysmallbiz.org/>
<https://www.southlanddevelopment.org/>

Use of Evidence

The goals of this program are to assist over 500 small businesses, increase GDP, median income, property values, and reduce unemployment.

Evidence-base Determination: No clear evidence base

There is no evidence available to support the interventions included in this initiative due to the personalized nature of the technical assistance.

Performance

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of small businesses served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate small businesses assistance programs)	29,113
Program-specific Metrics	
Total # of businesses served (engaged with, including retained clients)	16,821
Total # of new businesses served (only clients gained in this Month)	10,558

NT111 Small Business Grant Program

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
 Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 65121
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$61,293,058
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$9,200,612
 Project Term: 2022-2024
 Project Expenditure Category: 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Project Overview

The Bureau of Economic Development will provide grants to small businesses with less than 20 employees that continue to suffer from the impacts of COVID-19, as well as early-stage businesses formed since the onset of COVID-19. Program approach targets businesses owned by minority individuals by serving these groups at higher rates than their County-demographic representation.

The grants will position businesses for growth and a sustainable path forward. To maximize the impact of these grants, the County will continue to provide small business advising services to all grant recipients. The program will result in renewed entrepreneurship capacity in the short-term and renewed community wealth in the long-term.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of small business grant applications submitted	16,626
# of small business grant applications awarded	3,000
# of veteran owned small businesses awarded	45
\$ of assistance to veteran owned small businesses	\$810,000

NT115 Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 60317
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$33,810,668
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$13,309,993
Project Term: 2021-2024
Project Expenditure Category: 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview

The Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt (CCLAHD) program helps residents resolve eviction, foreclosure, consumer debt, and tax deed issues pre-court and during the court process. CCLAHD provides free legal aid, mediation services, case management, and connections for tenants and landlords dealing with evictions, property owners who are behind on their mortgage payments or property taxes, and creditors and debtors with issues related to consumer debt.

Public Facing Website

<https://www.cookcountylegalaid.org/>

Use of Evidence

CCLAHD aims to improve housing stability for renters and homeowners, ensure the court system can continue operating effectively with increased caseloads, and provide equal access to justice for all parties within the court system.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Getting Landlords and Tenants to Talk (Urban Institute, 2020)			Non-Experimental
Interventions to Prevent Tenant Evictions: A Systemic Review (Radboud University Medical Center, 2015)	Health and Social Care in the Community	Literature review of numerous studies providing evidence on a range of interventions to lower tenant evictions and resulting homelessness. "Legal assistance and debt advice are promising interventions that seem to be effective in decreasing the risk of eviction."	Non-Experimental

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of households/individuals served	95,271
# of people or households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	53,682
# of affordable housing units preserved or developed	0

The above metrics are required by Treasury and align with the program's Expenditure Category. Due to program design, not all initiatives yield outcomes that directly correspond with the Treasury's performance indicators. As a result, some metrics may reflect zero values.

NT115 Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt, cont'd.

Program-specific Metrics	
# of clients served (ERP)	91,656
# of hotline consultations (ERP)	25,600
# of legal consultations provided (not hotline) (ERP)	33,746
# of cases mediated (ERP)	1,040
# of cases settled (ERP)	4,312
# of clients served (MFMP)	3,615
# of referrals to other assistance (ex. rent/mortgage assistance) (MFMP)	621

NT116 Guaranteed Income Program

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 61315
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$42,638,087
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,054,076
Project Term: 2022-2024
Project Expenditure Category: 2.3 Household Assistance: Cash Transfers

Project Overview

The Cook County Guaranteed Income Program provided recurring monthly unrestricted payments to 3,250 residents, selected through a lottery, for 2 years to improve participants' long-term economic stability. To qualify, participants' household income needed to be at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. The Guaranteed Income Program builds on the demonstrated success of guaranteed income programs in other jurisdictions in increasing residents' financial stability and improving their health outcomes. Cook County's program includes a research evaluation component to help the County better understand participant impacts, with the initial set of outcomes anticipated in late 2025. The program also offered optional financial counseling to some pilot participants to examine the impact of financial education in tandem with cash assistance.

Public Facing Websites

<https://arpa.cookcountyil.gov/promise-guaranteed-income-pilot-program>

Use of Evidence

The University of Chicago will be conducting the program evaluation using a mixed-methods study. Applicants will be asked to participate in the study, but cash assistance will not be predicated on agreeing to participate.

Evidence-base Determination: Strong evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
The Town with no Poverty: The Health Effects of a Canadian Guaranteed Annual Income Field Experiment	Canadian Public Policy	Analyzes the Manitoba Basic Annual Income Experiment (MINCOME) which was a Canadian guaranteed annual income field experiment from 1974 to 1979. They found an 8.5% reduction in the hospitalization rate for those that were part of the program compared to those who did not participate. They also found participants contacted their physicians less, especially regarding mental health. They conclude that guaranteed annual income can improve population health and lead to significant health system savings.	Experimental
The Labor Market Impacts of Universal and Permanent Cash Transfers: Evidence from the Alaska Permanent Fund	American Economic Journal: Economic Policy	Alaska has been providing residents with a yearly cash dividend since 1982. This study found that the dividend had no effect on employment and increased part-time work by 17%. Their results show that cash transfers did not decrease aggregate employment and increased the amount of cash available to stimulate the economy.	Non-Experimental
The impact of cash transfers on social determinants of health and health inequities in sub-Saharan Africa: a systemic review	National Library of Medicine	This paper reviewed 53 cash transfer programs in sub-Saharan Africa. They found that cash transfers can be effective in tackling structural determinants of health such as financial poverty, education, household resilience, child labor, social capital and social cohesion, civic participation, and birth registration.	Non-Experimental

NT116 Guaranteed Income Program, cont'd.

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration Preliminary Analysis: SEED's First Year	SEED's preliminary report of their program	Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) is a program in Stockton, California that began in 2019 and gave 125 residents \$500 a month for 24 months. In their first year they found that the control group experienced 1.5x more income volatility than the treatment group. The treatment group also showed statistically significant differences in emotional health. Lastly, in February 2019, when the program started, 28% of participants were employed full-time, and one year later 40% were employed full-time.	Experimental
An experiment to inform universal basic income	McKinsey & Company	Finland conducted a two-year study where 2,000 unemployed people received a guaranteed, unconditional monthly payment of 560 euros. The treatment group reported higher life satisfaction (7.3 out of 10 compared to 6.8), 83% were free of mental-health problems, and they registered 3 to 9% more working days per year.	Experimental

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics

of households/individuals served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs)

9,809

Program-specific Metrics

of flyers distributed

5,909

of impressions (views, interactions) on social posts

10,804

of emails sent promoting program to potential applicants

4,855

of interactions with potential applicants via in-person outreach

1,719

of interactions with potential applicants on information hotline or messaging service

1,481

of applicants assisted in-person at designated application assistance location

1,066

of applicants assisted in-person at remote location

867

of applicants assisted remotely (via phone, video call, etc.)

57

of complete applications received

233,162

of users enrolled in testing

8

of customer service requests from applicants via: Email, Call, Webform questions

46,158

Median wait time (minutes) for inbound customer service calls to be connected with a specialist

1

Completion rate for inbound customer service calls

25

Median response time (hours) for inbound customer service emails

29

Median time (days) for customer service requests to be resolved

8

NT116 Guaranteed Income Program, cont'd.

# of applicants who are verified as eligible from administrative or third-party lists	1,634
# of applicants who are verified as eligible via submitted documentation, attestations, and reference checks	10,100
# of applicants who are unable to be verified due to non-responsiveness	1,974
# of applicants who are verified as ineligible	311
% of lottery selected applicants who are successfully enrolled	17%
# of lottery selected applicants who complete benefits counseling	585
# of applicants added to lottery selected group from waitlist	181
# of participants removed from Pilot Program during the payment period	5
% of payments issued by the agreed upon date of each month to recipients	99%
# of participants who enroll in Working Credit's financial counseling program	710
# of participants who attend a credit building workshop	38
# of participants who complete an initial counseling session	213
# of participants who complete any number of coaching sessions beyond the initial counseling session	25
Median # of coaching sessions completed by participants, including the initial counseling session	7
Median # of coaching sessions completed by participants who complete any number of coaching sessions beyond the initial counseling session	4
% of participants who have credit scores at their initial counseling sessions	87%
Median Credit FICO® 8 Credit Score of all participants who complete an initial counseling session at baseline	626
% of participants with Prime FICO® 8 Credit Scores (>660) who complete an initial counseling session at baseline	18%
% of participants with at least \$1,000 in available credit who complete an initial counseling session at baseline	30%

NT120 Hotel-Based Sheltering

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 60437
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$13,050,296
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,465,921
Project Term: 2021-2025
Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

ARPA funding is being leveraged to support agencies providing shelter and related services to protect the high-risk homeless population during the pandemic. The prior model of rotating church-based shelter sites was never adequate, and that congregate, and volunteer-driven approach was not viable during the pandemic. As a result, shelter provision had to shift to a model largely provided via hotels. The main shelter agencies serving suburban Cook County continue to provide thousands of shelter nights per month.

Use of Evidence

Supportive services aims to shorten their experience of homelessness by reconnecting them to housing and other supports. Hotel sheltering will decrease over time as the transition to new permanent shelters or other shelter options takes place. Partners include the six main shelter agencies in suburban Cook County: BEDS Plus, Connections for the Homeless, Housing Forward, JOURNEYS, Respond Now, and South Suburban PADS.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Model Transitions (Housing and Urban Development), 2021	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Federal guidance on successful transitional services to supplement non-congregate housing strategies for people experiencing homelessness, including numerous strategies employed by this program (e.g., need-based prioritization, and connection to wraparound services).	Non-Experimental
Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease (CDC, 2019)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Federal guidance documenting the efficacy of non-congregate sheltering for addressing the needs of homeless individuals amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.	Non-Experimental
Comparison of infection control strategies to reduce COVID-19 outbreaks in homeless shelters in the United States: a simulation study (UCSF, 2020)	BMC Medicine	Working paper from researchers at the University of California at San Francisco finds that in high-risk homeless shelter environments, a combination of intensive infection control strategies is unlikely to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks. The authors evaluate daily symptom screening, twice-weekly testing of all residents or just staff, universal mask wearing, and relocation of high-risk individuals. Using all these measures gives shelters only an 8% chance of averting an outbreak when the virus is highly infectious and spreads quickly. The authors argue that these findings show the need for continued non-congregate housing arrangements for people experiencing homelessness.	Non-Experimental

NT120 Hotel-Based Sheltering, cont'd.**Performance Report**

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of households/individuals served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs)	4,346
# of affordable housing units preserved or developed	51
Program-specific Metrics	
# of new entrants	666
# of shelter nights provided	200,910
# of people receiving meals	8,315
# of people receiving health care or social service support	8,314
# of exits into permanent housing and fixed-site shelters	877

NT123 Supporting Apprenticeships in Suburban

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 67725
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$809,999
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$520,498
Project Term: 2024-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Project Overview

Cook County established the Manufacturing Apprenticeship Accelerator program to address the biggest hurdle manufacturers face: hiring and retaining talent. Cook County has prioritized strengthening the manufacturing sector given the number and quality of jobs, role in the regional economy, and the nation. Most manufacturers report that their biggest challenge is the difficulty they have in finding the talent to meet their needs. Apprenticeships are widely recognized as an excellent model to attract, retain, and retrain their workforce. Numerous studies have confirmed that employers experience an improved pipeline of skilled employees, increased productivity, reduced turnover and higher employee engagement using an “earn and learn” model.

