

# Cumberland County, Maine **Recovery Plan**

## **State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds** 2021 Report Report 1

  
Cumberland **County**  
Reporting Period: May 2021 – July 31, 2021

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## Executive Summary

### Communities of Cumberland County

Cumberland County is the most populous county in Maine, with a July 2019 U.S. Census estimated population of 295,003<sup>1</sup>. Despite a footprint of only about four percent of the state’s total land mass, the County is home to roughly 22 percent of Maine’s population - making Cumberland the most densely populated county in the state, as well. Recent data from the Federal Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that Cumberland County generates one-third of the entire economic output for the entire state<sup>2</sup>; the success of Cumberland County is a critical factor not just to the county’s residents but to the whole state of Maine.

State/County	2019 Population*	Pop. as a Percentage of Maine Total Pop.
State of Maine	1,344,212	100%
Cumberland County, Maine	295,003	21.95%

\* Source: US Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey

Cumberland County’s population lives across a mix of urban, suburban and rural communities. The county is home to three cities, including Maine’s largest city, Portland, and like other urban regions of the state, struggles with issues common to growing American cities that have been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This recovery plan seeks to address those issues, in particular, access to affordable housing and shelter for the chronically homeless; access to affordable, quality childcare for working families; employment gaps, especially in service industries that serve as the backbone of the state’s economy; crises in mental health; and the ongoing spread of Substance Use Disorder (SUD).

The County recognizes that marginalized populations like New Americans, Americans living with disabilities, and Americans on fixed or low incomes bear the heaviest brunt of these challenges.

Likewise, the rural communities in the state face similar challenges to other rural communities across America - many households struggle with access to reliable Internet connectivity capable of supporting remote work and education. Others saw child care facilities close or reduce availability, without replacement sites coming online. New work opportunities often do not line up with the skills, capabilities, geographic proximity or schedule availability of laid-off workers, due to challenges in child care access, reliable transportation, and other barriers.

### Regional Coordination and Discussion

Upon receiving the first tranche of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in May 2021, Cumberland County launched a thorough and ongoing discussion with our community that has involved several means of public outreach, direct communication with the Governor of Maine’s senior staff, state legislators, town managers, elected municipal leaders, experts in

the fields of housing, child care, mental health, SUD, economic development, and a range of other fields to identify the needs of the region, and how they align with defined use of ARPA funds.

### **Economic and Equity Impact of COVID-19**

Communities across Cumberland County were disproportionately impacted for a broad range of reasons. Urban neighborhoods were disproportionately impacted because of a lack of adequately-spaced housing and work opportunities, and a lack of access to childcare; meanwhile, rural communities struggled with working and studying remotely because of spotty broadband, securing access to rural childcare, and creeping housing prices.

As a consequence of our geographic and demographic diversity, methods of distributing ARPA funds here will be diverse and broad-ranging.

### **Addressing Affordable Housing and Homelessness**

Access to workforce and affordable housing is beyond a crisis point in much of Cumberland County. According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, Maine has a shortage of about 19,000 affordable housing units<sup>3</sup>. That same organization revealed in a study - conducted in 2019, before the current pandemic - that Maine has one of the least affordable rental housing markets in the nation<sup>4</sup>.

Meanwhile, in June 2021 Maine Listings reported a statewide increase in the median price of a home of 24.5% over June 2020<sup>5</sup>. Those deficiencies in affordability are especially more acute in Cumberland County.

Affordable housing projects scheduled for construction over the course of the next year are facing catastrophic cost overruns due to the increased price of construction materials and major gaps in the construction workforce. Cumberland County intends to invest significant 2021 ARPA funds to support qualified affordable housing construction projects that are stalled due to cost overruns, in order to get those projects built as fast as possible and at an acceptable quality.

The lack of safe, hygienic space for people experiencing chronic homelessness was brought into stark relief in 2020. Furthermore, COVID-19 exposed the lack of a support system for people who are not experiencing chronic homelessness, but are experiencing housing insecurity and may not have stable housing or are on the verge of homelessness.

