

American Rescue Plan and Recovery Plan **Performance Report**

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2021 Report



Escambia County
2021 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) includes \$61.7 Million in direct local recovery assistance for Escambia County. The first half of the county's award has been received totaling \$30.9 million. The second half will be comparable and will arrive approximately one year after the first payment.

Escambia County's plan will follow the U.S Treasury Departments Interim Final ARP Rule including allocating all funds prior to Dec. 31, 2024 and completing all expenditures by Dec. 31, 2026 as required.

While we are still in the early program development stages, we recognize the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our community and are committed to making investments for economic recovery and rebuilding.

Uses of Funds

Escambia County is gathering public input and assessing county needs to prioritize, design, and implement the American Rescue Plan funds. We want to ensure that our programs support our community and citizens and that our programs promote the below approved expenditure categories:

- a. Public Health
- b. Negative Economic Impacts
- c. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
- d. Premium Pay
- e. Water, Sewer and Broadband infrastructure
- f. Revenue Replacement

To help alleviate those most impacted by COVID-19, Escambia County has expended funding to provide direct housing assistance for households in arrears with their rent, utilities, and mortgage to help prevent evictions and foreclosures. To date, the county has expended \$1,460,872 in Coronavirus Relief Funds to assist with rent, mortgage, and utility assistance. Additional funding has been set aside for mortgage assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-CV (CDBG-CV) program. Escambia County has received an allocation of \$9,611,771 in Emergency Rental Assistance funds and another allocation of \$7,605,344 in Emergency Rental Assistance 2 funds. These resources are being utilized to assist vulnerable income eligible citizens in our community to mitigate the negative economic impacts associated with the pandemic.

The county is making plans related to the allocation of HOME-American Rescue Plan funds to be received through HUD to provide housing and other services directly to homeless persons. Funds will be distributed in coordination with other local jurisdictions, the local homeless Continuum of Care and local public housing agencies. County staff serve on the local Homeless Task Force which is providing local input on prioritization of funding for homeless activities.

CDBG-CV funds are providing legal aid services to help prevent eviction, bankruptcies and foreclosure to income eligible households that have been impacted by COVID-19. Additional CDBG-CV funding has been provided to the local Council on Aging to assist with public health response to the elderly in our community, including PPE and food programs for those that are food insecure at this time.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Escambia County is dedicated to making a considerable effort to promote equitable outcomes during program design, planning and implementation.

While we are in the early stages of program development, we have examined our county to identify our underserved citizens and ensure complete inclusion.

We are aware that although we have a website and will be providing a community input survey online, more will need to be done to ensure equitable outcomes. We have made additional plans to ensure that both the information and the surveys are distributed at our community centers and libraries to ensure that each voice heard.

Stormwater and other clean water infrastructure projects will be prioritized in disadvantaged communities. Many stormwater projects identified in the 2015 Stormwater Advisory Team Recommendation Report are in low-income neighborhoods. The impacts of flooding and old and aging infrastructure on economically disadvantaged residents cause financial and emotional stress on these residents. The ability to repair or rebuild personal property is limited for cost burdened households in these target areas. Improvements to the infrastructure will provide long-term resiliency for at-risk households.

As we move through the process of allocating funds, we will continue to take the steps necessary to ensure Escambia county is making every effort to include all our citizens.

Community Engagement

While Escambia County is in the early stages of program development, we are taking the time to ensure we capture diverse feedback from citizens, community partners and constituents.

We have developed a [web page dedicated to the American Rescue Plan](#) to ensure transparency and communication with the public.

To engage the community, Escambia County is working to develop and launch an ARP Survey to collect and review public input on citizen priorities for economic recovery.

A presentation regarding the ARP was made to the Board of County Commissioners at its public Committee of the Whole meeting on June 10, 2021. We will continue to present at future Board Meetings and Committee of the Whole workshops which are advertised and the community welcome to attend.

In addition to the website and online survey we will print and deliver hard copies of all ARP information and the survey to the local community centers and libraries to ensure we are serving all citizens.

Labor Practices

At this time Escambia County has completed one project that did not require any additional workforce practices; however, we will explore this as we develop and implement additional projects.

For infrastructure projects, the county will propose use of prevailing wage requirements in its contracts.

Use of Evidence

At this time Escambia County has completed one project that did not require evidence-based interventions; however, we will explore this as we develop and implement additional projects.

For Project 001 in the Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts we utilized the “Loss of Revenue Calculations”

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category	Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
2.11 Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality	\$350,000	\$350,000

Project Inventory

Project: Pensacola Bay Center – Lost Revenue

Project Number: 001

Funding amount: \$350,000

Project Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts



Project overview

- Provided the Pensacola Bay Center with an increase to the fiscal Year 2021 Budget in the amount of \$350,000 for lost revenue in 2020.

Use of Evidence

- The Pensacola Bay Center is an indoor arena located in Pensacola FL. It is owned by Escambia County and operated by ASM Global. The Bay Center has capacity of 8,049 for hockey games and as much as 10,000 for non-hockey events. During the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020 the Pensacola Bay Center lost substantial revenue due to canceled games and events.
- We have allocated the Pensacola Bay Center \$350,000 in the Expenditure Category Negative Economic Impacts although their Revenue Loss was much larger:
 - 2019 Revenue = \$6,023,822.57
 - 2020 Projected Revenue based on 4.10% growth = \$6,270,799.30

- 2020 Actual Revenue = \$2,064,747.36
- Lost Revenue in 2020 = \$4,206,051.94

Performance Report

Currently Escambia County is still researching, analyzing, and forming our major SLFRF funded projects. During this development we will include key performance indicators for output and outcome measures.

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

Escambia County has not had a reduction in tax revenue resulting from “a change in law, regulation or administrative interpretation.”