Merced County

# Recovery Plan

## State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2025 Report

# MERCED COUNTY

# 2025 Recovery Plan

## Contents

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

**Executive Summary**

Merced County ("County") was allocated a total of $53,936,085 in funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program. The County received two tranches of $26,968,042.50; the first tranche was received in May 2021 and the second tranche in June 2022. In response to the guidance released from the U.S. Department of Treasury ("Treasury"), the County conducted an analysis during the 2021 reporting period of the overall impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the impacts on operations and services provided, and anticipated revenue compared to actual receipts. This analysis was conducted using information gathered from County Departments as it relates to existing operations and projects. The assessment of the pandemic's effects on the County's revenue was prepared by utilizing the formula provided by Treasury to calculate projected reductions in revenue, and was compared to actual revenue received to determine the local impact.

The analysis also included identifying operations and associated expenses as part of the County's direct response to the pandemic. Additionally, to better understand future demands for countywide resources, a project needs assessment was conducted to provide a prioritization for unmet needs that would have otherwise been addressed, absent the impacts of the pandemic. Staff sought direction from the Board of Supervisors to utilize the County's ARPA-SLFRF funding under the Expenditure Category (EC) 6.1 Revenue Replacement-Provision of Government Services to address operational and revenue shortfalls and create a framework for identifying projects. In accordance with Treasury's guidance, the County has consistently utilized the prescribed formula during all reporting periods to confirm revenue loss and determine eligible costs as part of EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement-Government Services. All County project costs under the ARPA-SLFRF allocation are eligible as Revenue Replacement and will be expended and reported under EC 6.1. The County's SLFRF expenditures are organized as projects under the following programmatic categories, as approved by the Board of Supervisors in its final version on June 7, 2022:

| Programmatic Category | |
|---|---|
| 1. | Homeless Services |
| 2. | COVID-19 Support |
| 3. | Community Facilities |
| 4. | Flood Control/Water |
| 5. | Roads |
| 6. | Public Safety |
| 7. | COVID-19 Pandemic Payment |

Each programmatic category includes various projects to address the provision of government services that would otherwise be indefinitely delayed without the replacement of revenue under ARPA-SLFRF.

## Uses of Funds

***<u>EC 6: Revenue Replacement</u>***

The programmatic categories identified above are based on the County's assessment of the pandemic's impacts on operations and revenue. Activities falling under these programmatic categories would have been impacted due to the reduction in revenue the County experienced during the pandemic, and ultimately would have limited regular operations. The County utilized the calculation formula released by Treasury to determine local revenue impacts and determine eligibility under EC 6.1. Based on the outcome of the County's analysis, actual revenue did not meet our counterfactual projections. According to the calculation formula provided by Treasury to calculate projected revenue growth, the County projected an average revenue growth rate of 7.6% through 2023. Actual revenues received in 2021 fell short of this rate by $36,240,386. When combined with 2020's revenue loss, as reported in the 2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report, the amount of revenue loss exceeds the County's total SLFRF allocation of $53,936,085. This identified gap in revenue would have prevented the County from completing projects necessary for the provision of government services. As such, the County's strategy for expenditure of ARPA-SLFRF funds under EC 6.1 ensures specified projects in the identified programmatic categories to move forward.

Eligible expenses for public projects during this period included costs under the Community Facilities programmatic category which encompassed park infrastructure improvements, library facility improvements, and Veterans and Community Hall improvements. Community facility and park infrastructure projects address deficiencies in the accessibility, functionality and general use of these locations and are vital for the health and safety of the communities. Activities identified as part of the County's Community Facilities projects will be ongoing throughout the ARPA-SLFRF program period.

Eligible expenses identified under the COVID-19 Support programmatic category includes community outreach and engagement activities to better understand the needs and priorities throughout the unincorporated communities in the County. Special consideration and priority for hard-to-reach populations, including migrant and agricultural communities, low-income, and under- or uninsured populations, and communities of color were considered throughout the County's outreach and engagement process. Information was distributed in multiple languages with the provision of translation services during in-person presentations as well as delivery by various methods including mailers, text messaging and social media.