The City of Portland operates the state's largest homeless shelter and non-profit agencies operate services for chronically homeless and marginalized peoples. The Portland homeless shelter has long been in need of replacement, and plans are moving forward to begin that work. Cumberland County expects to contribute to that project with ARPA funds.

In the immediate term, the County will use ARPA funds to study the viability of establishing an emergency shelter and housing support services outside of Greater Portland - particularly in the northwestern quadrant of the county, where housing insecurity is a growing concern

and currently, the only option for residents who find themselves experiencing homelessness is to find their way to Portland. The County plans to engage a qualified partner to begin this study project immediately, with the goal of moving beyond exploration with future ARPA funding.

### **Workplace Shortages and Childcare**

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, worker shortages have forced child care facilities across the state<sup>6</sup> and particularly in Cumberland County to either close their businesses or cut back on the number of children that they can serve. Prior to the pandemic, Maine was already struggling with an insufficient pool of childcare spaces. Particularly, in the densely populated Greater Portland area where families continue to struggle to find space for their children or cannot afford it.

Cumberland County seeks to work with state and regional leaders to incorporate a successful program modeled by the non-profit community development financial advisor “Coastal Enterprises, Inc.” that trains childcare entrepreneurs, in order to launch or grow home and small child care facilities. In particular, the County intends to work with community partners in order to drive potential childcare providers in areas where there is a significant need and a variety of barriers - including but not limited to cost, geographic, and spoken language - to entrepreneurship programming, in order to bring small new sites online and help grow existing ones that will serve these communities.

Cumberland County also seeks to identify planned projects that will expand existing child care facilities, and is prepared to make one-time investments that will help those facilities construct, staff and train as quickly as possible in order to quickly create more child care spaces.

Workforce gaps are a significant challenge in Cumberland County and have widened during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the crisis of child care workers highlighted above, the service industry has been particularly hard-hit. According to the trade group HospitalityMaine, the state had 16,000 fewer hospitality workers between April, 2019 and April, 2021<sup>7</sup>.

Cumberland County is working to establish partnerships with job trainers and job seekers - in particular, delegates from marginalized communities and the New American population - toward job training programs and certifications. Directing able workers toward custom training and available jobs will fill gaps in the workforce and give disproportionately impacted residents an opportunity to grow their careers.

### **Addressing Public Health Gaps**

The COVID-19 pandemic has shined a light on the mental health and SUD crises in the region. According to a report published by the Maine Attorney General in June of 2021, 504 deaths were caused by drugs statewide in 2020, which is a 33% increase over 380 in 2019<sup>8</sup>. 19 percent of those deaths were in Cumberland County, which is roughly commensurate with the county’s share of statewide population.

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Cumberland County will immediately invest in programming with existing regional service providers to expand bed space for SUD rehabilitation, and crisis response services for people with mental health disabilities. The County will further explore service offerings with providers in each category as we work deeper into the ARPA funding schedule.

## **County Operations**

Cumberland County plans to make significant investments in County-owned facilities to better respond to current and future pandemics, prevent the spread of communicable diseases, and enhance regional public health. In particular, funds will be spent at the County Jail, which requires an expansion of the medical wing and a negative-pressure pod to more safely and effectively treat and quarantine inmates infected with COVID-19 and future contagious diseases. The jail also requires HVAC duct cleaning to improve air handling for the facility.

Prior to the pandemic, the Cumberland County Jail was struggling to retain staff and fill vacancies. Like most employers in the region, the challenge of finding qualified employees became exacerbated by the pandemic. As of August 2021, the facility is operating at roughly half of its budgeted staff. Operating at half capacity makes it challenging to effectively spread inmates across the facility and monitor their interactions, and maintain the safety of the employees and inmates located there. Cumberland County will use ARPA funds to immediately increase the salary of Corrections Officers at the jail, in a bid to attract and retain quality employees.

