



HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO
**RECOVERY PLAN
PERFORMANCE
REPORT**

STATE AND LOCAL
FISCAL RECOVERY
FUNDS

2022 REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Executive Summary	2
II. Use of Funds	3
III. Community Engagement	15
IV. Promoting Equitable Outcomes	17
V. Labor Practices	21
VI. Use of Evidence	21
VII. Project Inventory and Performance	22
VIII. Summary of Expenditures to Date	53

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hamilton County, Ohio (County) received \$158.8 million from the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARPA). Upon notification of this funding in 2021, the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners initiated stakeholder processes and public hearings to help inform their decisions on programs that will:

1. Address any continued urgent needs of families, residents, and community due to the pandemic and
2. Address broader community needs that were exacerbated by the pandemic.

As a result of these processes, the County's plan for its ARPA dollars includes funding in the following categories:

- Public Health: \$15.5 million
- Addressing Negative Impacts: \$88.4 million
- Revenue Replacement: \$32 million
- Premium Pay: \$2.4 million
- Community Infrastructure: \$19 million
- Administrative: \$1.5 million

Much of 2021 and the start of 2022 was devoted to concluding the stakeholder process and laying the groundwork for many programs that will be deployed in the coming months. Simultaneous to this effort though, several programs were launched that addressed continued urgent needs due to the pandemic, including mortgage assistance, small business grants, non-profit assistance, arts and cultural assistance, no-cost COVID-19 testing, and additional PPE procurement. While more details on program results are included throughout the report, a few successes to highlight include:

- 62 percent of the small business grants were awarded to minority owned businesses.
- Two of the three COVID-19 testing sites are in qualified census tracts to reduce barriers to accessing PCR testing such as transportation and cost.
- More than \$700,000 was provided in mortgage and utility assistance. The County has engaged with an expert to improve outreach to the residents that are eligible for this program.
- \$6.4 million in grants were provided to non-profits that provide social and family services.

The County is excited to begin several new programs in the coming months aimed at increasing its affordable housing stock; training and connecting residents with careers that improve upward mobility and financial stability; preventing homelessness; improving mental health, especially among teens; and launching the new 513Relief Bus to bring services to the community. Most of these programs will focus on leveraging partnerships, minimizing the creation of new programs, and identifying and overcoming barriers for program participants. The County looks forward to launching these impactful programs and sharing the results.

USE OF FUNDS

INTRODUCTION

Receipt of \$158.8 million in American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA) is providing Hamilton County with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address the most significant impacts of the pandemic while ensuring that the community emerges more resilient. The following section outlines Hamilton County’s process for developing its programs and summarizes actual and planned uses of ARPA funding to address emergent needs of the pandemic as well as transformative opportunities made possible through this funding.

When first notified of ARPA funding in 2021, the Board of County Commissioners embarked on a public process that included four stakeholder input sessions involving both internal and external organizations to provide input on community needs relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on this input and the ARPA guidance at the time, an initial allocation plan was drafted. The Board of County Commissioners held two public hearings on May 25 and May 27, 2021. Based on input, the allocation plan was revised, and the Board of County Commissioners approved the initial allocation plan on July 1, 2021.

The initial allocation plan acknowledged that Hamilton County’s ARPA approach included both short-term programming to address urgent economic and health issues and a longer-term process to develop strategies for addressing larger community problems that were impacted or exacerbated by COVID-19.

Table 1. ARPA Budget

Program	Budget
Strengthening Public Health Systems	
Testing and Testing/Vaccine Website/Coordination	\$1,500,000
Health Infrastructure Mitigation	\$3,000,000
Expansion of Nursing Programs	\$1,500,000
Expansion of Mobile Crisis Team	\$5,000,000
Youth Suicide Prevention	\$1,500,000
Youth Resiliency	\$1,500,000
EMA Operations (PPE)	\$1,000,000
Vaccine Incentives	\$500,000
Revenue Replacement	
Revenue Replacement	\$32,000,000
Premium Pay	
Premium Pay	\$2,400,000
Addressing Negative Impacts	
Affordable housing production (\$8M for re-entry, disabled, seniors)	\$25,500,000
Rehabilitation of existing affordable housing	\$8,000,000
Home Repair Program	\$2,000,000
Homelessness Prevention	\$5,000,000
Mortgage Assistance	\$5,000,000
Workforce Development	\$9,500,000
Non-Profit Assistance	\$7,590,331
Small Business Assistance	\$9,294,216
513 Relief Efforts, including outreach	\$5,000,000
Relocation of Gun Range	\$5,000,000
Satellite Office	\$2,500,000
Tourism Assistance	\$4,000,000
Subtotal	\$88,384,547
Enhancing Community Infrastructure	
Broadband	\$10,000,000
Sewer / Stormwater	\$9,000,000
Subtotal	\$19,000,000
Administrative	
Staffing and Consultant Support	\$1,500,000
TOTAL	\$158,784,547

USE OF FUNDS

INTRODUCTION

These issues were deemed to require additional stakeholder input and included the following priority areas:

- Public Health and Community Resiliency
- Strengthening Behavioral and Mental Health Programming
- Affordable Housing Production and Preservation
- Homeless Prevention
- Workforce Development and Youth Development

Since adoption of the Board-approved allocation plan on July 1, 2021, many ARPA programs have started, primarily those that focus on addressing urgent economic issues such as small business grants, mortgage assistance, non-profit grants, and arts and cultural grants. Simultaneously, from October to December 2021, stakeholders were brought together to help inform program recommendations for the longer-term priorities.

Stakeholders met four times to provide their expertise and input. The final report of stakeholder recommendations is included [here](#). A few themes from the stakeholder process included:

- Address more than one priority area under each program
- Provide aid to most underserved communities and alleviate barriers
- Scale existing programs with proven outcomes
- Avoid duplication
- Emphasize prevention

This stakeholder report was then overlaid with the ARPA Final Rule, budget, and Board of County Commissioner funding principles to develop the final program recommendations for Board of County Commissioner consideration. Those recommendations were presented to the Board of County Commissioners on April 19 and May 5, 2022. The Board of County Commissioners approved the final list of ARPA programs at their [May 26, 2022, meeting](#), which are summarized below and further defined in Table 1.

<p>\$15.5M Public Health</p> <p>Mental Health Vax Incentives PPE Testing Health Infrastructure</p> 	<p>\$88.4 M Negative Economic Impacts</p> <p>Housing Workforce Development Non-Profit Gun Range Small Biz 513 Relief Bus/Outreach</p> 	<p>\$2.4M Premium Pay</p> 
<p>\$19M Community Infrastructure</p> <p>Broadband Sewer Stormwater</p> 	<p>\$32M Revenue Replacement</p> 	<p>\$1.5M Administrative</p> 

TABLE 1, FINAL LIST OF ARPA PROGRAMS

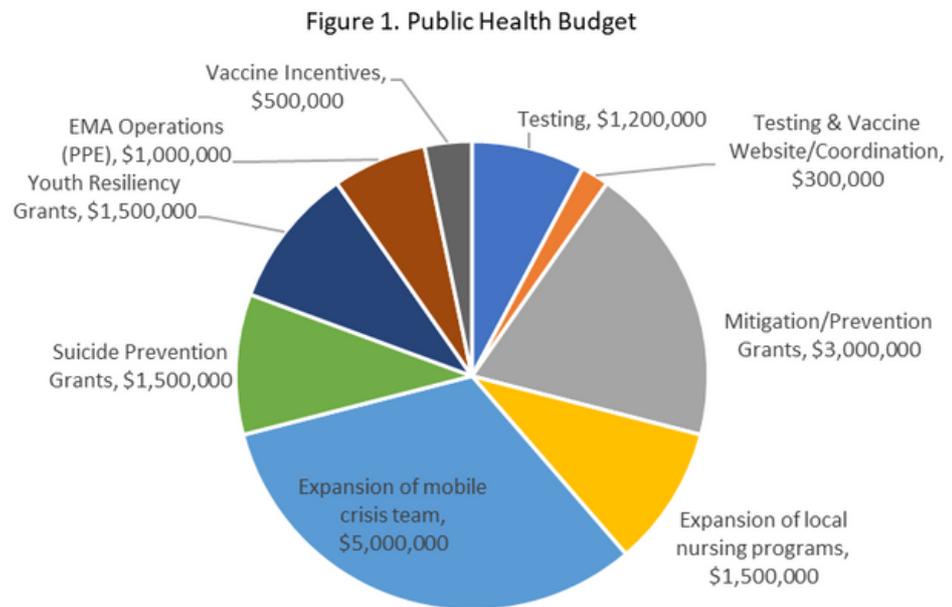
USE OF FUNDS

CURRENT AND PLANNED USES OF ARPA FUNDING

Through its stakeholder and public process, the Board of County Commissioners allocated funding in several categories to assist Hamilton County, as an organization, and the broader community continue to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. There is recognition though that the funding levels associated with each program described in this report, and the programs themselves, may fluctuate as the programs are further refined, procured, and monitored.

Public Health Programs

Using its CARES Act dollars, Hamilton County was on the forefront of testing through its investment in expansive, accessible testing sites beginning in 2020. In addition, CARES Act funding was used for personal protective equipment, health infrastructure, and vaccinations. Through its ARPA funding, \$15.5 million is allocated to address continued needs and any ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including mental health, in particular among youth, while ensuring Hamilton County is stronger and more resilient. Figure 1 illustrates the budget breakdown of programming targeted to public health.



USE OF FUNDS

CURRENT AND PLANNED USES OF ARPA FUNDING

COVID-19 Response

As more specifically detailed in the Project Inventory section of this report, \$6 million in ARPA funds is being used **to directly respond to COVID-19**. The following programs support the Board of County Commissioners goal of providing resources to address urgent needs from the pandemic.

- Providing no-cost testing for the general public. This program is currently operational with two of the three sites located in qualified census tracts;
- Development of a one-stop website for vaccination and testing locations and coordination of vaccination efforts through community engagement. This program is underway and can be viewed at www.testandprotectcincy.org;
- Purchasing and distributing PPE for small non-profits and local governments;
- Providing grants for hospital systems focused on mitigation and prevention to include projects such as ventilation improvements, COVID-19 related expenses for prevention and mitigation, enhancement of public health data systems, or acquisition of equipment for COVID-19 prevention and treatment;
- Incentivizing County employees to get vaccinated.