The County has been able to leverage other ARPA resources to assist in providing COVID-19 support to communities. Merced County received a grant from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Emergency Preparedness Office (EPO) originating from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act of 2021. The purpose of this funding is to provide critical resources for COVID-19 response to include expanded testing, case investigation, contact tracing, surveillance, containment and mitigation under the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Enhancing Detection (ELC ED Expansion) project. This grant has been utilized to support a variety of activities within the County to include support for ongoing vaccination clinics through May 2022 as well as testing for individuals in correctional facilities and other congregate settings. Support for these activities continued through Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

In Fiscal Year 2020-2021 the County leveraged State partnerships for Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, as well as provided information for housing support through CalWORKS, Home Safe and Housing Disability Advocacy Programs. In 2021, the County consolidated its COVID-19 Rent Relief Program for Round 2 with the State of California, to streamline services. The State continued administration of the program, and information about these programs is still available on the County's ARPA webpage.

In Fiscal Year 2022-2023 The Merced County Department of Public Health received funding from the California Home Visiting Program American Rescue Plan Rounds 1 and 2. The purpose of this funding was to support home visiting activities that address the immediate needs of parents, children, and families, including addressing such issues as child maltreatment, domestic violence, substance use disorders, and mental health needs.

Additionally, in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 the County's Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) received ARPA funding through the Behavioral Health Response and Rescue Project (BHRRP) as supplemental awards through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG). Mental health and substance abuse services to the community continued into Fiscal Year 2023-2024 through these activities under the remaining MHGB ARPA First Episode Psychosis and the SABG ARPA Prevention programs.

Finally, in Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the Merced County Department of Workforce Investment received funding through the Community Care Expansion Preservation Program as part of the federal ARPA program to assist skilled nursing facilities serving adult and senior residents with operational costs. The goal is to assist these facilities to increase the number of residents who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants.

**Promoting equitable outcomes**

Merced County has worked cooperatively with other government agencies, staff and community-based organizations to ensure information and outreach regarding available services is being provided to the public and is prioritized for marginalized or disadvantaged groups. Merced County is located within the Central Valley region of California with a local economy that depends largely on agriculture. The region includes large migrant populations that have been historically underserved, with high rates of poverty, homelessness, low educational attainment levels, and communities that often lack infrastructure and resources to meet basic needs.

According to 2020 U.S. Census data, Merced County as a whole is disadvantaged, with 17% of persons in poverty for the area, and an overall per capita income level that is far below both State and Federal per capita income levels.

Merced County's government services are intrinsically designed and built around the recognition of local demographics and unique circumstances, which drives processes that are appropriate for disadvantaged populations to ensure greater access to available resources. These processes include cooperative partnerships with Community Based Organizations for the provision of a wide variety of services to targeted populations, information and outreach materials available in multiple languages, and critical location of county facilities in unincorporated and underserved areas to assist residents where they are.

To consistently serve the County's most vulnerable population, outreach materials and programming were developed and made available using multiple languages and distributed through various methods to ensure a broader impact in the community. The County will continue to monitor its COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations to respond in a timely and appropriate manner, as warranted by local metrics.

As the County's use of the ARPA-SLFRF funding is for Revenue Replacement (EC 6.1), new programs specific to this funding have not been established. Funding has been used to sustain existing projects and provide continuity of county services within the above stated programmatic categories. Existing County programs and facilities associated with the ARPA-SLFRF projects have established processes and methods in place to ensure access and promote equitable outcomes for disadvantaged populations.

a. *Goals*
   Merced County provides public services to its residents with the goal of delivering those services in a manner inclusive of the vastly diverse populations and communities residing within the County. County communications, programming, meetings, and materials are available in multiple languages. County departmental staff and community-based organizations are well-versed in culturally appropriate practices necessary to assist and provide services for hard-to-reach and diverse populations. Consideration is also given for populations that may not have access to internet or broadband, are non-English speakers, and may require the assistance of trusted messengers within their community. With the assistance of the ARPA-SLFRF funding, the County continues to provide access to services and outreach to our most vulnerable residents. As part of the community engagement process, which was completed during a previous reporting period, all materials provided, including community surveys, were offered in multiple languages. In-person presentations included translation services with headsets to ensure messaging was accurately and effectively received by community members.

