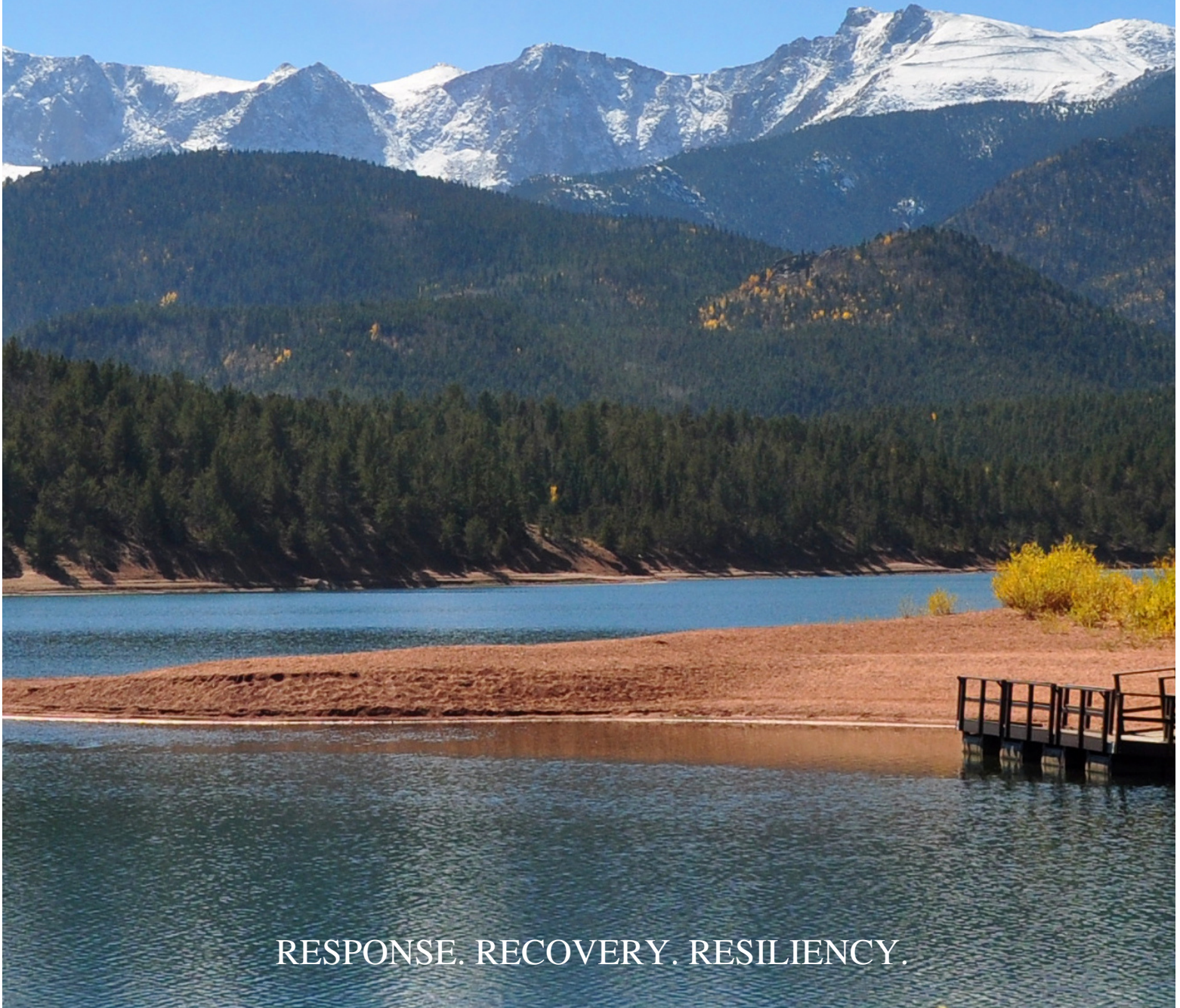


AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
RECOVERY PLAN
PERFORMANCE REPORT | 2022



RESPONSE. RECOVERY. RESILIENCY.



EL PASO **COUNTY**

COLORADO

July 31, 2022

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General Overview



Executive Summary

The El Paso County American Rescue Plan Act Report of 2021 made several commitments. One commitment was that federal funds would be used to help those that need it most recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Another was that projects would complement the efforts of area governments that also received funds so that no group went unserved. The County also committed to follow all applicable federal guidelines, promote equitable outcomes, and plan for unforeseen circumstances.

The County is pleased to report it kept every commitment.

Over the past year, the County has invested heavily in programs that address mental health resiliency, behavioral health, substance abuse, suicide prevention, employment assistance, and food instability. The County also supported tourism and hospitality projects delayed due to the pandemic, as well as chambers and other organizations that keep small businesses open. The County is moving ahead with stormwater and transportation projects authorized by federal guidance and is actively identifying high-impact water infrastructure projects to support. All of that is in addition to the consistent support for testing sites, responsible vaccine distribution, Public Health, and the hundreds of small businesses that received direct assistance in 2021.

The County also regularly updated the public through website updates, media releases, social media updates, stakeholder communication, and open meetings. Expenditures are posted online and reports are generated and disseminated regularly.