Mental Health

\$8 million in ARPA funding will be used to address the mental health impacts that were exacerbated by the pandemic. Of these funds, \$5 million will be used to expand the mental health mobile crisis team. \$3 million will be split evenly and distributed as grants to organizations that focus on teen suicide prevention and youth resiliency. Youth is a primary focus given the mental health issues that were exacerbated by COVID-19 shutdowns and resulting social isolation.

Nursing

Like many areas of the country, the COVID-19 pandemic has strained health care delivery systems. The emotional and physical distress has led many nurses and clinical staff to leave the profession. As such, **\$1.5 million in ARPA funding will be used to help address the nursing shortage**. In addition to one time expansion costs to allow local schools to accept more students, funding may also be used to reduce any barriers to enrollment (such as stipends for any currently unpaid clinical internships).

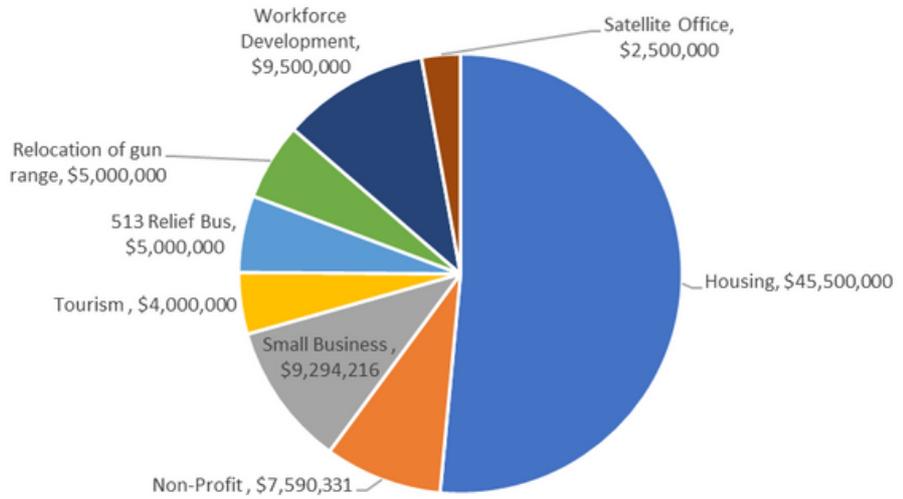
USE OF FUNDS

CURRENT AND PLANNED USES OF ARPA FUNDING

Negative Economic Impacts

Of the total amount of ARPA funding, 56%, or \$88 million, is allocated to programs to help address and minimize negative economic impacts. Figure 2 provides a summary of the broad categories of programs that have been or will be implemented.

Figure 2. Negative Economic Impacts Allocation



USE OF FUNDS

CURRENT AND PLANNED USES OF ARPA FUNDING

Housing

\$45.5 million is allocated for housing and includes mortgage assistance, affordable housing production and preservation, and homelessness prevention as further summarized below. All programs support the Board of County Commissioners priorities of affordable housing and helping residents stay in their homes.

- **Affordable Housing Production:** Numerous local and national studies have been published on the need for additional affordable housing. The Board of County Commissioners recognized this need by allocating **\$25.5 million for production of new affordable housing** and rehabilitation of existing affordable housing units. Of this allocation, \$8 million will be targeted specifically for re-entry, senior, and disabled housing. These funds will support low to moderate income households.
- **Affordable Housing Preservation:** According to the [Housing Our Future](#) report, at least 60,000 affordable subsidized and unsubsidized units are in need of preservation and reinvestment. Furthermore, during the stakeholder engagement process, redevelopment of affordable existing single-family housing and multi-family rental units was identified as a key opportunity for increasing quality, affordable housing stock. As such, the Board authorized \$10 million for this purpose including \$8 million to renovate existing single family and multi-family affordable housing and \$2 million for a homeowner repair program. Both programs will focus on low-moderate income households and the homeowner repair program is anticipated to prioritize low-income households and those households located in qualified census tracts.
- **Homelessness Prevention:** One of the most effective ways to reduce homelessness is to step in before someone loses their housing. Not only is it more cost-effective, more importantly, it is less disruptive on the person or family. **\$3 million in ARPA funding is allocated to expand shelter diversion programming** which is targeted to those who have lost their housing, are doubled up, and/or are running out of stable housing options. Funds are anticipated to be used to provide up to 12 months of case management and wrap around services. In addition, **another \$2 million will be available in grant funds for innovative solutions to prevent homelessness.** Both programs will focus on residents that are in jeopardy of losing their housing.
- **Mortgage Assistance:** \$5 million is budgeted for mortgage assistance programs for homeowners that are at or below 300% of the federal poverty level.

USE OF FUNDS

CURRENT AND PLANNED USES OF ARPA FUNDING

Workforce Development

While Ohio and Hamilton County's unemployment rate has dramatically improved compared to 2020, there remain barriers to residents re-entering the workforce. The Board of County Commissioners and stakeholders identified workforce development as a priority use of ARPA funding. **\$9.5 million in ARPA funding is allocated for workforce development** and is intended to improve economic success for both the workforce and companies through programs that connect people to careers with upward mobility and financial stability and that help employers find, develop and retain talent. This allocation includes three areas of investment:

- **Workforce Development Training Grants (\$7.5 million):** This funding will support existing training/apprentice programs that are aligned with identified target industries with a specific focus on reducing barriers to participation. And with a focus on un and underemployed, residents in shelter diversion program, and returning citizens. Of the \$7.5 million allocated for this investment, \$1.8 million will be dedicated to increasing the number of childcare teachers. This funding would be devoted to purposes such as intentional outreach to potential candidates, training, credentialing, background checks, etc.
- **Enhance collaboration and service delivery of workforce partners (\$1 million):** Hamilton County is home to rich ecosystem of workforce development, education and training programs for adults. However, there is room for better alignment and more connectivity between employers, workforce development partners, and employees to improve outcomes. As such, ARPA funds will be used to help fund an organization(s) to provide necessary coordination.
- **Marketing of in-demand careers (\$1 million):** Many in-demand careers do not require a four-year college degree, and there may be misperceptions on the opportunities available in certain industries, including salaries, working conditions, training and overall upward mobility. A campaign, targeted to underemployed, unemployed, youth, and parents could help change the narrative around in-demand careers to grow and diversify the workforce.

USE OF FUNDS

CURRENT AND PLANNED USES OF ARPA FUNDING

Small Business Assistance

The Board of County Commissioners allocated **\$9.3 million to continue to assist small businesses** overcome the negative financial impacts of COVID-19 and become more financially sustainable. This program aligns with the Board of County Commissioners focus on small business assistance and helps leverage existing efforts, such as the launch of Hamilton County's first office of small business (through the use of non-ARPA funding). Of this amount:

- **\$1.5 million is allocated to small business advisory services.** The goal of this program is to help small businesses be more financially sustainable by providing expert advisory services in the following areas: accounting; IT/computer literacy; legal; marketing/social media/websites. While this program is under development, it is anticipated to prioritize the 1,400 small businesses that received grants from Hamilton County via CARES and ARPA.
- **\$7.8 million is allocated to small business grants.** In 2020, the County provided two rounds of small business grants. A third round was launched in the fall of 2021 with remaining CARES Act funding and a portion of ARPA. This program is intended for businesses with less than 50 employees and as shown in the Project Inventory section, the majority of recipients had 0-10 employees. The Board of County Commissioners will determine if or when to initiate another round of funding.

Non-Profit Assistance

Hamilton County has a robust non-profit sector providing a wide range of critical social services to the community. These include organizations providing services related to food security, youth engagement, employment and training, housing, counseling services, senior services, addiction treatment, medical care and so many others directly related to addressing the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. Given the demand many non-profits continue to face due to the pandemic and to ensure impacted residents receive assistance to address urgent social or family needs, the Board allocated **\$7.6 million to provide grants** in the following three categories:

- Non-profits that could demonstrate a revenue loss due to the pandemic.
- Non-profits that provide assistance to households that were negatively impacted by the pandemic.
- Non-profits with \$500,000 or less in annual revenues and provide direct social and family services to residents who have been negatively impacted by pandemic. This category of grants was developed after it was identified that some of the smaller non-profit organizations struggled with the prior application process.

USE OF FUNDS

CURRENT AND PLANNED USES OF ARPA FUNDING

513 Relief and Community Outreach

In June 2021, the County launched the 513Relief Bus (the Hamilton County Equity and Resources Mobile Tech Bus), in partnership with UC Medical Center, to provide resources directly to those who need it most. This mobile effort provides no-cost vaccinations and Hamilton County Job and Family Services is also on-site to provide rent and utility relief and other social services. Through the use of **\$5 million in ARPA funds**, the County will expand this program through the procurement of a permanent bus and enhance the medical and social services provided. This is an example of Hamilton County's efforts to reduce barriers to accessing services and improve upon our equity efforts. In addition to the 513Relief Bus, a portion of this allocation will be targeted to education and outreach focused on reducing health disparities in disproportionately impacted populations.

Relocation of Gun Range

\$5 million in funding is allocated to help Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati partner to relocate the Cincinnati Police Department gun range given its impacts on communities such as Lincoln Heights. The movement of the gun range will improve the health of the childhood environment and address a long-standing problem on a disproportionately affected population.

Tourism Assistance

The American Rescue Plan emphasized the need to help with the recovery of the hospitality industry as it was the hardest hit industry. Hamilton County **allocated \$4 million to help the tourism industry** rebound from shutdowns, reduced occupancy, and two years of reduced travel. Funding is split evenly between the following programs:

- **Arts and Cultural Grants:** Hamilton County distributed \$2 million in grants to arts/cultural organizations that demonstrated a revenue loss due to the pandemic.
- **Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB):** CVB's mission is to promote the Greater Cincinnati area as a convention and leisure destination. Their marketing efforts help drive visitors to visit and spend in Hamilton County. As with the rest of the tourism industry, the CVB experienced a significant decline in revenue due to the pandemic. The allocation of ARPA funding will allow the CVB to re-engage its marketing efforts to bring tourists back to Hamilton County and support the small businesses, hotels, and hospitality industry that depends on tourism.