Funds will also go toward retrofits at the County-owned “Cross Insurance Arena,” a 6,200 seat performance and mixed-activity venue that was identified as an Alternative Care Site (ACS) in the event that the health care system is overburdened by COVID-19 or a future pandemic. The County is contractually obligated to ensure that the Arena will be fully operational to serve as a designated ACS. The retrofits include electrical redundancy and temperature control, and ARPA funds will guarantee that the site is in ready shape to serve as a reliable field hospital.

The County operations also include the regional emergency communications center (CCRCC) that is the emergency dispatch service for 19 of the 28 municipalities within the County borders and the Sheriff’s Office. The existing office space requires enhancements to spread employees further out, reducing the risk of communicable disease spread amongst staff who are critical to the emergency response process.

The County is establishing a new public health office to ensure a more comprehensive and nimble regional response to the current and future public health crises - and to better serve identified populations that most commonly find themselves in health crises, such as people suffering from mental health disorders. The public health office will coordinate regional public health communications and services, and coordinate response to regional public health crises.

Finally, Cumberland County is aware that many municipalities and small local agencies have needs that align with the mission of ARPA but are not ARPA recipients or lack sufficient funds.

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Cumberland County will reserve a portion of the funds for competitive open grants that qualified entities may apply.

*Resources:*

- 1: US Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/cumberlandcountymaine>
- 2: Federal Bureau of Economic Analysis: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/categories/27301>
- 3: NLIHC: <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/maine>
- 4: NLIHC: <https://reports.nlihc.org/sites/default/files/oor/files/reports/state/ME.pdf>
- 5: Maine Listings: <https://learning.mainelistings.com/Systems/PressReleases/2021/06/06%20June.pdf>
6. Portland Press Herald: <https://www.pressherald.com/2021/05/30/another-labor-crisis-hits-maine-parents-cant-find-child-care/>
7. Bangor Daily News: <https://bangordailynews.com/2021/04/27/business/hospitality-group-to-spend-125k-to-attract-workers-amid-labor-shortage/>
8. Office of Maine Attorney General: <https://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=5041404&an=1>

## 1.1 Uses of Funds

As of July 31, 2021 Cumberland County had not yet expended any ARPA funds. However, County staff has worked internally and with regional partners to identify likely projects for 2021 ARPA funds, and estimated cost ranges for all major investments in order to quickly and appropriately invest the first tranche payment of \$28,650,437 in County and community interests.

The list of projects below represents those identified as most critical and qualified. Cumberland County is in the process of identifying partners - and wherever possible, government agencies - that are capable of carrying out this work. Cumberland County has arrived at this list through a significant and ongoing outreach effort (outlined below, in the section labeled “Community Engagement”).

In addition, the County will set aside an estimated \$1.4 million in competitive funds for regional municipalities, businesses and nonprofits to bring forth qualified projects that would help to solve challenges identified in the Executive Summary.

Wherever possible, the County will align with state and municipal interests in order to combine resources and approaches, and provide stronger solutions that make use of rescue funds at all levels of government and prevent duplication of investments - or worse, confusing competitive programming. Cumberland County has already held conversations with state and local leaders on areas of potential overlap, including: affordable/emergency housing, mental health and SUD treatment, childcare entrepreneurship and workforce training.

