

# State of Georgia

## Recovery Plan

### State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

### 2021 Report

Note: The Recovery Plan Performance Report will provide the public and Treasury information on the projects that recipients are undertaking with program funding and how they are planning to ensure program outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner. While this template includes the minimum requirements for the Recovery Plan, each recipient is encouraged to add information to the plan that they feel is appropriate to provide information to their constituents on efforts they are taking to respond to the pandemic and promote an equitable economic recovery.

Each jurisdiction may determine the general form and content of the Recovery Plan, as long as it meets the reporting requirements, and recipients are encouraged to tailor this template to best meet their needs. Use of infographics, tables, charts, pictures, case studies, and other explanatory elements are encouraged.

**State of Georgia**  
**2021 Recovery Plan**

**Table of Contents**

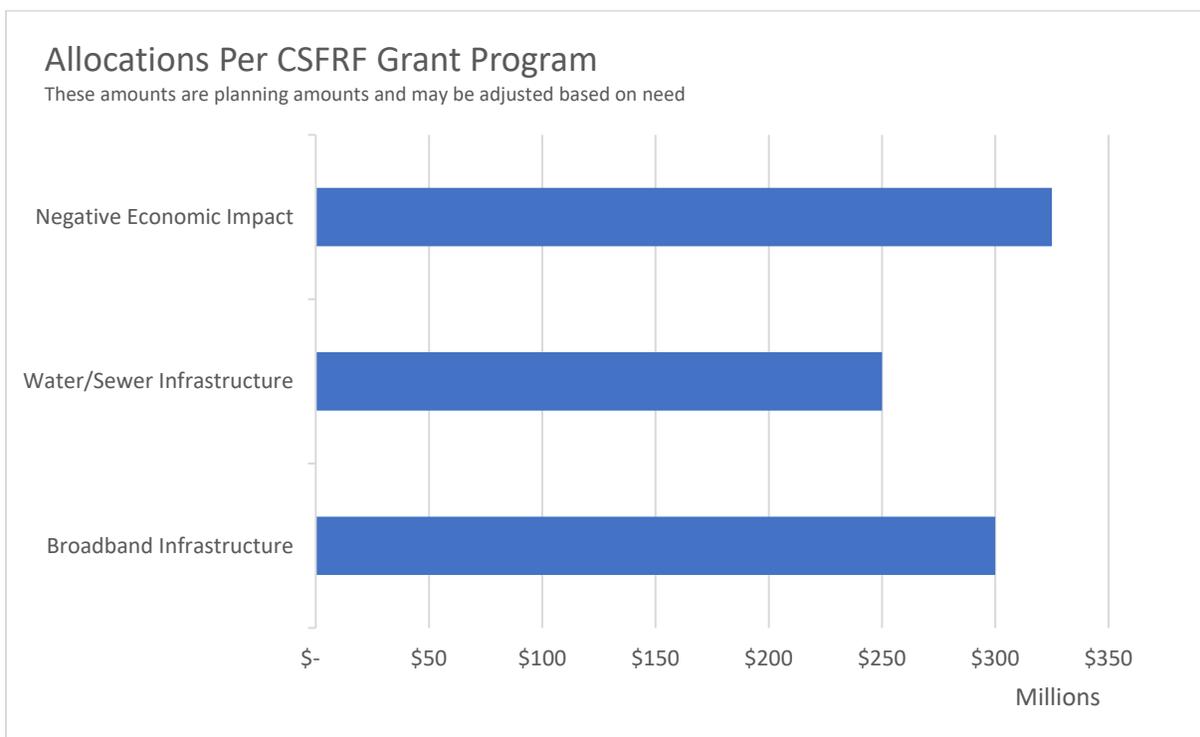
|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>General Overview.....</b>                            | <b>2</b> |
| Executive Summary.....                                  | 2        |
| Uses of Funds.....                                      | 3        |
| Promoting Equitable Outcomes.....                       | 5        |
| Community Engagement.....                               | 6        |
| Labor Practices.....                                    | 6        |
| Use of Evidence.....                                    | 6        |
| Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category.....          | 6        |
| <br>  |          |
| <b>Project Inventory.....</b>                           | <b>9</b> |
| Example Project .....                                   | 9        |
| <br>  |          |
| <b>Ineligible Activities: Tax Offset Provision.....</b> | <b>9</b> |