b. *Awareness*
   Community Outreach and Engagement activities were conducted during a previous reporting period to identify community needs and priorities, which included informational materials in multiple languages on the County website, as well as hard-copy delivery of information to most households in the county by the U.S. Postal Service. Additionally, hard copies of COVID-19 information and ARPA-SLFRF outreach and engagement materials were provided to community facilities for distribution. In-person presentations during Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meetings were conducted by county staff to reach community members in unincorporated and remote or rural areas. MACs are comprised of community members serving in an advisory capacity for their community in their respective locations and are representative of the diversity of residents in their neighborhoods. Information and materials detailing County ARPA project plans were presented to these groups to allow local residents multiple opportunities to learn about the County's progress and provide comment. Surveys were also sent out to County residents via text messaging, community groups and community-based organizations in hard-copy

and posted to the County's website for feedback and information gathering. These community groups and other members of the public had additional opportunity to provide comments and feedback during public meetings where County staff provided informational presentations on the ARPA-SLFRF funds. Staff presented updates to the Board of Supervisors regarding the progress of ARPA projects and included recommendations for adjustments of project funding. Adjustments for the re-programming of SLFRF by the Board of Supervisors occurred on February 28, 2023, March 14, 2023 and December 17, 2024. Adjustments included the shifting of funds from projects that were completed, and did not utilize the entire budget, to projects requiring additional funds or to provide final direction for certain projects within the spending framework.

c. *Access and Distribution*

Merced County is geographically located over approximately 1,935 square miles and has a culturally diverse population of more than 296,000 residents, including communities that speak multiple languages. Various challenges exist with the County's demographic and geographic setting, which can include access to resources such as broadband and transportation. The Community Facilities projects identified for EC 6.1 are located throughout the County and are open to residents for the provision of necessary services and community use. The community outreach and engagement process was completed in January 2022 and provided the feedback necessary to create a framework through which the County would expend the ARPA-SLFRF funds. As mentioned in previous sections, County practices and procedures are designed to provide equitable access of information and services for our diverse communities. Assigning funds to these projects ensured continued access to a facility that provides a safe and effective location for the delivery of certain community services and ensures important community access. Currently all ARPA information and reports are available to the public through the County of Merced website located at: [Reporting | Merced County, CA - Official Website (countyofmerced.com)]. Community members can navigate through additional tabs on this webpage to view the Community Engagement process and survey results as well as additional ARPA related resources.

No applications or eligibility determinations are required for projects in this expenditure category, as the County is utilizing EC 6.1.

d. *Outcomes*

The County has developed practices and procedures that incorporate inclusivity as a priority in the delivery of services and access to community facilities. Merced County is responsible to serve some of California's most vulnerable populations, and works tirelessly with Department staff and community agencies to ensure that all residents are provided with the opportunity to access services and critical information. Throughout the Community Outreach and Engagement process, the County was able to receive responses from the community to guide decisions being made for ARPA-SLFRF spending priorities. The delivery of information and requests for information from the community was solicited in various platforms and languages, which resulted in valuable feedback from the public. Staff were able to more accurately assess the priorities of the community and provide informed recommendations for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. Although new programs are not being developed specifically with the use of ARPA-SLFRF funds, the County continues to ensure that equity and access continues to be a priority for our local residents in existing programs and services. During the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 reporting period the Board of Supervisors took actions to adjust ARPA funding to projects that would most efficiently expend the funds across all areas of the County. On February 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors voted to make changes to the ARPA framework and re-allocate funds to certain projects based on the availability of unused funding from completed projects. On March 14, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved a Road Rehabilitation Project which accurately represents needs from each of the five Supervisorial Districts within the County. With the Board action, approval was provided to adopt plans and specifications necessary to begin the work and move forward with the public bidding process. All actions taken by the Board of Supervisors regarding ARPA are publicly noticed through the agenda process and available online for public review.

In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the County focused efforts on the implementation of projects and the completion of activities in order to meet expenditure deadlines. Progress has been made regarding the expenditure of funds under the Community Facilities, Flood Control/Water, Public Safety, Roads, and Homelessness categories. Major projects under the expenditure framework categories reflected a rate of completion of 65% or better during this reporting period and include Community Facilities as well as Public Safety. Homelessness Services reported spending levels at 50%. Additionally, the project Covid-19 Support 4 for a Broadband study completed its final payment in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-2024, and the Roads project fully expended all allocated funds by the end of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Pandemic Payment category and COVID Support 1 and 2 were also completed during the previous reporting period.

For the completion of Fiscal Year 2024-2025, Merced County reflects substantial progress in the closeout of projects funded by ARPA-SLFRF. On December 17, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved a final adjustment to the spending framework to maximize the spending of funds within the approved projects and ensure compliance with the U.S. Treasury's deadline for obligating funds. Of the $53,936,085 in allocated ARPA-SLFRF funds for Merced County, 95% has been expended as of the close of Fiscal Year 2024-2025, leaving only 3 projects pending completion. All funds are anticipated to be exhausted within Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Updates on project progress and information pertaining to ARPA-SLFRF will be provided in current and future reports.

e. *Current Efforts to Promote Equity*

Efforts to promote equity as part of the County's services includes the provision of information and public notices in multiple languages according to the County's demographic needs; information provided in both electronic and hard copy formats; contracts with community agencies and organizations for community and culturally-specific outreach, trusted messengers, and translation services; ongoing relationships with community and culturally-specific media outlets; language translation services and capability and the opportunity for residents to provide public comment through a variety of methods, including email and in-person during public meetings.

