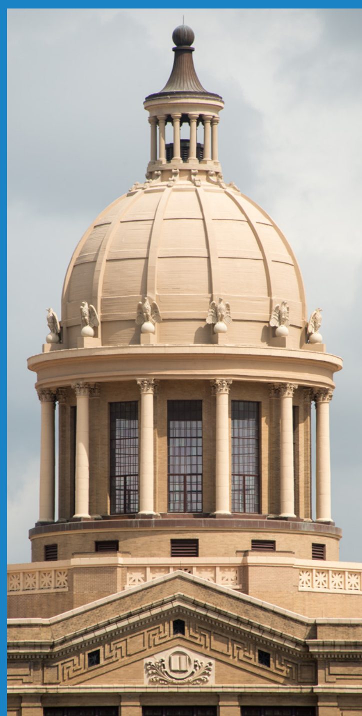
2025



HARRIS COUNTY RECOVERY PLAN

STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS 2025

In 2020, Harris County Commissioners Court set out a vision...

HARRIS COUNTY WILL BUILD A MORE DYNAMIC, VIBRANT, AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY WHILE BEING INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE, AND TRANSPARENT IN ALL THAT WE DO.

COMMISSIONERS COURT
County Judge Lina Hidalgo
Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Precinct 1
Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2
Commissioner Tom S. Ramsey P.E., Precinct 3
Commissioner Lesley Briones, Precinct 4

OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
Jesse Dickerman, Interim County Administrator
Tom Hargis, Director, Grants & Partnerships
Romeo Solis, Director, ARPA Portfolio Management Office

NACo 2025 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Winner

Fifteen ARPA programs have received National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards, including four in 2025:

Health Portfolio:
- *Behavioral Health (2025)*
- *Chronic Disease Prevention (2025)*
- *Lead Abatement & Prevention Program (2024)*
- *Maternal & Child Health (2024)*
- *Neighborhood Nuisance and Abatement Program (2024)*

Housing Portfolio:
- *Apprenticeship Advantage (2023)*
- *COVID-19 Eviction Defense Program (2024)*

Jobs & Education Portfolio:
- *Early REACH (2024)*
- *Harris County Opportunity Fund (2025)*
- *Hire Up Harris (2024)*
- *SHINE Child Care Facilities Fund (2025)*

Justice & Safety Portfolio:
- *Domestic Violence Assistance Fund (2024)*
- *Jail-based Competency Restoration (2023)*
- *Voluntary Gun Buybacks (2023)*
- *Women's Empowerment Center (2024)*

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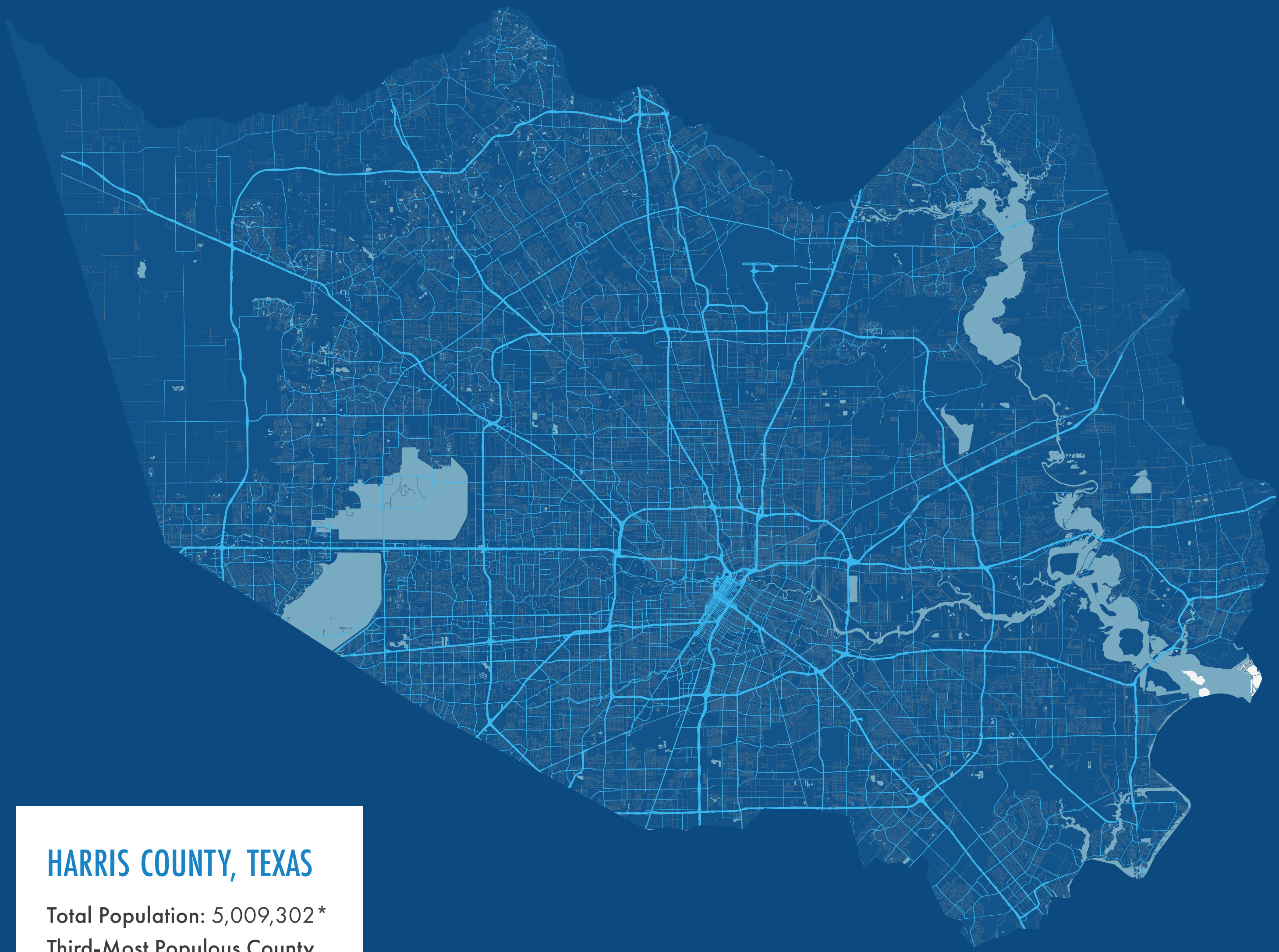


HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

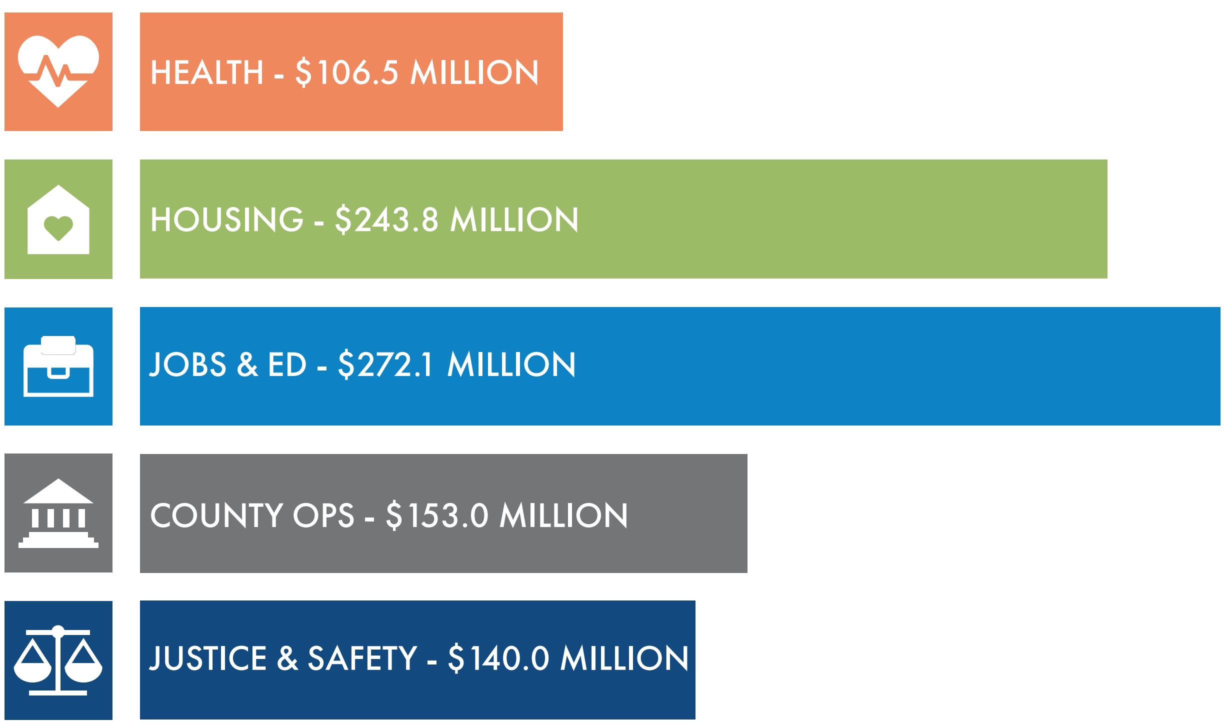
Total Population: 5,009,302*
Third-Most Populous County in the US

**From the 2024 Census (census.gov)*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, following passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the U.S. Treasury allocated $915 million in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Harris County with a goal of accelerating recovery from the economic and public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioners Court quickly adopted a governance approach, established an equity framework to guide project selection and delivery, and identified major investment priorities to ensure a holistic recovery.

Since then, Commissioners Court has committed $915.5 million across five priorities:



Research, Community Input, and Strategic Planning

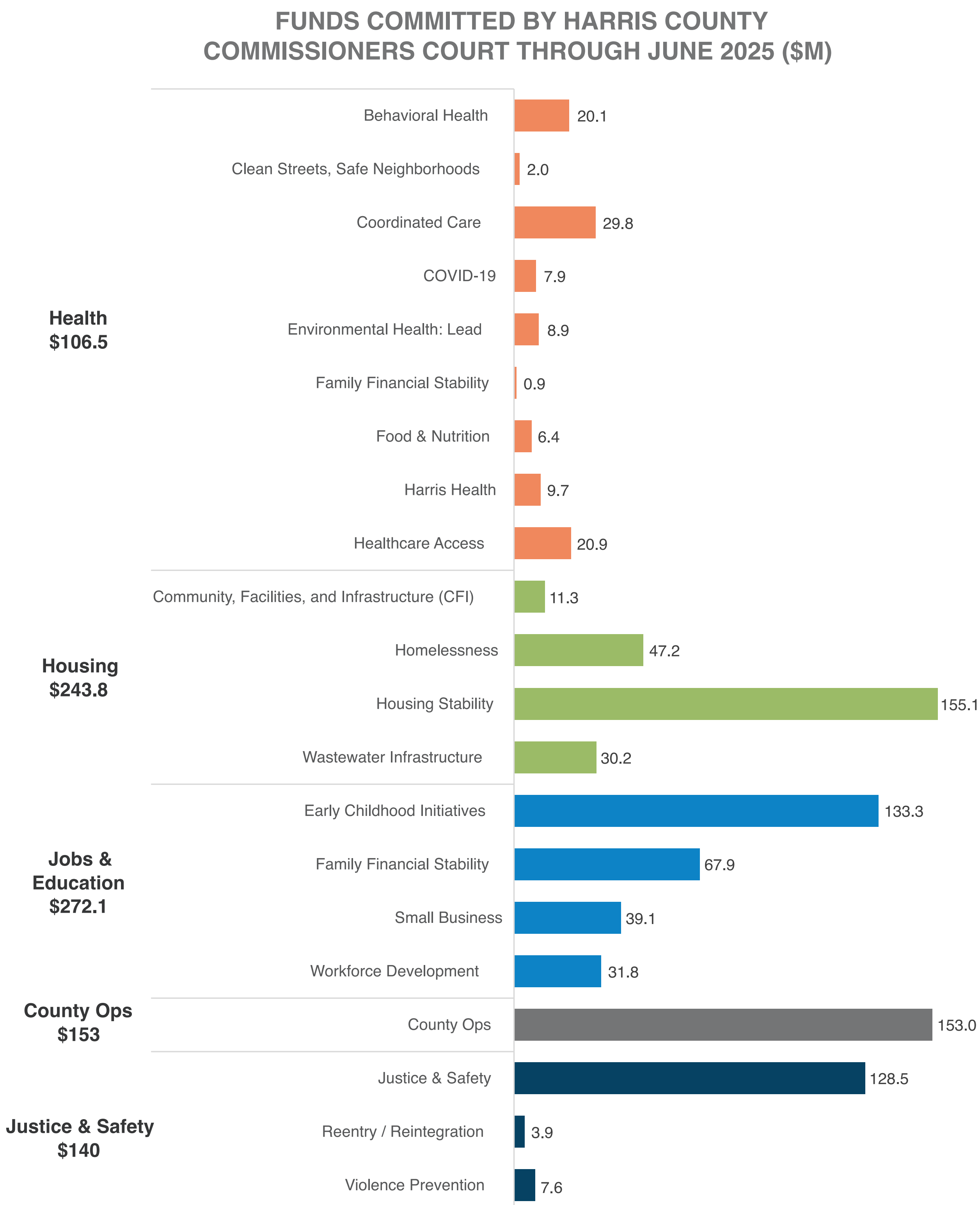
In parallel with immediate relief efforts in the first year of ARPA programming, a combination of community input, research into pandemic impacts, and analysis of pre-existing disparities and prior strategic plans guided more detailed strategy development for deployment of funds. Approximately 1,000 community members shared their experiences and ideas:

- In focus groups and one-on-one interviews across the County, 200 low-income residents shared their views via an Appreciative Community Inquiry process. Individuals acknowledged challenges such as the burden of caregiving—both of children and aging family members—and of high housing costs, concerns about mental health, aspirations of attaining economic self-sufficiency, and appreciation for the ease of healthcare access demonstrated by free and widespread COVID vaccination and testing sites.
- About 600 Public Survey respondents echoed these concerns, expressing particularly strong desires to address mental health and healthcare access, small business closures and unemployment, community violence and domestic violence, and homelessness and housing insecurity.
- County staff sought input from 200 community leaders, non-profit leaders, policy experts, and other stakeholders who highlighted ways in which the pandemic exacerbated pre-existing disparities. They emphasized the need for holistic, accessible, equitable solutions enabled by collaboration across organizations and sectors.

Informed by these inputs, our ARPA Steering Committee adopted the following Focus Areas and Priority Outcomes to guide longer-term strategic investment.

	FOCUS AREA	PRIORITY OUTCOMES
HEALTH	Behavioral Health	• Reduce incidence and impacts of substance abuse • Expand access to and availability of mental health services
	Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods	• Reduce violent crime (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) • Expand access to sidewalks, streetlights, and greenspace
	Coordinated Care (ACCESS Harris)	• Improve patient outcomes and reduce patient burden
	COVID-19	• Reduce the spread of COVID-19
	Environmental Health	• Reduce blood lead levels in children
	Food & Nutrition	• Reduce the number of people who lack food security
	Harris Health	• Expand Harris Health's capacity to serve low-income patients
	Healthcare Access	• Increase access to quality, affordable health services and coverage
HOUSING	Community, Facilities, and Infrastructure (CFI)	• Broaden the reach of nonprofits through capacity-building
	Homelessness	• Reduce the number of residents experiencing homelessness and time experiencing homelessness
	Housing Stability	• Increase access to quality, affordable housing • Increase housing stability for low-income households
	Wastewater Infrastructure	• Increase access to clean drinking water and functional sewer systems, especially in underserved communities
JOBS & EDUCATION	Child Care	• Expand access to quality, affordable child care
	Individual/Family Financial Assistance	• Promote household financial stability; increase income and assets, reduce debt burden
	Small Business	• Support the formation, survival, and growth of small and micro businesses
	Workforce Development	• Increase access to quality jobs with living wages
COUNTY OPS	County Operations	• Enhance governance and customer service • Monitor federal compliance of ARPA programs
JUSTICE & SAFETY	Justice & Safety	• Reduce the court backlog • Reduce unnecessary exposure to the criminal justice system
	Reentry & Re-Integration	• Enable successful transition out of the criminal justice system
	Violence Prevention & Domestic Violence	• Reduce violent crime • Reduce exposure to domestic violence

As of December 2024, Commissioners Court approved projects obligating a total of $915.5 million in Local Fiscal Recovery Funds across the strategic priorities:



ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds were originally used to provide $51 million to support COVID-19 emergency medical staff, the majority of which will be reimbursed by FEMA. Those expenses have been removed from the Project and Expenditures report and reallocated to other projects.

As we move into Year 5, efforts remain centered on supporting Harris County residents in their continued recovery and helping communities emerge stronger and more resilient.

"ARPA funding has been instrumental in expanding our food access work—from strengthening and expanding our delivery program to launching a new food prescription initiative alongside the opening of our farm, Finca Tres Robles. It has also helped us secure additional funding and partnerships, while covering mission-critical equipment and overhead during our transition into the new space. This support is fueling long-term growth and innovation across our programs."

- Founder and Executive Director of Small Places

USE OF FUNDS

> *"This is a one-of-a-kind moment for each of our families... That we can actually own a home and we don't have to pay rent for the rest of our lives."*
>
> *- Single Family Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Participant*

A NOTE ON SUSTAINABILITY

The infusion of $915 million in Local Fiscal Recovery Funds presented a tremendous opportunity to accelerate pandemic recovery and deliver more equitable outcomes for Harris County residents. Since these funds are term-limited, we emphasized projects that deliver meaningful, targeted impact, whether accelerating pandemic recovery or providing long-term benefits well after the period of performance. Within the set of potential projects addressing our priority outcomes and reducing disparities in outcomes across geographies or demographics, we prioritized the following:

PROJECTS ACCELERATING PANDEMIC RECOVERY

- Immediate relief projects addressing specific pandemic-related harm and helping residents recover and regain stability, such as short-term direct assistance and small business grants

- Projects designed to reduce backlogs that grew during the pandemic, specifically the court backlog and the short-term growth of unexecuted warrants for violent crimes

- Efforts addressing sectors particularly impacted by the pandemic:
  - A Harris County Business Relief program incorporating business sector impact in application prioritization, giving greater weight to those still struggling most, such as retail and restaurants
  - Expansion of behavioral health capacity and programs, since the need for these services skyrocketed during the pandemic, while supply—already insufficient—became even less accessible as many clinicians shifted to for-profit telehealth opportunities
  - Comprehensive investments in childcare—one of the slowest sectors to recover

- Projects with a multiplier effect, such as tax preparation assistance that returns vastly more to Harris County residents in Earned Income Tax Credits, Child Tax Credits, and other net refunds than the County invested in assistance

PROJECTS WITH BENEFITS LONG BEYOND THE PROJECT PERIOD

- Efforts to create new capabilities:
  - New apprenticeships that can become Department of Labor-registered programs, including the first-ever backstage employees' apprenticeship from the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) supporting our sports, arts, and entertainment sectors; and a low-emission vehicle repair program created in a partnership between the Transportation Workers Union (TWU 260) and the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO), making green jobs available during the energy transition
  - Complementing pediatric care with new behavioral health services at the University of Houston's Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine

- One-time infrastructure investments with long-term benefits:
  - Wastewater investments that bring sewer connections to neighborhoods with high rates of septic system failure, impacting human and environmental health
  - Expanded lead abatement efforts, making homes safer for future generations
  - Creation of long-term affordability for multi-family and single-family housing via the Harris County Community Land Trust
  - Construction of the Finca Tres Robles urban farm
  - Providing streetlights, sidewalks, green space, and civic art to neighborhoods with limited investments in infrastructure, through the Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods projects
  - Supporting nonprofits and local governments in enhancing public services and infrastructure across Harris County's four precincts, prioritizing homelessness, healthcare, behavioral health, food insecurity, and violence prevention
  - Dedicating funding to help early learning and child care providers improve, expand, or build facilities to create safe, nurturing environments through the SHINE Childhood Facilities Fund

- Piloting programs that build an evidence base to inform decision-making for future County investments and to identify necessary program adjustments or best practices:
  - Through a Youth Diversion Center designed to reduce exposure to the criminal justice system and generate material returns on investment by lowering recidivism, helping youth remain connected to their families and making it easier to pursue education and job opportunities without a criminal record
  - Supporting women to access critical services and support before and after time in jail through re-entry services at the Women's Empowerment Center (WEC),

- Taking holistic approaches for more comprehensive and lasting results:
  - The Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods program, which overlaps geographically with other County-

    sponsored violence prevention efforts such as Holistic Assistance Response Teams (HART, mental health first responders), hospital-based violence intervention, ACCESS Harris violence prevention cohorts, and Sheriff's Office initiatives such as Community Problem-Oriented Policing
    - Workforce development programs like Hire Up Harris and Apprenticeship Advantage, incorporating wraparound services to improve completion rates
    - Providing both technical assistance and small business grants for sustainable growth through the Harris Hub small business program
    - Domestic violence, substance use, and mental health supports—in addition to a portfolio of housing interventions for people experiencing homelessness—through the Community COVID Housing Program (CCHP)

- Building nonprofit capacity, particularly for smaller organizations:
    - Leveraging larger nonprofits as "umbrella organizations"—for example, contracting with the Coalition for the Homeless, the local Continuum of Care leader, to oversee service delivery by smaller entities, or engaging the Houston Food Bank to administer equipment grants to neighborhood food banks
    - Catalyzing growth in organizations poised to expand, accelerating service delivery as they also build fundraising capacity
    - "Taking a chance" on smaller nonprofits, offering their first experience with federal funds, providing compliance training and other technical assistance to help them succeed

- Perhaps most critically, prioritizing programs benefiting children and youth, given the outsized impact later in life of small positive changes early on:
    - Investments in home-based and center-based child care through the Early REACH program capacity expansion, the SHINE facilities fund, and Early Learning Quality Networks; early childhood development through the Early Childhood Impact Fund; and out-of-school care through County Connections summer programming
    - Lead screening for pregnant women and children, identifying and mitigating lead poisoning to minimize impacts on brain development and growth and other adverse outcomes
    - Legal aid to residents in eviction proceedings, reducing the harm of eviction including childhood trauma and educational disruption, especially since families with children are at particularly high risk of eviction
    - Behavioral health projects expanding access to counseling for youth and families, diversifying the behavioral health workforce, and training school counselors in trauma and grief-informed practices
    - Child abuse prevention training from the Children's Assessment Center
    - At the HAY Center Campus—a new 3.3-acre site featuring wraparound services and housing for youth aging out of foster care—providing critical intervention at a point that too often leads to homelessness, trafficking, or criminal justice system involvement

Clearly, many programs touch more than one of these categories. However, as we look ahead to the completion of these efforts, ensuring that projects will make a lasting, transformational impact—while providing relevant evidence to support any ongoing investments—remains paramount.

PROJECTS BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY—REVENUE REPLACEMENT

The index below highlights key investments by Local Fiscal Recovery Fund eligibility category. Full project descriptions are available in the Project Inventory at the end of this report. Harris County utilized Expenditure Category 6.1 (Revenue Replacement) intentionally, applying the same project selection and governance processes as required for other programs. Given the scale of the pandemic's impact on County government and the community, Harris County has elected to use its SLFRF allocation for the provision of government services under Expenditure Category 6.1. This includes administrative costs, capacity building activity, capital infrastructure, sustainable ongoing personnel costs, and additional County Operations. The County's calculated revenue loss from the pandemic totaled $1.2 billion, exceeding the SLFRF award value.

HEALTH

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Behavioral Health (BH) program works to increase access to culturally and linguistically competent BH providers through increased training and career pipeline opportunities, expand services in socially vulnerable neighborhoods for youth, and support overdose prevention initiatives and access to treatment through four main focus areas:

- **Counseling for Youth and Families** expands access to behavioral health services to address the pandemic's impact on children's mental health. Communities in Schools offers school-based individual and group counseling; the Houston Area Women's Center supports survivors of family violence; Covenant House Texas serves youth experiencing homelessness, victims of trafficking, and LGBTQ+ youth; and the Tilman J. Fertitta College of Medicine at the University of Houston Family Care Center integrates mental health and pediatric care while training the next generation of behavioral health professionals.

- **Healthy Minds, Healthy Communities** offers an innovative approach to developing resilience and mutual support within communities, focusing on zip codes heavily impacted by the pandemic with high rates of suicide and limited mental health resources.