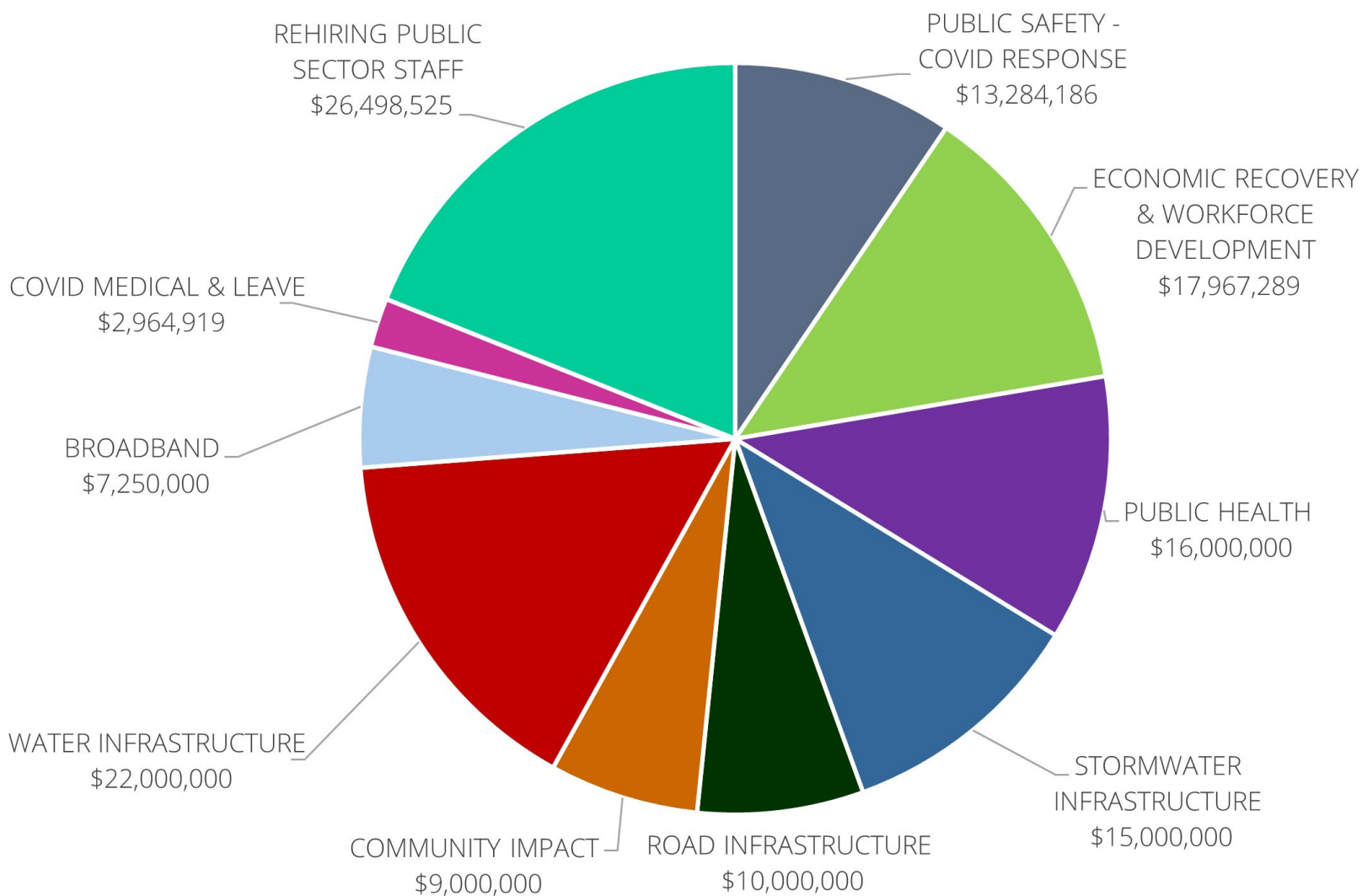
The 2022 report outlines all of these efforts, and more, in greater detail.

Though much has changed throughout the last year, the County's commitment to the residents and taxpayers remains the same: we are fully dedicated to the response to, recovery from, and resiliency against the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of County Commissioners will continue to combat the coronavirus, keep its residents safe, and mitigate the devastating human and economic impacts of this crisis. The County will continue its strategic focus and prepare for future challenges. And the County will continue to adhere to all federal guidelines outlined in the law and final Treasury Rule.

Thank you for reading this report.



Use of Funds





Use of Funds

Full Allocation | \$139,964,919

The Response Recovery Resiliency Plan will make a measurable impact on the lives of our residents, keep El Paso County healthy, and grow our economy to make it stronger and more vibrant for years to come. This one-time funding has been carefully allocated to address the most pressing needs in our County in the most efficient and effective way possible. This funding will complement El Paso County's comprehensive strategic plan for regional recovery and will be leveraged alongside additional federal and local funds.

El Paso County, not unlike many other jurisdictions, felt the negative impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic in a broad sense. Outside of the direct public health impact of the virus, our vibrant tourism industry was interrupted, small businesses struggled to stay open, many of our residents lost their jobs or saw a decrease in hours, and the mental health of our residents suffered. Our recovery plan takes into account the unique needs of our residents and establishes programs and services that will aid in a regional recovery.

Public Health

The negative public health impacts of the pandemic are being addressed through a multitude of projects including testing and vaccination sites located centrally in our communities for easy access, COVID testing inside our detention center, mobile vaccine clinics, and support for a second public health office located in a typically underserved community.

Negative Economic Impacts

The vast majority of our small businesses and local non-profits have experienced negative economic impacts over the past two years. Many of the organizations who provide mental / behavioral health services have seen their client needs grow while their ability to fundraise was diminished. SLFRF funding was allocated to fifty community impact programs whose missions are to serve those impacted by the pandemic through counseling services, case management, food access, mental health treatment, suicide prevention, employment assistance and substance use treatment. Funding was also provided to tourism facilities who had construction of planned upgrades delayed due to the pandemic. Small businesses received grants to help keep their doors open and local Chambers of Commerce and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) received funding to support those businesses.

Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Treasury has recognized the need to invest in Public Sector employment and El Paso County has allocated funding to bolster the public workforce in accordance with that guidance. Funding will be used to pay for staff hired after March 1, 2021. Ensuring the County has the staff necessary to carry out the wide range of services provided to residents is imperative to ensuring a robust recovery.

Water, Sewer and Broadband Infrastructure

The County will partner with area water and sewer districts to identify and fund high-impact water infrastructure projects with a focus on managing or mitigating pollutants, reducing the energy required to treat water, and reusing water where possible. Additionally, the Department of Public Works will address critical stormwater infrastructure projects. The Digital Strategy and Technology Department is soliciting and evaluating middle-mile broadband fiber projects in the unincorporated areas of the County. An estimated 200,000 people live in such areas of the County and may don't have adequate internet services. The County will continue to look for ways and partners to address this deficiency.

Revenue Replacement

The American Rescue Plan Act allows for Counties to use State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ("SLFRF") to offset actual revenue losses due the COVID-19 pandemic or use a standard allowance of \$10,000,000. El Paso County is electing the standard allowance for revenue loss and will use it to fund government services.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes

El Paso County is a vibrant community comprised of various demographics. While the overall intent of the response, recovery, resiliency plan is intended to be holistic in nature and support regional recovery, there is an acknowledgement that certain households, small businesses and non-profits were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. An internal committee made up of several department representatives, along with the Board of County Commissioners, reviewed the eligibility guidelines for ARPA funding and analyzed those alongside the needs of our community to identify several populations who may benefit from ARPA allocations including:

- Small businesses impacted / disproportionate impacted by the pandemic - including minority- / veteran- / women-owned businesses
- Children and youth
- People experiencing homelessness
- People experiencing behavioral health, mental health, or substance use difficulties
- Populations with low access to food / food insecurity
- Low to moderate income households
- Individuals / small businesses / non-profits operating in or serving those who reside within a qualified census tract

Programs and grant opportunities were designed with these populations in mind and take into account the disproportionate impact that they experienced. Examples of ways equitable outcomes were woven into project identification and implementation include:

- Assigning additional preference points to those individuals / small businesses / non-profits operating in or serving those who reside within a qualified census tract or who meet the Treasury definition of disproportionately impacted
- Designing communication and outreach efforts to include specifically targeted populations
- Supporting local non-profits who cater specifically to the identified populations above
- Focusing infrastructure projects in rural and typically underserved areas of unincorporated El Paso County

Demographic information is collected where appropriate. Realizing that some of the most vulnerable members of our community may see providing personal details as a barrier to services, we are collecting demographics on a volunteer basis and not refusing services to those who are unable / unwilling to provide it. Projects with collected information will have output / outcome measures tracked in the project inventory.



Community Engagement

El Paso County will continue to make an active effort to engage its constituents in the administering of ARPA funds. In order to promote equitable outcomes, the County will actively reach out to various community groups of different equity dimensions where it is possible.

El Paso County will identify community groups and partners to ensure that historically underserved or adversely affected groups are being notified, encouraged and assisted in applying for the various grant opportunities and assistance available under ARPA within the county. The County will provide literature and assistance in both English and Spanish (when requested), in addition to other languages as needed or requested by the public. For all public meetings, webinars, or other virtual events, translation services will be available in English and American Sign Language (ASL), as well as Spanish or other languages as requested.

All reports, presentations, and other ARPA-related material will be readily accessible on our website to provide transparency and encourage community participation.

El Paso County will employ multiple avenues to communicate various grant announcements, encourage stakeholder engagement, and provide periodic updates on how the funds are being spent. Some assets that will be used are:

- El Paso County Website
- Periodic presentations and updates to BOCC and leadership team
- News Releases
- Social Media
- Quarterly Reports
- Video Stories (human interest)
- Email Outreach
- Telephone Outreach
- Community & Stakeholder Presentations
- Informational Webinars





Labor Practices

El Paso County will promote and require strong labor standards with all contracts for any water, sewer, and broadband projects funded using American Rescue Plan funds. El Paso County will include in our contracts project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the local prevailing rate and will include local hire provisions as required by the American Rescue Plan. However, it is essential to note that the Davis-Bacon Act requirement does not apply to infrastructure projects funded solely with American Rescue Plan funds unless the infrastructure project receives additional funding from another federal program that requires the use of the Davis-Bacon Act.





Use Of Evidence

A large number of projects funded with ARPA dollars have initiated through subrecipient agreements with local organizations who have the subject matter expertise to ensure the funds are used in the most effective and efficient way possible. Many of these subrecipients are using evidence-based interventions and / or developing program evaluations to build an evidence base.

As these evidence bases and evaluations are identified and shared by subrecipients, they will be included in this report.





Performance Report

El Paso County recognizes the value of incorporating performance management in SLFRF-funded programs. Each program funded through dollars from the American Rescue Plan has been assigned unique performance measures meant to detail the efficacy of the program and provide retrospective data to inform future decision-making. All subrecipients of funding are required to report quarterly metrics on each project or program funded to ensure the investment is cultivating the intended outcomes. Throughout the period of performance, these measures will be used to evaluate programs and inform necessary changes to reach desired outcomes.

Annual performance results will be posted on our website to ensure transparency in reporting and provide the community with detailed data on the projects funded.