USE OF FUNDS

CURRENT AND PLANNED USES OF ARPA FUNDING

Satellite Office

To integrate County services more effectively into the community and to provide services available to residents and business impacted by the pandemic, the County intends to use **\$2.5 million of ARPA funding** to develop a satellite facility. This office will be centrally located for services around multiple Qualified Census Tracts and significantly more convenient than driving to downtown Cincinnati to access government services. This will also provide enhanced engagement with communities and their residents. Funding may also be used, if needed, to provide County facility improvements designed to offset COVID-19 impacts.

Revenue Replacement

The calculation of revenue loss was completed by the County Budget Office using the formula required by US Department of Treasury. The 2021 revenue reduction due to the COVID-19 pandemic is \$41,935,127. Of this amount, the Board allocated **\$32 million of its ARPA funding** for government services, primarily for public safety and judicial staffing functions. To date, \$25 million has been expended.

Community Infrastructure

The pandemic highlighted the critical need for high-speed internet capacity and broadband accessibility throughout the US. Before recommending any specific programs though, it is necessary to better understand and examine the specific gaps, if any, to direct the most effective use of **the \$10 million in ARPA funding that the Board allocated for broadband**. As such, for the past few months, the County engaged a private-sector consultant to inventory the status of reliable, high-quality broadband and recommend the most effective use of funds to close identified gaps in service, access, or affordability. In addition to the inventory, the consultant met with seventeen stakeholder organizations to listen to their needs and challenges. It is anticipated that a recommendations report will be submitted in August 2022. Pending the outcome of the final report, the amount allocated to broadband could be adjusted.

In addition to investment in broadband infrastructure, the Board allocated **\$9 million for sewer and stormwater projects** that follow USEPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund criteria. \$5 million of this funding will be used to support the extension of sewer service into the western portion of Hamilton County along SR 128 which is a qualified census tract. The remaining funds are anticipated to be used for construction of stormwater projects to reduce overland flooding impacting households.

USE OF FUNDS

CURRENT AND PLANNED USES OF ARPA FUNDING

Premium Pay

\$2.4 million is allocated for financial payments to eligible workers (performing essential work) during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Designations of employees were made by the respective managers based upon their knowledge of the individual positions, the work, and application of the Department of the Treasury rules and regulations.

Administrative

\$1.5 million is included in the County's Plan for staff to administer ARPA grant funding and ancillary programming. For instance, this activity will include funding for staff overseeing grant programming, reporting requirements, and financial tracking and consultants to assist with equity, program development/refinement, and compliance.

OTHER FEDERAL RECOVERY FUNDS

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS 1 AND 2

In addition, to ARPA funding, Hamilton County is the recipient of Emergency Rental Assistance Programs 1 and 2 which is administered by Hamilton County Job and Family Services. In its initial allocation, Hamilton County received a total of \$36 million. Since then, through the reallocation process, the County received an additional \$5 million and will be receiving an additional \$12 million shortly. To date, more than \$35 million has been distributed since April 2021, assisting 11,000 renters. Due to our success in distributing this needed rental assistance, Hamilton County requested an additional \$40 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 funds. Figures 3 and 4 summarize the demographics served through this program.

Figure 3. Rental Assistance by Zip Code

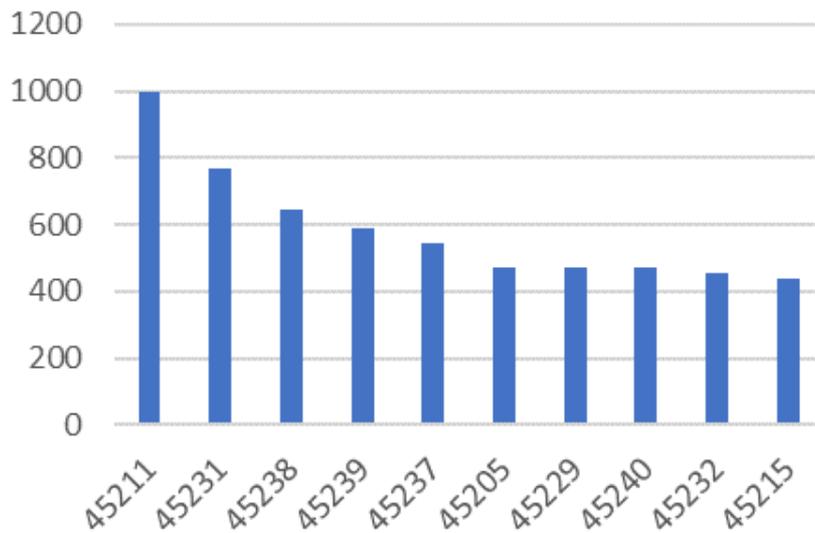
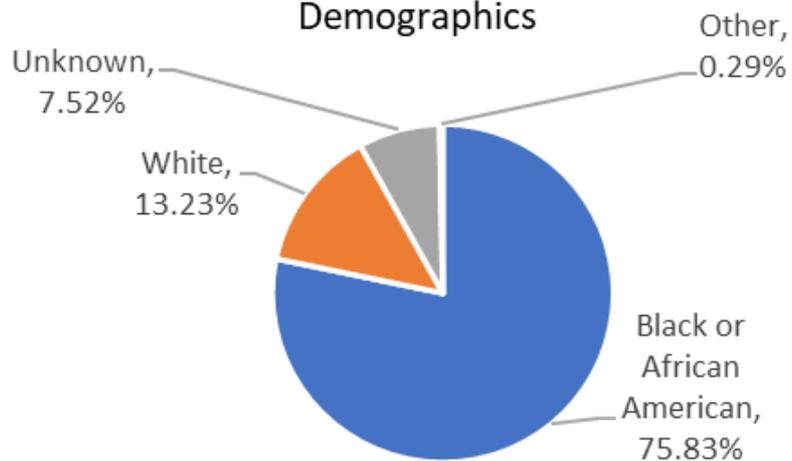


Figure 4. Rental Assistance Demographics

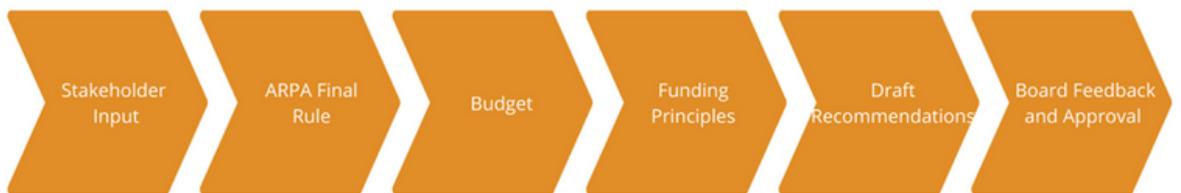


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

While many of the Board-approved programs were launched in late 2021/early 2022, there were several categories of programs that required more input and expertise to ensure the most effective and transformational use of the funding. As previously described, Hamilton County brought together stakeholders to develop recommended programs for the Board of County Commissioner's consideration. Figure 5 summarizes this community engagement process.

This process was in addition and subsequent to the Board of County Commissioners initial public process that included four stakeholder input sessions involving both internal and external organizations to provide input on community needs and two public hearings held on May 25 and May 27, 2021.

FIGURE 5. SUMMARY OF PROCESS TO DEVELOP FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONGER TERM PROGRAMS



Funding Principles:



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder groups were formed to help with the final development of the following program types:

- **Public Health and Community Resiliency:** The stakeholders defined community needs which, when addressed, will facilitate the County's ability to resolve the final stages of COVID-19 and ensure Hamilton County is stronger and more resilient.
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse:** The stakeholder effort will ensure the community can respond to the increased demand for mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse issues spurred by the health pandemic and its associated economic impacts with a focus on preventing teen suicide.
- **Housing Production and Housing Preservation:** The County's ARPA funding will be used to help produce new multi-family and single-family affordable housing and help maintain and reinvest in existing affordable housing.
- **Homelessness Prevention:** Preventing homelessness is less traumatic and less expensive than helping a resident who has become homeless. Stakeholder efforts will review best in class programs to help this population of residents.
- **Workforce Development and Youth Development:** While Ohio and Hamilton County's unemployment rate has dramatically improved compared to a year ago, there remain barriers to residents re-entering the workforce. This stakeholder effort will focus on helping residents become more economically stable and address the talent shortage.

The results of this effort yielded a new list of programs that will begin implementation over the coming six months. The final stakeholder report can be found [here](#) and the Board of County Commissioners updated ARPA allocation resulting from this effort can be found [here](#).

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Hamilton County is committed to promoting equity within the Hamilton County community. Hamilton County's focus is on addressing the needs of communities and more effectively connecting residents and businesses to the work and programming of the County. Equity requires strategies that promote fair treatment, equal access, opportunity, and advancement for all people, while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that may be preventing the full participation of some groups.

In general, the majority of Hamilton County's ARPA funded programs are targeted and directed to impacted or disproportionately impacted populations. Furthermore, as summarized more in the Project Inventory, many of the programs are focusing or will focus on identifying barriers to participation and how to overcome them.

As described throughout this report and with a focus on equity, the County is allocating \$88 million across several areas to minimize the negative economic impact of the pandemic and assist those who have been impacted by the pandemic. A snapshot of the County's ARPA funding and its emphasis on equity include:

- Mortgage and utility assistance is targeted to low-to-moderate income individuals and households. The County has contracted with a firm to work with communities and residents so the County can better serve residents that are eligible for the mortgage and rental programs, and, through community-based engagement strategies, help remove any perceived or real barriers to accessing the assistance. To date, 80% of recipients are minorities.
- Support to small and minority-owned businesses. In the recent round of small business grants, **62% of grant recipients were minority owned**. Additional small business technical assistance that will begin later this year is intended to prioritize businesses with 0-10 employees.
- \$33.5 million is targeted to new affordable housing and renovation of existing affordable housing.
- A \$2 million home repair program will launch later this year and will **prioritize those homeowners in Qualified Census Tracts and those that are disproportionately impacted**.
- Workforce development, which will be launched in the coming months, is focused on training and connecting underemployed and unemployed people to careers with upward mobility and financial stability. **Funding will specifically be targeted to identifying and overcoming barriers for residents to participate in training programs.**

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

- \$10 million is allocated to disproportionately impacted communities through the 513Relief Bus and relocation of the Cincinnati Police Department gun range.
 - The 513Relief Bus visits neighborhoods where residents may not have easy access to health care, COVID-19 vaccinations, or other social services.
 - As part of the 513Relief effort, in June, several partners conducted an in-person “relief effort” that included vaccinations and access to rental, utility, and mortgage assistance. 450 people attended the event that was held at the Woodlawn Community Center. 200 rental assistance applications were taken on site; Duke Energy worked out payments for 72 customers’ accounts for a total of \$73,014; Greater Cincinnati Water Works pledged payment for \$23,460 in water utility bills.
 - A portion of the funding allocated to the 513Relief Bus will be used for community engagement to ensure the County is effectively reaching the populations that the Bus is intended to serve.
 - Hamilton County will be seeking a partner to provide outreach and education to help reduce health disparities. It is anticipated that this effort will focus on chronic diseases and social determinants of health in concentrated disadvantaged communities.
 - \$5 million in ARPA funding will be used to relocate the Cincinnati Police Department gun range given its impacts on communities such as Lincoln Heights. The movement of the gun range will improve the health of the childhood environment and address a long-standing problem on a disproportionately impacted population.