- **Substance Use Treatment & Overdose Prevention** aims to enhance and expand overdose prevention efforts and increase access to substance use treatment services. The Council on Recovery, Santa Maria Hostel, Inc., Houston Recovery Center LGC, and Cenikor Foundation expand naloxone distribution and overdose prevention training, medication-assisted treatment, peer recovery support, navigation into treatment, and care coordination services.

- **Workforce Development** aims to alleviate the critical shortage of mental health professionals in the region. The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute trains community and school-based clinicians on trauma and grief-informed practices; the Montrose Center strives to retain and train staff through stipends; and the Network of Behavioral Health Providers develops the behavioral health pipeline through high school and college engagement, internships, graduate student scholarships, licensing support, and ongoing professional development.

"We opened our community-based care center in February 2022 without any child, adolescent or pediatric focused programs. The support of ARPA funding has been a blessing that has enabled us to create robust clinical and community-based youth and family programming that has truly achieved a population level impact for the underserved communities surrounding our center. ARPA has enabled us to increase access to care while facilitating innovative program development and delivery of evidence-based practices to those who really need it the most!"

- Chief Behavioral Health Officer, UH Health Family Care Center

CLEAN STREETS, SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

Grounded in principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods delivers sidewalks, streetlights, and greenspace in eleven high social vulnerability index (SVI) neighborhoods with limited infrastructure experiencing high levels of violent crime. ARPA funds go toward Engineering labor costs, including project design and management.

Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement aims to improve public health through the demolition of unsafe structures, removing rubbish, securing abandoned pools, removing weeds to prevent pest infestation, and other abatement efforts. Nuisance abatement improves the social and environmental conditions of the community, reduces blight, and positively impacts community health and development.

COORDINATED CARE

An innovative approach to integrated service delivery, **ACCESS Harris** creates care coordination teams comprised of representatives from multiple service providers. ARPA funds primarily supported development of the underlying IBM Watson-powered technology platform by bringing together multiple data sources and creating portals for case managers, service providers, and clients.

COVID-19

The **Emergency Nursing** project provided critical medical staffing during the Delta and Omicron waves of COVID-19, bringing over 1,000 nurses, respiratory therapists, and other key resources to area hospitals.

Vaccination Incentives administered by Harris County Public Health provided $100 incentives to approximately 80,000 residents, 30,000 of whom may not have otherwise gotten vaccinated (based on changes in vaccination rates relative to neighboring counties during the same period).

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: LEAD

Harris County Public Health's **Lead Screening & Abatement** project dramatically expanded existing blood lead level (BLL) testing, case management, and household lead abatement efforts, including other hazards identified during lead assessment by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Healthy Homes Program.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Food and Nutrition projects expand access to fresh produce in food deserts across Harris County. Small Places developed a new urban farm also supported by a long-term, low-cost lease from the County. The Common Market Texas, which maintains a network of local food producers including hydroponic farms and refugee farmers within the County, added distribution sites and grew its Food Access Fund. Urban Harvest added mobile market locations, supported by SNAP "double up" benefits. The Houston Food Bank strengthened its network of local food banks via logistics and operations technical assistance and equipment

"This is a great thing for the community! I have been a part of Gulfgate Harris Health for 20 years now, I grew up in this neighborhood and the assistance is so important out here. I have the privilege of being the first walk-in patient of Gulfgate Food Farmacy and I'm leaving with a full heart."

- Gulfgate Food Farmacy Patient

grants and established new "Food for Change" markets, in addition to making meaningful subawards to Target Hunger, Brighter Bites, and Plant it Forward.

HARRIS HEALTH

Harris Health is Harris County's public healthcare system, providing comprehensive care with a focus on low-income and uninsured residents. Harris Health invested in a new **Gastroenterology (GI) Laboratory**, expanding colonoscopy and endoscopy service capacity to address the backlog in services and reduce the incidence and severity of colorectal cancer diagnosis, which disproportionately impacts the Black community.

The **Harris Health Food Farmacy (Rx)** program serves patients with Type 2 diabetes experiencing food insecurity through a nine-month program. Patients who screen positive for food insecurity meet with a community health worker and select up to 30 pounds of fresh, healthy foods every two weeks with the help of a dietitian. Program participants also connect with a Houston Food Bank navigator for benefits enrollment and receive education and resources to better manage their diabetes.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

The **Chronic Disease Prevention** program expanded previous efforts by Harris County Public Health to address key behaviors contributing to chronic diseases. This includes low physical activity, poor diabetes management, unhealthy food consumption, and tobacco use.

Recognizing high rates of maternal and infant mortality in Harris County and particularly high rates for Black mothers and infants, the **Maternal and Child Health** home visitation program helps connect families to pre- and post-natal care, well-child visits, healthcare coverage, and ongoing support.

The **Reproductive Health Access Fund** strengthens reproductive clinical services, education, and outreach via grants to community-based organizations and Harris County Public Health services. The program prioritizes neighborhoods with high numbers of uninsured residents and a high Social Vulnerability Index (SVI). The Reproductive Health Fund program has a total of 11 partner organizations including Harris County Public Health, Asians Against Domestic Abuse, East Harris County Empowerment Council, Fundacion Latinoamericana de Accion Social, Honeycomb Clinic, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Omar Welfare Association, Rainbow Health, The Brown Egg, Tony's Place, Vecino, and Women Healing Empowering Women.

HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

To expand the local long-term supply of quality, affordable housing, both the Single-Family Acquisition and Multi-Family Development Programs leverage the Harris County Community Land Trust, which removes the cost of land from rent or mortgage prices and reduces property tax burdens.

> *"ARPA funding has allowed the County to participate in the creation and preservation of affordable multifamily housing for the residents of Harris County. Access to affordable housing improves residents' self-sufficiency and impacts the broader community in a positive way."*
>
> ***- Senior Manager, Housing and Community Development***

The **Single-Family Acquisition & Resale Program** purchases newly constructed homes and resells them to eligible buyers. The program also provides homebuyer subsidies to make homeownership achievable for low-to-moderate income homebuyers. The **Single-Family Rehabilitation and Reconstruction** Programs are designed to preserve affordable single-family housing owned by low- and moderate-income households. The Rehabilitation Program provides funding to invest in home repairs while the Reconstruction Program rebuilds unsafe and uninhabitable homes, with the objectives of improving homeowners' health and safety and reducing their vulnerability to displacement.

The **Multi-Family Development** Program, in partnership with the Harris County Housing Finance Corporation, aims to preserve affordable rental units and expand access to long-term quality affordable housing through the acquisition, preservation, and development of nineteen multi-family sites that will serve individuals, families, youth, and seniors.

The **Legal Aid & Eviction Services** Program aims to reduce homelessness and housing instability by providing legal representation, advice, and education to tenants facing eviction. The program works with legal service providers to increase legal representation in Justice of the Peace Courts with high eviction volumes.

The **Eviction Appeal Support** Program funds an Associate Judge and coordinator position who focus on reducing the time to disposition and ensuring an efficient appeal process for eviction cases. This approach provides opportunities for tenants to potentially reverse outcomes and avoid undue financial distress, as well as encourage improved landlord practices.

HOMELESSNESS

The **Community COVID-19 Housing Program (CCHP)** provides intensive support to residents who experienced homelessness during or following the pandemic. ARPA funding for housing navigation, case management, permanent supportive housing services, behavioral health treatment, and domestic violence services complements other local, state, and philanthropic funding for diversion and rapid rehousing.

"After weeks of resisting participation in E2E due to challenges with Mental and Physical health, [I] finally enrolled. [I] was referred to Harris Center's Jail Diversion program for intensive wrap-around supports. Upon release [I] was connected to Permanent Housing, SNAP, and Gold Card services; and continued to participate in E2E until graduating from the program in Jan 2023. [I am] currently participating in CRR's UP RISE Staffing Program to connect to more permanent employment opportunities."

- Employ2Empower participant

Transitioning out of foster care too often results in youth becoming homeless, engaging in trafficking, or becoming involved in the criminal justice system. The new 3.3-acre **HAY Center** Campus, featuring a wraparound service building and 50 apartments, will serve 1,400 transition-aged youth annually, offering a supportive launch into adulthood.

To address the critical gap in behavioral health programs that are needed for a successful transition into permanent housing, The Independent Living–**Dennis Street** Transitional Housing Program offers 24/7 staff support, case management, and housing navigation to meet the physical, behavioral, and psychosocial needs of Harris County residents.

Unique in its support for residents experiencing homelessness, **Employ2Empower** helped participants earn income, gain pre-employment skills, and get connected to services such as ID recovery, housing navigation, and longer-term workforce programs. Career and Recovery Resources operated the program with the support of the Harris County Sheriff's Office and County Precincts.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The **Community, Facilities, and Infrastructure** program utilizes ARPA funding for community facilities, infrastructure investments, and public services to increase the operational capacity of 13 nonprofit organizations and local government programs.

The **Westfield Estates Wastewater** Infrastructure project will bring over 815 wastewater connections to a densely populated, low-income neighborhood currently without wastewater service. With septic system failure rates currently over 40%, the project will benefit both human health and the local environment.

JOBS & EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

Harris County recognizes the necessity of investing in early childhood development and, as part of its broader commitment, is expanding access to affordable, dependable, high-quality child care. This is taking place through several targeted programs and funding streams. Investments are directed toward home-based and center-based child care through the Early REACH program capacity expansion, the SHINE facilities fund, and Early Learning Quality Networks; toward early childhood development through the Early Childhood Impact Fund; and toward out-of-school care through County Connections summer programming.

Early REACH represents one of the largest ARPA investments in child care nationally. By improving child care subsidy access through the piloting of a "contracted slots" model not previously used in the region, this initiative breaks new ground in regional child care policy. The partnership between BakerRipley, United Way of Greater Houston, and Brazelton Touchpoints Center created needed child care spots in child care deserts, thereby supporting children and families while simultaneously growing the child care workforce.

The **Supportive, Healthy, Inspiring, Nurturing, Environments (SHINE)** Child Care Facilities Fund plays a crucial role in bolstering the child care infrastructure. It finances projects for child care providers to support reparation, expansion, and the creation of new facilities. In addition, it provides technical assistance and training to ensure the long-term success of the executed projects.

Through **Early Learning Quality Networks**, efforts to improve child care quality are being advanced systematically. A Network Support Hub administers grants designed to elevate quality standards, while Local Network Organizations offer technical assistance, training, and additional support to child care providers in their respective areas. By helping child care providers transition from being seen as "babysitters" to being recognized as early learning centers, this initiative promises to bring long-term benefits to children's educational attainment, future job prospects, and overall well-being.

Kids' Meals was chosen to expand their healthy meal delivery program to children and families in Harris County, focusing on those experiencing the most severe food insecurity. The purpose of Kids' Meals is to provide children relief from the consequences of food insecurity and the challenges posed by food deserts in poverty-stricken neighborhoods.

Under the umbrella of the **Early Childhood Impact Fund**, two additional awards contribute meaningfully to the ecosystem of care. The **Home-Based Child Care Program**, operated by the Alliance, helps home-based providers get listed, registered, or licensed, thereby enabling them to grow their businesses and enhance the quality of care. Additionally, the **Collaborative for Children** trains families and child care staff to promote kindergarten readiness skills and social-emotional learning, which are critical components of early development.

First3Years, another Early Childhood Impact Fund awardee, developed the **Safe Babies** program, which works to promote healthy attachments between infants and toddlers in foster care and their biological and foster parents. The program aims to reduce the harmful impacts of neglect and increase the possibility of family reunification.

Two further Early Childhood Impact Fund initiatives focus specifically on promoting early learning. **UpWORDS**, a program of Texas Children's Hospital, fosters language and brain development in young children during their most formative years. Meanwhile, the **Rupani Foundation** trains facilitators in the "Brain Builders" parent education program and distributes family literacy materials to support cognitive growth in early childhood.

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on students' access to enrichment opportunities and the ongoing challenges families face in accessing safe, educational summer programming, **County Connections** was launched to make unique summer learning opportunities available.

> ***"Going in with very little expectation of the program and very little knowledge and yet leaving with tools and positive guidance to assist my child as he continues to grow."***
>
> ***- Rise Participant***

Harris County **Accessible Child Care Training Supports (ACCTS)** is another cornerstone investment that directly supports the Harris County child care workforce. By providing highly incentivized training and education opportunities, ACCTS ensures child care professionals are better equipped to provide high-quality, responsive care.