These efforts are representative of the County's overall goals of providing greater access to critical government services, and will continue through the use of ARPA-SLFRF funding under EC 6.1.

f. *Distribution of Funding*

The Merced County ARPA-SLFRF allocation is being utilized as Revenue Replacement (EC 6.1) to support the provision of ongoing government services and projects. Based on community feedback received through the community outreach and engagement process, the County has fully allocated its ARPA-SLFRF funding. On June 7, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved the SLFRF funding framework and project allocations which provided the authority to begin spending the ARPA-SLFRF funding. On February 28, 2023, and December 17, 2024, this framework was adjusted by the Board of Supervisors to re-prioritize spending for the purposes of maximizing funds for community priorities as well as ensuring compliance with U.S. Treasury's obligation deadline. The SLFRF project allocations is presented below and represents all adjustments approved by the Board of Supervisors:

| Programmatic Category | | Allocation |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Homeless Services | $4.0M |
| 2. | COVID-19 Support | $0.5M |
| 3. | Community Facilities | $23.0M |
| 4. | Flood Control/Water | $7.2M |
| 5. | Roads | $10.0M |
| 6. | Public Safety | $6.5M |
| 7. | COVID-19 Pandemic Payment | $2.7M |

Projects were identified through community engagement to create benefit for residents and address high priority structural improvements necessary for continuity of services and critical access for community members at centralized location points. The County is largely comprised of traditionally marginalized communities, and important work within those communities must be accessible due to the geographical layout. The Project Inventory included in this Performance Report provides details for projects contained within the County's approved framework.

**Community Engagement**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the County worked closely with local agencies to provide continuity of service delivery. The County held its first public presentation related to ARPA-SLFRF on August 10, 2021, as part of its early community engagement efforts. At the September 21, 2021, Board of Supervisors regularly scheduled public meeting, ARPA-SLFRF funds were allocated to eligible project expenses under the County's framework for Community Facilities and Water/Flood Control programmatic categories. Materials for this action and opportunity for public comment was made available to residents online, by phone and in-person.

Beginning in October 2021, and through January 2022, County staff utilized various platforms to seek community feedback related to ARPA-SLFRF spending priorities. A survey was hosted on the County's website to obtain responses from Merced County residents. One virtual session and nine in-person sessions were conducted throughout the county to provide information about the ARPA-SLFRF program and solicit community feedback. Text messages were sent to cell phone numbers within the county to provide convenient access to the survey link on mobile devices. Additionally, a mass mailer with return postage was delivered to each local household and included a copy of the survey along with information about other COVID-19 resources. Social media was used to promote each community event and encourage residents to take the survey. The survey and all ARPA related materials were available in multiple languages, which included translation services during in-person meetings. Staff compiled all survey results and comments made during public meetings as part of an analysis for community spending priorities of ARPA-SLFRF funds. The results of the community survey are available online and can be viewed at:

ARPA-SLFRF-Merced-County-Community-Survey

On February 8, 2022, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing to receive the survey results and public comment from the outreach meetings. Direction was provided for ARPA-SLFRF funding allocations based on community feedback. Ultimately, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of SLFRF funds for projects under EC 6.1 - Revenue Replacement, which is supported by Treasury's revenue loss formula. Details were provided for the County's project framework, which identified specific projects to be funded and included: Homeless Services, COVID-19 Support, Community Facilities, Flood Control/Water, Roads, and Public Safety. The opportunity to provide comment was provided to the public during the hearing.

On June 7, 2022, the Board approved recommendations to allocate remaining ARPA-SLFRF funding to the project framework, which included adjustments based on community feedback. An additional programmatic category of COVID-19 Pandemic Payment was added to the framework to issue one-time payments to employees who worked from March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2022. As in previous meetings, agenda materials and ARPA information was referenced and available during the meeting as well as online through the County's website. The public was afforded the opportunity to comment.

On February 28, 2023, the Board took action to reallocate unspent funds from completed activities to existing approved activities with additional funding needs to continue the timely and efficient use of funds. This reallocation adjusted the approved framework to appropriately address the progression of ARPA projects.

