



RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

For activities through July 31, 2021

Hamilton County, Indiana
Recovery Plan Performance Report
(For activities through July 31, 2021)

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which includes a \$65.5 million aid package for Hamilton County, we have an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen our local economy and communities through significant investment from one-time ARPA dollars. These dollars will help the County to support urgent COVID-19 response efforts, replace lost revenues, support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses, and address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic.

Throughout the last decade, Hamilton County has been planning for the future of our cities, towns and rural areas. These communities have tangible plans and shovel-ready projects designed to boost the local economy, help residents thrive, and attract new families to the area. Over the past few years, as elected officials have traveled the county to meet with local business, municipal leaders and community members, it was clear there were towns and communities that may need resources from the county to help their visions become reality. With \$65 million in direct funds from the federal government, we have tremendous opportunities to work with our communities to be strategic and invest this money in the most advantageous and transformative way.

Hamilton County communities need help to expand their economic foundation, with investments in water and sewer infrastructure, broadband deployment, and other economic aid. This will provide opportunities for workforce expansion, growth in all 8 communities and ultimately a more affordable and competitive county. Consequently, the funds allocated to Hamilton County via ARPA represent an incredible opportunity for this county to make transformative investments in equity to emerge from this pandemic an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

As a result, county officials developed five (5) key areas for these investments with a focus on equity:

1. Government Revenue Loss Recovery
2. Water/Sewer Infrastructure
3. Broadband Infrastructure Deployment
4. Economic Recovery and Development
5. Reserve for Contingencies

This funding proposal is about foundational and transformative change and resists the temptation to use one-time dollars to fund programs. Doing so is not sustainable and does not address the long-standing needs and challenges facing all communities and residents of Hamilton County. This approach is the most strategic and transparent way to appropriate the significant dollars available to Hamilton County.

With these additional resources, the county has the ability to invest in people and projects simultaneously. In the near term, continued assistance to our residents who are struggling can be offered. The county can provide support for essential workers who have been on the front lines of combating this pandemic and ensuring the continuity of crucial services. What county officials are proposing is a comprehensive investment program aimed at equity and lifting-up communities in our county that not only were most adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but have faced inequities in the areas of health, opportunity and education. This is a unique moment for our great county and by maximizing the utility of these resources, Hamilton County can continue its growth and be in a great position for the balance of the pandemic and for the recovery.

USE OF FUNDS

Provisions of Government Services Impacted by Revenue Reduction

The COVID-19 public health emergency has created a significant economic disturbance, impacting the revenues of Hamilton County government. The ARPA acknowledges that local governments have suffered revenue loss and enables use of funds to ensure that important government services can be maintained. Guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury outlines how lost revenue is to be calculated and how recovered revenue can be used. Hamilton County officials will determine how any such revenue recovered will be utilized, based on the final guidance established by Treasury.

Water/Sewer Infrastructure

Water and sewer infrastructure are the backbone of our lives and livelihoods. From turning on the shower in the morning, to preparing the food we eat, to the proper drainage of our roads, to having sufficient clean water and wastewater treatment capacity to support homes, business and industry – water and sewer infrastructure touches every level. The challenge is utility infrastructure is often out of sight and therefore out of mind. As a result, the pace of investment in these assets has not kept pace with the need. This proposed investment seeks to address current unmet needs and reduce future costs through strategic investment in new and existing infrastructure at the residential, commercial and community-level. This proposed plan seeks to use funds for water and sewer infrastructure needs and recognizes the critical role that clean drinking water and services for the collection and treatment of wastewater and stormwater, play in protecting public health, the environment and spurring the county's economic growth. The proposed plan shall provide the county with a wide latitude to identify and execute projects and investments in water and sewer infrastructure. The proposed plan's flexibility is provided by incorporating projects and language that would be eligible to receive financial assistance through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water State

Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Through a combination of technical assistance, grant awards and contracted projects, these funds have the ability to support investments in infrastructure essential to high quality water, vital to Hamilton County's economy and economic recovery. Specifically, this plan suggests several areas of targeted investment. (<https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16181/Proposed-Investment-of-American-Rescue-Plan-Act-Funds>)

Broadband Deployment

Broadband internet access has proved to be an essential utility service during the COVID-19 Pandemic as it facilitates remote healthcare, education and work, as well as citizen participation in civic life and communication with government.