In addition to the programs addressing negative economic impacts, the following programs are or will be implemented:

- Three COVID-19 no-cost testing sites are available and two of the three that were operational through June were located in Qualified Census Tracts during which time **35 percent of participants were Black or African American.**
- Through the use of \$5 million in ARPA, a new sewer extension will be constructed that **is located in Qualified Census Tract.**

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

As Hamilton County initiates its next tranche of programming, as part of the procurement or grant application process, service providers will be provided the Equity Framework to help them understand what is expected by asking them to include the following six goals as part of their program planning and implementation. In addition, as part of their process improvement, service providers will be asked to complete [this self-assessment rubric](#). With these goals and expectations stated clearly in RFPs and grant applications, Hamilton County anticipates continued progress in its equity and community engagement priorities. Those six goals include:

Goal 1: Ensure that equity, accessibility, and inclusion are part of the program

- Are positioned to serve communities or populations facing disparities.
- Programs and services are in place, and barrier-free, to attract, retain and support diverse groups.
- Use continual feedback from targeted groups to evaluate programs and services for accessibility and impact

Goal 2: Invest in community partnerships that will inform decision-making and foster full and equitable civic participation.

- Informal and/or formal partnerships are put in place with external organizations for input to drive the focus area program and policy design.
- Underserved or other disparate populations are recruited to serve as advisors and participate in listening and feedback sessions.
- Resources are shared with partners from communities and populations facing disparities.

Goal 3: Engage the target communities in ways that are inclusive, and culturally responsive

- Communication strategy is in place regarding the ARPA-funded focus area services and programs.
- .Agency engages community stakeholders in planning and decision-making.
- Provides community members with innovative opportunities to learn about programs and services.
- Encourages effective citizen engagement and collaboration in their community spaces to increase accessibility and encourage participation (partners, churches, community centers, etc.).
- Events are planned during times and locations that allow community members to participate.
- Uses interpreters and translates materials (if needed) to eliminate language barriers.
- Provides culturally and linguistically appropriate materials and services.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Goal 4: Target known disparities as a tool for decision-making, and policy and program development.

- Practices are in place to collect the following data of clients/customers.
 - Quantitative data stratified by race/ethnicity, gender, age
 - Qualitative data from customers, partners, and stakeholders' feedback
 - Data on Community needs
 - Community impact data

Goal 5: Act on the Data

- Inequities are identified.
- Targeted interventions are in place to address findings (link to ARPA-funded focus areas).
- Evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to reduce disparities.

Goal 6: Evaluate and report on equity efforts to ensure accountability and transparency.

- Disseminate the result of data gathering, evaluations, and findings.
- Promote/communicate successes to the community.
- Equity metrics or indicators are included in evaluations, planning, and program assessments
- Encourage continuous/ongoing feedback.

Benefits Cliff

There was a deep recognition in Hamilton County's stakeholder meetings that the benefits cliff is a systemic barrier to economic mobility. It occurs when career advancement puts a family above the income eligibility threshold for public assistance programs. Due to the loss of these programs, including childcare subsidies, career advancement opportunities can result in the family being financially worse off (a benefits cliff) than before the wage increase. While no Hamilton County ARPA funding is going toward the benefits cliff, **this is an opportunity for the federal government to help remove this significant and systemic barrier to upward economic mobility.**

LABOR PRACTICES

Hamilton County's use of ARPA funds will include infrastructure projects, but at this time, those projects are in the early planning stages. As the County moves on to the process of contracting, it will be prepared to report on whether any of the following practices are being utilized: project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and local hiring.

USE OF EVIDENCE

Hamilton County anticipates several of its programs to be considered evidence-based interventions. In particular, the following programs are anticipated to include evidence-based interventions:

Homelessness Prevention

- Shelter Diversion: Local data demonstrates the effectiveness in outcomes from Shelter Diversion programs¹
- Innovation Grants: Grant applicants will be required to notate any evidence-based interventions.

Mental Health

- Mobile Crisis Team: Studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of mobile crisis teams²
- Youth Resiliency Grants: Studies have demonstrated the positive impact that outdoor activities and after school programs have on youth³. In addition, grant applicants will be required to notate any evidence-based interventions.
- Suicide Prevention Grants: Grant applicants will be required to notate any evidence-based interventions.

1. <https://www.strategiestoendhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-demographics-data.pdf>
2. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/12351029_Evaluation_of_a_Mobile_Crisis_Program_Effectiveness_Efficiency_and_Consumer_Satisfaction
3. <https://news.ncsu.edu/2021/11/outdoor-activity-tied-to-mental-health-of-teens-young-adults-during-covid-19-pandemic/>

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

The following provides a brief description of all projects that are in progress or under development and are categorized as such. This section also reports on each program's performance to date.

Project Name: COVID-19 Testing

Funding Amount: \$1.2 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 1.2 COVID-19 Testing

Identification Number: 1003

Website: www.testandprotectcincy.com

Overview

Given the demand in testing during the winter months, the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners authorized \$1.2 million in ARPA funding to provide for additional PCR testing for residents. Procurement occurred in January 2022 and the Board entered into an agreement with Ethos Laboratories effective April 4, 2022, for the operation of three no-cost PCR testing sites. The agreement expires on April 3, 2023. Ethos provides no-cost PCR testing at up to three locations and has the flexibility to convert to drive-thru testing if demand warrants it. While COVID-19 testing is available and eligible to the general public, two of the three sites that were operational through June 2022 were located in Qualified Census Tracts intended to be focused on disproportionately impacted populations and to reduce barriers to testing such as transportation and cost.

Evidence Based Intervention

The goals of this program are to provide no-cost testing. ARPA funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Performance metrics are reported on a monthly basis to include number of participants disaggregated by race and ethnicity. Results to date are summarized in Figures 6-8.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

Project Name: COVID-19 Testing

Funding Amount: \$1.2 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 1.2 COVID-19 Testing

Identification Number: 1003

Website: www.testandprotectcincy.com

Figure 6. Testing Site Totals

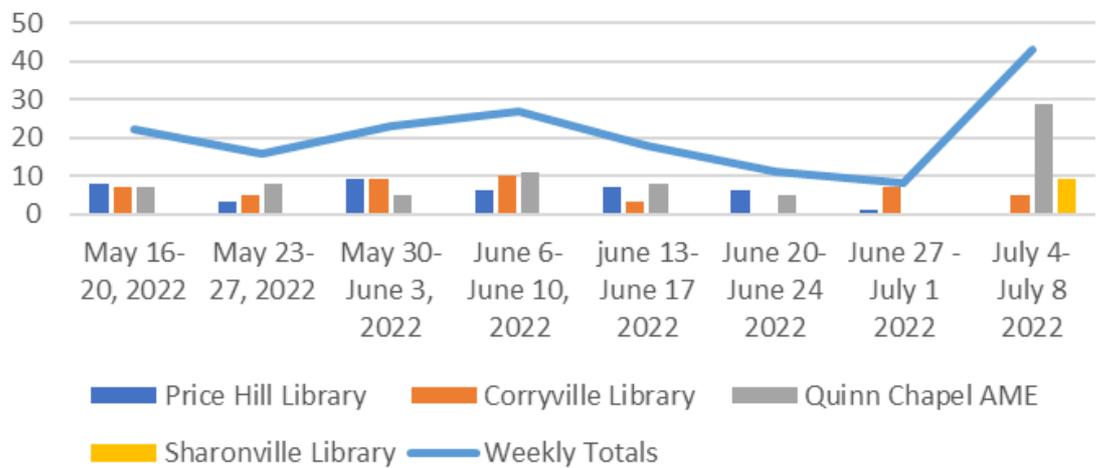


Figure 7. Testing by Race

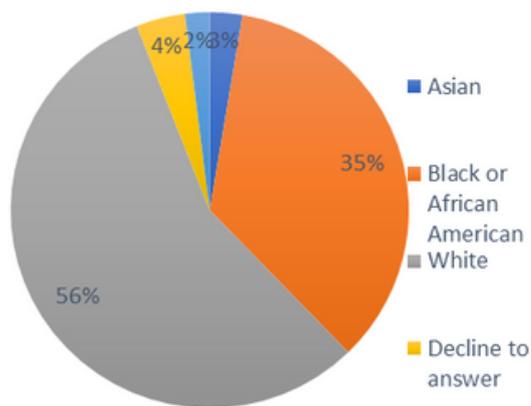
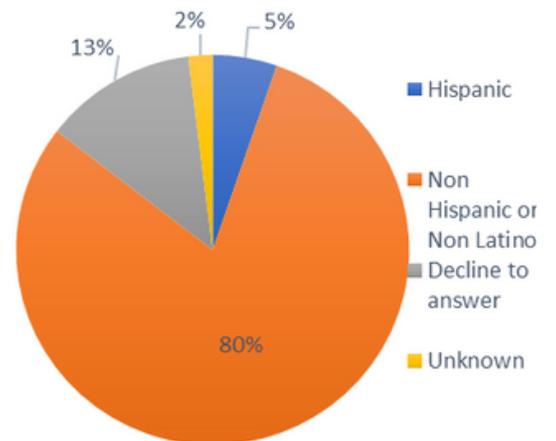


Figure 8. Testing by Ethnicity



PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

Project Name: COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Website and Coordination

Funding Amount: \$214,238

Project Expenditure Category: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (Including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

Identification Number: 1003

Website: www.testandprotectcincy.com

Overview

Through an agreement with The Health Collaborative, ARPA funds are being used for a centralized website for COVID-19 testing and vaccination locations. In addition, The Health Collaborative provides vaccination coordination including: convene regional vaccine providers to share surveillance data, track progress, address challenges, and accelerate vaccine uptake; manage organization and communication of regional vaccine dashboard with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) team, share vaccine data on routine basis for situational awareness and planning; track disparities in vaccination rates by age and race; leverage relationships with community organizations in vaccine efforts; work closely with organization and neighborhood leaders to plan and secure partnerships for vaccination events in the Black and Latino communities; organize data and provide support to bi-monthly black vaccination meeting led by the Urban League; work with groups such as the Urban League, Hamilton County Public Health, CCHMC, and the City of Cincinnati to create strategies for the equitable distribution of testing and vaccination resources.