Project Inventory



Economic Recovery Economic Development

PRIORITY CATEGORY: ECONOMIC RECOVERY

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$10,657,442

MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Economic Development

PROJECT ID: ED-ARPA-21-01, ED-ARPA21-03-PR

PROJECT STATUS: Post-Award

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 2 - Negative Economic Impact

PURPOSE: Regional Business Relief Fund

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Colorado Enterprise Fund (CEF)

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

El Paso County administered a highly successful Business Relief Fund with CARES Act dollars in 2020.

The ARPA funds allowed the county to fund the program again in 2021. The program's objective is to retain and bolster local small businesses that were negatively affected by COVID-19. Many small businesses and non-profits in El Paso County have continued to experience a decline in business activity and revenue. Without access to financial resources, many locally owned businesses may permanently close their doors. The El Paso County Regional Business Relief Fund provided up to \$20,000 of grant funding assistance to adversely affected businesses in the region.

The county opened a competitive grant application process for small businesses and non-profits to assist with business-related costs incurred due to the COVID-19 economic disruption such as rent / mortgage / utility payments, employee payroll, accounts payable and other fixed-debt costs, personal protection equipment, and marketing costs associated with economic recovery.

The Board of County Commissioners approved outlined project guidelines and measurements, and the application process launched on June 28, 2021. Following the application process, awards were announced in August with the financial awards being distributed immediately afterwards.

The eligibility requirements were as follows:

- Small businesses structured as partnership, corporation, limited partnership, limited liability entity, sole proprietors, or independent contractors
- Non-profits registered under United States Tax Code § 501(c)(3)
- Fewer than 500 employees, including part-time workers (excluding 1099 contracted workers)
- Located in El Paso County, Colorado
- Business activities are legal under both The Federal Code and Colorado Revised Statutes
- Applicant business is currently operating
- The business was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Applicant business and business owner do not have any outstanding judgments, tax liens, or pending lawsuits against them
- Possess all applicable licenses and registrations
- Applicant business or non-profit organization has hiring practices that are free from discrimination and hiring practices do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, disability or other handicaps, age, marital status, or status concerning public assistance

The county structured the application to include sections depicting an introduction, business information, COVID-19 impact on business, grant assistance request, financial documentation, and signature. In addition, the county outsourced the evaluation process to the Colorado Enterprise Fund with oversight from the Economic Development Oversight Committee.

Evaluation of awardees consisted of the following characteristics:

- Business size (Current number of employees, part-time included)
- Years of operation
- Annual gross revenues
- Financial condition: loss of revenue due to COVID-19
- Industry
- Unique aspects to consider include community impact, adaptability and resiliency, sustainability, targeted ownership

In conjunction with the Colorado Enterprise Fund, El Paso County will conduct pulse check surveys with awardees every 90 days and will report on the findings.

Additionally, the El Paso County Economic Development Department is partnering with the Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center (“SBDC”) and the Pikes Peak Workforce Center (“PPWFC”) to ensure that all grantees receive access to free long-term business and workforce development support services.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programing or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

Ensuring that all eligible businesses had access to this recovery funding was of crucial importance. Through community partnerships and grassroots efforts, this program had extensive community outreach. Outreach included website and news releases, radio (English and Spanish), coordinating with minority- and women-targeted chambers of commerce, and diverse business leaders and advocates. This robust and holistic outreach resulted in 65% of the grantees identifying themselves as women-, minority-, or veteran-owned businesses. Virtual and in-person technical assistance sessions for the application process were held to ensure that all had access to technology and resources to complete the application process.

PERFORMANCE REPORT:

Output Measures:

- 627 local small businesses and non-profits received a grant award
- The average grant amount was \$16,557
- 65% of the awardees self-identified as women-, minority-, or veteran-owned businesses

Outcome Measures:

- Provide financial and business support services to aid in the long-term recovery of local small businesses and non-profits in our region
- Retain and bolster small businesses in El Paso County that have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Increase number of businesses and non-profits accessing business support services through the Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center (“PPSBDC”) and the Pikes Peak Workforce Center (“PPWFC”)

PRIORITY CATEGORY: Economic Recovery
FUNDING AMOUNT: \$2,587,700
MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Economic Development
PROJECT ID: ED-ARPA-21-TOURISM
PROJECT STATUS: Post-Award
EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 2 - Negative Economic Impact
PURPOSE: Tourism and Hospitality Support
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Grant recipients

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

In every sense of the word, El Paso County is America's destination. The area has a mix of both natural beauty and man-made attractions. That mix of attractions brings millions of people—and billions of dollars—into the county each year. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has dramatically impacted the region's tourism industry. Natural attractions, such as the Paint Mines Interpretive Park, have seen record attendance. But lodging occupancy, museums, sporting events, and other tourism-related businesses struggled during the pandemic.

The Response Recovery Resiliency Plan will support the tourism industry through direct support to key tourism, travel, and hospitality related businesses that were economically harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Organizations were required to apply for the grants through an open application process. The applications were then scored and evaluated by a committee and recipients were selected based on that evaluation.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programming or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

Assistance was eligible to non-profit and for-profit organizations who had planned facility upgrades or expansions that were delayed due to the pandemic. This support will promote the recovery of our tourism and travel industry; one of the most disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

PERFORMANCE REPORT:

Output Measures:

- Number of tourism-focused agencies financially assisted - 8

Outcome Measures:

- Support safe reopening of businesses in the tourism, travel, and hospitality industries
- Assist with the long-term financial and economic recovery of our region's crucial tourism ecosystem



PRIORITY CATEGORY: Economic Recovery
FUNDING AMOUNT: \$250,000
MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Economic Development
PROJECT ID: SBDC-ARPA21-01, SBDC-ARPA21-01-PR
PROJECT STATUS: Post-Award
EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 2 - Negative Economic Impact
PURPOSE: Small Business Development Center (“SBDC”)
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: The Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade, SBDC Network of the SBA

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Pikes Peak SBDC and Colorado SBDC Network will help businesses affected by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Pikes Peak SBDC consultants and partners, including the Small Business Administration (“SBA”) and the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (“OEDIT”), provide services to assist with disaster loan applications, long-term planning, insurance navigation, physical and economic loss estimations, business preparedness, and more.