On March 14, 2023, the Board approved the ARPA Road Rehabilitation project, including plans and specifications and approval to conduct a public bid process. Road activities under this project were based on public input from each of the five Supervisorial Districts and included a comprehensive list of road improvements throughout communities within the County.

On April 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved shifting $650,000 of SLFRF funding from projects in Community Facilities no longer needing the funding to other projects within the same category requiring additional funds. To ensure the remainder of unspent funds were maximized for community priorities, the Board of Supervisors approved a final adjustment to the spending framework on December 17, 2024, which allowed obligations to be finalized by the U.S. Treasury's deadline of December 31, 2024. All remaining projects as of December 31, 2024, were secured by Purchase Orders, contracts, agreements or other legal mechanisms prescribed by the U.S Department of Treasury.

Funding changes made to approved projects were considered by the Board of Supervisors during their regular open meetings. Items were posted on the agenda and made publicly available for review. Project and Expenditure Reports have been posted on the County's website for public review; future reports will continue to be posted upon submission to U.S. Treasury.

**Labor Practices**

Merced County is utilizing (EC 6.1) Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services. Merced County follows all appropriate Federal and State labor practice rules during the normal course of service.

**Use of Evidence**

Merced County is expending ARPA-SLFRF under category EC 6.1. There are no new programs requiring evidence-based interventions planned for development specifically for the use of this funding. Funds are being allocated to sustain services and projects throughout communities in the County that would have otherwise been impacted due to revenue reductions as a result of COVID-19. The identified projects were selected and prioritized based on community feedback received during the community outreach and engagement process, including community survey results.

**Performance Report**

Merced County is expending its full ARPA-SLFRF allocation under EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services. There are no mandatory performance indicators required for this expenditure category. As a matter of course, the County complies with all State and Federal Regulations during the regular conduct of business for government procurement, contracting, and government accounting and auditing procedures. For the purposes of tracking and reporting ARPA-SLFRF expenditures, each project's performance indicators are outlined in the Project Inventory, and all projects will include, at a minimum, indicators for monitoring timeframes for obligation and expense for the timely completion of projects. There are no new ongoing programs being created or funded through the use of the County's ARPA-SLFRF allocation.

| Category | | Cumulative expenditures to date ($) | Amount spent since last Recovery Plan |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement | | | |
| 6.1 | Provision of Government Services | $51,293,191.03 | $12,470,324.46 |

## PROJECT INVENTORY

**Project CF1: Community Facilities 1**

Funding amount: $5,167,265.50
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1, Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services

*Project overview*

This project fits within the Community Facilities programmatic category and includes building and infrastructure improvements made to public-use facilities and open park space. The list of projects funded during this reporting period includes:

| Community Facilities 1 (CF1) Project List | |
|---|---|
| Merced Library Handrails | Ballico Park Irrigation |
| Gustine Veterans Hall & ADA | Henderson Park Bat Removal |
| Livingston Veterans Hall ADA | Bicentennial Grove Septic System |
| Le Grand Community Hall | Yosemite Lake Boat Dock |
| Le Grand Municipal Court Roof Replacement | Courthouse Park Irrigation System |
| Santa Nella Roof Replacement | Le Grand Park Irrigation System |
| Hot Coals Containers Countywide | Henderson Park Split Rail Fencing |
| Livingston Veterans Hall Water Repair | Spring Fair: Water System/Irrigation |
| Broadway Park Irrigation/Sidewalk/Landscape | HVAC: Ballico Veterans Hall |
| HVAC: Courthouse Museum | HVAC: Winton Veterans Hall |
| HVAC: El Nido Community Hall | HVAC: Germino Building |
| Le Grand Library Roof | HVAC: Le Grand Muni Court |
| Livingston Library Public Service Counter | HVAC: Le Grand Veterans Hall |
| Los Banos Library Public Service Counter | HVAC: Planada Community Hall |
| HVAC: Winton Community Hall | HVAC: Stevinson Veterans Hall |
| Merced Library Book Elevator Replacement | |

*Use of Evidence*

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

*Performance Indicators*

Key performance indicators under the Community Facilities (CF1) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. This project was established during the 2021 reporting period, and activities (as shown above) have been completed as of this reporting period. As of this reporting period, $5,167,265.50 of the total allocation to this project has been spent. This amount represents 100% of the funding allocated for this project.

