

City of Greensboro Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2021 Report



**City of Greensboro
2021 Recovery Plan**

Table of Contents

General Overview.....

 Executive Summary.....

 Uses of Funds

 Promoting Equitable Outcomes

 Community Engagement

 Labor Practices

 Use of Evidence

 Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Project Inventory.....

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The uniquely challenging situation of the pandemic has critically impacted the City of Greensboro's community health, social interactions, economy, and City services. Since March 2020, the City has engaged in preparation and response to our community and its residents. The City seeks to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), also known as State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), to push forward our organization toward new normal ways of life and service provisions, through a lens of community equity and resiliency.

The City of Greensboro is in the early stages of reviewing and considering the eligible uses of ARPA funds provided by the Department of Treasury's Interim Final Rule. This evaluation includes staff and leadership review of Department of Treasury's guidance, professional organization resources, and negative impacts the COVID-19 pandemic on the City of Greensboro.

City leadership is currently in the pre-planning process for ARPA funding allocation. This includes the development of criteria for accessing projects and programs for eligibility. This criteria will include guidance from the Interim Final Rule, Greensboro City Council Priorities, and economic recovery needs for City departments and the community. Additionally, the City has been working diligently on an extensive community engagement campaign to solicit feedback from the community on funding priorities through an online simulation tool. The City seeks to use these different information sources to create a well-rounded process for accepting, vetting, and funding eligible projects and programs.

The only eligible use of funds expended through July 31, 2021 are revenue replacement funds which were allocated to government services by assisting The Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts in the amount of \$859,053.91.

Uses of Funds

The City seeks to utilize ARPA funds to achieve a strong recovery through the perspective of community equity and resiliency. At this time, the City's planning approach will take into consideration several review criteria as a way to consider project and/or programs. Eligibility is based on multiple factors, including the Interim Final Rule, Council priorities, community input, and impacted services due to Covid-19. The City is considering eligible uses in all six categories as outlined in the Interim Final Rule, including Public Health, Negative Covid-19 Impacts, Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities, Premium Pay, Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure, and Revenue Replacement. At this time, these areas of consideration are in the context of the criteria and public input efforts. Furthermore, strong consideration of the communities, qualified census tracts, industries, and organizations most impacted by Covid-19. City leadership has indicated that these areas will be considered as priority for ARPA funding.

Some of the criteria being considered include:

- The proposed project and/or program has been reviewed in a previous planning effort.
- The proposed project and/or program has been reviewed for scale and management.
- The proposed project and/or program would address a Council or resident ranked priority.
- The proposed project and/or program has been reviewed for financial stability and stewardship.
- The proposed project and/or program has been reviewed for the impact on sustainability for the organization and community.
- The proposed project and/or program has been reviewed for community and organizational equity.
- The proposed project and/or program makes an effort for collaboration and opportunities to leverage funds with other jurisdictions or organizations.
- The proposed project and/or program is transformative for the community at large.

The only eligible use that has been expended through July 31, 2021 is \$859,053.91 for the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts (STCPA) in the form of Revenue Replacement. This facility, located in downtown Greensboro, was constructed to replace the former War Memorial Auditorium owned and managed by the City of Greensboro. The City of Greensboro issued

\$43,450,000 Taxable Limited Obligation Bonds to finance their portion of the project on February 14, 2018. This was a public-private partnership, which had the grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony slated for March 20, 2020. On the same day, the Greensboro City Council issued a statement recommending theaters and other large venues to cease operations due to the increased concerns of the pandemic. The governor had declared a State of Emergency previously on March 10, 2020 and the City's Mayor and Guilford County issued an Emergency Declaration on March 13, 2020, which included restrictions of gatherings consisting of more than 100 people. All scheduled performances were cancelled and had to be rebooked to a later date as well as preparing the facility for future event capacity in a safe, clean environment.

The expenses captured as of March 30, 2021 through July 31, 2021 includes salaries and fringe benefits for STCPA staff to manage planned events, and certain expenses such as utilities to keep the facility maintained and ready for operations. The expected grand opening is fall 2021.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Equity of service provisions and funding distribution is a top priority of the City of Greensboro. The City currently has an Office of Equity and Inclusion, as well as a Human Rights department that engage in the internal and external application of equitable practices and services to the community. The City defines Equity and Inclusion as the collective mixture of differences and similarities that includes for example, individual and organizational characteristics, values, beliefs, experiences, backgrounds, preferences, and behaviors. The City's Equity and Inclusion mission is to create a culture that is inclusive and provides strategies and best practices for internal and external customers to assist with recruitment, hiring, promoting, and engaging a diverse, results-oriented, high-performing workforce. The Human Rights department focuses on mutual understanding, respect and fair treatment of all Greensboro residents without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or familial status.

