

Douglas County, Nebraska
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2021 Report

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The Douglas County, Nebraska Board of Commissioners has not passed any resolutions which reflect final decisions on how to spend the \$55.4 million it received in ARPA funds in May, 2021. The County Board has held several open meetings to get input from the public on how to best allocate the funds. The County Board created an ARPA Strategy Committee to consider these funding requests and will make recommendations on specific projects to the County Board in the near future. Any project will need to receive a majority of votes from the seven commissioners before funds are formally allocated to that project. The County will submit an updated Recovery Plan within 60 days of an allocation plan being approved by the County Board.

To date, the only resolution that the Douglas County Board has passed which deals with the ARPA funds was on August 3, 2021. The one-page resolution states that the Strategy Committee will develop recommendations to the County Board regarding a process and the priorities for the use of the ARPA funds.

Douglas County was the recipient of \$166 million of CARES Act funding which was appropriated to projects and programs which provided services to the community including rent and utility assistance programs and awards to community non-profits serving marginalized communities in North Omaha (primarily people of color) and South Omaha (primarily Hispanic residents) with food pantries, social services, and COVID-related health services. It is anticipated that these communities will continue to benefit from projects funded by the County's ARPA award.

Douglas County is also currently participating in the ERA(1) program and is providing assistance to people in need in areas outside the Omaha city limits, while the City of Omaha is providing similar services to residents in need within the city limits.

Uses of Funds

Public Health, Negative Economic Impacts, Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities:

The resolution passed by the County Board clearly identifies that mental health initiatives will be a top priority when considering how to allocate the ARPA funding. The specific mental health projects and programs are currently being developed with the intent of recommending them for County Board approval.

The resolution also states that projects administered by County departments which provide services and benefits to Douglas County residents, especially those living in disproportionately impacted communities, will be considered first for County Board approval. After these County projects are approved, then requests from other sectors within the County's geographical boundaries will be considered by the County Board. Each request will be vetted with the County's project consultant, Deloitte and Touche, to determine if they meet the Treasury's ARPA guidelines before the Strategy Committee recommends them for Board approval.

Another use of ARPA funds will be to support the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) in its efforts to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The DCHD is overseeing the only County-run vaccination program in Nebraska, as all the other smaller counties have let the State run their COVID-19 related programs. Discussions are currently underway with the State and FEMA to determine how much of the DCHD COVID-related expenses will be reimbursed by these sources. It is anticipated that some of the County's ARPA funding will be used to reimburse Douglas County for these COVID-related expenses which will not be reimbursed by the State or FEMA.

Douglas County also has designated Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) within its boundaries and is anticipating the use of ARPA funds to support qualifying services within these areas. The specific qualifying programs are currently being analyzed and developed.

Premium Pay; Water, Sewer and Broadband Infrastructure: To be determined.

Revenue Replacement: The County has done the calculation and has determined that it can use \$2,165,042 of the ARPA funding for Revenue Replacement purposes.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes, Community Engagement, Labor Practices, and Use of Evidence: All these areas will be addressed when the County submits its updated Recovery Plan.

Expenses by Expenditure Category: To be determined.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

This section has been left blank as no ARPA funds were expended during the reporting period.

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	0	0
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination		
1.2	COVID-19 Testing		
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing		
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)		
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment		
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)		
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency		
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)		
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19		
1.10	Mental Health Services		
1.11	Substance Use Services		
1.12	Other Public Health Services		
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	0	0
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs		
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers		
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs		
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention		
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers		
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)		
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*		
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)		
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations		
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality		
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries		
2.13	Other Economic Support		
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff		
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	0	0
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning		
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts		
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services		
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services		
3.5	Education Assistance: Other		
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care		
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting		
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System		
3.9.	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other		
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing		
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons		
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance		
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other		
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators		
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation		
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions		
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay	0	0

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
4.1	Public Sector Employees		
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers		
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	0	0
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment		
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance		
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater		
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows		
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure		
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater		
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation		
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation		
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source		
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment		
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution		
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation		
5.13	Drinking water: Source		
5.14	Drinking water: Storage		
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure		
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects		
5.17	Broadband: Other projects		
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	0	0
6.1	Provision of Government Services		
7	Administrative and Other	0	0
7.1	Administrative Expenses		
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis		
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government		
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)		

Project Inventory and Performance Report: As of August 31, 2021, no specific projects have been approved by the Douglas County Board of Commissioners.

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

This section does not apply to Counties.