On February 28, 2023, the Merced County Board of Supervisors voted to reallocate leftover funding allocations for completed activities under this project, reducing the total during this reporting period from an original allocation of $6,772,575.37 to $5,989,533.54. On December 17, 2024, the Board approved additional adjustments to re-allocate unspent funds from completed projects to current projects requiring additional funding, reducing the allocation to $5,167,265.50.

**Project CF2: Community Facilities 2**

Funding amount: $14,734,218.41
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1, Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services

*Project Overview*

This programming category includes building and infrastructure improvements made to public-use facilities and open park space. The list of facility projects funded during this reporting period include:

| Community Facilities 2 (CF2) Project List | |
|---|---|
| HVAC: Atwater Veterans Hall | Atwater Library Public Service Counter |
| HVAC: Delhi Senior Citizens Center | Gustine Library Public Service Counter |
| HVAC: Hilmar Community Hall | Hoffman Teen Center Construction |
| HVAC: Livingston Veterans Hall | Old Courthouse Museum Roof |
| HVAC: Los Banos Veterans Hall | Atwater Library Roof |
| HVAC: Merced Library | Le Grand Veterans Hall Roof |
| HVAC: County Administration Building | Delhi Shattuck Park Upgrades |

*Use of Evidence*

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

*Performance Indicators*

Key performance indicators under the Community Facilities 2 (CF2) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. This project was established in February 2022.

On February 28, 2023, the Merced County Board of Supervisors voted to reallocate leftover funding allocations for completed activities under project CF1, as well as unused funds under CS3 increasing the total for CF2 during the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 reporting period from an original allocation of $11,059,500 to $12,081,389.66.

On April 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved reallocating funding from the Delhi Education Park Restrooms to the Delhi Shattuck Park Renovation. This action moved $500,000 from the Community Facilities 3 (CF3) category project to Community Facilities 2 (CF2) project, changing the total allocated funding to $12,581,389.66. The Board also approved shifting $150,000 in savings from the Del Hale HVAC to the Livingston Vets Hall Improvements, which are both included in the Community Facilities 1 (CF1) project.

On December 17, 2024, the Board approved shifting unspent allocations from other categories to CF2, increasing this category to $14,734,218.41. As of the end of this reporting period, $14,539,876.98 of the total allocation to this project has been spent. This amount represents 99% of the funding allocated for this project. It is anticipated that spending for this category will be exhausted in Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

**Project CF3: Community Facilities 3**

Funding amount: $3,054,478.26
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1, Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services

*Project Overview*

This programming category includes building and infrastructure improvements made to public-use facilities and open park space. The list of facility projects funded during this reporting period include:

| Community Facilities 3 (CF3) Project List | |
|---|---|
| Community Park 42 Project | Germino Building Retrofit |
| Hagaman Park Restrooms | |
| Franklin Beachwood Environmental and Park Design | |
| Santa Nella Park Environmental and Park Design | |

*Use of Evidence*

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

*Performance Indicators*

Key performance indicators under the Community Facilities 3 (CF3) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. This project was established in June 2022.

On February 28, 2023, the Merced County Board of Supervisors voted to reallocate leftover funding amounts for completed activities under project CF1, as well as allocate unused funds under CS3 increasing the total during this reporting period from an original allocation of $4,600,00 to $4,639,000.

On April 23, 2024, the Merced County Board of Supervisors took action to reallocate $500,000 from the Delhi Education Park Restrooms in CF3 to the Delhi Shattuck Park Renovation in F2, reducing the total allocation of the CF3 project to $4,139,000. On December 17, 2024, the Board approved shifting unspent allocations to other categories from CF3, reducing this category to $3,054,478.26. As of the end of this reporting period, $1,605,925.73 of the total allocation for this project has been spent. This amount represents 53% of the funding allocated to this project. It is anticipated that spending for this category will be exhausted in Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

**Project CS1: COVID-19 Support 1**

Funding amount: $301,750
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1, Revenue Replacement -- Provision of Government Services

*Project overview*

This programming category includes costs associated with County staff and other resources that were devoted to responding to the unique needs of the pandemic and certain vaccination clinics. Specific costs and activities include:

| COVID-19 Support 1 (CS1) Project List | |
|---|---|
| EFMLA for employees | Administrative and Sick Leave |
| Data Collection Management | Outreach equipment |
| Personal protective equipment | Vaccination Clinics |
| Support costs, including: software, supplies, janitorial services | |

*Use of Evidence*

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.
Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

*Performance Indicators*

Key Performance indicators for activities under the COVID-19 Support activities included the number of residents served by County-assisted vaccination clinics, as shown in the following table:

| Facility | HF #s from County Data Report May - June |
|---|---:|
| Merced County Department of Public Health | 203 |
| OptumServe dba Logistics Health-Merced & Atwater | 1,552 |
| SnapMedTech, Inc dba SnapNurse Merced | 509 |
| WellPath John Latorraca Correctional Facility | 124 |
| WellPath Merced County Jail | 64 |
| **TOTALS** | **2,452** |

This project was completed during the 2021 reporting period.