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### **Executive Summary**

The State of Georgia received its first tranche of \$2,426,767,729.85 in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) from the U.S. Treasury on May 20, 2021. The state is distributing an initial estimated allocation of \$875 million, or 36 percent, of the funds through a state-wide, competitive grant application process. Governor Brian Kemp has appointed state agency leaders along with members of the Georgia General Assembly to serve on a newly formed Georgia Jobs and Infrastructure Committee tasked with reviewing, evaluating, and making funding recommendations to the Governor on the grant applications. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) is assisting in coordinating the grant process on behalf of the Governor.

The Georgia Jobs and Infrastructure Committee will review applications under three grant categories: broadband infrastructure, water and sewer infrastructure, and negative economic impact. OPB has designed the grant process in accordance with the Interim Final Rule (IFR), Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, 86 Fed. Reg. 26786, 26819 (May 17, 2021) and supplementary guidance (Treasury FAQs) issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury. The current application period ends October 31, 2021, and grant awards are expected to be by early January 2022.



### **Key Outcomes:**

| Goals   | Progress To Date    |
|---|---------------------|
| Update or expand water and sewer infrastructure   | Application Process |
| Expand broadband infrastructure to improve access in underserved or unserved regions of the state | Application Process |
| Provide financial relief or recovery assistance to significantly impacted industries              | Application Process |

For remaining funds in tranche 1 and any subsequent disbursements, Georgia will continue to monitor ongoing pandemic and economic conditions across the state to determine highest spending needs. OPB is also facilitating the distribution of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to 515 non-entitlement cities.

**Uses of Funds**

**a. Public Health (EC 1)**

Georgia did not allocate funds for this category as of July 31, 2021 but will allocate up to \$25M for the State Health Benefit Plan to provide incentives for state employees and teachers to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

**b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)**

The Georgia Jobs and Infrastructure Committee appointed by Governor Kemp includes a subcommittee to examine grants addressing the negative economic impacts of COVID-19. Georgia intends to use an estimated \$325 million of CSFRF funds for negative economic impact grants to address recovery needs in hardest hit industries and demographic sectors in the state.

The Negative Economic Impact subcommittee includes state leaders from administrative, economic development, and natural resources agencies in addition to members of the Georgia General Assembly serving a broad array of districts across the state. In issuing a notice for proposals for grant applications, the state has emphasized that priority will be given to applications with broad community impact. Specifically, Georgia is identifying applications that leverage other available funding sources, including local allocations of Coronavirus Local Recovery Funds, to maximize program impact in addition to looking for projects that will impact a community, geographic region, or industry.

**c. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3)**

Georgia has not yet specifically allocated funds for this category at this time but anticipates that grant applications submitted under the Negative Economic Impact grant category may address needs in this area.

**d. Premium Pay (EC 4)**

Georgia has not yet specifically allocated funds for this category at this time.

**e. Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)**

The Georgia Jobs and Infrastructure Committee appointed by Governor Kemp includes subcommittees to review grants for Water and Sewer Infrastructure and Broadband Infrastructure respectively. Georgia intends to use an estimated \$250 million of CSFRF funds for water and sewer infrastructure grant projects and \$300 million for broadband grant projects; however, amounts may vary depending upon quality and quantity of proposals received.

The Water and Sewer Infrastructure subcommittee includes members from both the Georgia Environmental Financing Authority, responsible for administering the federal Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Funds for the state, as well as Georgia's Environmental Protection Division which is responsible for monitoring water quality across the state. The subcommittee also includes members of the Georgia General Assembly representing a diverse group of state districts and agricultural industries.

The Broadband Infrastructure Committee includes members from the Georgia Department of Transportation, K-12, University, and Technical College Systems, Georgia Technology Authority, Department of Community Affairs, and State Properties Commission along with corresponding members of the Georgia General Assembly assigned to committees overseeing those entities. These members were selected in order to leverage existing broadband resources while identifying areas of greatest need for further buildout.