Evidence Based Interventions

The goals of this program are to educate the general public on testing and vaccinations and its availability in Hamilton County. ARPA funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Performance metrics are reported on a monthly basis, summarized in Figures 9 and 10 and include:

1. Number of community groups convened including details on type of engagement, names of community groups, and results of that engagement, including number of attendees;
2. Number of community groups reached via coordination efforts;
3. Number of unique vaccine and testing website visits; and
4. Percentage of Hamilton County residents vaccinated using data provided by the Ohio Department of Health, including demographic breakdown by age, race, ethnicity and zip code.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

Project Name: COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Website and Coordination

Funding Amount: \$214,238

Project Expenditure Category: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (Including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

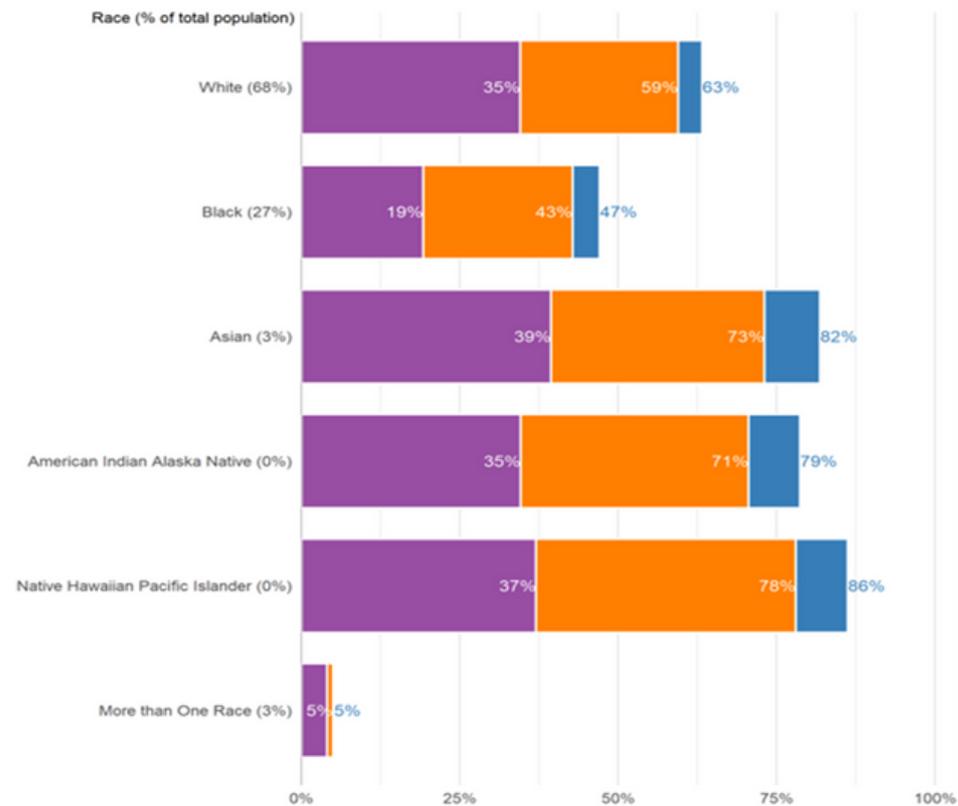
Identification Number: 1003

Website: www.testandprotectcincy.com

FIGURE 9: COVID-19 TESTING AND VACCINE WEBSITE USAGE

Website Metrics	3/15 - 6/30/22
Unique Page Views - Vaccine Page	1,248
Unique Page Views - Testing Page	5,958
Combined	7,206

FIGURE 10: CURRENT VACCINE RATES BY RACE
Started, completed and w/ additional doses



PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

Project Name: Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency

Funding Amount: \$1 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 1.5 Personal Protective Equipment

Identification Number: 1015

Overview

Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (EMA) is being supported with ongoing eligible expenses related to the COVID-19 public health emergency including sourcing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), warehousing of the PPE, and administrative staff overseeing this project.

Evidence-Based Interventions

The over-arching goal is to continue to provide funds to EMA for its ongoing services related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. EMA's services consist of sourcing and warehousing PPE. These activities are not evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

EMA has provided a total of 1,350 children's masks and 16,500 adult masks through its ARPA funding. Of these totals, 5,000 or 28 percent were provided to a homeless service provider and a women's clinic. Other organizations include local health department and government agencies.

EMA Expenditure Progress



PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

Project Name: Vaccine Incentives for Hamilton County Employees

Funding Amount: \$500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

Each Hamilton County employee who presents evidence of being vaccinated received a \$100 incentive to be processed via the regular payroll system. The goal of the program is to incentivize employees to make good health decisions for themselves and visitors to County office buildings. Beyond protecting the health and wellness of employees, it is hoped that a vaccinated workforce will save taxpayers money by cutting down on lost work hours, not to mention potential savings from avoiding hospitalization. The program was open from August to October 2021. Expenditures will be detailed in future reports.

Evidence-Based Interventions

Hamilton County does not consider these activities to be evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Of the approximately 4,500 employees, 2,052 or 46 percent of the workforce participated in this program.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

Project Name: COVID-19 Mitigation and Protection Health Care Infrastructure Grants

Funding Amount: \$3 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

The availability of ARPA funds provides an opportunity for the community to ensure that physical health and preparedness infrastructure is available to respond to future waves of COVID-19. These funds are being deployed through a grant process. Grant applications are being solicited from Health Care Providers for projects that are: in response to and mitigate COVID-19; for ventilation improvements, COVID-19 related expenses for prevention and mitigation; an enhancement of public health data systems; or for acquisition of equipment for COVID-19 prevention and treatment. Grant applications were released on July 8, 2022. Once awarded, projects must be obligated by December 31, 2024, with projects completed by June 30, 2026.

Evidence-Based Interventions

Studies have shown that ventilation improvements are beneficial to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. However, in totality, this use of ARPA funds is not anticipated to include evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Key performance indicators, mandatory performance indicators (as applicable), and output and outcome measures, will be further detailed in subsequent reports and will be based on the grants that are awarded.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

Project Name: Expansion of Local Nursing Programs

Funding Amount: \$1.5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has strained health care delivery systems in the Greater Cincinnati region. The emotional and physical distress has led many nurses and clinical staff to leave the profession. Per The Health Collaborative, nursing vacancy rates have reached a 15-year high, and there are over 5,000 health worker positions that are vacant in the Cincinnati region. During the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 1,300 additional health workers left their jobs beyond typical turnover, according to the Health Collaborative. Investing in expansion of existing nursing programs can help address this shortage.

The County will issue a grant application to expand local nursing program(s) to allow for additional students to enroll in LPN and RN programs. Grant funding could include costs such as faculty start-up, lab expansion, outreach and stipends to reduce barriers to enrollment. Grant applications are anticipated to be released during the 4th quarter of 2022.

Evidence-Based Interventions

The over-arching goal is to expand the pipeline for health care workers. Hamilton County does not consider these activities to be evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Anticipated performance reporting includes: percent increase in number of students; demographics of students increase; barriers identified and overcome.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

Project Name: Expansion of Mobile Crisis Team

Funding Amount: \$5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

Mobile Crisis Teams provide crisis intervention/de-escalation, referral and/or follow-up to a mental health provider. The goal is to ameliorate a crisis in the least restrictive setting for the immediate protection of the health and safety of the persons involved. Hamilton County's current Mobile Crisis Team operates Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - midnight; Saturdays and Sundays from 11:30 - 7:30 p.m. Through the use of ARPA funding, the Mobile Crisis Team will be expanded and would allow for the hiring of additional employees, including an overnight on call staff to respond to Mental Health Access Point triaged runs as needed and add approximately 10 full-time staff which would include a discipline mixture of Licensed Independent Social Worker, Peer-based specialist or substance use disorder specialist, and/or other qualified degrees to expand coverage for Hamilton County.

Program expansion is anticipated to begin by the end of 2022, pending approval of appropriate agreements.

Evidence-Based Interventions

There are studies that show the benefits of mobile crisis teams and their impact on emergency departments⁴.

Performance Report

Anticipated performance reporting includes: response time, referral source, demographics, zip codes, primary presenting problems.

4. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/12351029_Evaluation_of_a_Mobile_Crisis_Program_Effectiveness_Efficiency_and_Consumer_Satisfaction

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

Project Name: Teen Suicide Prevention

Funding Amount: \$1.5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 1,12 Mental Health Services

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

Given the teen mental health concerns that were exacerbated by COVID-19 shutdowns and social isolation, \$1.5 million in ARPA funding will be provided to assist organizations that provide direct services for teen mental health and suicide prevention. Grant applications are anticipated to be released in early October 2022.

Evidence-Based Interventions

It is anticipated that grant applicants will detail if any of their direct services are evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Key performance indicators, mandatory performance indicators (as applicable), and output and outcome measures, will be further detailed in subsequent reports.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

Project Name: Building Youth Resiliency

Funding Amount: \$5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 1,12 Mental Health Services

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

Numerous studies have documented the impact of social isolation on youth because of school closures and reductions in extracurricular activities. To help address the impacts of social isolation and build resiliency, ARPA funds will be used to expand proven youth and teen programs focused on outdoor activities, extracurriculars, after school and summer programs. Grant applications are anticipated to be released in early September 2022.

Evidence-Based Interventions

It is anticipated that grant applicants will detail if any of their direct services are evidence-based interventions. In addition, and as noted above, studies⁵ have documented the benefits of after school programs and outdoor activities on youth.

Performance Report

Key performance indicators, mandatory performance indicators (as applicable), and output and outcome measures, will be further detailed in subsequent reports.