The Manufacturing Apprenticeship Accelerator will provide Cook County manufacturers with a skilled talent pipeline who are committed to developing and implementing programs with all the following elements:

- An “earn and learn” model;
- On-the-job training plan or curriculum;
- Leads to industry-recognized credentials; and
- Salary increases.

Use of Evidence

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Beyond Productivity: How Employers Gain More from Apprenticeship Findings from the American Apprenticeship Initiative Evaluation	U.S. Department of Labor	In a 2022 evaluation of the U.S. Department of Labor's American Apprenticeship Initiative, employers cited numerous benefits of utilizing the “earn and learn” model of apprenticeships. Employers reported an improved pipeline of skilled employees, increased productivity, reduced turnover and higher employee engagement. The Manufacturing Apprenticeship Accelerator will provide Cook County manufacturers with a talent pipeline while apprentices receive on the job training, mentoring and industry recognized credentials.	Non-Experimental

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of applications submitted for all apprenticeship/career pathways job postings	771
# of potential candidates that complete the apprentice interest form	110
# of potential manufacturers that complete the business interest form	6

NT125 Community Conservation Corps

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities

Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 62219

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$4,437,833

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,036,161

Project Term: 2022-2025

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Project Overview

The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development is partnering with the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) to engage youth and adults in a meaningful hands-on conservation job training program that will improve the ecological health of at least 3,000 acres of public open land. A major portion of the program beneficiaries reside within qualified census tracts and/or live below the federal poverty line in Suburban Cook County. Participants will gain basic job skills, industry-recognized certifications, technical expertise, professional networks, and soft skills that are desirable to future employers. Most corps participants reside in communities that have suffered disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to promote the program to youth and adults from disadvantaged communities and to ensure participants have marketable skills upon conclusion.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Impacts of service: Final report on the evaluation of American Conservation and Youth Service Corps	Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research	This study looked at the impacts of eight Conservation and Youth Services Corps program that sought to improve educational and employment outcomes for out-of-school youth. They found a statistically significant, positive impact on the likelihood of having worked for pay since program enrollment and working a larger number of total hours since program enrollment.	Non-Experimental
Conservation Corp North Bay Annual Report 2020-2021 Fiscal Year	Conservation Corp North Bay website	The goal of Conservation Corps North Bay is to develop youth and conserve natural resources. In 2020-2021 before starting the program 73% of their corps members were unemployed, 55% had not yet earned their high school degree, and 99% came from a low-income background. After the program 76% continued in jobs or education, and their average wages were \$18.46 an hour. That year they also collected 6,900 mattresses to recycle, restored 213 acres of natural habitat, restored, and maintained 109 miles of trails, and more.	Non-Experimental
National Job Corps Study and Longer-Term Follow-Up Study: Impact and Benefit-Cost Findings Using Survey and Summary Earnings Records Data	Mathematics	Job Corps is the nation's largest, most comprehensive job training program for disadvantaged youths. It serves people between the age of 16 and 24 and helps with youth training and employment services. This study found that Jobs Corps increased survey-based earnings by 12% in the third and fourth years and decreased criminal activity by about 16%.	Non-Experimental

NT125 Community Conservation Corps, cont'd.**Performance Report**

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs	248
# of workers completing sectoral job training programs	93
# of people participating in summer youth employment programs	328
Program-specific Metrics	
# of applicants	2295
# of applicants hired	579
# of conservation and service hours contributed by program participants	43,825
# of training and environmental education hours contributed by program participants	31,717

NT830 Cook County Arts and Artists Program

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 66225
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$4,668,551
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$2,640,512
Project Term: 2022-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 2.36 Aid to Other Impacted Industries

Project Overview

Cook County Arts and Artists Program is a pilot initiative that seeks to mitigate the lingering negative financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic while working to strengthen the suburban arts sector long term. Through this initiative, the County will invest almost \$3 million in direct grants to nonprofits and creative placemaking projects which utilize the unique power of arts and culture to advance community and economic development. The County has partnered with Arts Alliance Illinois and the Chicago office of the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) for their expertise in designing and implementing programs of support for arts and cultural organizations.

Cook County awarded \$790,000 to 100 suburban arts and culture nonprofit organizations in June 2024. An impact assessment will be conducted with these grant recipients.

Programmatic components include:

- **Resiliency Grant Program** - Up to \$800,000 in unrestricted grants to suburban nonprofits with a primary mission to create, produce, present, provide or support arts and culture activities or services for the public;
- **Creative Placemaking Program** - With a goal to integrate arts and design into revitalization efforts, Cook County Arts will work with LISC to distribute \$2,752,000 million through a Creative Placemaking cohort-based learning and advising program that culminates with implementation grants between \$50,000 and \$250,000; and
- **Ecosystem Assessment** - Arts Alliance Illinois will conduct a detailed survey of the suburban arts sector's needs with recommendations for a sustainable role for the arts within County programming.

Public Facing Website

<https://cookcountyarts.org/>

Use of Evidence

Cook County Arts and Artists Program aims to improve financial stability for artists and nonprofit arts organizations and strengthen suburban communities through investments in the arts and culture projects.

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Getting Beyond Breakeven: A Review of Capitalization Needs and Challenges of Philadelphia-Area Arts and Culture Organizations	The Pew Charitable Trust and the William Penn Foundation	This study is the result of research and analysis of the financial health and financial literacy of 158 arts and culture organizations located in the Greater Philadelphia region. The study emphasizes the importance of liquid unrestricted net assets to the healthy functioning of arts and cultural organizations.	Non-Experimental

NT830 Cook County Arts and Artists Program, cont'd.

Navigating Recovery: Arts and Culture Financial and Operating Trends in Chicago	Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs	This report analyzes 86 Chicago-based arts and cultural organizations and shows why many organizations are experiencing crisis now: dwindling ticket sales, increased costs, and private donations that failed to keep pace with inflation. It finds that governmental funding was essential to rebuilding levels of working capital.	Non-Experimental
Lost Art: Measuring COVID-19's Devastating Impact on America's Creative Economy	The Brookings Institute	This research report uses industry data to estimate the long-term effects of the COVID-19 crisis on the creative economy. For artists and creative occupations, researchers estimate losses of more than 2.3 million jobs and \$74 billion in average monthly earnings for creative occupations, with the fine and performing arts disproportionately affected. They found that local government interventions in support of independent artists and small nonprofits were essential to protecting the health of the sector.	Non-Experimental
Creative Placemaking: A White Paper for The Mayors' Institute on City Design	National Endowment for the Arts	Foundational research report establishing Creative Placemaking as an effective strategy to shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural activities. Drawing on two decades of case studies and economic research, researchers found that the integration of arts and culture into broader livability and economic development outcomes held great potential for improving community life.	Non-Experimental

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of applications submitted by suburban art organizations	175
# of suburban art organizations that receive funding from the Nonprofit Relief Grant	100
# of events and webinars	5
# of event and webinar attendees	214
# of Outreach Emails Sent by the Cook County Arts email address related to the Nonprofit Relief Grants program	14
# of email or 1-on-1 outreach conducted by paid outreach partners or AAI related to the Nonprofit Relief Grants program	27

NT888 Veteran Grant Program

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
 Department: Bureau of Administration, Department

Project Identification Number: 61625
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$3,700,158
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,054,439
 Project Term: 2023-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Project Overview

The Veteran Grant Program takes a holistic approach to reach more veterans throughout Cook County, enhancing their resources, and increasing the number of veterans utilizing their earned benefits. The program will create a fund to provide grants to community-based veteran service organizations and veteran-owned businesses and provide technical training and job fairs for veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs has also established a Veterans Roundtable made up of various veteran community stakeholders that will provide input as the program progresses.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to increase the benefit utilization rate for veterans in Illinois, and increase, strengthen, and diversify employment opportunities for veterans, and increase the service and support for veterans facing financial hardships regardless of discharge status.

Evidence-based Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Financial Well-Being and Post-deployment Adjustment Among Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans	Military Medicine	The authors analyzed data from 1,388 Iraq and Afghanistan war era veterans who completed a national survey on post deployment adjustment. They found that veterans who reported having money to cover basic expenses were significantly less likely to face criminal arrest, homelessness, substance abuse, suicidal behavior, and aggression. Their study suggests that efforts aimed at enhancing financial literacy and promoting meaningful employment may enhance the quality of life of returning veterans.	Non-Experimental
Temporary Financial Assistance Decreased Health Care Costs for Veterans Experiencing Housing Instability	Health Affairs	Through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, the Department of Veterans Affairs partnered with community organizers to provide temporary financial assistance to veterans who are currently homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. On average, people who received the assistance incurred \$352 lower health care costs per quarter than those that did not receive the assistance.	Non-Experimental

NT888 Veteran Grant Program, cont'd.**Performance Report**

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of households served	737
Program-specific Metrics	
# of Chicago-Cook Technology Academy participants	755
% of Veterans completed training	100%
% of Veterans placed in technology positions	32%
# of Veterans receiving financial assistance	69
\$ for average home improvement or renovations	\$25,514
# of Veterans or dependents applying for home improvements	282

NT900 Investing in Families and Youth

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 63519
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$12,600,319
FY24 Funding Amount: \$3,288,115
Project Term: 2022-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Project Overview

Cook County is providing support to workforce and training programs that offer youth and adults quality paid work experiences to explore career pathways in target sectors. The County also supported the expansion of workforce development programs that serve hard-to-engage populations, including people with unstable housing, people with disabilities, and returning residents. Program resources support residents of suburban Cook County, promote economic mobility, community stability, and increase capacity of community-based organizations.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to implement youth and summer youth internships, facilitate reentry programming, and to offer service navigation for people with disabilities.