Currently, there are locations in Hamilton County without broadband. These locations are defined as either unserved (no broadband service at all) or underserved (service is available at less than 25/3 Mbps. i.e., dial-up or DSL). Of these locations, many do not have plans for any existing carrier to deploy wired service via the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund or otherwise. The funding could bring fiber-to-the-home internet access at 100/100 Mbps to all underserved and unserved locations in Hamilton County, specifically locations that today lack access to service at 25/3 Mbps. The funds potentially could be used to deploy fiber service at 100/100 Mbps to all eligible locations in these areas. The county will look to deploy service beyond just the underserve areas, so long as the underserved areas are covered with 100/100 Mbps service.

This proposal is an essential first step toward addressing digital inequities present in our communities. It serves to help bridge the digital divide by making the infrastructure available in underserved areas. However, the step of building the infrastructure alone does not address income inequality and digital literacy barriers to using the Internet. This program could be bolstered by requiring the providers to offer a low-income program or offer broadband lifeline service.

Economic Recovery and Development

The COVID-19 pandemic and the ARPA have given Hamilton County the unique opportunity to build upon the strengths of our communities. ARPA dollars could be extended to assist small businesses, reemploy the people of our county, reinvest in communities, and recover and expand from the pandemic. Investing dollars now, and in the next few years, will secure a stronger foundation for the Hamilton County of the future, making the county a more desirable place to live, work, play and grow, taking care of all those who call it home, especially the most vulnerable. This plan could allow the county to build a better, stronger foundation in the wake of COVID-19 by addressing acute economic needs with direct relief for businesses. As well, this plan proposes long-term strategic investments that incentivize business growth and productivity through business relief grants.

Business Relief Grants

This funding is necessary for the acute needs of businesses and not-for-profits to survive until they can safely reopen and operate at full capacity. At the end of 2020 there was still a lot of unmet needs for the businesses that applied to our Small Business Stabilization Grant program. We also know that there were many newly established businesses that were unable to access funds. We will prioritize those businesses who did not receive prior assistance as well as those prioritized by Treasury (woman, minority, veteran owned) and then help as many of those who still need help to stay solvent throughout the end of the crisis.

Similar to our Small Business Stabilization Grant program, business and not-for profits will apply online through the county's website. In order for small businesses and non-profits to receive Business Relief Grants each will be required to show negative, economic impact due directly to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recipients will also be required to follow established Treasury reporting requirements and provide the county with all requested data and information. Recipients may also be subject to subrecipient management by the county as outlined in 2 CFR 200 of the Uniform Guidance.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Hamilton County features the highest median household income and lowest percentage of the population living in poverty of any county in the state, but that is not to say, there are no low-income, minority or linguistically isolated populations within Hamilton County that need to be served.

According to the latest Census information the Median Household Income in Hamilton County is \$98,173.00. The percentage of families with income below the poverty level is 3.2% and the percentage of all people with income below the poverty level is 4.6%. The county will prioritize infrastructure projects on census tracts within the county that are areas of low-income and minority populations:

Block Group, Census Tract	Entirely within County	Population	% Limited English-Speaking Household	% Minority	% Low Income Population
Block Group 6, Census Tract 1103	No	10,106	0.00%	13.80%	7.40%
Block Group 2, Census Tract 1105.05	Yes	1,423	0.00%	16.70%	8.30%
Block Group 1, Census Tract 1107	No	1,237	0.00%	17.20%	27.70%
Block Group 3, Census Tract 1108.07	No	3,029	1.40%	29.80%	12.30%
Block Group 2, Census Tract 1108.11	No	1,681	2.10%	15.40%	13.50%
Block Group 3, Census Tract 1108.11	No	1,089	0.00%	18.60%	20.80%

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Hamilton County created an ARPA Committee that has held open meetings where the public and business community leaders are able to attend. We have created an ARPA-specific webpage where information is continually added/updated that the community members can access. The ARPA Investment Plan is also published on the ARPA webpage. There is a community feedback link on the ARPA page where members of the public can provide comments that go directly to the ARPA Committee. The ARPA Committee has placed a number of informative articles in the various media outlets that serve the county, and our elected officials are constantly traveling throughout the county holding meetings and receiving feedback from community members. We intend to deploy a “feedback survey” in the future (September/October) asking community members how they would allocate and invest the county ARPA funding.