5.https://www.researchgate.net/publication/12351029_Evaluation_of_a_Mobile_Crisis_Program_Effectiveness_Efficiency_and_Consumer_Satisfaction

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS

Project Name: Mortgage Assistance

Funding Amount: \$5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Identification Number: 1022

Website: www.513relief.org

Overview

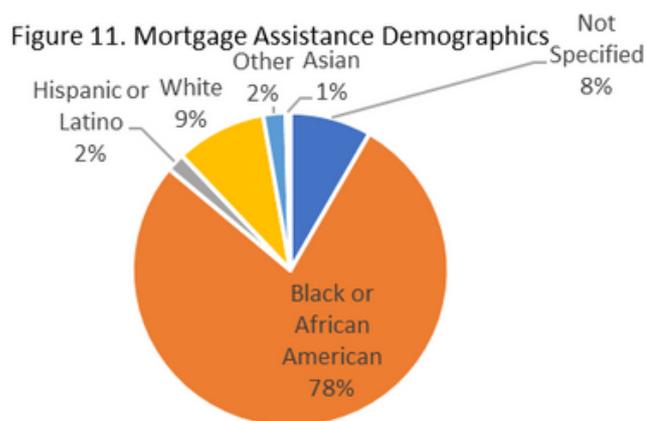
Eligible homeowners can receive financial assistance with mortgage, property tax and/or utility payments to avoid foreclosure and shutoffs. Program eligibility is focused on households that are at or below 300% FPL. The program started in October 2021 and is administered by Hamilton County Job and Family Services. Recently, Hamilton County initiated an agreement with a firm to provide improved outreach to ensure this program is reaching its target audience.

Evidence-Based Interventions

This program is not considered to be an evidence-based intervention.

Performance Report

217 households have received assistance through this program. A summary of demographics served is provided in Figure 11.



Mortgage Expenditure Progress



PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Project Name: Small Business Financial Assistance

Funding Amount: \$7,794,216

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Identification Number: 1025

Overview

Through CARES Act, Hamilton County, through its Office of Economic Development, conducted two rounds of grants to small businesses. In 2021, a third round was initiated that also included ARPA funding in the amount of \$2.9 million. This grant was open to small business with 50 employees or less, had an economic loss due to COVID-19, and had less than \$2.5 million in annual revenue. All grants were awarded in January 2022. ARPA funding remains available if it is determined necessary to conduct another round of grants.

Small Business Grant Expenditure Progress



Evidence-Based Interventions

This program is not considered to be an evidence-based intervention.

Performance Report

Of the ARPA funding used for this program, 324 businesses received grants up to \$10,000. Figures 12 and 13 illustrate the metrics associated with this program.

Figure 12. Small Business Grants - Business Size

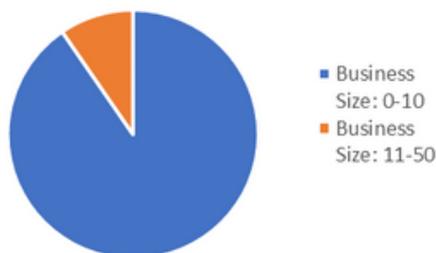


Figure 13. Demographics of Small Business Grants



"The Hamilton County Small Business Relief Grant of \$10,000 was a blessing and helped us directly address financial shortfalls. Small Businesses turn on a dime and when we were denied other relief it was very difficult to maintain our business. Pivots alone were not sufficient to keep us thriving, this grant was the number 1 reason that DCR was able to stay open for business."

Angela Denmark

DCR Denmark Court Reporting Agency, LLC

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

ASSISTANCE TO NON-PROFITS

Project Name: Non-Profit Assistance

Funding Amount: \$7,590,331

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Aid to Non-Profit Organizations

Identification Number: 1024

Overview

Hamilton County entered into a subaward with United Way for the administration of a non-profit grant in three categories:

- Non-profits that can demonstrate a revenue loss due to the pandemic were due January 16 (\$3,734,284 awarded);
- Non-profits that can provided eligible services to residents impacted by the pandemic were due by January 30 (\$2,611,745 awarded);
- Non-profits with \$500,000 or less in annual revenues and provide direct social and family services to residents who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. Applications for the third phase are due August 3, 2022.

A total of \$6.4 million of the allocated funding has been expended to date. Figures 14 and 15 breakdown the types of services that the awarded non-profits provide (results of the third category of grants are not included as applications are still open at this time). All three grant categories focused on non-profits that provide family and social services and the services are targeted to low-mod income households. More detailed results will be provided in future reporting.

Evidence-Based Interventions

This program is not an evidence-based intervention.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

ASSISTANCE TO NON-PROFITS

Project Name: Non-Profit Assistance

Funding Amount: \$7,590,331

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Aid to Non-Profit Organizations

Identification Number: 1024

Performance Report

The following reporting metrics will be reported by non-profits that received grant funding: Summary/description of services provided; Number of clients served; Financial Status (above or below 200% FPL); demographic (age, gender, race ethnicity); Qualified Census Tract (if applicable).

Non-Profit Grant Expenditure Progress



Figure 14. Assistance to Impacted Nonprofits (Category 1)

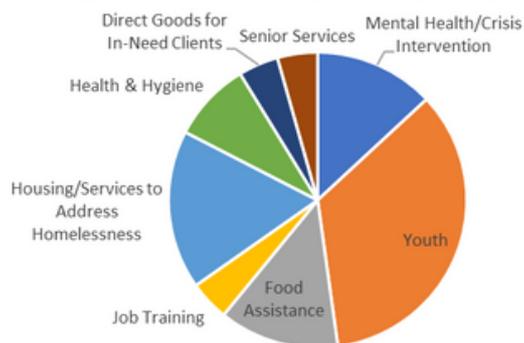
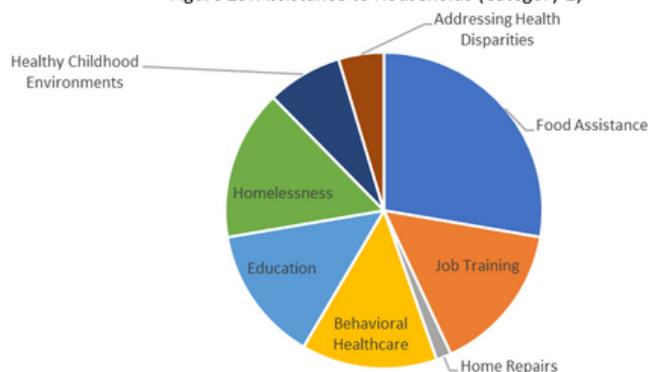


Figure 15. Assistance to Households (Category 2)



PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

AID TO IMPACTED INDUSTRIES

Project Name: Arts and Cultural Assistance

Funding Amount: \$2 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Identification Number: 1024A

Overview

According to ArtsWave, arts organizations in the Cincinnati area had losses of \$140 million in revenue since the start of the pandemic when many organizations had to close their doors due to the state ban on mass gatherings and once re-opened had to adhere to decreased audience size. Through a subaward, ArtsWave administered a grant program to arts and cultural organizations based on financial losses. The grant criteria considered pre-pandemic budget size, pandemic-related revenue losses, amount of COVID relief funding received through other programs to-date. Grants were awarded during April 2022.

Evidence-Based Interventions

This program is not considered to be an evidence-based intervention.

Performance Report

53 Arts and Culture organizations received grant awards with amounts based on financial losses and annual budget.

Arts Grants Expenditure Progress



“ArtWorks was able to continue programming for artists and youth during the pandemic (2020 – 2021), supporting them financially, emotionally, and artistically. The relief funds also allowed ArtWorks to keep its full administrative staff with no layoffs or furloughs. The administrative staff was vital for program delivery, which allowed ArtWorks to continue employing more than 650 youth, artists, and creative professionals over the last 2 years.”

Artworks

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

OTHER

Project Name: 513Relief Bus and Community Outreach

Funding Amount: \$5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance, Other

Identification Number: 1007

Website: www.513relief.org

Overview

Funding for the 513Relief Bus and Community Outreach is allocated to ensure health and social service information is more effectively provided to underserved populations in Hamilton County with a focus on disproportionately impacted communities. This program includes acquisition of a permanent tech bus and ongoing outreach to educate minority and disproportionately impacted populations regarding COVID-19 response, provision of certain medical offerings, including vaccines, and other social services such as mortgage, rental, and utility assistance.



The 513Relief Bus travels to underserved communities within Hamilton County to help improve health and economic outcomes. Phase 1 of this initiative was launched in June 2021 and supports the Equity Framework by removing barriers such as access, transportation, and technology in community programming. In 2021, UC Health provided the use of their mobile unit (funding was provided via CARES Act). Vaccines were administered by UC Health and Hamilton County Public Health. Access to social services was administered by Hamilton County Job and Family Services (JFS).

Phase 1 of 513Relief Bus operations utilized a temporary bus. Hamilton County has since entered into a purchase agreement for a turnkey, commercially built bus that will allow 513Relief Services to continue and expand its healthcare and social service outreach. The new bus is in production, funds have been encumbered, and it is expected to be delivered Fall/Winter 2022.

The operations of the temporary bus concluded in December 2021. While the new bus is under construction, Hamilton County conducted an in-person relief effort to help residents that needed assistance applying for mortgage, utility, or rental assistance. As already summarized under Equitable Outcomes, 450 people attended the event that was held at the Woodlawn Community Center. 200 rental assistance applications were taken on site; Duke Energy worked out payments for 72 customers' accounts for a total of \$73,014; Greater Cincinnati Water Works pledged payment for \$23,460 in water utility bills.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

OTHER

Project Name: 513Relief Bus and Community Outreach

Funding Amount: \$5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance, Other

Identification Number: 1007

Website: www.513relief.org

Future program service expansion is being explored to include general health screenings, referrals for more critical healthcare needs, dental screenings, as well as health education and literacy. Programming may also include mental health and substance abuse services. In addition to the bus operations and services (staffing, maintenance, etc.), expenditures under this category will include marketing, medical services, and education to reduce health disparities in disproportionately impacted communities.