**Project CS2: COVID-19 Support 2**

Funding amount: $63,341.80
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1, Revenue Replacement -- Provision of Government Services

*Project overview*

Items included in this project are related to ARPA community engagement and outreach activities, which includes: language translation services for ARPA public meetings (languages offered were Spanish, Hmong, and Punjabi); a text messaging service to promote community survey on the use of ARPA-SLFRF funding; IT support; miscellaneous supplies; community-specific outreach to the Hmong community; and a mass mailer with return postage containing the ARPA survey and other COVID-related information. Remaining funds under this category will be used to continue to provide public information and assistance regarding the County's ARPA-SLFRF allocation and associated activities.

*Use of Evidence*

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

*Performance Indicators*

Key performance indicators for this project include timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. Indicators of the community engagement project also includes the number of public meetings, the response rate for the survey, and the languages provided. During a previous reporting period $63,341.80 was spent. This amount represents 100% of the total allocation, and the project is complete.

This project was implemented in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and consisted of a comprehensive outreach process that included one (1) virtual information session and nine (9) in-person meetings providing information and requesting feedback on the County's ARPA-SLFRF allocation. Meetings provided materials and translation services in three (3) languages: English, Spanish and Hmong.

The survey included seven (7) questions requesting residents to identify project priorities within the eligibility framework set forth by Treasury. The format of the survey was offered in English, Spanish and Hmong and included multiple choice, priority ranking, as well as space for free-form text responses to allow residents to express the need in their community and desired projects. The survey was available online at the County's website. Outreach was provided through a countywide text messaging campaign, which provided mobile access to the survey as well. Additionally, a countywide mailing to residential addresses provided a hard-copy of the survey, with return postage, to allow for alternative options of completion. Over 9,000 surveys were received from community members. Results of the survey are available online and can be viewed at: ARPA-SLFRF-Merced-County-Community-Survey

**Project CS3: COVID-19 Support 3**

Funding amount: $0: Original allocation $350,000, reduced to $0 on February 28, 2023.
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement- Provision of Government Services

*Project overview*

On February 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved removing this project and reallocating the funds to existing community facilities activities in-progress under the County's ARPA framework in order to better ensure that activities continued to progress in a timely manner.

*Use of Evidence*

This project was removed as part of the ARPA framework by the Board of Supervisors on February 28, 2023.

*Performance Indicators*

This project was removed as part of the ARPA framework by the Board of Supervisors on February 28, 2023.

**Project CS4: COVID-19 Support 4**

Funding amount: $161,070
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement- Provision of Government Services

*Project overview*

This project was established during the 2022 reporting period as part of Board of Supervisors action in April 2022 and is in response to the impact of the COVID-19 closures to schools and business, and the need for remote work and learning. It has long been recognized that the County includes rural and low-income areas that lack adequate broadband infrastructure and access for residents. Funds were utilized in partnership with the City of Merced for the development of a countywide Broadband Strategic Plan which will identify critical areas of need and help position the County for greater leverage for future State and Federal broadband infrastructure funding. ARPA SLFRF funds committed to this activity have been expended, and the project is complete.

*Use of Evidence*

Funds were utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

*Performance Indicators*

Performance indicators for this project included monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. Funding allocated under this project was used as a contribution to the development of a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will be made available once completed. As of the 2023 reporting period, $161,070 has been spent. This amount represents 100% of the total allocation, and the project is complete.

**Project FC1: Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project 1**

Funding amount: $7,200,000
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services

*Project overview*

Merced County in prior years has experienced multiple flood events and property damages due to a lack of updated flood control measures. The purpose of this project is the development, improvement and operation of flood control measures in order to prevent future flooding. Funding of $2.5 million was allocated, starting in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and an additional allocation of $4.7 million was allocated, starting in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Items included in this project are county costs associated with flood control of Black Rascal Creek. Expenditures during this reporting period include applicable streambed alteration fees, studies, permitting, engineering and property acquisition related to flood control measures and improvements for Black Rascal Creek. This is a multi-year project.

