

Forsyth County, North Carolina **Recovery Plan**



State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2021 Report

Forsyth County, North Carolina
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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Forsyth County has a historic opportunity to make transformational strides in this community for all of our citizens through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The County was awarded over \$74 million of which half was already received. The County will solicit input from the public to aid the Board of County Commissioners in determining the appropriate use of funds to promote a fair and equitable response to the pandemic and economic recovery. The County will also provide application periods where persons, businesses, or organizations within the County can apply for funding as long as it meets an allowable use as set by the United States Treasury. By taking into account citizen feedback and the proposed projects or programs, the Board will determine a plan for the use of funds that will impact the County and its citizens in a transformational way that helps the County recover from the significant impacts related to the pandemic. The Board plans to have this developed by the end of the Fall.

Uses of Funds

As explained in the Executive Summary, the County is currently in the process of determining the appropriate use of funds for the most impact and to support a strong and equitable recovery from the pandemic and related economic downturn. During this process, the priorities for spending will emerge and be identified within the following categories and potentially across multiple 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

During the fiscal year 2021-22 budget process, the Board did approve some spending related to Category F. Revenue Replacement. According to the provided revenue replacement calculation, the County determined its revenue loss was \$18 million. The Board appropriated the full amount within the current year budget, but the spending plan is to spend one-third, or \$6 million, each year beginning in the current budget year. The funds can be used for general government services, but the Board approved spending for public safety and emergency services purposes.

The City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County have received federal funds under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program through the American Rescue Plan Act to assist low-income residents who are behind on their rent or utilities payments because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The two local governments administer the program together and have been awarded over \$12 million when combined.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Since the County and the Board of County Commissioners are currently developing their spending plan and priorities, there is currently no structure in place to track the intended outcomes to promote equity using qualitative and quantitative data on how the County's approach achieved or promoted equitable outcomes or progressed against equity goals.

The Board did include the following goal in its current year budget ordinance: "The Board of County Commissioners hereby encourages applicants to focus on the Qualified Census Tracts with the hope that 80% of the funds available in the process will reach our most marginalized populations."

Community Engagement

On July 1, 2021, the County made the American Rescue Plan Act Citizen Survey available on its website at <https://www.forsyth.cc/erap/arpa.aspx>. County residents are asked to review the information provided on federal guidelines about how the money can be spent and then provide input on what they would like to see the County use the funds for. The Board of County Commissioners will consider the survey results when determining how the funding will be allocated during the application and award periods. This survey will remain open until all funds have been allocated for allowable purposes. On a more informal basis, Commissioners and County staff have fielded many questions from constituents through person to person conversations and email communication in their daily course of business. As noted in the previous sections, the Board of County Commissioners encourages applicants to focus on projects and programs within Qualified Census Tracts with the hope that 80% of the funds available in the process will reach the County's most marginalized populations.

Labor Practices

Labor practices will be updated if any infrastructure projects are approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Use of Evidence

While no programs have been awarded funding by the Board of County Commissioners to date, the County is asking each applicant whether their prospective program includes evidence-based interventions. If awarded programs include these type of interventions, the results will be provided here.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
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		
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs		
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid		
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		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff		
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
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		
4.1	Public Sector Employees		
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers		
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
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		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
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		
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$4,137,451	
7	Administrative and Other		
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

Since no projects have been approved to date, there is no project inventory. Performance reports will be included on any major projects listed in the inventory.