Evidence-base Determination: Strong evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Laying a Foundation: Four-Year Results from the National Youth Build Evaluation	MDRC	This study evaluated Youth Build, a program that provides hands-on vocational training for low-income young people, with a randomized controlled trial. The evaluation included 75 programs across the country and 4,000 participants. They found that 32.9% of participants enrolled in vocational school, compared to 21.7% in the control group. Participants also were more likely to report having a job and they earned higher wages.	Experimental
Allegheny County Jail- Based Reentry Specialist Program	National Institute of Justice	This was a two-phased program that first provided inmates with in-jail programming and then provided them with up to 12 months of supportive services in the community upon release. They found that participants had a 10% change of rearrest, compared with a 34% chance for the comparison group.	Non-Experimental
Bridging the Opportunity Divide for Low-Income Youth: Implementation and Early Impacts of the Year Up Program	Pathways for Advancing Careers and Education	Year Up provides six months of occupational and technical training in information technology and financial service sectors followed by a six-month internship to students. 57% of the control group pursued training compared to 96% of the treatment group. Year Up also increased average quarterly earnings by \$1,895 or 53%.	Experimental

NT900 Investing in Families and Youth, cont'd.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of households/individuals served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs)	26,477
# of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs	709
# of workers completing sectoral job training programs	556
# of people participating in summer youth employment programs	586
Program-specific Metrics	
# of youth enrolled in summer youth programming	614
# of youth enrolled in summer youth internships that attain a paid internship	586
# of youth that complete summer youth internship	560
# of employers that host youth for summer youth internships	128
# of young adults that complete sector-focused internship	381
# of young adults in sector-focused internships that transition to unsubsidized employment, or workforce, or education/training program	363
# of "The Road Home: A Hire Calling" participants who have been enrolled in employment services	350
# of "The Road Home: A Hire Calling" participants who have been enrolled in employment services that transition to post-secondary education, long-term training, or unsubsidized employment	145
# of "The Road Home: A Hire Calling" participants who have been enrolled in occupation training that receive an Industry Recognized Credential	93
# of hiring events or workshops	458
# of individuals who attend hiring events or workshops	22,784
# of new customers	2,380
# of total engaged customers	1,865
# of total new engaged customers	1,206
# of new customers who receive service referrals	464
# of total customers who receive service referrals	1,652
# of hiring events	12
# of registered participants for hiring events	5,247
# of participants who attend hiring events	1,916
# of initial interviews conducted	2,809
# of conditional offers, second interviews, or offers resulting from the hiring events	379
# of participants employed 30 days after the hiring event	112

TR002 Medical Debt Relief Initiative (Abolish Medical Debt)

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Office of the President

Project Identification Number: 61825
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$9,000,000
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$5,254,681
Project Term: 2022-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Project Overview

Cook County is partnering with Undue Medical Debt, a national nonprofit organization formerly known as RIP Medical Debt, and hospital providers located in Cook County that have chosen to participate in the Medical Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI), to purchase and retire the medical debt of eligible Cook County residents. As the first government agency to initiate an endeavor at this scale, Cook County has committed \$9 million of ARPA funds to the MDRI program with the potential to cancel up to \$1 billion in medical debt for hundreds of thousands of Cook County residents who have been disproportionately burdened by the weight of medical debt. This program will help provide financial relief, promote economic stability, and improve health equity across Cook County communities.

Qualifying recipients must be Cook County residents and have incomes up to 400% of current Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) or have medical debt that is 5% or more of their estimated household annual income.

Public Facing Website

<https://arpa.cookcountyil.gov/medical-debt-relief-initiative>

Use of Evidence

The goals are to provide medical debt relief for Cook County residents, reduce financial and psychological stress associated with medical debt, promote economic stability, and improve health equity across Cook County communities.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Reducing debt improves psychological functioning and changes decision-making in the poor	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)	This study examined how chronic debt affects behavior by studying how a large debt-relief program affected psychological functioning and economic decision-making in beneficiaries. A non-profit gave low-income households in Singapore up to 5,000 Singapore dollars. Comparing 196 beneficiaries before and after the debt relief found that debt relief reduced their anxiety by 11% and improved their cognitive functions by one-quarter of a standard deviation.	Non-Experimental
Second Chance: Life National without Student Debt	National Bureau of Economic Research	The authors use a plausibly random debt discharge on student Non-debt, to examine the effect on individual credit and labor market experimental outcomes. They found that beneficiaries reduced their indebtedness by 11%. They also saw an increase in geographical mobility, probability of changing jobs, and their income increased by about \$3,000 over a three-year period.	Non-Experimental

TR002 Medical Debt Relief Initiative (Abolish Medical Debt), cont'd.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of patients whose debt is retired	518,680
\$ Amount of debt purchased	\$664,744,471

TR008 Community Information Exchange

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 67164
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$9,500,000
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$5,328,046
Project Term: 2022-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

Cook County is supporting the development of a Community Information Exchange (CIE) for suburban Cook County and the City of Chicago to enhance the 211 resource referral system developed by Cook County, the City of Chicago and a range of partners. A CIE is an interconnected and linked network of health, behavioral health, human, and social service providers that share information and coordinate services so that an individual receives the whole-person care they need to be healthy and thrive, regardless of how they initially enter services, creating a “no wrong door” access to the social and health services system. Having a CIE will transform systems of care in Cook County by reducing or eliminating the significant barriers created when individuals, families and organizations need to navigate many systems to access care and services and endlessly repeat processes like intake, record-transfers, and referrals because systems cannot communicate.

In 2024, the Illinois Public Health Institute convened healthcare, homeless service providers, and other CIE stakeholders and developed a plan for implementing the Chicago Regionwide CIE (CR-CIE). Based on the planning process, the CIE will pilot with an initial focus on coordinating health and housing services for unhoused people in shelter-based or respite care. IPHI also selected a vendor to develop the CIE technology platform. The pilot is expected to launch in fall 2025.

Public Facing Website

Regionwide CIE website: <https://www.chicagoregionwidecie.org/>

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of people with lived experiences participating in CIE planning and/or implementation	74
# of organizations participating in pilot planning working group	35
# of education workshops held	42

Cook County Early Warning Network

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 60824
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$131,643
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0
Project Term: 2021-2022
Project Expenditure Category: 2.36 Aid to Other Impacted Industries

Project Overview

Cook County Early Warning program identified Cook County companies facing challenges as a result of COVID-19. The program provided expertise to distressed manufacturing SMEs by providing them turnaround and refinance services at no cost. Early Warning Services help businesses identify, evaluate, and address the immediate issues that threaten their livelihood and minimize the possibility of layoffs.

Performance Report

This initiative's assigned Expenditure Category has no Treasury-required performance indicators. Program-specific performance metrics were not collected, as the initiative was limited in budget and was completed early in the ARPA grant period.

NT117 Fixed-Site Emergency Shelter for People Experiencing Homelessness

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 66737
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$13,509,889
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0
Project Term: 2022-2024
Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

The Bureau of Economic Development supported organizations within the Cook County Continuum of Care to purchase and stand up fixed-site shelters to provide health and safety to people in a housing crisis who cannot be diverted from homelessness. These organizations also provided shelter services to ensure their experience of homelessness is short by reconnecting them to housing and other supports. Furthermore, the program supported returning residents and justice-involved individuals who are housing insecure or unhoused to provide the security necessary to connect these individuals to stable and permanent housing thus helping to reduce recidivism.

Use of Evidence

The goals of the program were to decrease reliance on temporary hotel-based shelter in use during the pandemic, support five or more fixed site shelters in various stages of development, and to create or launch development of fixed-site shelters to serve 200 persons experiencing homelessness.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Breaking the cycle of homelessness: Housing stability and social support as predictors of long-term well-being	Housing Studies	This study examined the role of secure housing and social support as predictors of psychological well-being of individuals following a period of homelessness. They found that remaining homeless predicted poorer well-being, life satisfaction and mood, while changes in social support predicted well-being over and above housing stability.	Non-Experimental
Homelessness and Health	Canadian Medical Association Journal	This article found that people experiencing homelessness are at increased risk of dying prematurely and suffer from a wide range of health problems, including seizures, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, musculoskeletal disorders, tuberculosis, and skin and foot problems. People experiencing homelessness also face significant barriers that impair their access to health care.	Non-Experimental
Impact of a New York City Supportive Housing Program on Housing Stability and Preventable Health Care among Homeless Families	Health Services Research	This article assessed the impact of a New York City supportive housing program on housing stability and preventable emergency department visits. They found that 87% of supportive housing tenants experiences housing stability in 2 years post baseline.	Non-Experimental

NT117 Fixed-Site Emergency Shelter for People Experiencing Homelessness, cont'd.**Performance Report****Treasury-required Metrics**

# of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	0
# of affordable housing units preserved or developed	0

The above metrics are required by Treasury and align with the program's Expenditure Category. Due to program design, not all initiatives yield outcomes that directly correspond with the Treasury's performance indicators. As a result, some metrics may reflect zero values.

Program-specific Metrics

# of individuals sheltered	2,000
# of shelter nights provided	53,749
# of children under 18 years old sheltered	402
Average length of stay (in days, weighted based on # of individuals sheltered)	230

TR005 Transforming Places

Policy Pillar: Vital Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 64464
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$194,634
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0
Project Term: 2022-2024
Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

Coordinated through the Bureau of Economic Development and the Equity Fund Taskforce, Cook County, in partnership with United Way of Metro Chicago, identified high-vulnerability communities and co-designed five Neighborhood Networks in suburban Cook County to meet community-defined needs for economic development, community building, community safety, public health, education, and social services. In 2023, networks were established in Chicago Heights/Ford Heights, Harvey, and Park Forest/Richton Park and the existing network in Blue Island/Robbins was expanded. A new network in Summit launched in early 2024. The County will support communities over a sustained period to ensure implementation and capacity-building, as well as helping attract additional public, private, and philanthropic resources. This place-based approach will be a paradigm shift for the County and will be community-driven and community-led. This program is also supported by the County's Equity Fund, which is funding the majority of the network costs.

Performance Report

All ARPA funding for TR005 was used exclusively for personnel costs; therefore, no program-specific performance metrics are available to report.