*Use of Evidence*

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

*Performance Indicators*

Key performance indicators under the Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project (FC1) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. This project was established during a previous reporting period, and activities (as shown above) have been completed as of this reporting period. The entire amount of the funding allocated for this project was expended in Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

**Project PP1: Pandemic Payment 1**

Funding amount: $2,753,961.03
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services

*Project overview*

The County recognizes that the COVID-19 Pandemic caused unprecedented challenges to communities, families and individuals in all aspects of everyday life. County employees are essential to the continuation of government services and day-to-day business required by the County residents. The County also recognizes the ongoing dedication and commitment to their work as demonstrated by employees while continuing to face challenges presented by COVID-19. One-time funds under this project will be allocated to current employees as part of their salary in the amount of up to $1,500.

*Use of Evidence*

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

*Performance Indicators*

Key performance indicators under the Pandemic Payment (PP1) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. The timeline of expense for this project was completed in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. This project was established in June 2022.

On December 17, 2024, the Board approved shifting unspent allocations to other categories from PP1, reducing this category to $2,753,961.03. As of this reporting period, the entire amount of the funding allocated for this project was expended.

**Project HS1: Homeless Services 1**

Funding amount: $4,000,000
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services

*Project overview*

The County recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented challenges to communities, families and individuals in all aspects of everyday life. This includes exacerbating the challenges faced by individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at-risk for homelessness. As part of the outreach efforts, the County received feedback from its residents that homelessness was a key need and priority within its communities. The County currently operates a Homeless Navigation Center that provides emergency shelter services, as well as resources and referrals to mental health services, job search assistance and financial assistance. This project was established in February 2022. Funding was set aside beginning in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 with additional allocations in Fiscal Years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026. Activities funded under this allocation include support for the Homeless Navigation Center operations and existing county funded emergency shelter projects.

*Use of Evidence*

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

*Performance Indicators*

Key performance indicators under the Homeless Services (HS1) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. As of this reporting period, $3,000,000.13 has been spent. This amount represents 75% of the total funding allocation. It is anticipated that the funding for this project will be fully expended in Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

**Project PS1: Public Safety 1**

Funding amount: $6,500,000
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services

*Project overview*

As part of the Board Action in February 2022, the County allocated $6,500,000 to support ARPA eligible public safety costs in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Funds allocated under this project will be used towards employee salaries and benefits, and other eligible general fund costs in Sheriff Operations and Corrections.

*Use of Evidence*

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

*Performance Indicators*

Key performance indicators under the Public Safety (PS1) will include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. Expenditures under this project include general fund costs for public safety such as net county costs for an additional sixteen (16) correctional officers and four (4) sergeants, increased contract costs for inmate medical care and services, facility repairs including a well, generators, and HVAC, general fund costs for K-9, ballistic shields, improvements to the Animal Services facility and other general fund capital assets for public safety. As of this reporting period the funding for this project has been exhausted.

**Project RD1: Roads 1**

Funding amount: $10,000,000
Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services

*Project overview*

As part of the Board Action in June 2022, the County allocated $10,000,000 to support Road improvement costs beginning in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. This allocation was made in response to the dire road repair needs throughout county communities. Local road repair was consistently reported as a high priority throughout the survey results compiled during the County's community outreach efforts, and feedback from residents in favor of road repairs is ongoing. Funds allocated under this project will be used for road repairs in each of the five Supervisorial districts. Allocation of funding to each of the districts was based the number of maintained miles in each district as a percent of the total, as follows:

| Roads (RD1) Project Allocation | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **District** | **Maintained Miles** | **% of Miles** | **Allocation by Miles** |

| Roads (RD1) Project Allocation | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 395.7 | 22.9% | $2,290,000 |
| 2 | 39.7 | 2.3% | $230,000 |
| 3 | 105.8 | 6.1% | $610,000 |
| 4 | 690.7 | 40% | $4,000,000 |
| 5 | 495.9 | 28.7% | $2,870,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **1727.8** | **100.0%** | **$10,000,000** |

*Use of Evidence*

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

*Performance Indicators*

Key performance indicators under the RD1 project will include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. Monitoring will include the identification of individual road repairs (activity) for each District, and the expenditure of the funds per district. On March 14, 2023 The Board of Supervisors approved an item updating the road improvement activities under this project. The Board also adopted plans and specifications associated with project and gave approval to open a public bidding process. As of this reporting period, the project has been completed, with the total amount of $10,000,000 expended representing 100% of the allocated funds.