Responsive Intervention Services & Engagement (RISE) enhances the continuum of care for young children with disabilities. It does this through the implementation of dedicated resource specialists, expanded early intervention services, and applied behavior analysis programming, creating a more supportive system for families and children alike.

Helping Hands seeks to provide funding and support to community-based organizations in their efforts to contact and inform residents likely eligible for public benefits and assist them with enrollment. The targeted public benefits programs for Helping Hands include Children's Medicaid, CHIP, CHIP for pregnant women, SNAP, and the Harris Health Financial Assistance Program.

Lastly, the **Inspire** program provides grants to qualifying families to promote community inclusion, prevent institutionalization, and improve developmental outcomes for young children with disabilities. Inspire participants are eligible to receive up to $5,000 in financial assistance for assistive technology, learning materials, and/or services directly related to the disability. Additionally, they can receive $1,000 for respite care, which is equivalent to approximately 100 hours, providing critical relief for caregiving families.

FAMILY FINANCIAL STABILITY

In the most challenging days of the pandemic, **Harris County Recovery Assistance**, also known as Flexible Financial Assistance, provided $1,500 grants to 40,000 families. This helped cover past-due bills, meet basic needs, and get back on track. This critical support served as a lifeline for families facing unprecedented financial hardship, offering immediate relief and helping stabilize households during a time of profound uncertainty.

In its first year, a coordinated set of efforts played a key role in helping 37,187 households file income tax returns. This included outreach campaigns, mobile sites, ITIN support, and tax preparation assistance. As a result of these comprehensive services, families were able to claim $41,544,129 in total gross refunds. This achievement was made possible by the expansion of the **Child Tax Credit** program through the **Tax Credit Assistance Program**, which significantly increased access to much-needed financial resources.

Building on the success of those initiatives, the Neighborhood Tax Centers program extended the availability of tax preparation assistance through 2025. This continued support led to over $34.3 million in net refunds being captured for the 2024 tax year, further demonstrating the long-term impact of accessible, community-based tax support services in improving financial stability for families across Harris County.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

The **Harris County Business Relief Fund**, administered by LiftFund, provided $30 million in grants to 2,577 micro and small businesses in late 2021 and January 2022. This rapid deployment of funds helped small businesses keep their doors open, make payroll, cover back rent, and accelerate overall regional economic recovery and job growth.

Moving beyond immediate relief, the **Harris Hub** program offers a combination of small business grants and technical assistance. Through awards to BakerRipley, FORWARD, and ROADS Consulting, ultimately small businesses will gain support in financial management, marketing, technology services, certification processes, and more.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Through the **Apprenticeship Advantage** program, residents receive access to on-the-job training, preparing them for living-wage jobs and a lifetime of increased earnings.

Under the Texas Gulf Coast AFL-CIO umbrella:

- Eight joint apprenticeship training committees have expanded capacity, investing in additional equipment and training capabilities that will remain in place beyond this period.
- Pre-apprenticeship programs have enrolled additional students and are working closely with high school guidance counselors to help identify youth for whom the construction trades are a good fit.
- Two new apprenticeships have been launched: one with International Alliance Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), developing a critical workforce for the sports, arts, and entertainment sector, and another focused on low-emission vehicle repair, supporting the growth of green jobs.

NPower Texas provides tuition-free, virtual technology training and industry-recognized certifications to young adults, veterans, and their spouses in Harris County, helping build a diverse pipeline of tech talent to meet the region's growing workforce needs.

The **Hire Up Harris** program offers a wide range of vocational training. Through Volunteers of America and Wesley Community Center, participants gain access to training in high-growth career skills like medical billing together with job search support and wraparound services to increase completion, placement, and retention rates.

"The satisfaction when I pass my state exam and I have a license with my name on it. That is the most satisfying.... I'm being a role model for my kids – the neighborhood, not a lot of kids have moms like me, working for better, to get to middle class. When they see me studying and going to school, my daughters mimic me. They want to play in my scrubs, with my stethoscope and blood pressure cuffs. I framed my certifications and hung them on the wall. I can take them anywhere – if I move, I can take my certifications elsewhere."

- Hire Up Harris Participant

COUNTY OPS

COUNTY OPERATIONS

Harris County allocated ARPA funds to ensure efficient stewardship of federal resources and enhance internal capacity through County Operations initiatives. A portion was invested in **ARPA Administration**, which includes project oversight, compliance monitoring, financial management, and third-party evaluations to ensure program integrity and transparency. The **General Fund Support** initiative received funding to offset revenue declines from the pandemic, stabilizing essential county operations and sustaining ARPA-aligned services. Additionally, the County launched the **Data Fellows Program** to bring in emerging public sector talent, improving analytic capacity and data-informed decision-making across departments.

JUSTICE & SAFETY

JUSTICE & SAFETY

As part of its Justice and Safety strategy, Harris County committed ARPA funds to a comprehensive set of initiatives designed to reduce system inefficiencies, improve public safety, and address long-standing disparities. The **Court Backlog** Initiative supports Emergency Response Dockets, temporary judicial staffing, expanded jury services, and technology enhancements that helped reduce the felony backlog by over 60% and the misdemeanor backlog by over 70%. Additional funding was established to enhance the quality and efficiency of case management, enabling timely case dispositions for court-involved individuals.

The **Detention Officer Retention** Program focuses on aims to increasing personnel retention, reducing the need for mandatory overtime and increasing job satisfaction and efficiency. The **TeleDeputy** Program allows officers to resolve low-priority calls remotely, thereby improving emergency response times. The **Violent Persons Warrant Task Force** targeted the growing backlog of unexecuted warrants, focusing on violent offenses such as assault, child abuse, and family violence. To manage overcrowding in the County jail, Harris County also allocated funds to **Jail Population** Management, which included expanded housing contracts and inmate medical services.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

To address the root causes of violence and support high-risk communities, Harris County invested ARPA funds in a range of prevention-focused initiatives. A cornerstone initiative, the **Youth Diversion Center**, provides behavioral health services and temporary respite to justice-involved youth, offering an alternative to detention and helping youth remain connected to families, schools, and future opportunities.

Recognizing the barriers faced by individuals transitioning out of incarceration, Harris County allocated funding to reentry and reintegration supports. The **Women's Empowerment Center** is a transformative approach to rehabilitation and reentry, offering trauma-informed care, educational programming, and workforce development for incarcerated women in a gender-responsive environment. By combining holistic services with a supportive ecosystem, the County aims to improve reentry outcomes, reduce recidivism, and promote long-term stability for women and their families.

FLEX FUND

Harris County utilized the revenue replacement option to pay for government services traditionally budgeted in the County's general fund. This, in turn, freed up general fund budget to create the FLEX Fund, which are general funds dedicated to projects aligned with ARPA priority outcomes but for which general funds may be a better fit than federal funds.

Alignment to Other Federal Sources

Harris County pursues principles of "Right Funding, Right Strategy, Right Program" in the development of ARPA projects. Local Fiscal Recovery Funds complement other federal sources and enable projects initiated under CARES or prior disaster funding to continue.

To address COVID-19 hospitalization surges during the Omicron and Delta waves, the Emergency Nursing program provided necessary medical staffing to local hospitals. Harris County allocated $51.6 million of ARPA funds to this initiative; the up-front availability of ARPA funds proved critical to being able to act quickly. We secured Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval for this project, and $51 million in expenses—representing staffing provided to nonprofit hospitals—were transferred out of the ARPA fund. ARPA funds originally allocated to this effort were redeployed to other strategic priorities.

Harris County received a total of $172.1 million in Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds to help vulnerable families remain housed while also supporting landlords. In collaboration with the City of Houston, the Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program disbursed over $323 million in assistance to more than 77,000 households and earned national recognition for its effectiveness of fund distribution, accessibility, and outreach. With limited funds remaining and with eviction rates now exceeding pre-pandemic levels, the program now focuses on tenants with active eviction cases. Aligned with these efforts, Harris County allocated $8 million of ARPA funds to expand the Legal Aid eviction defense program originally piloted under CARES, providing quality representation in a moment of crisis. Legal Aid staff also provide prioritized referrals into the ERA program.

The Community COVID Housing Program (CCHP) is a large-scale homeless housing initiative leveraging braided funding sources and close coordination across agencies. As the pandemic struck in 2020, the Coalition for the Homeless (the regional Continuum of Care leader), Harris County, and the City of Houston recognized a need for immediate intervention to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on individuals experiencing homelessness. Initially funded with CARES, CDBG-CV, CDBG-ESG, and related resources, the program served 5,834 individuals in 2020-2022.

Additional contributions of Harris County ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, City of Houston CDBG, ESG, and HOME-ARP funding, State of Texas ERA funding, and philanthropic funding allowed the program to continue.

ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds also supplement Hurricane Harvey CDBG-DR Multi-Family efforts:

- The HAY Center Campus for youth aging out of foster care features a 17,000-sq-ft wraparound services building with offices, meeting rooms, a computer lab, and life skills training rooms, together with a 41,000-sq-ft residential building with 50 apartments, community space, a kitchen, a small gym, a business center, and private study rooms. Initial funding sources included $20 million of Harris County CDBG-DR funds, $5 million in City of Houston CDBG-DR funds, and $5 million in philanthropic funding, in-kind donations, and Harris County general funds. With construction costs rising significantly from project inception to groundbreaking, $9 million of Harris County ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provided a key bridge, allowing the project to continue in the face of inflation.

- The Court Backlog Fiscal Year 2024 program includes $2.7 million in Harris County ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allocated toward initiatives previously funded by a 2022-2023 ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds grant from the Supreme Court of Texas Office of Court Administration. This program funds positions for the Harris County District Courts, Pretrial Services, Sheriff's Office, and the District Clerk's Office supporting Emergency Response Dockets (ERDs) and Emergency Response Trial Dockets (ERTDs). Additionally, these positions provide Harris County agencies with resources needed to help expedite warrant processing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PHASES OF ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is a foundational part of Harris County's recovery efforts. In the initial outreach phase, 1,000 County residents provided input into potential investment priorities. BakerRipley's Appreciative Community Inquiry process captured pandemic impacts and aspirations of low-income residents. Interviews with community leaders and policy experts elicited organizational needs and priorities, and a public survey cast a wide net to identify areas of concern. Community-proposed white papers from groups such as the Texas Gulf Coast AFL-CIO, HOME Coalition, Connective, and others helped build a more comprehensive picture of potential opportunities. Strategy-oriented feedback from diverse organizations and individuals with deep ties to the community strengthened initial plans and guided implementation. Many organizations provided valuable feedback about our investments, including the Harris County Long-Term Recovery Committee, a collaborative network of over 80 members; the Health Equity Collaborative, a group of over 30 organizations; Houston Leads, a diverse, nonpartisan coalition of immigrant organizations; FIEL Houston, an immigrant-led civil rights organization; and members of the American Leadership Forum.

Shifting into the project development phase, members of individual focus area teams conducted additional research and outreach such as surveys, listening sessions, and interviews. Some examples:

- In developing the Legal Aid program, members of the housing stability team met repeatedly with the Keep Harris Housed team of community advocates; interviewed legal aid providers from the Eviction Defense Coalition about successes and challenges of prior County-funded legal aid programs and the overall eviction defense landscape; and consulted with groups outside Harris County to capture additional perspective and best practices.
- In exploring a potential Small Business Revolving Loan program, the Department of Economic Equity and Opportunity issued a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFI) to understand potential respondent and stakeholder concerns and recommended success factors.

Once launched, projects seek continued engagement of community members. This can include, among other strategies:

- Conducting early review(s) of application processes by community representatives to maximize accessibility, such as community advocates' review of the Harris County Recovery Assistance portal.
- Webinars and Q&A sessions to inform potential applicants or Request for Proposal (RFP) respondents about upcoming opportunities and to provide early insight into potential issues or common questions, such as engagement sessions held for Harris County Business Relief grant applicants and webinars for Early Learning Quality Networks candidates.
- User experience surveys to capture feedback, such as applicant surveys for Harris County Recovery Assistance.
- Lived experience representatives who provide direct, ongoing, structured input into programs, such as people who have experienced food insecurity engaging with the Houston Food Bank and Target Hunger, residents of the Youth Diversion Center serving on a Youth Advisory Committee, or people who have experienced homelessness advising the Coalition for the Homeless and Career and Recovery Resources.