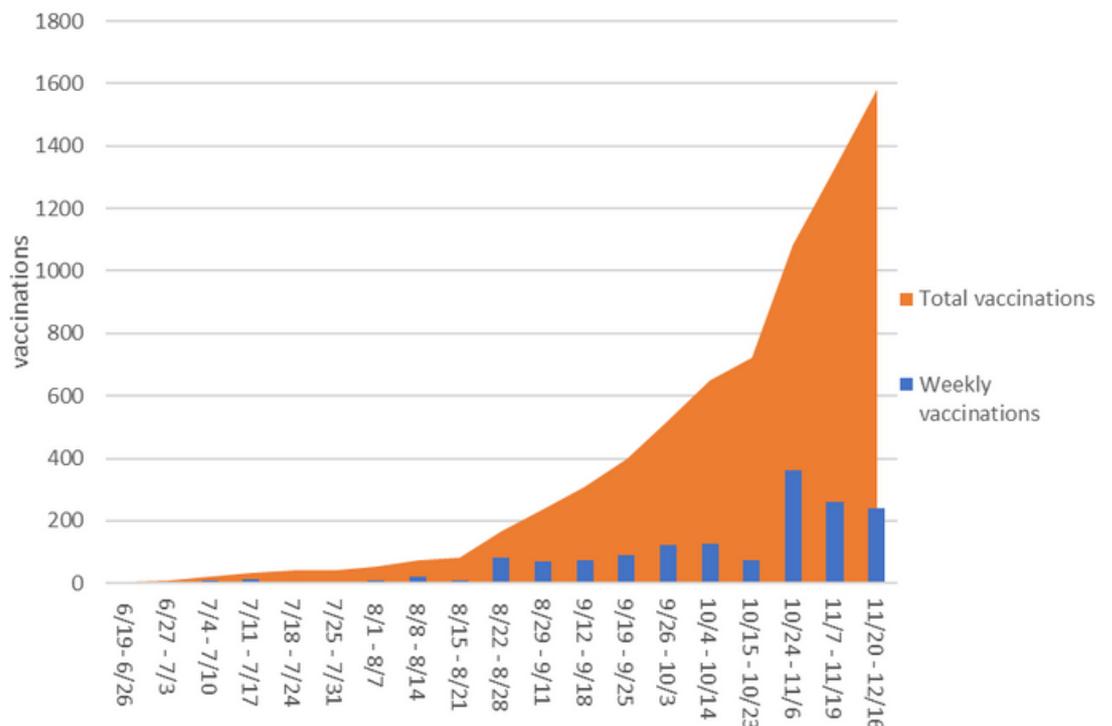
Evidence-Based Interventions

The over-arching goal is to continue to provide health and social service assistance to eligible populations. Hamilton County does not consider these evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

From June to December 2021, the 513Relief Bus served 4,527 residents (unduplicated) with economic and social services at 79 locations and administered 1,582 vaccinations.

Figure 16. vaccinations administered via 513 Relief Bus



PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

OTHER

Project Name: Relocation of Cincinnati Police Gun Range

Funding Amount: \$5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance, Other
Identification Number: 1006

Overview

Hamilton County and partners have joined together to attempt to relocate the Cincinnati Police Department firing range that has been in its current location since 1947. When the gun range is in use, which is the majority of the year, the sound of firearms is evident throughout densely populated neighborhoods – particularly in Lincoln Heights – an 88% African American community. The gunfire is a constant in the lives of residential neighbors surrounding the facility with approximately 2,300 residents located within one-half mile of the range. Many of these residents are youth, under the age of 15, living in a community with high rates of gun violence and crime. The movement of the gun range will improve the health of the childhood environment and address a long-standing problem impacting a disproportionately affected community. ARPA funding will be used to fund a portion of this project. To date, funding has been encumbered for Architectural and Engineering Professional Services to develop a Schematic Design of a potential Regional Safety Complex that would consolidate law enforcement gun safety and training efforts into one location for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and provide a facility for the relocation of the City of Cincinnati Police Department's existing Gun Range.

Evidence-Based Interventions

As noted in the first annual performance recovery plan, University of Cincinnati Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Professor Brian Earl calls the noise from the range so close to residential areas “too much.” Earl says he took a sound meter on a tour of the area around the range and found noise regularly exceeded 85 decibels – the level at which sound becomes harmful to human ears.

Performance Report

As described above, this project remains in the early planning stages. Key performance indicators, mandatory performance indicators (as applicable), and output and outcome measures, will be further detailed in subsequent reports, with the primary reporting being whether the gun range was moved.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS

Project Name: Expansion of Shelter Diversion Program

Funding Amount: \$3 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Services for Unhoused Persons

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

One of the most effective ways to reduce homelessness is to step in before someone loses their housing. Not only is it more cost-effective, more importantly, it is less disruptive on the person or family. \$3 million in ARPA funding is allocated to expand shelter diversion programs. Shelter diversion programs are targeted to those who have lost their housing, are doubled up, and/or are running out of stable housing options. These programs provide financial assistance for housing costs and robust case management. Funds are anticipated to be used to provide up to 12 months of case management and wrap around services. Wrap around services are anticipated to include workforce development training, financial literacy, and mental health assistance. This program is anticipated to be started in September 2022. Impacted households who are at risk of homelessness. Based on local data, shelter diversion programs typically target households that have income below 30% of Area Median Income. This program is anticipated to begin in September 2022.

Evidence-Based Interventions

Data from [Strategies to End Homelessness](#) shows that 90% of participants in 2021 exited the program with permanent housing. And, of the households that exited the prior year, 92.45% of them did not become homeless in 2021. Furthermore, according to Strategies to End Homelessness, of the households who exited the program in 2021, 38.82% increased income.

Performance Report

Key performance indicators, mandatory performance indicators (as applicable), and output and outcome measures, will be further detailed in subsequent reports, and are anticipated to include: demographics, outcomes of participants to determine if the program improved the recipients' economic stability; months of assistance provided; increase in income of participants that exited the program.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS

Project Name: Homelessness Prevention Innovation

Funding Amount: \$2 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Services for Unhoused Persons

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

Through this \$2 million allocation, Hamilton County will foster new, innovative solutions to homelessness prevention by granting funds for pilot projects that leverage partnerships. Grant evaluation will stress funding sustainability beyond ARPA. The program is anticipated to primarily serve disproportionately impacted populations. It is anticipated that this program will launch in early 2023.

Evidence-Based Interventions

It is anticipated that grant applicants will detail if any of their direct services are evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Key performance indicators, mandatory performance indicators (as applicable), and output and outcome measures, will be further detailed in subsequent reports.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS

Project Name: Affordable Housing Production and Preservation

Funding Amount: \$33.5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15 Long Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

Numerous local and national studies have been published on the need for additional affordable housing. The County's Plan recognizes this by allocating \$33.5 million for production of new affordable housing and renovation of multi-family and single-family affordable housing to address the availability of units for low and moderate-income households. Of this allocation, at least \$8 million will be focused on housing for seniors, re-entry, and disabled housing and \$8 million will be focused on rehabilitation. This project will be implemented by a qualified third party who will coordinate project funding opportunities with a focus on gap financing to leverage the available dollars and fund as many new units as possible. As outlined in the Final Rule, populations served through these units are the same as are served through HOME projects. It is anticipated that an agreement with the qualified third party to administer these funds will occur during the 3rd quarter of 2022. Once an agreement is executed, it is anticipated that grant applications will be solicited shortly thereafter. The goal is to provide gap financing and leverage other available dollars to fund as many new units as possible.

Evidence-Based Interventions

The over-arching goal is to increase the number of affordable housing units. No funds will be allocated to evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Key performance indicators, mandatory performance indicators (as applicable), and output and outcome measures, will be further detailed in subsequent reports. Anticipated metrics include number of new housing units (single family and multi-family) and demographics of population served, including income levels.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS

Project Name: Home Repair Program

Funding Amount: \$2 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

The Home Repair Program is designed to help eligible residents make necessary home repairs and improvements to allow them to maintain their homes and support the stabilization of households. Eligible residents include those located in Qualified Census Tracts and those designated as “impacted” and “disproportionately impacted”. Home repairs provided through this program may include, but not limited to: roofs, foundations, porches, insulation and HVAC, remediation of environmental health hazards, energy efficiency, and accessibility. Priority though will be placed on health and safety repairs.

While the program will be open to both impacted and disproportionately impacted households as allowed per the Final Rule, priority will be on the most disproportionately impacted households, including those in Qualified Census Tracts. In addition to repair services, we anticipate this program will also direct participants to services that are designed to improve their economic sustainability. This could include but is not limited to applicable workforce development programs, senior services, and financial literacy classes.

Evidence-Based Interventions

This program is not considered to be an evidence-based intervention.

Performance Report

Key performance indicators, mandatory performance indicators (as applicable), and output and outcome measures, will be further detailed in subsequent reports. Anticipated metrics include participant data stratified by race, ethnicity, income, zip code, gender, and age; number of recipients connected with other supportive services and any outcomes; list of contractors used stratified by race, ethnicity, zip code, size of business.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

Project Name: Workforce Development

Funding Amount: \$9.5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

While Ohio and Hamilton County's unemployment rate has dramatically improved compared to 2020, there remain barriers to residents re-entering the workforce. The goal of the \$9.5 million in ARPA funding for workforce development is to improve economic success for both the workforce and companies through programs that connect people to careers with upward mobility and financial stability and that help employers find, develop and retain talent. This allocation includes three areas of investment:

- **Workforce Development Training Grants (\$7.5 million):** Support existing training/apprentice programs that are aligned with the target industries with a specific focus on reducing barriers to participation. And, with a focus on un and underemployed, residents in shelter diversion program, and returning citizens. Of the \$7.5 million allocated for this investment, \$1.8 million be dedicated to increasing the number of childcare teachers. This funding would be devoted to purposes such as intentional outreach to potential candidates, training, credentialing, background checks, etc. Applications for the funding are anticipated to be released in the 4th quarter, 2022.
- **Enhance collaboration and service delivery of workforce partners (\$1 million):** Hamilton County is home to rich ecosystem of workforce development, education and training programs for adults. However, there is room for better alignment and more connectivity between employers, workforce development partners, and employees. As such, an RFP will be issued in by early September 2022 to subaward funds to an organization(s) who will provide necessary coordination.
- **Marketing of in-demand careers (\$1 million):** Many in-demand careers do not require a four-year college degree, and there may be misperceptions on the opportunities available in certain industries, including salaries, working conditions, training and overall upward mobility. A campaign, targeted to underemployed, unemployed, youth, and parents could help change the narrative around in-demand careers to grow and diversify the workforce. This campaign is anticipated to launch in mid-2023.