SAFE & THRIVING COMMUNITIES



NT075 Healing Hurt People Chicago

Policy Pillar: Safe & Thriving Communities
 Department: Cook County Health (Hospital)

Project Identification Number: 65712
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,152,907
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$78,553
 Project Term: 2023-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

Healing Hurt People Chicago (HHPC) is a trauma-informed violence intervention program for survivors of urban intentional violence. HHPC works to advance the notion that unaddressed psychological trauma is a key driver of the cycle of violence, fueled by structural inequalities and stigma. HHPC's goals are to reduce re-injury, retaliation, and criminal justice involvement by having a positive impact on trauma recovery, mental health, and drug use, and help participants achieve independence, work, education, and create a strong future. The expansion of this program allows the program to serve participants in some of the hardest hit communities in the City of Chicago.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of patients admitted to Trauma Unit identified as intentionally injured by community violence	199
# of patients attending SELF ("Safety, Emotions, Loss & Future") peer support groups	230
# of patients connected to HHPC services	1,883

NT078 County Municipalities Preparedness Planning

Policy Pillar: Safe & Thriving Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security

Project Identification Number: 61064

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$678,765

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$214,236

Project Term: 2023-2025

Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

Through the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (DEMRS), this funding supports a vendor to develop planning templates and training resources for Emergency Operations (EOP), Continuity of Operations (COOP), Continuity of Government (COG), and recovery plans for all Cook County departments and municipalities. The plans are housed in the Cook County Knowledge Management System and the vendor and DEMRS continually trains and assists municipalities with maintaining plans. This effort is strengthening preparedness and resiliency across Cook County with a focus on communities with a higher Social Vulnerability Score to ensure those who are most disparately impacted in the time of crisis are adequately prepared.

Performance Report

The following represent measures for Cook County Municipalities Preparedness Planning with the intended outcome of strengthening the County's preparedness and resiliency from the local to county level:

Program-specific Metrics	
# of municipalities completed training	53
# of hours provided of technical assistance	19,200
# of the 134 Cook County municipalities that received technical assistance	29
# of municipalities who leverage county templates for emergency plans	34
# of plans created by municipalities that did not have them	19
# of plans modified by municipalities that did have them	3
# of Cook County municipalities that will have created emergency plans based on initiative/program	51

NT085 Supporting Education and Employment Development (SEED)

Policy Pillar: Safe & Thriving Communities
Department: Justice Advisory Council

Project Identification Number: 65842
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$852,757
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$852,757
Project Term: 2024-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview

The Justice Advisory Council is providing funds to sustain and expand the Supporting Education and Employment Development (SEED) Program. This program is a pre-plea diversion program for individuals aged 18 to 26, charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver; manufacturing/delivery of a controlled substance; or unlawful possession of a weapon charges. The program provides case management, educational services, trauma-informed, and cognitive-behavioral interventions, job readiness training, job development, and placement, supported employment, and restorative justice activities. The successful completion of the program results in case dismissal and expungement at program graduation. Additionally, funds will be provided for a research partner to conduct an evaluation of the program evaluation which will be utilized in the continued improvement of the program.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to divert eligible participants away from formal prosecution and incarceration, provide unemployed and underemployed participants with support to find and retain employment and advance their careers, and enroll participants who are seeking education.

Evidence-base Determination: Strong evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Trauma-Informed Interventions for At-Risk and Justice-Involved Youth: A Meta-Analysis	Criminal Justice and Behavior	This meta-analysis looked at the effectiveness of trauma-informed treatment programs for justice-involved youth and youth at risk of justice system involvement using 29 publications. They found that trauma-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy was effective.	Non-Experimental
Even a Little Bit Helps: An Implementation and Experimental Evaluation of Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for High-Risk Probationers	Criminal Justice and Behavior	This study used a randomized field trial to evaluate the "Choosing to Think, Thinking to Choose" cognitive behavioral therapy program. High-risk probationers were assigned to either intensive probation, or intensive probation with a 14-week cognitive behavioral therapy program. Those in the therapy program were significantly less likely to reoffend, although this effect is concentrated in measures of nonviolent offending.	Experimental
Safe and Successful Youth Initiative	National Institute of Justice	The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) was a secondary violence prevention program in Massachusetts that targeted young men most likely to commit or be a victim of gang or gun violence to reduce their incarceration and victimization from violent crimes. One study found that participants in the program were less likely to be incarcerated, and this difference was statistically significant.	Non-Experimental

NT085 Supporting Education and Employment Development (SEED), cont'd

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs	36
# of workers completing sectoral job training programs	28
# of people participating in summer youth employment programs	4
Program-specific Metrics	
# of educational sessions provided	476
# of employment sessions provided	286
# of individuals that successfully complete orientation	81

NT086 Justice Reinvestment Plan

Policy Pillar: Safe & Thriving Communities
 Department: Justice Advisory Council

Project Identification Number: 66464
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,417,999
 FY25 Funding Amount: \$1,350,000
 Project Term: 2024-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

Cook County is committed to a comprehensive reimagining of our Public Safety and Criminal Justice budget requests and evaluation system with the aim of improving long-term public safety for residents of Cook County. The Justice Advisory Council is engaging consultants to review Cook County's public safety and criminal justice budgets and develop a report with (1) a descriptive overview of current spending with flags for duplicative efforts, overspending, or lack of mission-alignment; (2) identified missions, arrived at through meetings and facilitations, of each of the various agencies as relating to their budget requests; (3) identified areas of overspending and/or duplicative efforts, programming and services; (4) recommendations on areas of the budget that could be reduced or shifted; (5) a landscape analysis of best or emerging best practices in jurisdictions that have successfully reinvested criminal justice dollars into public health resources, community resources, or other areas that address root causes of or long-term solutions to crime and lack of safety; (6) a strategy for capturing existing and new savings in criminal justice budgets and re-investing those dollars in community initiatives; and (7) a proposed structure and plan for implementing a new framework for how public safety office budget requests and reallocations are tracked, reported, and evaluated so that funding of the criminal justice system is transparent and spending decisions can be made on more solid foundations of information and data with an orientation toward reinvestment. Throughout the process, JAC is collaborating with advocacy organizations, community partners, and individuals with lived experience to coordinate efforts with the contracted agency in decision-making.

Performance Report

This program launched in January 2025 and metrics will be reported in future reports. The following represent proposed measures the Justice Reinvestment Plan with the intended outcome of developing a long-term plan to further reduce criminal justice spending and increase community investment:

- Criminal Justice stakeholders' budgets analyzed
- Areas of reinvestment identified

NT514_BD Programs and Services for Domestic Violence Victims and Survivors

Policy Pillar: Safe & Thriving Communities
 Department: Justice Advisory Council

Project Identification Number: 64142
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$5,000,000
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$2,893,558
 Project Term: 2023-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview

The Cook County Justice Advisory Council is awarding funding to providers that serve survivors of domestic violence. The services that have been prioritized and will be provided to domestic violence victims and survivors include counseling, legal support, advocacy support and housing. This program is responding to the increase in domestic violence seen in the years following the onset of the pandemic, which has put an additional strain on the limited supports in place, particularly in communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to increase the number of domestic violence victims and survivors receiving rapid housing services, increase the number of domestic violence victims and survivors engaged with mental health services, and increase the number of domestic violence victims and survivors receiving legal assistance.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Safe and Stable Housing for Intimate Partner Violence Survivors, Maryland, 2019-2020	American Journal of Public Health	House of Ruth Maryland provides on-site transitional housing and community-based rapid rehousing for survivor of intimate partner violence. This quasi-experimental study was conducted to evaluate the program. They found that the average housing instability score decreased significantly along with economic dependence on partners. Finally, intimate partner violence re- victimization reduced significantly.	Non-Experimental
Common ground, complementary approaches: adapting the Housing First model for domestic violence survivors	Housing and Society	The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence adapted the Housing First model to support domestic violence survivors. The program found that 96% of families who were apart of this program retained their housing after 18 months. They also reported positive outcomes around increased safety, improved health and well-being, and restored dignity.	Non-Experimental

NT514_BD Programs and Services for Domestic Violence Victims and Survivors, cont'd.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics

# of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs	0
# of workers completing sectoral job training programs	0
# of people participating in summer youth employment programs	0

The above metrics are required by Treasury and align with the program's Expenditure Category. Due to program design, not all initiatives yield outcomes that directly correspond with the Treasury's performance indicators. As a result, some metrics may reflect zero values.

Program-specific Metrics

# of individuals receiving rapid housing	271
# of people provided legal assistance of relation to legal issues raised by the incidence(s) of domestic violence	667
# of people referred to legal assistance of relation to legal issues raised by the incidence(s) of domestic violence	651

NT715 Youth Juvenile Justice Collaborative Expansion

Policy Pillar: Safe & Thriving Communities
Department: Cook County Health (Hospital)

Project Identification Number: 64242
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$6,442,944
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$2,697,614
Project Term: 2022-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview

This program aims to reduce violence and minimize justice involvement of youth who have experienced violence or trauma or are at high risk of exposure to violence. Services include trauma-informed care coordination for 500 justice-involved youth per year over three years. Care coordinators will match justice-involved youth with the appropriate community-based services according to their individual goals as identified in an intake and assessment process, with a goal of minimizing future justice involvement for arrested youth. In addition to providing care coordination and direct services for youth and their families, funds will support data tracking and analysis, continuous quality improvement, and the development of an evaluation plan.

Use of Evidence

The goals of the project are to reduce violence and minimize justice involvement of youth who have experienced past violence or trauma or are at increased risk of exposure to violence and to provide trauma-informed care coordination for 1,500 justice-involved youth, including youth on diversion or youth granted deferred prosecution.

Evidence-base Determination: Strong evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Trauma-Informed Interventions for At-Risk and Justice-Involved Youth: A Meta-Analysis	Criminal Justice and Behavior	This meta-analysis looked at the effectiveness of trauma-informed treatment programs for justice-involved youth and youth at risk of justice system involvement using 29 publications. They found that trauma-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy was effective.	Non-Experimental
Even a Little Bit Helps: An Implementation and Experimental Evaluation of Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for High-Risk Probationers	Criminal Justice and Behavior	This study used a randomized field trial to evaluate the "Choosing to Think, Thinking to Choose" cognitive behavioral therapy program. High-risk probationers were assigned to either intensive probation, or intensive probation with a 14-week cognitive behavioral therapy program. Those in the therapy program were significantly less likely to reoffend, although this effect is concentrated in measures of nonviolent offending.	Experimental
Safe and Successful Youth Initiative	National Institute of Justice	The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) was a secondary violence prevention program in Massachusetts that targeted young men most likely to commit or be a victim of gang or gun violence to reduce their incarceration and victimization from violent crimes. One study found that participants in the program were less likely to be incarcerated, and this difference was statistically significant.	Non-Experimental

NT715 Youth Juvenile Justice Collaborative Expansion, cont'd.