LABOR PRACTICES

Harris County evaluates labor practices individually for each federally funded construction and infrastructure project. Depending on the project's scope and needs, labor standards may be applied to promote fair wages, ensure worker safety through training, encourage workforce development and apprenticeships, and support local hiring efforts. These measures help deliver high-quality projects while contributing to the county's economic recovery by creating employment opportunities.

Projects that do not involve physical construction, such as those focused on IT infrastructure, typically do not include these labor requirements.

By tailoring labor standards to each project, Harris County aims to balance effective and efficient project delivery with strong employment benefits.

USE OF EVIDENCE

> ***"I was referred to this program because my child had high lead levels in his blood. Once we found out that the house had lead, they came to fix the affected areas, and thanks to that, my child stopped touching the contaminated surfaces, and his levels decreased. The program is completely free, and I highly recommend it because they provide help when it is most needed, and they improve the quality of life for our children."***
>
> ***- Lead Abatement Program Participant***

Harris County supports our community by using data and evidence to guide investments, monitor impact, and improve program performance. We emphasize evidence-based approaches in program design and then measure impact through key performance indicators and third-party evaluations, where appropriate. We invested in staff and systems to ensure that Harris County has a robust infrastructure for collecting data and evidence to support decision-making and continuous improvement; see the Performance Report section below. Further below, the Project Inventory section outlines relevant evidence-based interventions and program evaluations related to each project, where relevant. Harris County's ARPA Dashboard also offers a public-facing tool that captures impacts of select programs.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

OVERALL APPROACH TO PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Throughout our oversight of the ARPA portfolio, we aim to be good stewards of federal funds. Of particular focus is compliance with U.S. Department of Treasury guidance and federal regulations, delivering priority outcomes at scale, providing enhanced portfolio insights internally and externally, and engaging the community.

Harris County's approach to project development includes input from three key entities supported by the ARPA Portfolio Management Office:

1. Focus Area Teams, comprised of Commissioners Court office and department staff, develop proposals within their Focus Area aligned with ARPA priority outcomes.
2. The ARPA Steering Committee, which includes representatives from each Commissioners Court office, reviews program design, target outcomes, and funding recommendations prior to Commissioners Court submission.
3. Commissioners Court is the only entity able to obligate ARPA funding.

During the development process, each project is evaluated for its eligibility to utilize ARPA funds and other compliance considerations, ensuring that expenditures align with U.S. Treasury guidance. Once projects are approved and implemented, performance is monitored at three levels:

- Project owner: A County department takes ownership of managing each project, including communicating with vendors and community partners, reviewing detailed program designs, guiding implementation, and monitoring progress.
- The ARPA Portfolio Management Office (PMO): Following initial Focus Area Team and Steering Committee directives and referencing U.S. Treasury guidance on programmatic data, the PMO and project owner further develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), performance targets, and target milestones for each project. On a monthly basis, the project owner ensures the submission of relevant KPIs, project milestone statuses, and project narratives as appropriate. The PMO and project owner then review these together to identify any risks, help needed, and other next steps. The PMO and managing departments frequently meet to discuss portfolio progress. Each week, the PMO hosts a portfolio review that rotates through the portfolios associated with our main priorities (Health, Housing, Jobs & Education, or Justice & Safety and County Operations), where the PMO and department leadership discuss program priorities.

The ARPA Steering Committee, which meets weekly, rotates through each investment priority to review portfolio progress, overall funding allocations, project risks, milestone statuses, and KPIs.

In addition to collecting project-specific KPIs, granular data is submitted quarterly by each project owner or sub-awardee, enabling aggregate reporting across Focus Areas. Granular data includes beneficiary geographic data, demographic information such as race, ethnicity, household income, and gender, and other project-specific data. The equity scoring and equity reflection processes ensure that projects consistently contribute to our goals.
In Year 5, we will begin the close-out cycle of several programs. In preparation, each program will be carefully reviewed to ensure compliance while highlighting the overall impact on Harris County.

PROJECT INVENTORY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Program Name: *Behavioral Health Workforce*

Project Code: *ARPA_BHWORK*
Funding Amount: $ 6,137,484.20
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website - BH Workforce, The Network of Behavioral Health Providers, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, The Montrose Center

Project Overview:
In Harris County, the need for mental health and substance use services is greater than our existing behavioral health workforce can provide. The imbalance between providers and residents in Harris County increased during the pandemic, highlighting the need for practitioners skilled in navigating trauma and grief. Additionally, the current behavioral health workforce does not reflect the racial, cultural, and linguistic diversity of our region.

The Behavioral Health Workforce program is designated to expand the supply of qualified behavioral health providers and further develop current practitioners, increase the number of culturally and linguistically competent providers, and expand access to care. Initiatives address the full lifecycle of workforce development, from educating high school students about behavioral health careers, to providing scholarships and internships for college and graduate students, supporting licensing costs, and offering ongoing training. Providing school- and community-based clinicians with education about trauma- and grief-informed practices further enhances our ability to meet community needs.

The Behavioral Health Workforce program is administered by three subrecipients:

- The **Network of Behavioral Health Providers (NBHP)** trains peer support counselors and community health workers, develops a pipeline of educational and experiential opportunities, provides scholarships for students, and offers outcomes-based reimbursements for community health workers.
- **Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI)**, with support from the Lucine Center, delivers trauma- and grief-informed training to community- and school-based clinicians.
- **The Montrose Center** provides development and internship opportunities, recruiting and retention incentives for licensed therapists, and training in advanced marriage and family therapy practices.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
The availability of a well-trained behavioral health workforce is a significant factor affecting an individual's ability to access high-quality care. In 2018, there was one provider for every 920 residents in Harris County, which is less than half the national average of one provider per 426 residents. Because of this, Harris County is designated as a Partial Mental Health Professional Shortage Area. NBHP aims to eliminate this shortage by increasing educational and experiential learning opportunities, expanding internship and scholarship opportunities, increasing the number of individuals with lived experience obtaining certification or licensure, and improving recruitment and retention of behavioral health professionals through projects with 23 qualified member organizations. To assess the impact of their projects, NBHP tracks data regarding the education, recruitment,

retention, and development of the behavioral health workforce. MMHPI is implementing a system-wide, evidence-based program through its Trauma and Grief Center (TAG) and multiple community-based partnerships. Supported by the Lucine Center, MMHPI is training community- and school-based behavioral health workers in Trauma and Grief Component Therapy (TGCT), an evidence-based, assessment-driven treatment for youth whose histories of exposure to trauma and/or loss place them at high risk for persisting distress and developmental disruption. To evaluate this program, MMHPI examines clinician-reported evaluations, the number of participating clinicians, rates of treatment completion, potential disparities, the number of individuals trained, and the number of youths referred, among other metrics.

Performance Report:

Program	KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute	Professionals trained	2,354
Network of Behavioral Health Providers	Students attending presentation on a career in Behavioral Health	3,158
Montrose Center	Percent of clinical staff retained	88%

Program Name: *Counseling for Youth and Families*

Project Number: *ARPA_BHYOUTH*
Funding Amount: $3,097,941.54
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website – BH Counseling for Youth and Families, Communities in Schools, Houston Area Women's Center, Covenant House Texas, Tilman J. Fertitta College of Medicine

Project Overview:
The ARPA Behavioral Health Counseling for Youth and Families Program was created to provide physical and behavioral healthcare services at socially vulnerable schools and/or neighborhoods. The program expands the identification of behavioral health needs in school-aged youths, improves school-based clinic capacity, and funds grants within nonprofits and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to serve youths and their families. Services are provided in person or via telehealth with the intent of increasing access to care for families.

The Behavioral Health Counseling for Youth and Families is administered by four subrecipients:

- **Communities in Schools (CIS)** provides school-based mental health services delivered by licensed and qualified subcontractors and supports students through group counseling.
- **Covenant House Texas** provides mental health services to youths, focusing on homeless youths and young parents, LGBTQ+ youths, and victims of human trafficking and domestic or dating violence.
- **Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC)** provides comprehensive services to survivors of family violence in their communities, including individual and group counseling.
- **Tilman J. Fertitta College of Medicine** provides outpatient mental health services for children and families, school-based and in-home care coordination, and training opportunities for graduate students.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children's Hospital Association Psychiatry have raised concerns over youth mental health. According to the CDC, there was a 24 percent rise in mental health-related visits to hospital emergency rooms (ER) for children ages 5-11 and a 31 percent rise for ages 12-17 in 2020. According to findings published in the CDC's "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report," there was a 22 percent spike in ER trips for potential suicides by children ages 12-17 in the summer of 2020 compared to 2019. In Harris County, the Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD indicated a 13 percent rise in new requests for children outpatient care, and 64 percent of clients needing substance use disorder (SUD) services were ages 4-17 in 2018.

Performance Report:

Program	KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Communities in Schools	Students receiving individual interventions	1,072
Covenant House Texas	Youth and Young Adult PSA Assessment Completed	193
Houston Area Women's Center	Individuals engaging in counseling services	1,521

***Program Name:** Substance Use Treatment and Overdose Prevention*

Project Number: ARPA_BHSUD
Funding Amount: $6,996,478.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website - BH Substance Abuse Treatment and Overdose Prevention, The Council on Recovery, Santa Maria Hostel, Inc., Houston Recovery Center, Cenikor Foundation

Project Overview:
The ARPA Behavioral Health Substance Use Treatment and Overdose Prevention program was created to enhance and expand overdose prevention efforts and increase access to substance use treatment services. The goal of this program is to increase the number of available detox, outpatient, and residential recovery slots. The program also aims to reduce the number of overdoses and improve patient satisfaction.

The rate of overdoses rose during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the lack of access to treatment presents a major challenge for people dealing with the use of alcohol, fentanyl, cocaine, and other drugs. This program provides access through education, outreach, telehealth, recovery coaching, screening, and other forms of care.

The Behavioral Health Substance Abuse Treatment and Overdose Prevention program is administered by four subrecipients:

- **Cenikor Foundation** is expanding access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, peer recovery support, and recovery housing.
- **The Council on Recovery** provides Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) services, as well as training on overdose prevention and the use of naloxone.

- **Houston Recovery Center** provides prevention education and behavioral health referrals, including access to MAT and naloxone to prevent opioid overdoses.
- **Santa Maria Hostel**, in partnership with Baylor College of Medicine, implements the I-CARE Clinic to expand access to physical healthcare, psychiatric care, and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
Since the COVID-19 pandemic, SUD-related deaths in Harris County have increased across four categories: alcohol, fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamines. Harris County has higher drug and opioid-involved overdose deaths than the Texas average and the highest rates of drug arrests and prosecutions in the state. Additionally, gaps in care services highlight the need for prevention services and connecting residents to available services.

Performance Report:

Program	KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Cenikor Foundation	Individuals receiving MAT services	369
Council on Recovery	Individuals with MH Disorders screened for SUD	2,696
Houston Recovery Center	Care coordination connections	1,229

Program Name: *Healthy Minds, Healthy Communities*

Project Number: *ARPA_COMBHEALTH*
Funding Amount: $3,895,660.71
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website - Healthy Minds Healthy Communities

Project Overview:
The number of individuals reporting mental health difficulties increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Low-income communities with pre-existing factors affecting mental health are likely to be at risk and often do not have access to necessary care. Healthy Minds, Healthy Communities (HMHC) was a Community Initiated Care (CIC) program with the goal of strengthening community behavioral health and resiliency. The program identified 10 key neighborhoods, which are largely communities of color disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, with high rates of poverty, increases in suicide, and barriers to behavioral health services.

The program aimed to identify community touchpoints and conduct outreach to raise awareness of mental health and treatment options, offer community-based trainings, and establish support groups for survivors of suicide loss. The purpose of these tools and trainings was for community members to be able to support each other in times of emotional need.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
HMHC was developed as a tailored adaptation of existing evidence-based interventions. This ensured that interventions planned for neighbors were not "one size fits all," but rather acknowledged varying cultural norms, stigmas, and ways of receiving information.