- ARPA funding will be used to support the SBDC personnel, marketing costs to ensure rural and underserved populations are aware of SBDC resources, business support programming for the Regional Business Relief Fund grant recipients, and supplies and program costs to strengthening rural and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts for all.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programing or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

A portion of the ARPA funding will focus on ensuring under-served populations (rural and targeted ownership categories) have increased access to programming.

PERFORMANCE REPORT:

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of Business Starts	10		
Number of Jobs Created / Retained	31 / 40		
Number of Sales / Contracts for Businesses	\$968,175 / \$81,548		
Number of Consulting / Training for Clients	724 hours / 70 workshops		

Outcome Measures:

- Provide assistance to ensure existing and new businesses grow and prosper in the Pikes Peak Region
- Increase businesses' access to experts ready to help create and retain jobs, secure loans, increase sales, win government contracts, obtain certificates, and more

PRIORITY CATEGORY: Economic Recovery
FUNDING AMOUNT: \$2,703,700
MANAGING DEPARTMNET: Economic Development
PROJECT ID: ED-ARPA-21-02
PROJECT STATUS: Post-Award
EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 2 - Negative Economic Impact
PURPOSE: Regional Chamber Support
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Chambers of Commerce, Non-Lobbying 501(c)(4) with an Economic Development Driven Mission & Business League Organizations Focused on Regional Tourism Efforts

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Economic Development funded grants to regional chamber and business leagues that were impacted by the pandemic. Chambers may use funds to implement COVID-19 mitigation and infection prevention measures, including improvements to ventilation, physical barriers or partitions, signage, PPE, or consulting with professionals to develop safe reopening plans. Additionally, funds may be used for their business operations to further support the business community. Eligible costs may include rent/mortgage/utility payments, employee payroll, marketing, and outreach.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programing or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

This activity is focused on serving the needs of our impacted local small businesses through the support of local leagues and chambers. The funding will be distributed to organizations including those that focus on targeted small business operators including (women, minorities, veterans).

PERFORMANCE REPORT:

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of Chambers / Leagues Supported	11		
Number of Chambers/Business Leagues operating in a Qualified Census Tract	4		

- Outcome Measures:
- Support safe reopening of our chambers and business league organizations
 - Assist with the long-term economic recovery of our region’s under-served business populations



PRIORITY CATEGORY: Economic Recovery
FUNDING AMOUNT: \$678,789
MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Pikes Peak Workforce Center
PROJECT ID: PPWFC-ARPA21-01, PPWFC-ARPA21-01-PR
PROJECT STATUS: Post-Award
EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 2 - Negative Economic Impact
PURPOSE: Employment
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: To Be Identified

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the workforce in ways yet understood. The Pikes Peak Workforce Center (“PPWFC”) will be focused on getting people back to work. After a prolonged State-mandated lockdown, many businesses in the area had to lay off employees as they closed their doors and reduced their hours of operations. The result was a large number of citizens finding themselves in the ranks of the unemployed. The Pikes Peak Workforce Center plans to change this by investing in the workforce by using American Rescue Plan funds for the following uses:

- Temporary pop-up Pikes Peak Workforce Center site for unemployment support and trainings
- Hiring staff that will work with high school seniors or graduates whose workforce careers were negatively impacted by COVID-19

Furthermore, the pop-up PPWFC site is well-situated to serve those in QCTs. Located at Galley Rd. and Academy Blvd. in the City of Colorado Springs, the location is within a mile of nine area QCTs. The site is also on major area bus routes to help remove the transportation barrier. The PPWFC is well-equipped to meet all federal reporting requirements. Although the organization is used to tracking data based on Lower Living Standard Income Level (“LLSIL”) for most federal grants, future reports will include services provided to those living in a QCT.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programming or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

The PPWFC is one of a few services the county provides to all residents regardless of municipal boundaries. Since the onset of COVID-19, the organization has helped 18,501 non-white (self-identified), unemployed workers with unemployment information and documentation, job search activities, workshops related to resume writing and interview preparation, job coaching, and employment navigation services. The organization will continue its work in promoting equitable responses to workforce challenges.

PERFORMANCE REPORT:

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of Individuals Served	6,705		
Number of Trainings Completed	1,448		
Number of Internships	50		

Outcome Measures:

- Improve employment situations for impacted El Paso County residents
- Improve skills needed for the underemployed or unemployed El Paso County residents





Public Safety El Paso County Sheriff

PRIORITY CATEGORY: Public Safety

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$12,479,930

MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Office of the El Paso County Sheriff

PROJECT ID: SHR-ARPA21-01, SHR-ARPA21-01-PR

PROJECT STATUS: Ongoing

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 1 - Public Health

PURPOSE: Sheriff's Office Jail Operations

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

COVID-19-related jail spending demands include frequent testing, quarantine needs, and other costs associated with mitigating infection in a congregate setting. Jail deputies are COVID tested at the end of each shift week. The congregate setting of the jail and the public nature of their work is a constant source of danger for deputies. COVID-19 increased the cost to operate the jail during the pandemic and created operational challenges.