Targeted industries for workforce development efforts are: manufacturing, construction and trades, healthcare (including mental health), transportation, IT, childcare, and hospitality.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

Project Name: Workforce Development

Funding Amount: \$9.5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Identification Number: TBD

Evidence-Based Intervention

It is anticipated that grant applicants will detail if any of their direct services are evidence-based interventions.

Performance Reporting

Once the program is activated, performance reporting is anticipated to include: number of individuals served; types of programs completed; enrollment; employment placement; increase in wages; demographics; zip codes and other key data to verify program success.

Project Name: Satellite Office

Funding Amount: \$2.5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.13 Other Economic Support

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

ARPA allows for the implementation of capital improvements to the degree they are designed to offset COVID-19 impacts or to provide engagement and services to communities and populations impacted by the public health emergency. With many projects completed during 2020 and early 2021 using CARES Act funding, Hamilton County is now able to change its focus to a County satellite office and the positive impact it will have on the disproportionately impacted communities. Among other benefits, the County anticipates that its satellite office will improve access to services such as social services.

Evidence-Based Intervention

This program is not considered to be an evidence-based intervention.

Performance Reporting

Once the program is activated, performance reporting is anticipated to include: demographics of residents assisted and types of services provided.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Project Name: Small Business Technical Assistance

Funding Amount: \$1.5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Assistance to Small Businesses, Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

Identification Number: 1025

Overview

Through the experience of the three rounds of small business grants, it is clear many of our small businesses excel at their craft yet struggle with back-office functions such as accounting and technology. To continue to support Hamilton County's small businesses, the County will use \$1.5 million in ARPA funds to provide eligible small businesses with expert technical assistance or advisory services. Simply put, the goal of this program is to help small businesses be more sustainable by providing expert advisory services in the following areas: Accounting; IT/computer literacy; Legal; Marketing/social media/websites. The scope of work is currently being refined with an anticipated launch date during 4th quarter of 2022.

Evidence-Based Intervention

This program is not considered to be an evidence-based intervention.

Performance Reporting

Once the program is activated, performance reporting will include: number of businesses served; type of service(s) received; breakdown of those served by race, ethnicity, zip code; direct impact on small businesses (i.e., increase in sales, created marketing/advertising materials, designed a website, renegotiated better lease terms, refinanced or consolidated existing debt/loan with better terms, successful resolution of legal, tax, regulatory, licensing or other problem, increase in number of employees, etc.)

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS - PROGRAMS TO BE LAUNCHED

AID TO IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

Project Name: Hospitality Assistance

Funding Amount: \$2 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

\$2 million is allocated to Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) for marketing funds to promote and attract visitors to Hamilton County. Providing a portion of the CVB's lost revenue will allow them to more fully re-engage in marketing campaigns to draw more visitors back to Cincinnati and Hamilton County and bring additional economic stimulus to the region. Per the CVB, 166 groups that were scheduled to come to Hamilton County in 2020 cancelled because of COVID-19. Those canceled events equal 132,000 lost hotel room nights and 173,000 visitors. And these numbers don't include the loss of visitors to signature events that were cancelled in 2020 including: Taste of Cincinnati, Western & Southern Open, Cincinnati Music Festival or Oktoberfest Zinzinnati.

Figure 17 illustrates the devastating impact COVID-19 had on the hospitality industry. To help the local hospitality industry overcome the continued negative impacts of COVID-19, the region is relying on the CVB to get back to pre-COVID marketing efforts.

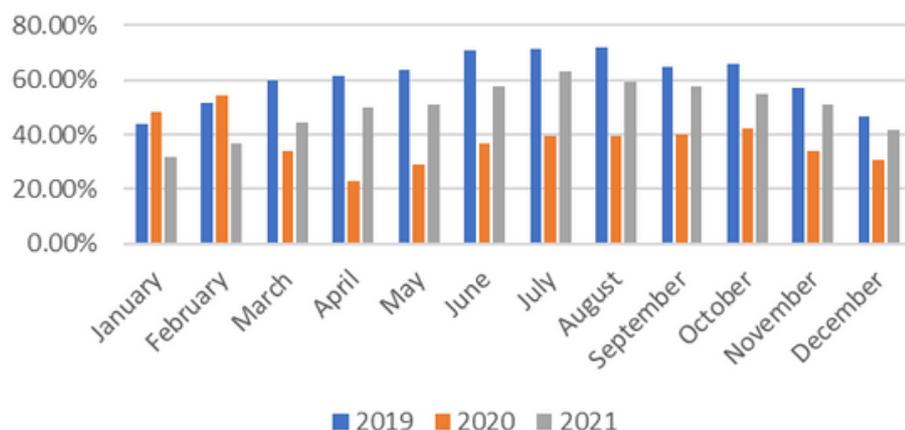
Evidence-Based Intervention

This program is not considered to be an evidence-based intervention.

Performance Reporting

Key metrics will be reported on include increased hotel room nights, number of major meetings, conventions and sporting events booked, and social media and website traffic.

Figure 17. Hotel Occupancy



PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PREMIUM PAY

Project Name: Premium Pay

Funding Amount: \$2.4 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 4.1 Public Sector Employees

Identification Number: 1013

Overview

Employees who were defined as essential workers were provided with a lump sum payment of \$1,000. Each Department Director was provided with the list of eligibility and was required to provide the number of workers and description of employees recommended for premium pay. Once Directors submitted their recommendations, they were reviewed by both HR and Budget staff.

Premium payments increase workers' total pay above 150 percent of Hamilton County's average annual wage, as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics ($\$53,650 \times 1.5 = \$80,475$) in 2.7% of the employees who received payments during this reporting period. Hamilton County wages consistently benchmark poorly against similar positions in the region and the state. In order to be responsive to County employees relative to comparable employee wages regionally, all employees performing similar tasks at similar levels of risk were awarded similar premium payments regardless of wage level relative to the BLS-defined average annual wage. Hamilton County has also intentionally made premium payments as lump sums rather than a percentage of salary in order to be more responsive to lower wage workers.

Evidence-Based Intervention

This program is not considered to be an evidence-based intervention.

Performance Reporting

3,091 employees were deemed eligible and received \$1,000 in premium pay to date. Additional employees will be paid this summer and reported in future reports.

Premium Pay Expenditures Progress



PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

INFRASTRUCTURE WATER AND SEWER

Project Name: Sewer Infrastructure - SR 128 Extension

Funding Amount: \$5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 5.2 Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

The project will provide sewer service along SR128 (a Qualified Census Tract). The project area is an unsewered area including numerous failing on-lot treatment systems and multiple wastewater package plants. The project includes the construction of one major pump station; ~10,100 LF of 12" force main sewer; and 6,100 LF of gravity sewers intercepting and replacing existing package plants; and all necessary appurtenances. Whitewater Township Regional Sewer District will implement and oversee this project. An agreement with Whitewater Township is currently under review.

Evidence-Based Intervention

This program is not considered to be an evidence-based intervention.

Performance Reporting

The primary performance goal is the completion of the project.

Project Name: Sewer and Stormwater

Funding Amount: \$4 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 5.5 Other

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

Hamilton County will examine the ability of funds to construct stormwater projects to reduce overland flooding. Work on this project will begin in early 2023.

Evidence-Based Intervention

This program is not considered to be an evidence-based intervention.

Performance Reporting

The project is still in the early planning stages. Key performance indicators, mandatory performance indicators (as applicable), and output and outcome measures, will be further detailed in subsequent reports

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

INFRASTRUCTURE BROADBAND

Project Name: Broadband Infrastructure

Funding Amount: \$10 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 5.17 Broadband - Other Projects

Identification Number: TBD

Overview

Before recommending specific broadband investments through the ARPA-SLFRF funds, Hamilton County issued an RFP for a consultant to better understand and examine the specific gaps and needs of our County. The consultant was tasked with:

- Inventory and assess the status of the provision of reliable, high quality broadband service to Hamilton County residents and businesses. The goal of the inventory and assessment is to identify and evaluate service and/or gaps.
- Engage stakeholders, including ISPs, to better understand and assess the current status and discern problems and needs.
- Based upon the assessment, develop a set of program recommendations and implementation steps to improve broadband accessibility throughout the County.

The consultant's work is anticipated to be completed in late August 2022. From there, Hamilton County will develop appropriate next steps to implement some or all of the recommendations.

Evidence-Based Intervention

This program is not considered to be an evidence-based intervention.

Performance Reporting

As described in the paragraph above, the project is still in investigatory stage. Any key performance indicators, mandatory performance indicators (as applicable), and output and outcome measures, will be further detailed in subsequent reports.

PROJECT INVENTORY & PERFORMANCE REPORTING

REVENUE REPLACEMENT

Project Name: County Revenue Replacement

Funding Amount: \$32 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Identification Number: 1011

Overview

Using the Treasury's required formula, the Hamilton County Budget Office determined the County's revenue losses due to the COVID-19 public health emergency to be \$41,935,127. The County is only allocating \$32,000,000 for revenue replacement purposes. To date, \$25 million in revenue replacement funds were used to offset general governmental salaries.

Revenue Replacement Expenditure Progress



ADMINISTRATIVE

Project Name: Administrative and Consulting

Funding Amount: \$1.5 Million

Project Expenditure Category: 3.5 Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Identification Number: 1014

Overview

Expenses under this category include the hiring of a coordinator to administer the ARPA-SLFRF funding and consultants to assist with implementation. To date, consultants have been used to set up ARPA-SLFRF procedures, provide facilitation and expertise to develop final recommendations on the use of ARPA-SLFRF funds, and ways to improve and integrate equity into the programming.

Administrative Expenditures Progress



SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES TO DATE

PUBLIC HEALTH

	EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	EXPENDITURES TO DATE
1.2	COVID-19 TESTING	\$21,610.00
1.5	PPE	\$125,966.51

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS

	EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	EXPENDITURES TO DATE
2.2	HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE: MORTGAGE	\$708,908.73
2.29	LOANS/GRANTS TO MITIGATE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP (SMALL BUSINESS)	\$2,917,082.53
2.34	ASSISTANCE TO IMPACTED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS	\$6,374,319.82
2.35	AID TO TOURISM, TRAVEL, OR HOSPITALITY	\$1,950,000.00
2.37	ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSISTANCE: OTHER (513RELIEF AND RELOCATION OF GUN RANGE)	\$25,831.25

PREMIUM PAY

	EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	EXPENDITURES TO DATE
4.1	PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES	\$1,862,108.80