Mentoring programs to affect delinquency and associated outcomes of youth at risk: A comprehensive meta-analytic review	Journal of Experimental Criminology	This study conducted a meta-analysis on mentoring interventions for effects for youth at risk on delinquency. They found that the mean effect size was significant for aggression, drug use, and academic functioning, showing mentoring has a significant impact on delinquency and associate outcomes.	Non-Experimental
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Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago is conducting a program evaluation. Their preliminary results from 2018 to 2020 indicated the feasibility of this program. They will continue with their evaluation as the program continues.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs	20
# of workers completing sectoral job training programs	13
# of people participating in summer youth employment programs	6
Program-specific Metrics	
# of youth referred by CCSAO	536
# of intakes	713
# of youth receiving trauma informed care coordination and connections to community-based services ("Connected to Services")	1,011
# of youth successfully completing program	560
% of youth successfully completing program	74%
# of training and professional development opportunities provided on a monthly basis	12
# of partners that participate in JJC Planning Committee Meetings	70

NT764 Housing and Resources for Justice-Involved Individuals

Policy Pillar: Safe & Thriving Communities
Department: Justice Advisory Council

Project Identification Number: 66174
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$13,267,053
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$11,269,131
Project Term: 2023-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 2.17 Housing Support: Housing Vouchers and Relocation Assistance for Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Project Overview

Cook County is committed to making services for returning residents available for individuals on a broad continuum of need, with due regard to an individual's particular needs, if any. In support of this goal, recognizing access to safe and stable housing as a common unmet need for returning residents, the Justice Advisory Council has designed a rental assistance program operated with five housing providers including Housing Authority of Cook County to serve over 100 returning residents for a period of up to 3 years; and provide individualized wraparound services for those returning residents in the rental assistance program. Available services include case management, legal support, housing access advocacy, employment supports, healthcare services, and educational supports. This initiative is designed to provide returning residents with the resources and support needed to navigate the challenges associated with reentry and achieve their goals.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to have over 100 individuals successfully referred to the program and receiving rental support and access to wraparound services to form an advisory group to help oversee and provide input to the program.

Evidence-base Determination: Strong evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Breaking the Homelessness-Jail Cycle with Housing First: Results from the Denver Supportive Housing Social Impact Bond Initiative	Urban Institute	Denver's Supportive Housing Social Impact Bond Initiative (SIB) launched in 2016 to increase housing stability and decrease jail stays among people who were experiencing chronic homelessness and had frequent interactions with the criminal justice system. This was a randomized controlled trial with 363 in the treatment group and 361 in the control group. Those in the SIB program received 560 more days of housing assistance than those in the control group. They also experienced a 34% reduction in police interactions and a 40% reduction in arrests. Three years after the start of the program, participants had a 27% reduction in total jail days.	Experimental
Housing First Reduces Re-offending among Formerly Homeless Adults with Mental Disorders: Results of a Randomized Controlled Trial	PLOS One	This was a randomized controlled study of a housing first program in Vancouver. Participants were randomly assigned to a scattered site housing first program or a congregate housing first program. The study found that the scattered site housing first model was associated with significantly lower numbers of sentences than treatment as usual.	Experimental

This program is being evaluated in partnership with the Inclusive Economy Lab at University of Chicago.

NT764 Housing and Resources for Justice-Involved Individuals, cont'd.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	49
# of affordable housing units preserved or developed	12
Program-specific Metrics	
# of individuals referred to program	126
# of individuals who successfully commence leases	83
# of individuals directly provided wraparound services	47

NT897 Violence Prevention Portfolio

Policy Pillar: Safe & Thriving Communities
Department: Justice Advisory Council

Project Identification Number: 62642
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$82,368,143
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$22,612,189
Project Term: 2022-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview

The Justice Advisory Council (JAC) is expanding funding for community-based services supporting residents at high risk of experiencing gun violence, as either a victim or perpetrator, particularly in communities with the highest rates of shooting incidents and gun-related homicides in Chicago and Suburban Cook County. These grants build upon the existing JAC grants portfolio and are complementary with similar investments made by the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, and philanthropy. The strategies that are implemented by partner organizations under the initiative include: Community Violence Intervention (CVI) or street outreach, victim services, hospital-based services, case management, and prevention and support services such as youth programming and vocational and employment support. JAC conducted a grant application process that included a series of virtual information sessions and capacity building workshops designed to support community organizations in developing compelling grant proposals and programs.

Public Facing Website

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/JACGrants>

Use of Evidence

The goals are to reduce the number of shooting incidents and improve the outlook and disposition of individual participants relative to involvement with gun violence.

Evidence-base Determination: Strong evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
The Effects of Cure Violence in The South Bronx and East New York, Brooklyn	John Jay College of Criminal Justice	New York City launched its first Cure Violence program which uses community outreach to interrupt violence. This report evaluates two programs – Man Up! Inc. in Brooklyn and Save Our Street South Bronx. When compared with similar areas in New York, gun violence rates declined significantly in the two neighborhoods. In Brooklyn, gun injuries declined by 50% and in South Bronx shooting victimizations fell from 35 victims to 13 in the first four years of the program. Finally, young men in the neighborhoods with Cure Violence programs reported declining support for violence as a means of settling personal disputes	Non-Experimental
A Prospective Randomized Controlled Trial of an Interpersonal Violence Prevention Program With a Mexican American Community	National Library of Medicine	Using methods of community-based participatory research, a prospective randomized controlled trial of a violence prevention program based on Latino cultural values was implemented with elementary school children in a Mexican American community. High risk students who participated in the program 2 to 3 times greater nonviolent self-efficacy than the control group.	Experimental

NT897 Violence Prevention Portfolio, cont'd.

Outcome Evaluation of Advance Peace Sacramento, 2018-2019	Institute of Urban and Regional Development	This report evaluated the outcomes of the Advance Peace Sacramento Program from 2018 to 2019. This program enrolled 50 residents most impacted by gun violence into an 18-month developmental, healing-centered, individualized, mentorship and life coaching program that is responsive to untreated trauma. The program decreased the number of gun homicides by 10.1%, and a difference-in-difference model revealed that this was due to the program. Additionally, for every \$1 spent on Advance Peace, Sacramento saved between \$18 and \$41 across emergency response, health care, and law enforcement.	Non-Experimental
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Furthermore, this program is partnering on a program evaluation with Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science (CORNERS) at Northwestern University.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs	8,257
# of workers completing sectoral job training programs	3,863
# of people participating in summer youth employment programs	4,348
Program-specific Metrics	
# of clients provided educational programming	46,669
# of clients provided legal assistance	4,549
# of clients provided mentoring	55,079
# of clients referred to food assistance programs	6,996
# of clients referred for medical/physical health services	4,869
# of clients referred to housing services	4,306

TR018 Public Defender Community Defense Center

Policy Pillar: Safe & Thriving Communities
Department: Public Defender

Project Identification Number: 62742
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$2,460,498
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,229,704
Project Term: 2023-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender is developing a Community Defense Center to provide robust collaborative legal services and leverage local community partnerships to serve two Cook County communities that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, incarceration, and gun violence. The Community Defense Center seeks to partner with and support communities within the two identified neighborhoods with legal services, community empowerment, advocacy and education. Funds are being used to renovate the spaces to ensure the Community Defense Centers are equipped to achieve these goals. The Community Defense Center will work with disadvantaged communities in greater Roseland/South Chicago and greater West Garfield Park/Humboldt Park.

Public Facing Website

[Community Defense Centers | Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender](#)

Use of Evidence

The project is currently engaging in a community collaborative strategic planning process with planning partners in Roseland and inside the Cook County Jail. The evidence basis will be established as the program stands up and be included in future reports.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics

# of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs	0
# of workers completing sectoral job training programs	0
# of people participating in summer youth employment programs	0

The above metrics are required by Treasury and align with the program's Expenditure Category. Due to program design, not all initiatives yield outcomes that directly correspond with the Treasury's performance indicators. As a result, some metrics may reflect zero values.

Program-specific Metrics

# of event attendees	75
# of organizational linkages	6

NT740 Gun Crime Strategy Unit

Policy Pillar: Safe & Thriving Communities
 Department: State's Attorney's Office

Project Identification Number: 61442
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,165,639
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0
 Project Term: 2022-2024
 Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview

The Gun Crime Strategy Unit Initiative supported the State's Attorney's Office in expanding the Gun Crime Strategies Unit (GCSU), adding investigators to the gun crime unit to work with prosecutors (state and federal, law enforcement agencies, etc.) and other stakeholders to help ensure public safety in communities across Cook County. The Gun Crimes Strategy Unit worked with law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders to help ensure public safety in communities across Cook County. The program was embedded in six of the most violent police districts in Chicago to combat the rise in violence and shooting within the City of Chicago while making societal improvements including assisting the judicial process and building stronger relationship with the communities served. GCSU provided legal support to the federal, state, and local initiative of the Crime Gun Intelligence Center and parolee forums organized by Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Use of Evidence

The goals are to reduce gun violence to lead to safer communities, improve relationships in communities most severely impacted by gun violence, and to improve coordination and collaboration with law enforcement agencies and prosecutor offices to enhance intelligence gathering and investigation.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Oakland California Group Violence Reduction Strategy	National Institute of Justice	In 2012, the homicide rate in Oakland, California was almost seven times the national rate. To combat this the city developed a ceasefire intervention strategy which consisted of the police conducting a gang audit to identify specific gangs causing violence. The police then met with these identified gangs and informed them that shootings would not be tolerated, there would be increased enforcement, and they offered services and opportunities for gang members to stop their violent behavior. This resulted in a 20% decline in yearly total shootings, with the difference being statistically significant.	Non-Experimental

NT740 Gun Crime Strategy Unit, cont'd.