Georgia anticipates receiving applications addressing a broad range of water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure needs. In issuing a notice for proposals for grant applications, the state has emphasized that priority will be given to applications with broad community impact. Specifically, Georgia is identifying applications that leverage other available funding sources, including local allocations of Coronavirus Local Recovery Funds, to maximize program impact in addition to looking for projects that will impact a community, geographic region, or industry.

**f. Revenue Replacement (EC 6)**

Georgia has not yet specifically allocated funds for this category at this time but will continue to monitor economic conditions to determine if revenue replacement is a necessary use of funds.

**g. Emergency Rental Assistance II**

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is administering the State of Georgia Rental Assistance Program (GRA) with Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) II funds. This program assists renters with past due rent and utilities. Currently, the GRA program is still utilizing remaining ERA I dollars, and DCA will continue to support the program with ERA II dollars after ERA I is expended.

**h. Homeowners Assistance Funds**

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will administer Georgia's Homeowners Assistance Funds as the Georgia Mortgage Assistance Program. Through July 31, DCA has created an online application for individuals to apply to receive funding, established a reporting system, and established their office and staff for the program. They expect to begin a pilot program for in-house bond loans the week of August 16, 2021. The HAF plan has been sent to Treasury and is awaiting approval.

### **Promoting equitable outcomes**

Georgia has begun the CSFRF allocation process by focusing on investments in broadband along with water and sewer infrastructure as these projects will be likely to impact communities that may have faced underinvestment or lack sufficient financial resources to self-fund similar infrastructure investments either due to low wealth tax digests or constraints on raising utility rates due to financial hardships for rate payers. The initial round of grant funding will provide more than \$500 million for communities to remediate infrastructure to improve water quality, reduce water waste, address environmental issues impacting water supplies, or expand water/sewer or broadband infrastructure to unserved areas to help promote economic growth across the state.

Additionally, Georgia recognizes that a number of communities, populations, and industries, particularly in the service sector, have been disproportionately negatively impacted by COVID-19. Therefore, the other area of initial spending of CSFRF will be to address such negative economic impacts in these areas.

In selecting projects for these three grant streams, the process will prioritize those projects that provide the broadest impact across either a population, region, or industry to maximize available funding. Additionally, grant agreements with subrecipients will include required geographic and/or demographic performance measures, as applicable, to enable the state to track the project's impact on regions and populations with the state.

As Georgia moves forward in developing additional spending plans for remaining funds, the state will continue to collect feedback from the Georgia Jobs and Infrastructure Committee members, leverage their community engagement, and consider qualitative and quantitative data to collect to measure how CSFRF projects will achieve or promote equitable outcomes.

### **Community Engagement**

Initial allocations of funds for projects will be reviewed by a committee appointed by Governor Kemp to include a range of subject matter experts from across state government along with members of the Georgia General Assembly from a broad array of communities across the state. OPB has also worked with city and county representation groups and held a number of outreach sessions with them to educate all 159 counties and 515 cities in the state of the funding opportunities available. To support community engagement the state will continue to engage in outreach to media, local jurisdictions, and various stakeholder groups throughout the current grant application process and as plans are developed for the remainder of the funds.

### **Labor Practices**

Pursuant to U.S. Treasury’s Interim Final Rule, the state will collect information from subrecipients on their workforce plans and practices related to water, sewer, and broadband projects undertaken with ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds. Subrecipient grant agreements will detail reporting requirements for infrastructure projects regarding labor agreements, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and local hiring as outlined by the IFR.

**Use of Evidence**

Georgia has not yet awarded CSFRF funds for projects but will incorporate reporting of appropriate performance metrics as part of grant award agreements with subrecipients when projects are awarded.

**Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category**

| 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   |                                      |                                       |
| 2.3      | Household Assistance: Cash Transfers  |                                      |                                       |
| 2.4      | Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs  |                                      |                                       |
| 2.5      | Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention   |                                      |                                       |

| Category |   | Cumulative expenditures to date (\$) | Amount spent since last Recovery Plan |
|----------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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                                   |
| 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   |                                      |                                       |

| Category |   | Cumulative expenditures to date (\$) | Amount spent since last Recovery Plan |
|----------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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

Georgia is in the application phase the initial round of grant awards and has not awarded any projects to date.

Performance Report

N/A

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

| Item                                | Amount |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| a. Revenue-reducing Covered Changes | \$0    |