CATEGORY	PROJECT	JUSTIFICATION
<b>a. Public Health</b>		
1.10 Mental Health Services	<i>Mental Health Services - crisis response and management</i>	<i>Explore mental health services within the region, in part through an open application process aligned with ARPA priorities and in part with a particular focus on identifying response programming to mental health crises and follow up case management that improves outcomes. Identify existing mental health programming key to responding to pandemics, and add capacity through funding.</i>
1.11 Substance Use Services	<i>Substance Use Disorder Treatment options</i>	<i>Explore regional substance use disorder services through an open application process aligned with ARPA priorities, with the goal of adding capacity to on-going efforts through one-time and short term investments</i>
1.12 Public Health Services	<i>County Public Health Office</i>	<i>Establishment of County Public Health Office Years 1-3. Add capacity to the region's public health efforts. Focus on gaps that exist in public health and areas that greater capacity and aid could be beneficial.</i>
1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings	<i>Jail - Negative Pressure POD &amp; PPE/Mitigation</i>	<i>Converting an existing Jail POD to have negative pressure in order to create a quarantine POD at the Jail. Currently the holding cells are operated at neutral pressure with an equal supply and exhaust flow to each cell. The air handler provides approximately 50% outside air through an energy recovery wheel, with 50% recirculated air from the Common areas. The exhaust for the Holding Cells is provided by a rooftop exhaust fan, which pulls air through the energy recovery wheel. Like the supply duct, the exhaust main duct branches are divided to serve areas of the cell block. Also covering PPE and other pandemic-mitigating expenses at the Jail that have not fallen under FEMA reimbursement.</i>
1.5 Personal Protective	<i>County Personal Protective</i>	<i>Cover the costs of PPE at County facilities that were not covered by FEMA. FEMA only covered expenses related to the Sheriff's</i>



Equipment	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Office, and did not cover the County Courthouse and Regional Emergency Communications Center.</i>
1.6 Medical Expenses	<i>County Inmate Medical Costs</i>	<i>The Cumberland County Jail utilizes an outside vendor to handle all inmate medical needs within the jail, utilizing a "cost-plus" payment contract. Under this system, the County pays the vendor a fixed annual amount intended to be a worst-case estimate of actual costs for the year. If actual costs come in under budget, the County receives money back as a reimbursement. If costs go over budget, then the County must pay the vendor the additional amount. Costs are recorded each year from July 1 to June 30th of each year. For the first time in many years, medical expenses went over budget during FY 20-21, by roughly \$329,000. All of the additional expenses could be directly attributed to Covid 19, in the form of additional staffing expenses, quarantining needs, PPE costs, and regular Covid-19 testing.</i>
1.7 Capital Investment related to Covid19	<i>County Jail Medical Wing Expansion</i>	<i>Increasing the size of the medical wing to 6,000 SF, giving greater capacity and flexibility to handle multiple inmate health issues. All cells will be negative pressure cells to provide the ability to isolate infectious patients better and faster, reducing the likelihood of community spread in the building. The expanded medical wing will also better separate routine medical clinic care from patients with communicable disease (e.g., COVID, influenza, etc.) that require medical monitoring.</i>
1.7 Capital Investment or Physical Plant Changes	<i>Jail - HVAC Duct Cleaning</i>	<i>The HVAC ductwork at the Jail is lined with a fibrous insulated material. The fibrous material has now begun to deteriorate and is breaking off into the supply and return ducts/vents reducing the air flow and ventilation. This is becoming more problematic to meet the CDC requirements for sufficient fresh air being introduced into the building. Without proper cleaning, the fibrous material can contain airborne contaminants that can be hazardous to the entire building's health. The ductwork will be cleaned by a licensed professional and then the system will be rebalanced. This work would have the facility comply with the CDC requirements for the air exchange rates for public and congregate living facilities.</i>
1.7 Capital Investment related to Covid19	<i>Courthouse Air Handler #1</i>	<i>The courtroom side of the County Courthouse is a three-story construction. It houses multiple courtroom, administrative, and criminal processing areas. Currently the existing air handler (#1) can not address COVID-19 concerns because the existing unit is not operating at the required air capacity to provide slow, steady air speed per recommendation. The existing unit could not provide air filtration recommended through fiber-based material or membrane. The County has the inability to increase air filters to levels recommended by CDC. The existing unit could not provide outside air during the cold season. The existing unit is not capable of changing airflow patterns - it produces the same</i>