Operation Ceasefire, National Boston Massachusetts	National Institute of Justice	The program sought to reduce gang violence, illegal gun possession, and gun violence in communities. To accomplish this Boston focused it law enforcement attention on the makes and calibers of guns that were used by gang members and they attempted to restore obliterated serial numbers. The program was associated with the 25% decrease in the monthly number of citywide gun assaults, and a 32% reduction in the monthly number of citywide shots-fired calls for service.	Non-Experimental
Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership	National Institute of Justice	This was a replication of the Project Ceasefire that the Boston Police Department conducted. This was carried out by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department in 1998. The program consisted of identifying the key offenders and meeting with the offenders and encouraging them to take advantage of community services such as mentoring, employment, and housing. Two years following the start of this program, monthly homicides were reduced by 34.3%	Non-Experimental

Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics

# of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs	0
# of workers completing sectoral job training programs	0
# of people participating in summer youth employment programs	0

The above metrics are required by Treasury and align with the program's Expenditure Category. Due to program design, not all initiatives yield outcomes that directly correspond with the Treasury's performance indicators. As a result, some metrics may reflect zero values.

Program-specific Metrics

# of investigators hired	4
# of investigations conducted (i.e., SA &/or RD numbers)	114
# of victims interviewed	40
# of witnesses interviewed	68
# of community meetings held by State's Attorney's Office	40
# of community members attending meetings hosted by State's Attorney's Office	849

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



NT005 South Suburban Hazardous Household Waste Facility and Satellite Collection Locations

Policy Pillar: Sustainable Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Environment and Sustainability

Project Identification Number: 64576

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$6,979,594

FY25 Total Funding Amount: \$2,849,471

Project Term: 2023-2026

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview

The mission of the Recycling, Composting and Circular Economy Solutions (RCCES) Initiative is to build municipal capacity to implement “reduction, reassembly, remanufacture, repair, reuse, repurpose, recycle, compost and circularity” related initiatives within suburban Cook County. The RCCES initiative is helping expand zero waste and circularity related programs and opportunity within Cook County to help successfully reach 45% diversion rate by 2030. Two strategic objectives of the RCCES initiative are: (1) the creation of the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM Center) located in the south suburbs. This CHaRM Center comprises a Household Hazardous Waste Facility and a Recycling Drop-Off Facility; and a municipal grant program to environmental justice communities to incorporate curbside residential recycling programs for their residents.

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility is a pinnacle location for Cook County residents to properly dispose of HHW, which includes items typically present in homes including toxic cleaners, pharmaceuticals, and gasoline/oil that pose serious health and safety concerns and can cause environmental damage. There are no facilities conveniently located for residents of the south suburbs to dispose of HHW, negatively impacting a region already with historically high pollution and open dumping issues. The permanent facility also serves as a consolidation location for satellite collection events and will be operated through an agreement with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which funds ongoing disposal costs. The Recycling Drop-Off Facility is available to all Cook County residents. It is a location that allows for the safe disposal and recycling of a wide variety of waste materials. These materials include household recyclable materials (paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum, and plastics), electronics, computers, televisions, clothing and textiles, Polystyrene Foam, small furniture items, and personal healthcare equipment. The grant program supports recycling and composting programs in municipalities that currently lack access to such services. In doing so, Cook County invests in its neighborhoods which face access issues to proper disposal for the ultimate goal of health and safety for residents.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of lbs of HHW diverted (excluding materials collected in gallons)	659,788
# of lbs of material diverted from landfill due to recycling services	83,285
# of educational/informational materials provided to residents	5,390
# of waste collection events held	20

NT007 Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment (BRITE) Fund

Policy Pillar: Sustainable Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Environment and Sustainability

Project Identification Number: 64679

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$9,206,263

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$4,638,123

Project Term: 2022-2026

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

Project Overview

The Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES) created the Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment (BRITE) Program to support assessments, recommendations, and a grant pool for commercial and industrial facilities within Suburban Cook County including dry cleaners, auto repair and auto body shops, metal finishers, metal fabricators, and food and beverage manufacturers. The BRITE Program offers nearly \$7.7M in grants for toxics and pollution reduction, renewable energy, energy and water efficiency and waste reduction projects. Along with grants, the BRITE Program focuses on program outreach to businesses in municipalities located within impacted communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce release of toxins and other waste to the environment, and conserve water, materials, and energy.

Public Facing Website

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/BRITE>

Use of Evidence

The goals are to reduce GHG emissions, waste to landfill, energy/water consumption, toxics reduction, and other environmental pollutants from businesses located in low income, minority, and/or environmentally burdened communities, to make investment in businesses located in those communities.

Evidence-base Determination: Moderate evidence base

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Barriers and motivators to the adoption of energy-saving measures for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs): the case of the Climate Smart Business Cluster program	Journal of Cleaner Production	This study argues that small and mid-size enterprises encounter significant barriers to successfully implementing energy efficiency or sustainability measures because they do not have the organizational resources to do so (compared to larger firms) – resulting in fewer SMEs taking up such measures.	Non-Experimental
Helping small businesses implement toxic use reduction techniques: dry cleaners, auto shops, and floor finishers assisted in creating safer and healthier workplaces	Journal of Cleaner Production	This study examines 4 cases of toxin use reduction non-technical assistance tailored to the needs of small immigrant businesses, experimental yielding tangible results including significant reduction in both worker and community exposure to toxics. Furthermore, it demonstrates the use case of incorporating occupational health and safety concerns into toxin use reduction technical assistance, to enable and entice small businesses to make fundamental changes, thereby positively impacting workers and the surrounding communities.	Non-Assistance Experimental

NT007 Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment (BRITE) Fund, cont'd.

Co-benefits of mitigating global greenhouse gas emissions for future air quality and human health	Nature Climate Change	This study simulated the co-benefits of global GHG reductions on air quality and human health using a global atmospheric model. They found that reducing greenhouse gas emissions could prevent approximately half a million premature deaths.	Non-Experimental
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Performance Report

Treasury-required Metrics	
# of small businesses served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate small businesses assistance programs)	60
Program-specific Metrics	
# of sustainability process/education trainings conducted	60
# of assessments conducted	60
# of sustainability process/education training attendees	60

NT010 Residential Renewable Energy Subsidy

Policy Pillar: Sustainable Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Environment and Sustainability

Project Identification Number: 66362

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$3,118,155

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,573,569

Project Term: 2023-2026

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The Department of Environment and Sustainability is offering financial support for residential solar installations through the Cook County Sun and Save program, expanding affordability to residents for whom renewable energy may not be attainable because they lack the up-front capital to pay for installations even though savings will pay back the investment over time. This program reduces barriers to clean energy for residents, reducing their energy burden and their utility bills over the lifetime of renewable energy installations, as well as helping to combat climate change. This program is aimed at residents with a household income between 80-120% of the Area Median Income (AMI). As of May 15, 2025, 87 homes are in the pipeline and over 50 homes have completed solar installations.

Public Facing Website

<https://smartenergy.illinois.edu/sunandsave/customer/>

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of solar assessments performed	73
# of homes that have completed solar installations	50

NT014 Healthy Homes and Deep Energy Retrofit Residential Properties

Policy Pillar: Sustainable Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Environment and Sustainability

Project Identification Number: 63077
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$29,337,507
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$12,093,991
 Project Term: 2023-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

Currently, children identified as having elevated blood lead levels are referred to the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) and families who qualify for services can receive free lead remediation at the residence. Some homes qualify for a Healthy Homes assessment in addition to the lead remediation services through a HUD funded program. To expand upon the benefits of existing programs, the Department of Environment and Sustainability has partnered with CCDPH and Elevate. Homes of participating families are undergoing a comprehensive evaluation that assesses household threats and toxins, indoor air quality, energy efficiency, and water use. Families selected for full program participation will receive grant-covered household enhancements including services such as toxin removal, weatherization, deep energy retrofits, beneficial electrification, and water conservation measures to deliver the greatest cost savings and health improvements. This program also incorporates community engagement, outreach, and educational programming.

This investment into residences will ultimately result in stronger and healthier communities. The program is open initially to families who have already participated in the existing lead poisoning prevention programs through CCDPH. Additional opportunities will be available to other families that fall below 120% AMI. As of May 15, 2025, 228 homes were assessed and 114 homes completed.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of residences offered assessments	298
# of assessments completed	228

NT015 Climate Resiliency Plan Development

Policy Pillar: Sustainable Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Environment and Sustainability

Project Identification Number: 65462

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$15,750,823

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$13,348,942

Project Term: 2023-2026

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES) used a competitive application and interview process to identify five communities (the Villages of Bellwood, Franklin Park, Justice, and Lynwood and the City of Markham) that want to develop Climate Resiliency Plans but need staff or funding to do so. DES has partnered with a team of consultants (Geosyntec, ICF, and Metro Strategies) and these five community partners to develop individualized plans relevant to each community's needs, putting communities at the center of planning and project prioritization. The first phase includes identifying communities for participation, hiring community-centered consultants, and then meeting with residents, municipal staff, and other stakeholders to identify strengths, assets, threats, and concerns to help individuals and businesses thrive in a changing climate. The planning team held 72 community engagement sessions, including focus groups, workshops, stakeholder interviews, and pop-up events across all five communities, engaging 970 stakeholders. The engagement process culminated in an open house in each community in November 2024 to share findings, preliminary lists of resiliency solutions, and receive additional feedback from stakeholders. The draft plans were completed in early 2025 with final plans to be released in mid-2025. In late 2024, Cook County initiated the second phase—Implementation—which will fund select projects, prioritized by community impact and regional importance. A subrecipient, Corvias Infrastructure Solutions (CIS), is leading this phase, where support will emphasize green infrastructure, tree planting, job training, and maintenance in each community. This program will specifically focus on communities with a history of disinvestment and industrialization, have faced high environmental burden, and disproportionate impacts from climate change.

Public Facing Website

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/climateresiliency>

Performance Report

The second phase of this program (implementation) began in late 2024 and metrics will be reported in future reports. The following represent measures for the first phase (planning) Climate Resiliency Plan Development with the intended outcome of helping communities develop individualized plans relevant to their needs, putting communities at the center of planning and project prioritization:

Program-specific Metrics	
# of community engagement sessions held	72
# of community-based organizations engaged in identifying and prioritizing resiliency strategies	72
# of community members engaged in identifying and prioritizing resiliency strategies	970

NT019 Neighborhood Revitalization Brownfield Remediation

Policy Pillar: Sustainable Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Environment and Sustainability

Project Identification Number: 60977

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$10,063,752

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$6,864,311

Project Term: 2022-2026

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

Project Overview

Brownfield sites are underutilized or vacant sites that have real or perceived environmental issues that deter their redevelopment. The Department of Environment and Sustainability is expanding its current brownfield program, currently limited to a few communities the County received Federal grants to serve, to assess and remediate sites throughout suburban Cook County to promote economic growth and investment through redevelopment. Marketing is targeted to Qualified Census Tracts, which is a census tract or equivalent geographic area where at least 50% of households have an income below 60% of the Area Median Gross Income (AMGI) or have a poverty rate of 25% or more. Brownfield sites can also be remediated and returned to other productive uses such as open green space, parks, and flood and stormwater retention.