To evaluate its impact, the program tracked participant and stakeholder satisfaction from community events, learning and clinical outcomes, program engagement, resources provided, and other metrics specific to each initiative. A team of faculty from the University of Houston led the program evaluation to assess impacts on individual-level mental health, health equity, and community resilience.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of events (number of trainings hosted; number of events hosted)	298

CLEAN STREETS, SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

Program Name: *Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods*

Project Number: *ARPA_CPTED*
Funding Amount: $131,717.77
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website - Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods]

Project Overview:
Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods is a crime prevention and neighborhood safety program that uses data to target Harris County neighborhoods where underinvestment in neighborhood infrastructure could be driving violent crime. The program aims to improve street lighting, sidewalks, and green spaces, and create opportunities for civic artwork. A Neighborhood Prioritization Index was utilized to identify priority communities based on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index, violent crime indicators, and infrastructure indicators. Several of the projects within the priority neighborhoods were identified based on surveys and studies gathering feedback from the community regarding neighborhood improvement initiatives. These studies identified areas with high pedestrian traffic and few sidewalks, poorly lit sidewalks and pedestrian paths, areas of high temperatures, and many other areas for neighborhood improvements. Harris County Precincts are working with the Engineering Department to coordinate on program design, construction, and maintenance plans. ARPA funds are used for Engineering labor costs, including project design and management.

The selected neighborhoods for implementation include:

- Alief
- Barrett
- Cloverleaf
- Cypress Station
- East Aldine
- Gulfton
- Highlands
- North Shore
- Sharpstown
- South Houston
- Sunnyside

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
Studies show that Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is one approach to improve community safety. Using community planning principles to improve lighting, walkability, and greenspaces has been shown to minimize crime, improve safety, and build a sense of community.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of projects completed	2

Program Name: *Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement*

Project Number: *ARPA_NNA*
Funding Amount: $1,846,327.58
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website - Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement, HCPH NNA

Project Overview:
The ARPA Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement (NNA) project was established to complement existing NNA efforts in Harris County implemented by the Harris County Public Health Department (HCPH). It is an initiative focused on reducing crime and improving public health in Harris County's most impacted communities. The program aims to decrease crime and improve public health through proactive efforts, such as securing or demolishing unsafe structures, removing rubbish, securing abandoned pools, removing weeds to prevent pest infestation, and other abatement efforts. Through the abatement of these nuisances, the program will improve the social and environmental conditions of the community, reduce blight, and positively impact community health and development.

NNA targets existing nuisance properties in areas of highest need based on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), homicide rates, and aggravated assault rates. Additionally, NNA works with stakeholders to identify unreported nuisances in the community.

The goal of the NNA project will be to abate over 1,000 nuisances over four years, including the abatement of 30+ unsecured abandoned pools, 120+ unsafe structures, and 850+ refuse, rubbish, and weed nuisances.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
HCPH investigates complaints that may violate the Texas Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Act, a law intended to eliminate public nuisances in unincorporated areas of Texas. Examples of neighborhood nuisances include accumulated rubbish, standing water, conditions that harbor insects and rodents, abandoned swimming pools, high weeds, and dilapidated structures. A person commits an offense if the nuisance remains unabated after the 30th day from which a person receives a notice from a county official, agent, or employee to abate the nuisance.

Among populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, public nuisances are more common in socially vulnerable communities and can increase violent crime rates in impacted communities, which can lead to diminished mental health among individuals and at-risk populations. By reducing the number of neighborhood nuisances, Harris County will mitigate the impact of crime and other public health issues on socially vulnerable communities.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Violations abated	906

COORDINATED CARE

***Program Name:** ACCESS Harris*

Project Number: ARPA_ACCESS
Funding Amount: $29,801,878.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website - ACCESS Harris](), [HCPH ACCESS Harris]()

Project Overview:
Accessing Coordinated Care and Empowering Self Sufficiency (ACCESS) Harris County is an integrated care model that addresses the root causes of poor health and life outcomes by holistically addressing the social determinants of health. Using a coordinated care approach, ACCESS Harris improves the health, well-being, sustained recovery, and self-sufficiency of the County's most vulnerable residents by not just focusing on guiding them into the social safety net, but also enabling them to get out of it. ACCESS Harris focuses on delivering intensive wraparound services to individuals in need across the County through a no-wrong-door approach. This safety net includes providers that organize and deliver a significant level of health care and other needed services to uninsured, Medicaid, and other vulnerable patients.

Frontline staff improve the service delivery experience by working collaboratively to provide holistic, individualized wraparound services to patients. Without the ACCESS approach, these vulnerable populations could encounter challenges navigating a fragmented system with limited success. The initiative supports five cohorts: adults and youths participating in violence prevention programs, new and expectant mothers, homeless individuals with physical and behavioral health conditions, re-entry populations, and residents with chronic health conditions.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:

- **Serious fighting, Friend weapon carrying, community Environment, and firearm Threats (SaFETy)** is a clinical screening tool for predicting future firearm violence risk in substance-using youths. A clinical questionnaire focuses on four predictive domains that include violence victimization, community exposure to violence, peer influences, and fighting, which are shown to be associated with firearm violence. A SaFETy score of 8 or more was 100 percent specific for predicting risk for future firearm violence.
- **The Accountable Health Communities Health-Related Social Needs Screening Tool** model was based on emerging evidence that addressing health-related social needs through enhanced clinical-community linkages can improve health outcomes and reduce costs. Unmet health-related social needs, such as food insecurity and inadequate or unstable housing, may increase the risk of developing chronic conditions.
- **The Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix** is an assessment tool used to evaluate the capacity and needs of people. The Self-Sufficiency Standard is currently used to better understand issues of income adequacy, analyze policy, and help individuals striving to be self-sufficient.

- **Re-Entry COMPAS** is a research-based **clinical assessment instrument** used to assist staff in assessing a releasee's risk and needs in order to most effectively supervise the releasee

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Participants enrolled in Violence Prevention cohort	390
Participants enrolled in Black Maternal Health cohort	235
Participants enrolled in Homelessness cohort	409
Participants enrolled in Latino Chronic Disease cohort	204
Participants enrolled in the Re-Entry cohort	744

COVID-19

Program Name: *Emergency Nursing*

Project Number: *ARPA_EMERNURSES*
Funding Amount: $31,822.62
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website - Emergency Nursing Program]

Project Overview:
Harris County's Emergency Nursing project supported an increase in medical workforce staffing levels in local hospitals to address surges in COVID-19 cases associated with the Omicron and Delta variants and provided critical support to patients and healthcare workers. COVID-19 created a strain on hospitals in disproportionately impacted areas. During both the Delta and Omicron wave, hospitals across Texas struggled with historically low staffing levels.

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) collaborated with Angel Staffing and the SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC) to place healthcare staff in area hospitals. SETRAC specifically worked to identify hospital needs to prioritize and place staff based on those needs. Angel Staffing recruited and placed emergency medical staff in area hospitals and managed the associated payroll. Through these services, registered nurses, respiratory therapists, and other medical staff were supplied to hospitals across the County, with a particular focus on Intensive Care Units (ICU), medical surge/trauma, emergency department, respiratory specialists, pediatric ICU, and pediatric medical surge staffing. In total, 963 registered nurses and respiratory specialists were placed across 18 hospitals. Harris County received a FEMA reimbursement on the funds spent supporting non-profit hospitals in Harris County in September 2022.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
Having adequate medical staff on hand to treat patients with COVID-19 was vital throughout the pandemic. Many medical professionals left the field due to burnout, risk of infection, or for more lucrative positions. As a result of nationwide nursing shortages, many state and local governments had to create new avenues to employ nurses in hospitals experiencing critically low staffing levels.

The Emergency Nursing project brought qualified healthcare staff into hospitals with critical needs in Harris County. This project was based on studies completed and guidance provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE).

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of medical staff provided	1,095
Number of staff requested during the Delta wave	783
Number of staff rostered during the Delta wave	602
Number of staff requested during the Omicron wave	400
Number of staff rostered during the Omicron wave	361

Program Name: *Vaccination Incentives*

Project Number: ARPA_VAXCARD
Funding Amount: $7,846,868.10
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website - Vaccine Incentives

Project Overview:
To counter high COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, this program authorized the provision of $100 payment incentives, per recipient, for a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Providing these incentives was helpful to communities facing access barriers, such as concerns about taking time off from work or the cost of transportation to a vaccination site. This program was open to all Harris County residents.

The Harris County Office of County Administration and Harris County Public Health (HCPH) partnered with local organizations, including Blackhawk, USIO, and HEB to provide gift cards to support additional incentivization for this program. HCPH distributed the gift cards and tracked vaccination rates by demographic variables and changes in vaccination rates relative to the surrounding counties. A Rice University report found that several zip codes where vaccinations were highly needed saw an increase in vaccinations after the incentives were announced. Compared to trends in surrounding counties, an estimated 30,000 incremental vaccines were provided as a result of the incentive.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
According to the CDC, higher vaccination rates helped to slow the spread of highly contagious COVID-19 variants and prevent serious hospitalization and illness, especially in the most vulnerable communities.
Based on experiences with other non-mandatory vaccine efforts (i.e., influenza, H1N1 pandemic, etc.), evidence-based research shows that offering monetary incentives can result in higher adherence to promoted immunizations. In a brief authored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) research showcased the following:

- "In 2015, the CDC Community Preventative Services Taskforce recommended incentives to increase vaccination rates. After a review of several meta-analysis studies of incentive programs implemented between 1980 and 2012, the Taskforce concluded that incentives increased vaccination rates by a median of 8 percentage points."

- "A literature review of numerous vaccine incentive programs for people experiencing homelessness
found that incentive programs increased vaccination uptake. During the H1N1 pandemic, 46 percent of individuals residing in homeless shelters participating in the incentive study chose to receive the H1N1 vaccine. This rate of vaccination is much higher than the 10 percent of the general population who chose to receive the vaccine. The authors find that incentives work best when paired with education about vaccines and interventions to ease vaccine concerns."

Various U.S. territories, states, cities, and counties across the country created vaccine incentive programs to encourage individuals to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Harris County's use of $12.5 million for the COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Program to increase the number of vaccinated residents was reasonable and helped increase vaccination participation. Harris County allocated the full adopted budget of this program to evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of first shots delivered	79,919

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: LEAD

Program Name: *Lead Abatement*

Project Number: *ARPA_LEAD*
Funding Amount: $8,935,867.37
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website - Lead Testing and Abatement, HCPH Lead Screening and Lead Abatement

Project Overview:
The Lead Abatement and Prevention program mitigates lead poisoning in Harris County by assisting in the abatement of lead-based paint hazards in child-occupied facilities and owner- or renter-occupied, single-family housing units for the purpose of providing safe and decent housing for low- and moderate-income households. Additionally, the program is committed to reducing lead poisoning in at-risk individuals, including pregnant women and children under the age of six years old in communities throughout Harris County. Lead poisoning caused by elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs) is a serious but preventable health threat to both children and adults in the United States. Primary (education) and secondary (lead screening) prevention of lead exposure is the most effective approach to reducing the risk of lead poisoning in children. The abatement program focuses on residential buildings and child-occupied facilities, like daycares and preschools, constructed before 1978. The Lead Abatement and Prevention Program operates mobile testing sites at schools and community events to increase testing among pregnant women and children under the age of six. Mobile testing sites increase awareness of lead poisoning and address concerns about access to transportation to testing sites in impacted communities.

The program aims to increase the number of home lead abatements, provide blood level tests, and provide lead screenings and education to those specified at-risk individuals. The program tracks the number of outreach events, the number of children and pregnant women tested, the number of assessments of homes and child-occupied facilities, and the number of facilities abated. The goals of this program are to reduce exposure to lead, improve health outcomes, enhance quality of life, and increase awareness of lead concerns.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a public health emergency that exacerbated many of the issues marginalized populations face and highlighted the inefficiencies in the systems that respond to those issues. In the Final Rule, the US Department of the Treasury indicated that social determinants of health, including the conditions of residential, neighborhood, and educational facilities, can impact health outcomes. Lead exposure is identified as a social determinant of health. The program focuses on the most vulnerable populations of Harris County, who often live in buildings built prior to 1978 and are at higher risk of containing lead-based paints. By focusing abatement efforts on child-occupied facilities, like daycares and preschools, and owner or renter-occupied single housing units, the program aims to reduce exposure for children, pregnant women, and other vulnerable populations. The Treasury's Final Rule stated that eligible uses of funds include lead remediation efforts in existing facilities.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of Homes Abated	230
Lead Screenings	16,399

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Program Name: *Food Nutrition*

Project Number: *ARPA_FOOD*
Funding Amount: $6,403,677.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website - Food and Nutrition, Common Market, Urban Harvest, Small Places, Houston Food Bank

Project Overview:
The ARPA Food & Nutrition program addresses food insecurity in Harris County by increasing access to healthy foods and strengthening local food and nutrition infrastructure. This program improves food distribution infrastructure, provides food and nutrition services to individuals disproportionately impacted by the pandemic or living in food deserts, and provides small capacity-building grants to hyperlocal food providers. These activities enable partnerships across entities and increase produce availability in food deserts.