This portion of the Response Recovery Resiliency Plan will provide the Sheriff's Office with the resources necessary to operate the jail as safely as possible, including COVID testing and payroll support for those positions primarily dedicated to responding to COVID-19.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programming or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

N/A

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of Public Sector Employees Supported (monthly avg)	325		
Number of Employees Who Test Positive for COVID	174		
Number inmates entering jail positive for COVID	225		
Number of inmates hospitalized due to COVID	6		
Outcome Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Percentage of Positive Deputy Surveillance Testing	5% average monthly		



Public Safety

Pikes Peak Office of Emergency Management

PRIORITY CATEGORY: Public Safety

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$520,122

MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Pikes Peak Office of Emergency Management

PROJECT ID: OEM-ARPA-21-01-TESTING, OEM-ARPA21-01-VACCINATION

PROJECT STATUS: Ongoing

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 1 - Public Health

PURPOSE: Regional COVID-19 Response

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The need for safe, easy-to-access test and vaccine sites became abundantly clear early on in the pandemic. El Paso County has worked diligently to ensure our residents and visitors alike have access to the resources necessary to maintain their health and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Funds from this section will cover the costs of vaccination sites, testing sites, and personal protective equipment for first responders.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programming or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

N/A

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of Vaccines Administered	32,428		
Number of COVID-19 Tests Administered	223,292		
Outcome Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Percentage of Population Vaccinated	68.7%		
Percentage of Positive Tests	18-22%		



Public Safety El Paso County Coroner

PRIORITY CATEGORY: Public Safety

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$86,394

MANAGIN DEPARTMENT: Office of the El Paso County Coroner

PROJECT ID: OEM-COR-ARPA21-01, COR-ARPA21-01-PPE

PROJECT STATUS: Ongoing

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 1 - Public Health

PURPOSE: Death Investigation

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Office of the El Paso County Coroner investigates and certifies every sudden, unexpected, and violent death within the county. The office also provides forensic pathology, toxicology, or histology services for 25 Colorado counties whose elected coroners do not possess the technical expertise or resources to complete the work themselves.

The Coroner's Office has reviewed the Death Certificates on all COVID-19 related deaths in El Paso County and completed 51 COVID-19 related autopsies for El Paso and surrounding counties from March 2020 through April 29, 2021. The office's work in this area will continue throughout the pandemic.

Similar to the Sheriff's Office, staff safety is a paramount concern for the Coroner's Office. The virus can transmit from a deceased person under certain conditions.

Funding for this area will cover personal protective equipment for staff and pathogen testing required to accurately determine whether COVID-19 was the primary cause of death for a person.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programming or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

N/A

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of other coroner's offices assisted	14		
Number of people autopsied whose cause of death was primarily COVID-related	117		
The dollar amount spent on COVID-related supplies	\$73,485		



Public Safety

El Paso County Public Health

PRIORITY CATEGORY: Public Safety, Health, and COVID Response

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$16,000,000

MANAGING DEPARTMENT: El Paso County Public Health Department

PROJECT ID: PH-APRA21-02, PH-ARPA21-01, PH-ARPA21-01-PR

PROJECT STATUS: Ongoing

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 1 - Public Health

PURPOSE: Public Health Support

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

El Paso County Public Health (“Public Health”) has been at the forefront of the county’s response, recovery, and resiliency to COVID-19 since they began monitoring the novel coronavirus in December 2019. They have successfully led the sharing of credible information on prevention strategies, conducting epidemiological investigations, contact tracing, establishing testing sites, and distributing the vaccine. Additionally, Public Health provided expert advice and technical assistance to businesses and entities which experienced outbreaks, including quarantine and isolation recommendations, case investigation, and cleaning and disinfecting guidance. Public Health staff helped businesses deploy PPE, cleaning agents, and best practices to implement social distancing. Public Health also opened a satellite office in Fountain, Colorado, which serves hard-to-reach populations.

And, as another agency that serves all 730,000 county residents without support from any local municipality, Public Health simultaneously completed much of their non-pandemic related mission of Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), immunizations, restaurant inspections, and containing other diseases.

Public Health did all of this while remaining committed to its core values of collaboration and community partnerships.

Funding allocated towards Public Health will go to the continued direct response to an ever-evolving and persistent disease. Efforts will include mobile vaccination clinics to reach people in a jurisdiction the size of Rhode Island, addressing COVID-19 related food insecurity issues, direct staffing requirements, and keeping Public Health facilities safe for essential staff and residents alike.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Many of the programs run by Public Health are evidence-based (such as WIC). There is a strong evidence base that notes meeting the population where they are increases positive health outcomes. Mobilizing the vaccine clinic and expanding to a second location in a typically underserved population meets the goal of reducing barriers to access health care.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

Public Health took great care to disseminate multi-lingual communications, outreach to minority communities, and operate in socioeconomically diverse areas throughout the pandemic. Public Health will continue to operate with the same level of care and sensitivity with these funds.

Opening a second location in the City of Fountain increased services provided to a typically underserved population and provided access to care for households who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses given	3,689		
Number of mobile vaccine clinics	51		
Number of individuals served through local farmer's markets and food pantries	1,239		
Pounds of food distributed through local farmer's markets and food pantries	41,620		

Outcome Measures:

- Increase community health protection and reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Increase access to healthy foods and nutritional education
- Reduce food insecurity and increase access to healthy foods in underserved areas





Community Response & Recovery County Budget Department

PRIORITY CATEGORY: Community Response & Recovery

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$9,000,000

MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Budget

PROJECT ID: FIN-ARPA-21-01

PROJECT STATUS: Post-Award

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 2 - Negative Economic Impact

PURPOSE: Community Impact Grants

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Local Non-Profit Organizations

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Funding through the Community Impact Grant program provides money to local non-profit organizations who are providing services to those impacted during the COVID -19 pandemic. Funds may be used to establish/expand programs in the following areas:

- Counseling
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Behavioral Health
- Suicide Prevention
- Employment Assistance
- Financial and Debt Counseling or Budgeting
- Legal Aid to Prevent Eviction or Homelessness

Funds may be used to hire and pay staff that provide a wide range of case-worker services for the above-mentioned programs.