Through these efforts, two historical gas stations with leaking underground fuel tanks have been cleaned up in Posen and South Chicago Heights. In Burnham, a vacant industrial building was demolished and cleared, making space for repurposed use by Burnham Public Works Department. These remediation projects would not have occurred in 2024 if not for ARPA funding, coordination, and technical assistance. Many more impactful remediation projects are planned for 2025 in Maywood, Blue Island, and within Cook County Forest Preserve District lands.

Public Facing Website

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/brownfield-redevelopment>

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of municipalities contacted	40
# of meetings conducted	145
# of sites in brownfield site inventory	113
# of Phase I ESAs	38
# of Phase II ESA	14
# of sites assessed	72

NT893 Land Acquisition Plan

Policy Pillar: Sustainable Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Environment and Sustainability

Project Identification Number: 62550

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$7,000,000

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,884,350

Project Term: 2023-2026

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County completed its Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan in 2019, which outlines an integrated model of land conservation and enhanced quality of life with healthy active communities. In alignment with this Plan, the Forest Preserves is acquiring up to 500 acres from willing sellers in this area, promoting land conservation while reducing flooding and building greater resilience to storm events and impacts from climate change. The preservation and restoration of public open space is a nature-based solution to reduce future flooding and build community resilience. The preservation of public land will also provide outdoor recreation activities that promote improved public health, aid in the generation of economic benefits and boost community and social resilience.

Public Facing Website

<https://fpdcc.com/about/plans-projects/land-acquisition-plan/>

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of land deals completed	2
# of acres acquired	98

NT894 Riparian Restoration

Policy Pillar: Sustainable Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Environment and Sustainability

Project Identification Number: 66950
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$3,000,000
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,517,396
 Project Term: 2022-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County's nearly 70,000 acres of public land provide significant ecosystem services to Cook County residents, including reducing flooding and improving air and water quality. The Riparian Restoration Project, a grant to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, facilitates the restoration of creek banks and drainages and restore floodplains, reducing flooding and soil erosion and improving community resilience to impacts from climate change. Flooding is a growing concern as climate change triggers more frequent storms and heavier, more intense rainfalls. Many Cook County creeks have suffered from damaged banks, soil erosion, and intense flood stage damage.

Restoration contractors—including three veteran-owned businesses—conduct the work including engineering, removal of invasive plants and brush, stabilizing banks and surrounding soils, and replanting and reseeding the natural areas with native plants.

Public Facing Website

<https://fpdcc.com/about/plans-projects/thorn-creek-watershed-restoration/>
<https://fpdcc.com/about/plans-projects/tinley-creek-watershed-restoration/>

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of acres where restoration is initiated	422
# of hydrologic restoration projects identified	19

TR004 Resilience Hubs

Policy Pillar: Sustainable Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Environment and Sustainability

Project Identification Number: 67076

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$2,402,209

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$2,219,168

Project Term: 2023-2026

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES) and the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (DEMRS) are collaborating with community partners to develop Resilience Hubs in Cook County's South Suburbs.

Resilience Hubs are buildings that provide day-to-day services that address community chronic stressors and support the community during and after disaster events, addressing both capacity-building and emergency functions. Resilience Hubs work at the nexus of climate mitigation, adaptation, and equity to improve community sustainability and resilience through a bottom-up approach centered on community co-development and building local power and leadership. Each resilience hub is developed with a team comprising community members, local business representatives, community-based organizations, municipal and county staff, and decision-makers, to prioritize community voices in this initiative.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of community members participating in program project teams	42
# of community partnerships established	15
# of resilience hubs identified	2

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



NT011 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Policy Pillar: Connected Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Environment and Sustainability, Bureau of Asset Management

Project Identification Number: 62962

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$5,775,110

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$5,627,609

Project Term: 2023-2025

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

This initiative seeks to increase access to public electric vehicle charging stations throughout Cook County by focusing on where there are currently large gaps in service areas (primarily in the south and west suburbs) and installing up to 50 Level 2 charging stations and 10 DC fast chargers. The initiative is community driven, increases access for residents in multi-family homes, reduces the locations without a public electric vehicle charging station dramatically and greatly increases the regional charging network. Outreach was completed through meetings, focus groups, tabling, and presentations focused on the County's disinvested communities. A mapping tool survey was developed to collect all suggestions of where a good public charging station location would be. Over 550 responses were received. Increasing access to EV charging will encourage EV usage, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and stimulating future regional infrastructure planning efforts. This program will install public electric vehicle charging stations in areas where none are currently available and communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution.

Public Facing Website

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/EVcharging>

Performance Report

Program-required Metrics	
# of sites assessed for EV charging stations	30
# of IGAs/MOUs in place	20

NT012 Rain Ready Plan Implementation

Policy Pillar: Connected Communities
 Department: Department of Environment and Sustainability

Project Identification Number: 65350
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$6,000,000
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$2,865,712
 Project Term: 2022-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview

In 2016, Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) created Rain Ready plans for the Calumet Corridor, which includes Blue Island, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Riverdale, and Robbins. These communities have a history of both disinvestment and flooding. The plans were funded in part by Cook County Community Block Development Grant funds. The Department of Environment and Sustainability has partnered with CNT to put these six communities on a path towards greater resilience by implementing many of the recommended projects to improve stormwater management through green infrastructure and sustainable economic development. The program collaborates with community-based resident steering committees, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and other partner organizations to prioritize efforts by community impact and regional importance.

Public Facing Website

<https://rainready.org/calumet-corridor/>

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics

# of community members participating in selected Rain Ready projects/municipality	646
# of organizations involved in implementing Rain Ready projects	29

NT025 Invest in Cook Expansion

Policy Pillar: Connected Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Transportation and Highways

Project Identification Number: 63162

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$24,974,970

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$21,880,928

Project Term: 2024-2026

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Invest in Cook (IIC) is an existing grant program that annually awards \$8.5 million to communities to advance local transportation infrastructure projects that implement the priorities of the County's long-range transportation plan and support economic outcomes. The expansion of this existing program will allow the Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH) to support a wider range of infrastructure improvements typically not eligible for funding, including support for project elements like underground utility improvements, watermain replacements, and drainage needs. Funded project work will include planning and feasibility studies, engineering, and construction, yielding an additional \$25 million investment overall.

DoTH worked with key partners to identify projects for the program, including the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development's Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) and the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability's Brownfield Redevelopment initiative, and prior years of the DoTH IIC program to select the projects from previously unfunded/underfunded infrastructure program applications, and other known locations where funding is critical to moving projects forward. A large portion of the total \$25M will support 20 projects identified by the Chicago Department of Transportation in partnership with DoTH, with a focus on state of good repair Citywide, pedestrian safety improvements at priority locations, as well as engineering support for future bike trails on the South and West sides of the City. 23 projects will be implemented by suburban communities across Cook County, and the County will implement an additional nine projects with a focus on state of good repair needs, ADA-compliant pedestrian improvements, complete streets improvements, and economic development supportive local initiatives. To date, \$5.2 million dollars of construction and engineering activity has been reimbursed. Six of the projects are fully implemented and many others are nearing completion in 2025, keeping DoTH on target to fully complete project implementation by 2026.

This program is another example of Cook County recognizing that the benefits of improved infrastructure extend past jurisdictional boundaries and necessitate the level of coordination that DoTH can provide.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics

Program-specific Metrics	
# of bike infrastructure projects awarded	8

NT096 Chicago Southland Fiber Network (CFSN) Expansion

Policy Pillar: Connected Communities
 Department: Bureau of Technology, Office of the President

Project Identification Number: 61161
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$11,858,656
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$6,742,365
 Project Term: 2023-2025
 Project Expenditure Category: 5.21 Broadband: Other projects

Project Overview

The Chicago Southland Fiber Network provides gigabit broadband to government, education, healthcare, and businesses. Cook County will support the extension of the broadband infrastructure into south suburban communities with the highest Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) scores in the State of Illinois. Cook County will also add public Wi-Fi access in certain anchor, education, and government institutions that serve vulnerable communities. This program covers areas in the south suburbs, which have the highest Social Vulnerability Index in the state of Illinois and are considered disadvantaged communities.

Performance Report

Program-required Metrics	
# of miles of fiber optic cables added	39
# of government institutions with broadband access as a result of this project which did not have access previously	24
# of educational institutions with broadband access as a result of this project which did not have access previously	9

NT097 Lead Service Pipe Replacement - Pilot Program

Policy Pillar: Connected Communities
 Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 64056
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$15,000,000
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$5,954,258
 Project Term: 2023-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 5.12 Drinking water: Lead Remediation, including in Schools and Daycares

Project Overview

Coordinated by the Bureau of Economic Development, Cook County has partnered with Elevate Energy to conduct the replacement of developmentally harmful lead service lines across Suburban Cook County. The pilot is two-pronged: 1) direct replacement of lead service lines and 2) technical assistance to assist municipalities with implementing lead service line replacement programs. The replacement program, LeadCare Cook County, has replaced over 200 lead service lines at home-based and center-based child cares to date. The technical assistance program, Cook County TAP, is providing important resources to municipalities in suburban Cook County as they work to meet the requirements to replace all lead service lines in their communities. Communities with a need for education and technical assistance will be identified through community engagement.

Public Facing Website

<https://leadcareillinois.org/cookcounty/>
<https://www.cookcountytap.org/>

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of application reviewed (high-risk facilities)	512
# of applications accepted (high-risk facilities)	386
# of high-risk facilities provided with educational materials and interim clean water solutions	197

NT099 Municipal Capacity for Capital Improvements

Policy Pillar: Connected Communities
 Department: Bureau of Asset Management

Project Identification Number: 63464
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$30,139,191
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$22,947,559
 Project Term: 2022-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Coordinated by the Bureau of Asset Management, Cook County is providing technical assistance to suburban Cook County communities to use existing resources and attract additional, sustainable funding for critical capital improvement projects. Cook County will provide priority and deeper assistance to municipalities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 or by disinvestment. Many under-resourced municipalities do not have the bandwidth to receive and mobilize funds in an efficient manner. This program aims to ensure that the right systems are in place for local government to bring community desired projects to fruition. This initiative will leverage existing expertise within the County to benefit municipalities that need assistance. It also provides new capacity via County staff or other partners to understand the universe of needed or desired projects, help municipalities prioritize projects, identify the most appropriate resource for implementation, and provide support to capital improvement projects.