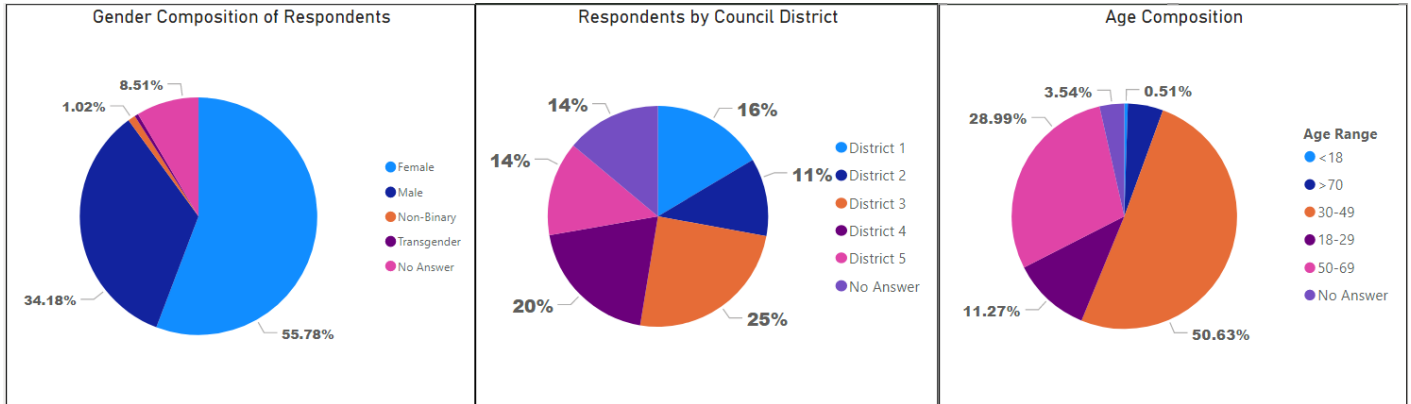
Additionally, the City has a Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) Office whose mission is to ensure all businesses -- including those owned by minorities and women -- are afforded the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in the City's contracting processes for commodities, construction and other professional services. This ensures that ARPA programs and projects that are eventually selected are vetted and considered through a local lens of equity if that service is contracted to a community partner.

The framework for the City's approach to positively impact those most affected by Covid-19 are supported by these departmental resources, City Council strategic priorities, and the Interim Final Rule guidance on equity. In particular, the above mentioned eligibility criteria specifically addresses equity as a prerequisite for funding. At this time, City leadership is considering projects addressing a wide variety of priorities related to racial equity, engaging historically underserved communities, and strengthening community infrastructure disparities through ARPA eligible projects. These efforts will likely be measured through demographic data, projects benefiting qualified census tracts, and measurable goals specific to closing service gaps, if applicable to ARPA projects.



Community Engagement

The City of Greensboro has already begun to collect feedback through community engagement efforts, specifically as it relates to eligible uses and community priorities for spending. The City has established an ARPA webpage on the public website (<https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/government/city-council/american-rescue-plan>) for residents to obtain information on the funding, as well as providing a simulation tool for residents to suggest uses for ARPA funding (<https://bit.ly/3D1xEgK>). At this time, the simulator has received over 4,000 page views and over 700 submissions. Additionally, as an online tool, the simulator is able to reach more residents in the community than just news releases, social media posts, and in-person events alone, as well as provides a safer option with the continuing rise of Covid cases. For reference, below is a more detailed report of respondent demographic information. This further demonstrates the diverse composition of those engaging with the simulation tool.



In an effort to include the community in the process of developing a criteria for evaluating potential projects and programs, the City is considering a prioritization tool for residents. Once finalized, this criteria will be used to qualify a project or program for ARPA funding. This tool shares the criteria currently under consideration by City leadership and the City Council. There are eight areas of eligibility that are identified as either high priority or requirements under the Department of Treasury. Criteria under consideration with explanations is listed above under the section entitled “Use of Fund”. Additionally, the tool will provide a comment area for missing or modified criteria suggestions.

Other public engagement efforts under consideration include community meetings, pop-ups at community events, and public hearings on the use of funds at regular Council meetings. These variety of methods will ensure a wider reach to the community, especially those that may not have access to online platforms. Additionally, the City will work in partnership with internal departments which serve residents that have outreach barriers and/or limited English proficiency in order to collect feedback from those communities.

Labor Practices

The City of Greensboro is still in the community engagement stage of the Recovery Plan. Once Council and management decide how to utilize the ARPA funds, labor practices will depend upon the nature of the project and contracting needs. The City will follow appropriate Federal, State, and City guidelines in soliciting vendors for services.

Use of Evidence

At this time, City staff has not yet created a program evaluation process or developed performance measures to review projects. This is primarily due to the fact that the criteria development process is still ongoing. It is likely that the adopted criteria will provide the framework for performance management of projects. The City is committed to developing its use of evidence for all ARPA projects and will provide updates on the process when it occurs.

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		

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

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
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		
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$859,053.91	\$859,053.91
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

Project: Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts Revenue Replacement

Funding Amount: \$859,053.91

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services

Project overview:

ARPA funds expended through July 31, 2021, total \$859,053.91 for the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts in the form of Revenue Replacement. This facility, located in downtown Greensboro, was constructed to replace the former War Memorial Auditorium owned and managed by the City of Greensboro. This provision is the result of the governor's State of Emergency declaration issued on March 10, 2020 and the City's Mayor and Guilford County Emergency Declaration issued on March 13, 2020, which included restrictions of gatherings consisting of more than 100 people. All scheduled performances were cancelled and had to be rebooked to a later date as well as preparing the facility for future event capacity in a safe, clean environment.