		<i>speed, in a straight path. Demand control ventilation by occupancy will be included. The project scope is to replace the existing pneumatic control system.</i>
1.7 Capital Investment related to Covid19	<i>Communications Space Enhancement</i>	<i>New dispatcher consoles will provide greater distance between each employee. The current set-up is not capable of creating appropriate social distance spacing to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. The County will establish new console designs that allow for greater distances between each dispatcher. The dispatch room will also be enlarged, spreading the desks out to gain even greater distance between dispatchers.</i>
1.7 Capital Investment related to Covid19	<i>Cross Insurance Arena Generator</i>	<i>A new generator is required in order for the county-owned Cross Insurance Arena to be prepared for an 80-bed operational standup of an alternative care site (ACS). Arena's emergency generator (125 kw) was designed for load shed emergency egress only. It is not capable of running the Arena at full load. The alternate care site would be used for COVID-19 by providing beds for overflow at surrounding hospitals and medical facilities. Request for this alternate care site requires full load generator support for heat, air circulation, and medical equipment, etc. The existing generator can not support these functions.</i>
1.7 Capital Investment related to Covid19	<i>Cross Insurance Arena Airlock</i>	<i>An airlock wall system at the Cross Insurance arena will prevent cold air (or hot) from impacting the climate control environment in the main arena. Loading docks, when doors are open, allow for air to flow directly into the arena, which is problematic for an alternative care site (ACS).</i>
<b>b. Negative Economic Impacts</b>		
2.14 Rehiring Public Sector Employees	<i>Cross Insurance Arena Rehire</i>	<i>Covid-19 has created a severe labor shortage in Southern Maine, particularly in service sector industries. For the Cross Insurance Arena (CIA), this shortage is most acutely felt in the form of the part time staff typically used for actual events at the arena. In order to stay competitive with similar venues, the CIA has requested a \$1.00 rehiring stipend for their event staff, which will gradually step down over the next 3 years. As the ARPA stipend declines, budgeted wage increases will take its place.</i>
2.14 Rehiring Public Sector Staff	<i>County Staffing Hiring &amp; Retention</i>	<i>Jail Hiring &amp; Retention Premium Pay, Recruiter; Recruiting Outreach Years 1-3. Covid-19 greatly exacerbated an existing staffing shortage at the Cumberland County Jail. At the start of the pandemic, the jail was short 30 Corrections Officers. By the spring of 2021, that shortage had risen to over 60. In addition to a number of other measures taken to attempt to draw in new Corrections Officers, the County implemented an extra \$2.75 Hiring and Incentive pay for all certified Corrections Officers at the jail, which is added on to their base pay.</i>
2.7 Job Training	<i>Workforce Training/</i>	<i>Cumberland County will collaborate with state and regional partners to develop a childcare entrepreneurship training</i>

	<i>Childcare</i>	<i>program, modeled on a successful program operating in some rural Maine counties already. The program will train qualified individuals interested in opening home-based and small childcare operations, with a particular focus on marginalized communities.</i>
<b>c. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities</b>		
3.10 Affordable Housing	<i>Affordable Housing - emergency stopgap to cover overruns</i>	<i>Cumberland County will provide emergency stop-gap funding to prevent qualified, shovel-ready affordable housing projects from further delays due to increased construction costs. The County will work with area affordable housing developers and the State to allocate funding to move projects towards breaking ground.</i>
3.11 Services for Unhoused Persons	<i>Planning new Emergency Shelter &amp; Transitional Housing</i>	<i>Partner with regional agencies to conduct a feasibility study on the building and operating of an emergency homeless shelter and/or transitional housing facility in the rural northwest region of Cumberland County. The possibility of establishing a shelter/transition housing within this region would serve the population and keep individuals from having to head to Portland to seek services.</i>
3.3 Education Assistance	<i>Workforce Training (New American)</i>	<i>Partner with workforce training providers to address the workforce shortage in designated industries such as construction, health care, and childcare. Build relationships with the New American population aiding interested individuals with skills training in fields of need.</i>
<b>d. Premium Pay</b>		
None planned.		
<b>e. Infrastructure</b>		
5.1 to 5.15 Infrastructure	<i>Sewer/Water Infrastructure</i>	<i>Allocation for design and/or construction of sewer/water infrastructure to increase the capacity, handling and quality of the County's drinking and waste water in accordance with the Clean Water Act.</i>
5.17 Broadband Other Projects	<i>Broadband Access</i>	<i>The County will partner with a qualified contractor to explore regions where access and quality of service are not meeting expectations outlined in the ARPA rules, with the goal of identifying the best strategies to implement broadband infrastructure projects with future ARPA funds.</i>
<b>f. Revenue Replacement</b>		
6.1 Provision of Govt Services	<i>County Staff Childcare Program</i>	<i>Exploration of County provided Childcare service for employees Years 1-3. Access to quality child care is severely constrained in Cumberland County. The County will identify space and a provider to offer care for the children of County employees.</i>