Funds may be used to provide sports, music and club scholarships meant to cover the cost of enrollment and registration fees to youth residing in El Paso County. Youth must be in a family financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (unemployed or loss of hours).

The non-profits will compile and provide quarterly reports that communicate the number of people or households assisted with the funds.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Many of the subrecipients of this program use evidenced-based practices and/or are preparing an evaluation report.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

This assistance will help impacted residents of El Paso County who need access to the multitude of services our local non-profit partners provide. This program will provide resources to organizations in our County who are providing services to our most disproportionately impacted community members. A great deal of care will be taken to provide community awareness of the funding opportunity to some of our smallest non-profits in multiple languages.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of Programs Funded	50		
Number of individuals / families served by programs	43,888		
Outcome Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Percentage of families assisted who were disproportionately impacted <small>*percentage of those assisted from organizations collecting demographic information</small>	69.1%*		





Water, Sewer & Broadband

Public Works, Administration and Digital Technology & Strategy

PRIORITY CATEGORY: Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$15,000,000

MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PROJECT ID: PW-ARPA-21-01

PROJECT STATUS: Planning Phase

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 5 - Infrastructure

PURPOSE: Investment in Stormwater Infrastructure

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: To Be Identified

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

All levels of infrastructure have seen increased demands during COVID-19, and stormwater is no exception. El Paso County plans to invest in allowable stormwater infrastructure programs that have a regional and long-term impact. All projects will meet federal climate change requirements as outlined in reporting and project selection guidance. The funds will only be used in the vast unincorporated area of the county, in coordination with another municipality or jurisdiction, or on county-owned property. The main objective of the stormwater projects is to manage stormwater, subsurface drainage and to manage potential sources of pollution of stormwater as it is returned to creeks and waterways.

All water and stormwater infrastructure programs undertaken with American Rescue Plan funding will have the goals to produce high-quality infrastructure, avert disruptive and costly delays, promote efficiency, and should strive to address climate change.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programming or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

Large areas within the county's jurisdiction qualify as low to moderate-income under the Community Development Block Grant Program guidelines. Rural populations also often have an unrecognized lack of access to support services, homelessness issues, or economic disadvantage. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these issues. Therefore, the County will pay special attention to these areas when making project or grant funding decisions to ensure additional services are provided to underserved populations.



PERFORMANCE REPORT

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of Projects Funded	N/A		
The number of impacted residents whose water quality or access has improved through project implementation or completing planning documents	N/A		
Number of projects funded in unincorporated El Paso County	N/A		
Outcome Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of projects that improve or maintain the water quality of the body of water	N/A		
Number of projects that include collaboration with municipalities and community stakeholders to address the stormwater management within the region	N/A		



PRIORITY CATEGORY: Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure
FUNDING AMOUNT: \$22,000,000
MANAGING DEPARTMENT: County Administration
PROJECT ID: WATER-ARPA-21-01
PROJECT STATUS: Planning Phase
EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 5 - Infrastructure
PURPOSE: Investment in Area Water Projects
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: To Be Identified

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

El Paso County needs water to sustain its 730,000 residents, five major military installations, and a robust agricultural industry, including farms and ranches. Water is supplied to the region through a complex network of up to 27 different utilities, water, and sanitation districts. Colorado water law is a deep niche subject in which only a select few specialize. The same is true of those that possess the knowledge to properly vet project requests.

Given that reality, El Paso County contracted with competent legal counsel and a firm to help the county develop a project application and select recipients. The consistent goal is to select projects which improve the drinking water infrastructure, upgrade facilities, distribution, storage, replacement, or sustainability efforts, and address climate change. Additionally, the county will be mindful that recipients must complete any projects within the timeframe allowed by law.

El Paso County also intends to fund wastewater projects by providing grant funding to local wastewater providers. Local wastewater providers can use this grant funding to meet objectives deemed eligible.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programing or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

Large areas within the county’s jurisdiction qualify as low to moderate-income under the Community Block Grant Program guidelines. Rural populations also often have an unrecognized lack of access to support services, homelessness issues, or economic disadvantage. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these issues, therefore the county will pay special attention to these areas when making project or grant funding decisions to ensure additional services are provided to underserved populations.

PERFORMANCE REPORT:

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
To Be Identified			

Outcome Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
To Be Identified			

PRIORITY CATEGORY: Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure
FUNDING AMOUNT: \$7,250,000
MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Information Technology
PROJECT ID: IT-ARPA-21-01
PROJECT STATUS: Planning Phase
EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 5 - Infrastructure
PURPOSE: Investment in Broadband Infrastructure
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: To Be Identified

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for every home to have access to high-speed, reliable internet. While U.S. Census reports show 90% of El Paso County residents are connected to the internet, the region's geography and size make delivering high-speed internet to everyone a unique challenge. For example, many residents in the eastern and southern portions of the county do not meet the standard delivery speeds contemplated in the ARPA guidance. In addition, private providers have long struggled with the costs required to lay miles of fiber to relatively few residents.