Performance Report

Program-specific Metrics	
# of potential projects identified by capital inventory	2,735
# of municipalities identified in capital inventory	70

NT119 Digital Equity Planning

Policy Pillar: Connected Communities
Department: Office of the President

Project Identification Number: 66064
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,821,829
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$557,099
Project Term: 2023-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

To coordinate Cook County's long-term digital equity work, the County has partnered with the Benton Institute to launch a version of their Accelerate Illinois program, for the most underserved suburban Cook County municipalities. This program aims to (1) better understand the unique digital equity needs of under-connected municipalities, (2) identify gaps in existing digital infrastructure and accessibility, and (3) develop a set of goals and strategies to help bridge the digital divide.

During the summer of 2023, Cook County launched digital equity outreach and engagement activities across the County, focusing on communities with low Broadband Connectivity, as the American Communities Survey indicated. A community surveying process was designed and implemented along with in-person and virtual community conversations to highlight resident voices and ensure equitable representation across Cook County communities. The results of the survey and comment cards collected from the community conversations helped to inform the recommendations made in the Digital Equity Action Plan and the creation of the Digital Equity Map. Cook County is now taking the initial steps toward implementing the proposed 12 IMPACT Recommendations.

Performance Report

Program-required Metrics	
# of lbs of internet-enabled devices (e.g., laptops, tablets, hotspots) collected through partner contributions for the purpose of redistribution	35,000
# of devices that have been distributed to individuals or households to support digital access and literacy, including through giveaways, grant programs, or community events	960
# of households provided with equipment that enables high-speed internet access through mobile hotspots	210
# of district initiatives, programs, or workstreams outlined in the official Digital Equity Action Plan to address barriers to digital access, skills, and infrastructure	14

NT795 Broadband Expansion at HACC Properties

Policy Pillar: Connected Communities
Department: Office of the President

Project Identification Number: 66861
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,832,253
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$872,535
Project Term: 2023-2026
Project Expenditure Category: 5.21 Broadband: Other projects

Project Overview

This initiative is upgrading broadband infrastructure at all Housing Authority of Cook County-owned (HACC) properties. Current network infrastructure can only support 2-3 users at a time and is inadequate to meet the needs of both staff and residents who use the communal computers. This upgrade responds to the increased need for Internet access among HACC residents and staff due to COVID-19 restrictions and will additionally address the digital divide by providing low-income residents access to high-speed internet. This program helps people living in HACC properties, which is housing for low-income individuals.

Performance Report

This program is in progress and metrics will be reported in future reports. The following represent proposed measures for Broadband Expansion at HACC Properties with the intended outcome of improving network speeds and stability at Housing Authority properties and increasing the use of the upgraded broadband network, and internet more generally, by Housing Authority residents:

- Sites with broadband access
- Wi-fi installations in common areas

NT875 Stormwater Management Project Implementation

Policy Pillar: Connected Communities

Department: Bureau of Administration, Department of Transportation and Highways

Project Identification Number: 62350
 Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$20,000,000
 FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$17,360,423
 Project Term: 2023-2026
 Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview

Coordinated by the Department of Transportation and Highways, the Stormwater Management Project Implementation Program is advancing 26 stormwater management projects throughout the County. To implement this program, Cook County has partnered directly with municipalities and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) to support stormwater management in communities that experience significant flooding, with a focus on supporting under-resourced communities. DoTH worked with key partners, including the MWRD and the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (EMRS) to select the 26 projects from previously unfunded/underfunded MWRD Stormwater Partnership Program applications, the Cook County Hazard Mitigation Plan priorities and other known locations where funding is critical to moving projects forward.

This one-time infusion will allow MWRD and the County to expand funding for stormwater management project implementation since local capacity constraints currently limit the existing MWRD program's impact. By expanding an existing MWRD initiative with ARPA funds the County is demonstrating a commitment to thoughtfully addressing multijurisdictional issues and will build climate resiliency within more Cook County communities through increased identification and implementation of flood mitigation projects. Over the long-term, this project will help communities build local capacity, allowing their staff to perform more of this work internally.

Projects included in the agreement will advance planning, preliminary engineering, design engineering and construction phase projects. MWRD will be the lead agency for 16 of projects, eight of the projects will be led by municipalities, and the County will implement the remaining two projects. To date, \$5.8 million dollars of construction and engineering activity has been reimbursed. Two projects have completed implementation, with several others on track to finish in 2025. DoTH is on target to fully complete program implementation by 2026.

Performance Report

Program-required Metrics

# of projects constructed	29
# of residents impacted by projects	67

NT792 Lead Pipe Removal at Vera Yates Homes and Richard Flowers Home

Policy Pillar: Connected Communities
Department: Bureau of Economic Development

Project Identification Number: 62841
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$310,728
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0
Project Term: 2023-2024
Project Expenditure Category: 5.12 Drinking water: Lead Remediation, including in Schools and Daycares

Project Overview

This initiative supported the assessment and potential removal of lead water service lines at two Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) affordable family housing properties: the Vera Yates Homes in Ford Heights and the Richard Flowers Homes in Robbins. With funding from this grant, HACC conducted comprehensive evaluations to determine the presence of lead piping and was prepared to take immediate action to mitigate any identified risks. This proactive approach helped ensure that residents—particularly children and families—were protected from the harmful effects of lead exposure. This program helped residents in Ford Heights and Robbins which are classified as disadvantaged communities by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. No immediate action was required after evaluations took place, as no lead was found in either HACC property.

Performance Report

Program-required Metrics	
# of contractor labor hours	1,212
% of funds allocated to minority business contractors	91%

OPEN COMMUNITIES



Cook County Infrastructure Grant Program

Policy Pillar: Open Communities
Department: Department of Budget and Management Services

Project Identification Number: 67662
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$25,114,000
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$7,911,249
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Cook County will utilize its revenue loss funding to support infrastructure projects around Cook County in coordination with the Chicago Horticultural Society (Botanical Garden), Chicago Zoological Society (Brookfield Zoo), and Cook County Forest Preserve.

Professional Services and Administrative Costs

Policy Pillar: Open Communities
Department: Bureau of Finance

Project Identification Number: 60001
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$44,341,703
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$6,109,273
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The Professional Services and Administrative Costs project covers a number of one-time contracts for professional services, such as workforce analysis, IT service contracts, and other key operational needs.

Administrative Expenses

Policy Pillar: Open Communities
Department: Bureau of Finance

Project Identification Number: 60363
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$37,168,509
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$6,893,698
Project Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview

These administrative costs support contracting with subject matter experts to plan, execute, and track progress on SLFRF-funded projects.

Cooperative Programs

Policy Pillar: Open Communities

Project Identification Number: 60004

Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$491,666

FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0

Project Expenditure Category: 6.2-Non-federal Match for Other Federal Programs

Project Overview

Cook County utilized its revenue loss funding to cash match federal programming in coordination with the Army Corp of Engineers for the Village of Dixmoor. As of this report, this is the only Non-Federal match project identified.

Forest Preserve Premium Pay

Policy Pillar: Open Communities
Department: Bureau of Finance

Project Identification Number: 67362
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$1,886,000
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Grant supporting premium pay for Forest Preserves workers who performed essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

One-Time Payments

Policy Pillar: Open Communities
Department: Bureau of Finance

Project Identification Number: 60002
Proposed Total Funding Amount: \$24,933,484
FY24 Funding Amount: \$0
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

To support employees for work done to mitigate COVID-19 since the public health emergency was declared in FY2020, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved certain one-time payments over a series of Board meetings for certain Cook County employees using an apportionment of the monies received from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act. The Board approved one-time payments of \$3,000 to be paid in FY2021 and \$1,000 to be paid in FY2022 per applicable Employee, with limited exceptions as identified in the County's Collective Bargaining Agreements. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Budget & Management Services, and the Office of the Comptroller reviewed costs and identified those Employees deemed eligible for premium pay as set forth in the Interim Final Rule. Employees that were deemed ineligible under the premium pay received these One-Time Payments funded by the County's revenue loss allocation. Many of these Employees worked remotely, which disqualified them under the Premium Pay category.

Personnel Costs

Policy Pillar: Open Communities
Department: Bureau of Finance

Project Identification Number: 60003
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$49,850,947
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$900
Project Expenditure Category: 6 .1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The Cook County Board of Commissioners obligated funds to be spent on personnel needs. These funds have helped the County build capacity to meet increased demands and to support all ARPA initiatives.

Premium Pay

Policy Pillar: Open Communities
Department: Bureau of Finance

Project Identification Number: 60243
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$45,133,780
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0
Project Expenditure Category: 4.1 Public Sector Employees

Project Overview

To support employees for work done to mitigate COVID-19 since the public health emergency was declared in FY2020, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved certain one-time payments over a series of Board meetings for certain Cook County employees using an apportionment of the monies received from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act. The Board approved one-time payments of \$3,000 to be paid in FY2021 and \$1,000 to be paid in FY2022 per applicable Employee, with limited exceptions as identified in the County's Collective Bargaining Agreements. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Budget & Management Services, and the Office of the Comptroller reviewed costs and identified those Employees deemed eligible for premium pay as set forth in the Interim Final Rule. Employees that were deemed eligible for premium pay received these payments funded by the County's Premium Pay fund allocation, while all other Employees received One-Time Payments funded by the County's Revenue Loss fund allocation.

Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Policy Pillar: Open Communities
Department: Bureau of Human Resources

Project Identification Number: 67864
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$5,885,934
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery project will support public sector capacity-building projects within Cook County, including operational assessments, administrative tools, and studies.

Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County

Policy Pillar: Open Communities
Department: Veterans Assistance Commission

Project Identification Number: 67962
Total ARPA Funding Amount: \$398,684
FY25 ARPA Funding Amount: \$0
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County program will provide programming to support the Cook County Veterans Assistance Commission, which provides assistance to eligible veterans and their families residing in Cook County in need of financial assistance for basic living expenses and/or emergencies.



Toni Preckwinkle
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Cook County Board President

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Cook County of Illinois State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2025

RECOVERY PLAN REPORT