6.1 Provision of Govt Services	<i>County Lost Revenue</i>	<i>The calculation of this amount was done in a slightly unusual fashion for the County of Cumberland due to the Cross Insurance Arena (CIA). From the 1970's until 2017, the CIA existed as a separate "Special Recreational District" which assessed the County of Cumberland for any operating losses that occurred during their fiscal year, which ran from July 1 to June 30th of each year. In 2017, the separate district was removed, and the CIA became an Enterprise Fund existing within the County. The CIA has always operated on a July-June Fiscal Year in order to correctly capture revenues and expenses from hockey seasons, which run from September to early June at the latest. As a result, the County has opted to keep the CIA on a fiscal year budget. The County itself actually plans to move to Fiscal Year in the near future.</i>
<b>Administrative</b>		
7.1 Admin Expenses	<i>County ARPA Administration</i>	<i>Starting in September 2021, the County of Cumberland will employ a Compliance &amp; Audit Manager who will be specifically tasked with monitoring all ARPA expenditures, both those made directly by the County, and also those passed along to Subrecipients. The full cost of this position over four years, including benefit costs and incidental expenses is expected to be \$475,000.</i>

## 1.2 Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Cumberland County views ARPA as funds intended for all County residents and not just for County government operations. This means that funds will be spent in an equitable manner with the largest benefit to the most people over the longest period of time. As information has been collected, it has ultimately shaped the County's program initiatives.

In an effort to advance fairness and opportunity utilizing ARPA funds, the County Commissioners are creating an ARPA Advisory Council (AAC) that will review project proposals and prioritize those that align with President Biden's Executive Order 13985, On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government<sup>1</sup>

To date, efforts to promote equity are still in the planning phase, specific project objectives, outreach, progress and corresponding metrics will be reported in the County's future Recovery Plans as SLFRF funds are disbursed.

<sup>1</sup> See Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, (2021), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/>.

### 1.3 Community Engagement

Upon receipt of the first ARPA payment in May 2021, Cumberland County launched a comprehensive ARPA page on its public website, outlining the process by which the County will expend and report on ARPA funds. The County included links to additional resources explaining qualified uses of funding in clear, simple terms, and released a schedule of public meetings and events designed to collect public comment.

The County created a survey that any member of the public may submit comment to, and held a public hearing over Zoom hosted by County Staff and Commissioners in early summer where members of the public could advocate directly to the County Commissioners. Each forum contained an information component providing an overview of the available funding and project eligibility followed by a round table discussion of potential projects.

Date	Target Audience	Agenda Posted to County Website	Video Posted to YouTube
June 23, 2021	General Public	Yes	Yes
June 25, 2021	Northern Region Stakeholders	No	No
June 29, 2021	Lakes Region Stakeholders	No	No
July 20, 2021	Portland Area Stakeholders	Yes	Yes

County leadership has held - and will continue to hold - discussions with leaders across a broad range of industries including affordable housing; homelessness; child care; education; workforce training, in particular for marginalized communities like New Americans and people in recovery from SUD; tourism and economic development; public health; public safety; SUD treatment; mental health treatment; broadband (including providers, consultants, and residents who are disproportionately affected by COVID); among others. These conversations will continue and grow more granular as we begin to identify specific investment opportunities.

Cumberland County has encouraged leadership in those fields to direct the constituencies that they serve toward the County website to offer comments. All public opportunities to comment have been shared with state and local media outlets, through social media and County-managed email lists.