LABOR PRACTICES

The County will consider all labor related best practices to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure and service projects while also supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. Project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and local hiring practices will all be considered.

USE OF EVIDENCE

The county currently does not have any evidence-based projects underway. The County will consider evidence based on the following parameters as suggested by the Treasury.

Strong evidence means the evidence base that can support causal conclusions for the specific program proposed by the applicant with the highest level of confidence. This consists of one or more well-designed and well-implemented experimental studies conducted on the proposed program with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes.

Moderate evidence means that there is a reasonably developed evidence base that can support causal conclusions. The evidence base consists of one or more quasi-experimental studies with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes OR two or more nonexperimental studies with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes. Examples of research that meet the standards include: well-designed and well-implemented quasiexperimental studies that compare outcomes between the group receiving the intervention and a matched comparison group (i.e., a similar population that does not receive the intervention).

Preliminary evidence means that the evidence base can support conclusions about the program's contribution to observed outcomes. The evidence base consists of at least one nonexperimental study. A study that demonstrates improvement in program beneficiaries over time on one or more intended outcomes OR an implementation (process evaluation) study used to learn and improve program operations would constitute preliminary evidence. Examples of research that meet the standards include: (1) outcome studies that track program beneficiaries through a service pipeline and measure beneficiaries' responses at the end of the program; and (2) pre- and post-test research that determines whether beneficiaries have improved on an intended outcome.

TABLE OF EXPENSES BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY

Activity through July 31, 2021:

	<u>Category</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Expended to July 31, 2021</u>
1	Public Health	TBD	\$0
2	Negative Economic Impacts	TBD	0
3	Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		0
4	Premium Pay	\$3,795,891.29	3,795,891.29
5	Infrastructure	0	0
6	Revenue Replacement	0	0
7	Administrative and Other	0	0
	Unbudgeted	<u>61,858,782.71</u>	<u>0</u>
	Totals	<u>\$65,654,674.00</u>	<u>\$3,795,891.29</u>

PROJECT INVENTORY

Through July 31, 2021, the County has adopted Ordinance NO. 04-26-2021-A. Within that ordinance the County established a formula for premium pay resulting in the lesser of \$13 per hour for hours worked by essential employees between 5/16/2020 and 5/5/2021 or \$3,000. The Ordinance establishes a framework for other projects, but specific projects and programs have not been developed as of July 31, 2021.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Performance indicators and a resulting performance report have not been developed as of the date of this report.

The County will consider performance indicators to measure both output and outcome. Output measures, such as number of students enrolled in an early learning program, provide valuable information about the early implementation stages of a project. Outcome measures, such as the percent of students reading on grade level, provide information about whether a project is achieving its overall goals. The County will consider logic models to identify output and outcome measures. Initial reports may focus heavily on early output goals, the County will also consider the related outcome goal for each project and provide updated information on achieving these outcome goals in annual reports. In cases where the County is conducting a program evaluation for a project (as described above), the outcome measures in the performance report will be aligned with those being evaluated in the program. To support performance measurement and program improvement efforts, the county may invest in tools to make improvements to data or technology infrastructure and data analytics, as well as program evaluations.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRAMMATIC DATA

Per guidance provided by the Treasury, the County will consider, and measure performance as follows for each Expenditure Category:

- a. Household Assistance (EC 2.2 & 2.5) and Housing Support (EC 3.10-3.12):
 - Number of people or households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)
 - Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed
- b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2):
 - Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs
 - Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs
 - Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs
- c. Education Assistance (EC 3.1-3.5):
 - Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs
- d. Healthy Childhood Environments (EC 3.6-3.9):
 - Number of children served by childcare and early learning (pre-school/pre-K/ages 3- 5)
 - Number of families served by home visiting

APPENDIX

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		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
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		
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	\$3,795,891.29	
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		

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