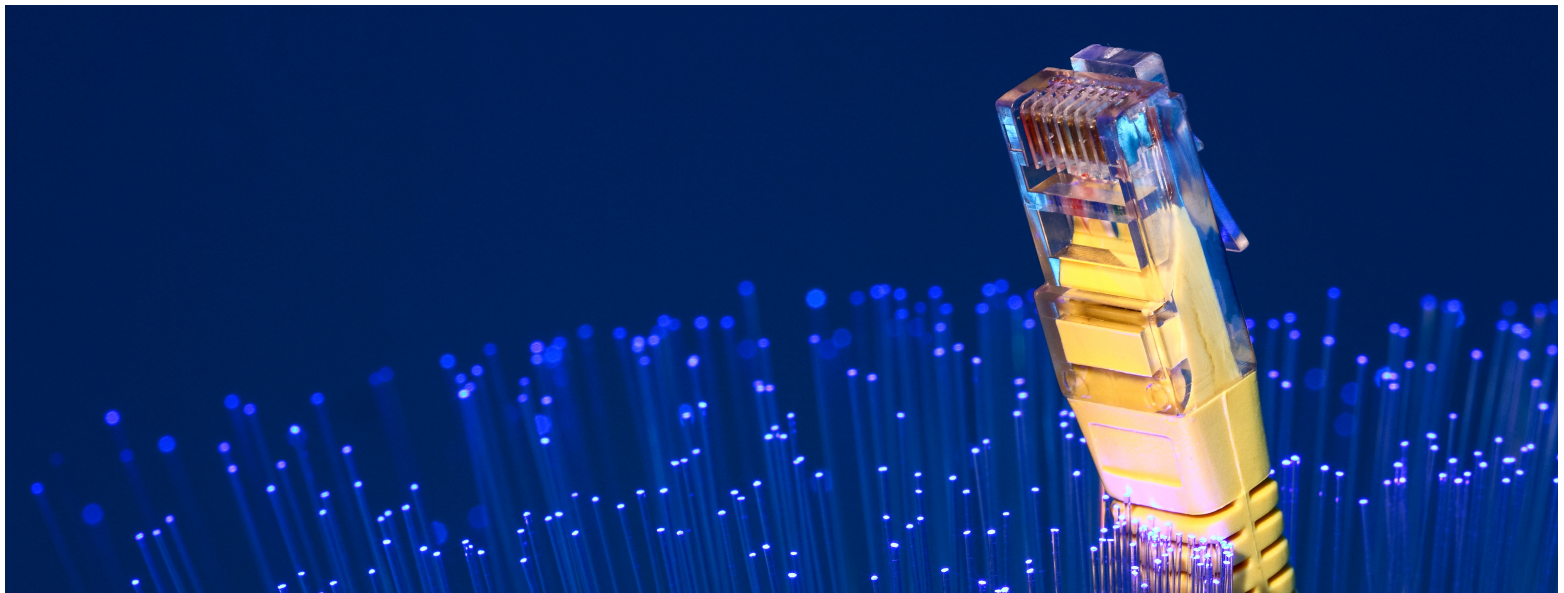
The County will solicit and evaluate strategic opportunities to invest in "middle mile" broadband projects that will allow private providers to deliver "last mile" broadband services directly to residents. Any projects selected for this investment will comply with state and federal regulations as well as the 2019 El Paso County Broadband Strategic Plan.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programming or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

Large areas within the county's jurisdiction qualify as low to moderate-income under the Community Block Grant Program guidelines. Rural populations also often have an unrecognized lack of access to support services, homelessness issues, or economic disadvantage. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these issues, therefore the County will pay special attention to these areas when making project or grant funding decisions to ensure additional services are provided to underserved populations.



PERFORMANCE REPORT

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
The number of organizations with which the county partners to provide increased broadband speeds to underserved populations	N/A		
The number of “middle mile” projects the county completes to its facilities	N/A		

Outcome Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
The number of underserved residents who gained access to quality broadband through county partnerships	N/A		
The number of residents whose number of available providers increased as a result of the county partnership	N/A		
The number of residents whose price for quality broadband declined as a result of more competition in the market	N/A		





Other Projects

PRIORITY CATEGORY: COVID Medical and Leave

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$2,964,919

MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Administration

PROJECT ID: ADM-ARAP21-03, ADM-ARPA21-03-PR

PROJECT STATUS: Ongoing

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 3 - Public Sector Workforce, 1 - COVID 19 Vaccination

PURPOSE: COVID Leave and Medical Payments

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

El Paso County is a self-funded insurance provider. These funds will be used to cover medical payments made by the County, employee vaccination efforts and COVID leave paid due to COVID-19.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programing or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

N/A

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of vaccines administered	806		
Number of staff paid COVID leave	837		



PRIORITY CATEGORY: Provision of Government Services
FUNDING AMOUNT: \$10,000,000
MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Public Works
PROJECT ID: ROADS-ARPA22-001
PROJECT STATUS: Planning Phase
EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 6 - Revenue Replacement
PURPOSE: Government Services

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

El Paso County is electing to take the one-time \$10,000,000 standard allowance of lost revenue. These funds will be used for road and surface infrastructure projects.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programing or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

N/A

PERFORMANCE REPORT

N/A

PRIORITY CATEGORY: Investment in Public Sector Workforce
FUNDING AMOUNT: \$24,250,000
MANAGING DEPARTMENT: Administration
PROJECT ID: TBD
PROJECT STATUS: Planning Phase
EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES: 3 - Public Sector Capacity; Rehiring Public Sector Staff
PURPOSE: Public Sector Workforce Support

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Funds in this allocation will be used to rehire public sector employees at or above the pre-pandemic level.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

Evidence-based intervention programing or evaluation was unnecessary for this project.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

N/A

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Output Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of Public Sector Employees Supported with Funding	5		
Outcome Measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Increase in Staffing (Number of Full Time Employees)	2,734		