In addition, Cumberland County is engaging with local elected leaders of color and from the New American population to strategize on methods for reaching marginalized communities such as people of color, people with low incomes, and limited English proficiency populations.

The County is planning to engage with the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition, to connect County government directly with New Americans who may face challenges with finding and responding to a traditional survey. Community leaders from various immigrant groups in the region are holding guided conversations with immigrant residents to give feedback to the County on qualified ARPA needs from non-English speaking and marginalized groups.

Planned use of funds outside of county government has been derived almost entirely from the above outreach strategies. Cumberland County has identified the needs of the region by collecting public and organizational feedback, and is working with qualified consultants, service providers and industry leaders to identify the best means of solving those challenges within ARPA guidelines.

## **1.4 Labor Practices**

If the County decides to pursue any EC 5 qualifying infrastructure projects, the County will use best practice models to ensure all local, state, and federal labor standards are followed. Where applicable, the County will follow local labor regulations including: local hire preferences; apprenticeship requirements; prevailing wage standards; and labor agreements. If the County pursues an EC 5 qualifying project over \$10million, the County will ensure all contractors are in compliance with Davis-Bacon and Related Acts and will require a local hire preference.

In an effort to support the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for construction workers, Cumberland County has developed a working relationship with the Associated General Contractors. Associated General Contractors (AGC) is one of the largest and most active construction associations in Maine. Cumberland County and AGC have a shared goal of increasing the quantity and quality of construction workers available for hire throughout Cumberland County. In an effort to reach this shared goal, Cumberland County and AGC are exploring workforce and job training opportunities for sectors of the population who may have an interest in joining the trades industries. Cumberland County will continue to work closely with the hiring offices of the larger construction companies in Southern Maine, the main goal of this relationship will be to increase the potential of Section 3 qualifying workers gaining full time employment with an established construction company. Additionally, Cumberland County will continue to offer technical assistance to smaller construction companies and sole proprietors seeking subcontractor opportunities.

## **1.5 Use of Evidence**

As of July 31, 2021, the Cumberland County has identified the potential projects that may have planned SLFRF expenditures relating to evidence-based interventions and program evaluation. Where applicable, the level of evidence, evidence type and sources will be reported in future recovery plan reports.

Where possible, the County will encourage project recipients to design program evaluations utilizing OMB M-20-12<sup>2</sup> and OMB M-21-27<sup>3</sup>.

<p><b>1.10 Mental Health Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore mental health services within the region and look to add capacity through funding.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1.11 Substance Use Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore SUD service and look to add capacity to on-going efforts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.7 Job Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish childcare entrepreneurship training in support of capacity building.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.3 Education Assistance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with workforce training providers to address the workforce shortage in designated industries such as construction, health care, and childcare</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.10 Affordable Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency stop gap funding to prevent shovel ready affordable housing projects from further delays due to increased construction costs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.11 Services for Unhoused Persons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with a qualified agency to conduct a feasibility study on the building and operating of an Emergency shelter and/or transitional housing facility in the Lakes Region.</li> </ul>

## 1.6 Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

As of the end of the first reporting period, July 31, 2021, Cumberland County, Maine, has not made any expenditures with ARPA funds.

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	\$0.00	\$0.00

<sup>2</sup> See Office of Mgmt. & Budget, Exec. Office of the President, OMB M-20-12, Phase 4 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Program Evaluation Standards and Practices (2020), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-12.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> See Office of Mgmt. & Budget, Exec. Office of the President, OMB M-21-27, Evidence-Based Policymaking: Learning Agendas and Annual Evaluation Plans (2021), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/M-21-27.pdf>

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3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay	\$0.00	\$0.00
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	Administrative and Other	\$0.00	\$0.00

## 2.0 Project Inventory

For the current reporting period the County has not started any projects.

## 2.1 Performance Report

Goals, measure, outputs and outcomes will be prepared prior to project development and tracked as projects are implemented. For the current reporting period the County has not started any projects.

## 2.2 Ineligible Activities: Tax Offset Provision (States and territories only)

The County is unable to report at this time as it has not started any projects during the report period.