The Food & Nutrition program is administered by four subrecipients:

- **Common Market** provides boxes of fresh food for distribution by food banks and community organizations and offers discounts on fresh food to organizations serving low-income families.

- **Houston Food Bank** provides grants to partners for logistics software, walk-in coolers, small equipment, and labor.
- **Small Places** produces and distributes fresh fruits and vegetables in an urban farm and provides nutrition education through field trips, cooking classes, and recipe distribution.
- **Urban Harvest** managed and hosted recurring mobile or pop-up markets and provided nutrition education.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
44 percent of the Harris County population is either food insecure or susceptible to food insecurity. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, 0.8 million Harris County residents were estimated to be food insecure, many of whom were children. An additional 1.3 million residents are now at risk of food insecurity. Several food deserts exist within Harris County, where a substantial number of residents have low levels of access to retail outlets selling healthy and affordable foods.

Key drivers of food insecurity include unemployment, low income, limited transportation, disability, and being an underrepresented minority. The most food-insecure areas in Harris County overlap with the most socially vulnerable areas. Additionally, the pandemic exacerbated food security challenges for many people, with local food banks experiencing significant increases in demand for food.

Performance Report

Program	KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Common Market	Households served	66,240
Houston Food Bank	Households served	349,672
Small Places	Households served	76
Urban Harvest	Households served	482

HARRIS HEALTH

***Program Name**: Food Farmacy*

Project Number: ARPA_HHFARMACY
Funding Amount: $663,144.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website - Food Farmacy, Harris Health: Food Farmacy

Project Overview:
Harris Health's Food Rx program proactively embeds a population health approach for chronic disease management, strategically intervening with patients with expressed social needs and known health risks to improve their health outcomes. The program addresses health-related social needs that are prevalent in vulnerable populations and tied to poor health outcomes, including food insecurity, poor nutritional knowledge, and lack of access to culinary education. Prior to ARPA, Harris Health had Food Farmacies at two family practice clinics and the LBJ Hospital, serving adult patients expressing food insecurity, and providing a more intensive intervention for those with Type 2 diabetes. Patients who screen positive for food insecurity meet with a community health worker, select a variety of healthy foods with a dietitian, are connected to a Houston Food Bank navigator for

benefits enrollment, and are linked to community food resources. Patients with severe diabetes are invited to participate in a nine-month "walk and learn" program that helps them learn to better manage their diabetes and enroll in the University of Texas School of Public Health's co-located culinary medicine curriculum, which teaches patients the skills to make delicious, healthy, low-cost, and culturally relevant meals. Graduation from the Food Rx program includes curated linkages to community supports at accessible locations near and within the patient's community. ARPA funds have supported the expansion of Food Farmacies to three Harris Health clinics and two community resources sites.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:

When the COVID-19 pandemic started in early 2020, approximately 38 million people in the United States lived in food-insecure households. Notably from 2019 to 2020, the number of Americans living in food insecure households increased by three million (particularly among households with children), and racial/ethnic disparities in household food insecurity widened. As the food system continues to operate with challenges, and now with the addition of inflation, communities of color experiencing socioeconomic disparities will further be compromised.

Research suggests that food prescription programs are beneficial because of the availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability, and accommodation of healthy foods for participating households. Improved HbA1c control is crucial to preventing long-term diabetes complications, including cardiovascular disease, neuropathy, and organ damage. By connecting patients to a continuum of needed tools and support, Food Rx can help patients improve their health and quality of life.

This program has been recognized nationally and, in 2022, won the prestigious [America's Essential Hospital's Gage Award] in the Population Health category. Results from Harris Health's first year of operations and the first cohorts to complete the culinary medicine component have shown an increase in patients' nutrition knowledge, an average increase in fruit and vegetable consumption from 3.2 to 4.2 daily servings, a 38 percent increase in the number of patients reporting high confidence in the use of basic cooking techniques, a 15 percent increase in patients who "always" or "often" made homemade meals from scratch, and an average decrease in HbA1c of 0.72 percentage points for program graduates.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of patients/households served	2,544
Number of patient interactions	3,949
Number of patients who improved A1C control	35

Program Name: *GI Lab*

Project Number: ARPA_HHGILAB
Funding Amount: $8,998,327.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website - Gastroenterology Lab]

Project Overview:
In 2022, Harris Health's gastroenterology labs were at maximum capacity, and Harris Health maintained a significant number of patients waiting for colonoscopy procedures at any given time. Delays in diagnosis can result in poor outcomes of an otherwise treatable cancer. It was the goal of Harris Health to reduce the number of colorectal cancer diagnoses through prevention, and to reduce the severity of colorectal cancer diagnoses. Colorectal cancer disproportionately affects the Black community, as they are approximately 20 percent more likely to get colorectal cancer and about 40 percent more likely to die from it than most other groups. Further, there are cultural barriers that make it less likely for Black communities to get screened for colorectal cancer. This program now allowed Harris Health to open an outpatient gastroenterology lab at Quentin Mease Health Center and create additional capacity for colonoscopy procedures. The new lab increased availability of appointments and is located directly on a bus route, making access easier and minimizing transportation burdens for those patients without a personal vehicle.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
During the COVID-19 public health emergency, elective surgeries and procedures in Harris Health were postponed, canceled, or, at the very least, limited. Healthcare workers were redirected to critical areas to meet the increased need in the Emergency Department and ICU. Patients were also not amenable to going into a healthcare facility for fear of contracting COVID-19., and there was also the additional requirement of having a COVID test prior to any procedure. The combination of these challenges decreased the number of colonoscopies performed, increased the number of patients on the waitlist, and decreased the number of referrals for colonoscopy procedures by primary care physicians. These issues were exacerbated in vulnerable populations such as those served by Harris Health System. As the peak of COVID-19 has passed, the challenge to catch up with the increasing number of patients on the colonoscopy waitlist persisted.

The target population is low-income residents of Harris County who are due or overdue for a colonoscopy based on established clinical criteria. Harris Health has met its goal to eliminate the backlog and provide timely colorectal cancer screening and diagnosis for our patient population.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Procedures Completed	3,884
Percent reduction in outsourced referrals	100%

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Program Name: *Chronic Disease Prevention*

Project Number: ARPA_CDP
Funding Amount: $5,246,033.72
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Websites: ARPA Website - Chronic Disease Prevention, HCPH Nutrition & Physical Activity, Tobacco Cessation and Youth Vaping Prevention, and Diabetes Prevention Program

Project Overview:
The Chronic Disease Prevention (CDP) program expands access to programming and education with the goal of reducing the prevalence and impact of chronic disease-causing risk behaviors in Harris County. This includes offering clinical services, education on tobacco and vaping prevention and cessation, nutrition and physical activity, diabetes prevention, and community incentives.

The mission of this program is to improve the quality of life for Harris County residents while reducing the number of chronic disease-related deaths through targeted and long-term action plans. The CDP program partners with local schools, community centers, and other community-based programs to provide class-based curriculums for Harris County residents and provide information and resources about the risks associated with common chronic diseases as well as strategies for prevention.

Program goals include:

- Reducing the prevalence of chronic disease-causing risk behaviors
- Reaching a diverse range of Harris County residents, including low-income, minority, and high-risk individuals
- Reducing the healthcare costs associated with chronic diseases

To increase participation and positive responses, classes are culturally sensitive and targeted to specific cultures. Community incentives help promote healthy behaviors and increase access to the tools needed to maintain or improve health. All incentives are provided to participants in conjunction with educational sessions to increase awareness of health behaviors and knowledge of the topics mentioned above.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
For the tobacco and vaping program, CDP uses two evidence-based curriculums; CATCH My Breath and Freedom from Smoking. For Nutrition and Physical Activity programs, CDP utilizes evidence-based curriculums like Eat Play Grow, CATCH, and Cooking Matters to provide targeted nutrition education to people of all ages, including school-aged children, adults, parents, and seniors. The diabetes prevention program uses the CDC evidenced-based curriculum PreventT2, which consists of 24 sessions led by trained Lifestyle Coaches and can be delivered in English or Spanish to accommodate cultural differences. The program targets adults over the age of 18 who have been diagnosed with pre-diabetes.

The CDP target population is Harris County residents who live in priority zip code areas and are uninsured, underinsured, or have been determined to be at high risk for chronic diseases. The top priority zip code areas were identified using the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the 5-year American Community Survey (ACS). The HCPH Epidemiology team found that obesity, diabetes, hypertension, low physical activity, and SVI are all more prevalent in these zip code areas. Given the prevalence of risk behaviors, Harris County's chronic disease program has a sizable target population.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Participants received at least 1 program service	27,677
Number receiving nutrition education/ counseling	12,990
Number receiving tobacco/ vaping education	13,743

Program Name: *Health Portfolio Management Positions*

Project Number: ARPA_HLTHADMIN
Funding Amount: $2,337,647.75
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
Harris County identified Health as a priority for ARPA funding. The County also identified a number of priority outcomes, including improving patient outcomes and reducing patient burden; reducing the spread of COVID-19; increasing access to quality, affordable health services and insurance coverage; reducing the incidence and impacts of substance abuse; expanding the access to and availability of mental health services; reducing the number of people that lack food security; reducing violent crime; reducing exposure to domestic violence; and reducing blood lead levels in children. Harris County's Public Health (HCPH) Department provides programmatic expertise and project management support for a significant portion of ARPA-funded projects. Harris County approved five roles for the HCPH Department, including an ARPA Portfolio Manager, ARPA Strategy Analyst, ARPA Data & Evaluation Specialist, and ARPA Financial Analyst. The resources provided by these positions are necessary for the operational and strategic management of ARPA-funded projects and programs in the HCPH Portfolio.

This also includes budget towards Health Management Associates (HMA), a national research and consulting firm in the healthcare industry. They provided consulting services to assist the county in selecting behavioral health initiatives.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
Evidence-based Interventions: Not required due to expenditure category
Program Evaluation: Not required due to expenditure category

Performance Report:
Due to the nature of this project, no key performance indicators have been created for this project.

***Program Name:** Maternal and Child Health*

Project Number: ARPA_MATERNAL
Funding Amount: $7,748,482.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website - Maternal and Child Health, HCPH Maternal & Child Health

Project Overview:
The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) pilot program was developed to lessen the health disparities that impact Black women and their babies by increasing their ability to access and utilize quality care. The program provides direct assistance to at-risk, expecting families with a holistic approach to prenatal care, postpartum care, and infant-early child development. Working closely with a broad and diverse group of community partners, expecting families have access to local organizations and programs specializing in maternal and child health. The program allows Black mothers and their infants to enroll in available health coverage options, provides them with access to more prenatal and well-child visits, and provides home visits from educators and healthcare providers.

Community Health Coordinators and Licensed Social Workers conduct the home visits, using the Healthy Families America (HFA) approach to support families as they navigate their parenting journey. HFA is an evidence-based home visitation model rooted in the belief that early, nurturing relationships are the foundation for life-long, healthy development. HFA offers research-based curriculums to guide the team members and encourages local sites to implement additional services to further address the specific needs of the target populations.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
According to recent studies, Black women throughout the United States face higher pregnancy-related mortality risks, even when controlling for insurance coverage, marital status, and medical conditions.

The national maternal mortality rate was 23.8 per 100,000 births in 2020, an 18 percent year-over-year increase, but the maternal mortality rate for Black women was 55.3 per 100,000 births that year, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Those statistics continue to persist in Texas with severe maternal morbidity disproportionately impacting Black and Hispanic women.

The high risk of pregnancy-related mortality among Black women and the impact of COVID-19 on the Black community support the need for this program. The COVID-19 pandemic amplified and worsened existing social inequalities tied to race, class, and access to the healthcare system, and this program aims to address these issues through the increase of resources and access to quality care.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Participants enrolled in MCH program	440
Number of total home visits completed	2,067
Number of participants enrolled into available health coverage options	125
Number of prenatal and well-child visits	763

Program Name: *Reproductive Health Access Fund*

Project Number: *ARPA_REPHEALTH*
Funding Amount: $5,536,065.52
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website - Reproductive Health, HCPH Reproductive Health Access Fund

Project Overview:
The Harris County Reproductive Healthcare Access Fund provides funding to existing under-resourced health clinics and grassroots organizations to decrease the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STI); improve the overall health of people of reproductive age; and increase clinical services within Harris County zip codes with the highest SVI and uninsured rates. The fund aims to expand services and improve reproductive healthcare access in priority zip codes, increase utilization, and build capacity for reproductive healthcare organizations to educate, promote, and connect the community to reproductive healthcare services. This funding opportunity specifically targets entities at the local level to build on existing expertise and create sustainable operational improvements. The Harris County service area will also increase reproductive healthcare access by including service provision to uninsured residents at new clinics or mobile units.

The Reproductive Health Access Fund is administered by ten subrecipients:

- **Asians Against Domestic Abuse** provides outreach and education to address domestic violence, mental health, and reproductive healthcare.
- **East Harris County Empowerment Council** provides outreach and education, including culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate materials on reproductive health.
- **Fundación Latinoamericana de Acción Social** provides outreach and education to address behavioral health, substance use, and STI/HIV prevention.
- **Honeycomb Clinic** provides outreach and education on services offered in the community. Offers reproductive services and increase clinic capacity.
- **Mid-America Arts Alliance** provides outreach and education to address reproductive healthcare in the refugee community.
- **Omar Welfare Association** provides outreach and education to address reproductive healthcare in the refugee community.
- **Rainbow Health** provides outreach and education to address family planning, maternal health, reproductive rights, and health screenings.
- **Tony's Place** provides outreach and education specific to LGBTQ+ individuals and community.
- **Vecino** increases utilization of reproductive health services, education and outreach through their health literacy program.
- **Women Healing Empowering Women** provides education and outreach to address reproductive healthcare.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The COVID-19 pandemic and associated healthcare shortages and precautions disrupted how individuals access reproductive healthcare, including birth control, annual exams, and family planning services. According to the Guttmacher Institute, one of the greatest barriers to people receiving the reproductive healthcare they need is cost. Many clinics are limited to reimbursable products and available services due to the fee-for-service standard amongst state and federal public reproductive healthcare service funding options. This is a systematic equity barrier for clinics and residents unable to provide and receive care within their neighborhood, ultimately contributing

to the increasing SVI in communities across Harris County. Accessible reproductive healthcare is essential to the long-term vitality and health of communities.

Performance Report:

Subrecipient	KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Harris County Public Health	Participants seen at HCPH Mobile Unit for reproductive services	696
Asians Against Domestic Abuse	Number of educational materials distributed to participants	1,124
East Harris County Empowerment Council	Number of residents provided education and outreach	1,170
Fundación Latinoamericana de Acción Social	Number of unduplicated clients receiving reproductive health services	1,533
Honeycomb Clinic	Number of patients seen and educated	464
Mid-America Arts Alliance	Number of residents provided education and outreach	760
Omar Welfare Association	Number of residents provided education and outreach	656
Rainbow Health	Number of residents provided education and outreach	394
Tony's Place	Number of clients who were provided reproductive healthcare navigation	129
Vecino	Number of residents provided education and outreach	1,742
Women Healing Empowering Women	Number of residents provided education and outreach	386

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Project Name: *Affordable Housing Administration*

Project Number: ARPA_AFH22
Funding Amount: $3,752,801.27
Expenditure Category: 6.1- Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
The Affordable Housing Roles support the implementation of Affordable Housing programs, including Multifamily Acquisitions, Single-Family Acquisitions, Multifamily Preservation, Single-Family Preservation, Direct Homeowner Assistance, and Housing Counseling and Legal Services. The program funds employees assigned to the Harris County ARPA Housing portfolio. The assistant director leads program management, contract development and implementation, manages program performance metrics, and oversees four program managers. The program managers design and implement Affordable Housing programs. The program also includes a sub-award to the National Development Council, whose consultants created program guidelines for the housing programs listed above.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
Not required due to expenditure category

Performance Report:
Due to the nature of this program, no key performance indicators have been created for this project.

Program Name: *Multi-family Development*

Project Number: ARPA_AHMFACQ
Funding Amount: $5,486,461.25
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website: Multifamily Development]

Project Overview:
The Multifamily Development Program was designed to preserve and increase the number of affordable rental units in Harris County. Funds are provided for the acquisition, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and construction of affordable multifamily housing projects. Harris County Housing and Community Development (HCD) partnered with the Harris County Housing Finance Corporation and third-party real estate brokers to carry out the program.

HCD transferred the title of acquired land to the Housing Finance Corporation and the real estate broker assisted in negotiations with developers and provided brokerage opinions. Under the program, funding was made available to developers, Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), non-profit developers, and housing tax credit developers. HCD will impose deed restrictions that extend the tenant income restrictions, rent limits, and period of affordability for existing affordable housing developments. Affordable units must be occupied with tenants who meet the income requirements. Key outcomes and key performance indicators include the number of affordable units created or preserved, at or below 80 percent AMI level.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
There is an affordability crisis in Harris County. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines "affordable" as having housing costs that total less than 30 percent of a household's income. In Harris County, almost 500,000 households with incomes below $75,000 are paying more than 30 percent of their incomes for their homes today. The cost burden of housing affects people across job types, income levels, and neighborhoods in Harris County.

There are several reasons for the affordability crisis in Harris County, including:

- Lack of availability of affordable homes for extremely low-income households
- Maintenance and housing quality challenges
- Spatial mismatch between need and available homes (i.e., number of bedrooms to occupancy comparison)
- Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused housing instability for an increased number of families due to job loss and income reduction or loss. Additionally, costs of goods have risen and impacted affordability of construction and repair. These factors, combined with a projected population growth of 200,000 households in the next ten years, create a growing demand for housing. To meet projected needs and support existing residents, it is estimated Harris County will need an additional 20,000 new homes per year, primarily for those households earning less than $35,000 per year.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of acquisitions closed	19
Number of affordable units created/preserved	424

Project Names: *Avenue on 34th Street, Burnett Street (formerly known as Hardy Yards), EMLI Mesa Gardens, Houston Ella Boulevard, Shadow Spring, Hayes Street, Kingsland Park, Knowles-Rowland, Lost Oaks, Mason Place Apartments, Meadowbrook Plaza, New Hope Housing Ennis, New Hope Housing Avenue C, OST Lofts, Park Row Katy Living, Saddlecreek, The Rushmore, The Upland, Tidwell*

Note: Each multifamily property is an individual project in the Project & Expenditure report.
Funding Amount: See table below
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: Harris County Housing and Community Development

Project Overview:
The Multifamily Development program provided funds for the acquisition, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction of affordable multifamily housing projects in Harris County. For each of these developments, Harris County will impose new deed restrictions that extend the tenant income restrictions, rent limits, and period of affordability for at least 20 years for properties acquired. The affordable rental units created or preserved by the program will be restricted to low- to moderate-income (LMI) residents. The program will increase the affordable housing stock in Harris County and provide more options for renters.

Listed below are projects that the Multifamily Development program has acquired and is currently working to preserve, and/or newly construct. Each project is reported individually in the Project & Expenditure Report.

Property Details	Description
Property Name: MFA Avenue on 34th **Project Number:** ARPA_MFAAVENUE **Funding Amount:** $3,799,037.00	ARPA funds were used for the acquisition of a multifamily development at 2136 W 34th Street in Houston, Texas. The project is an existing multifamily development that includes 70 rental units, with 56 units designated for LMI households. The total units also include a minimum of 5 units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System, at least 6 mobility units, and at least 3 vision/hearing units. For the acquisition portion of the project, the land associated with the development will be acquired through the Harris County Housing Finance Corporation through a ground lease structure with a minimum of a 20-year affordability period. Since the property already has a 40-year affordability through the ground lease, the affordability will be extended even longer to ensure long-term affordable housing. The developer will lease the land back by paying a $20 per affordable unit fee per month that will go back into the Housing Finance Corporation to fund other affordable multifamily developments. The construction of this development was completed in 2021. Units will be provided for the target population of individuals and households at or below 80 percent AMI. The key outcomes and KPIs include units provided to income-qualified tenants at the 30 percent AMI, 50 percent AMI, and 80 percent AMI levels.
Property Name: MFA Burnett Street (formerly known as Hardy Yards) **Project Number:** ARPA_MFABURNETT **Funding Amount:** $14,605,650.00	The Burnett Street Project is a planned development of a minimum 200-unit affordable multifamily apartment complex located at 800 Burnett Street in Houston's Near Northside neighborhood. The project will be built on approximately 4.1 acres of land and aims to provide accessible, quality housing in a central urban area.
Property Name: MFA EMLI Mesa Gardens **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAEMLI **Funding Amount:** $6,000,000.00	EMLI at Mesa Gardens is an acquisition and new construction project located at 10199 Mesa Drive in Houston, Texas that will create 300 new multifamily affordable housing units reserved for low-to-moderate income residents. All units will be affordable, and the unit mix will consist of 15 units for those making 30 percent or less of Area Median Income, 0 units for those making between 31 percent-50 percent of Area Median Income, and 285 units for those making between 51 percent-80 Area Median Income, The Project will consist of 90 one-bedroom units, 182 two-bedroom units and 28 three-bedroom units. The total units also include a minimum of five (5) units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System and minimum of 5 percent units reserved for clients with mobility needs and a minimum of 2 percent of units reserved for clients with Vision/Hearing needs. The Harris County Housing Finance

	Corporation (HCHFC) owns the land, and the project will enter a ground lease, which will keep the project affordable for 99-years. The desired outcome will increase the number of available and new affordable housing for low-income individuals and households, so that affordable housing is more accessible in Harris County. Harris County Housing and Community Development Department will carry out an annual monitoring to ensure compliance with rent limits applicable to either current HOME or TDHCA rent levels. In addition, the compliance monitoring will ensure that tenants meeting income requirements via lease documentation.
Property Name: MFA Houston Ella Blvd **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAELLA **Funding Amount:** $4,300,000	This project is located in Precinct 1 and will create 146 multifamily housing units. Out of these 146 units, 115 units will be affordable units. An affordable unit matrix has been developed to pair AMI levels with one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. 12 units are dedicated to AMI levels of 30 percent or below, 46 units are dedicated to AMI levels of 31-50 percent, and 57 units are dedicated to AMI levels of 51-80 percent. The site is ideally located close to job centers including George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) Airport, healthcare facilities, hotels, restaurants, and entertainment. The site will include surface parking with perimeter fencing, luxury finishes, and amenities for families. These amenities will include a pool, fitness center, dog run, business center, children's playroom, playground, and high-speed Wi-Fi.
Property Name: MFA Shadow Spring **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAHART **Funding Amount:** $10,000,000	The goal of the Shadow Spring program is to facilitate the construction of permanent supportive housing that will result in an increase in the supply of affordable rental options in Precinct 4 by 112 units. Funding supports the acquisition and development of Hartwood at Spring Shadows in partnership with Blazer Building. Blazer Building is a Houston-based, long-term builder and owner of affordable apartment communities, who has supervised the construction of roughly 40,000 apartment homes. The project was awarded 9 percent tax credits in 2022, completed construction mid-year in 2025 and lease-up is currently underway. Planned property amenities include a children's activity room, pool, fitness center, library, secured gated entry, and social services. Residents will have access to supportive services including children's activities, adult education classes, health and wellness classes, and social activities. Target residents will have incomes at, or below, 60 percent AMI (including set-asides for 30 percent AMI and 50 percent AMI).
Property Name: MFA Hayes Street **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAYELLOW **Funding Amount:** $7,300,000	The Hayes Street Development project is a mixed-use and mixed-income housing development that will provide affordable single-family and multifamily housing to low-to moderate-income families. The development includes 55 single-family units, 3 duplexes (totaling 6 single-family units), 70 multifamily units, a café, retail space, community space, green space, and streetscape improvements. In total this project will create 131 affordable units. Harris County will provide a total of $7.3 million in ARPA funds for acquisition and pre-development costs. The desired impact is creating affordable housing in an area that is susceptible to gentrification. The impact will be measured by the number

	of affordable units created. This includes establishing rent restrictions, income limits for applicants, and long-term affordability. Additional impacts include increasing access to affordable units to residents in the area who want to stay and establishing a restrictive land use agreement to lock in long-term affordability for 99 years. During the life of the term, the service provider will be required to document rent limit and income certifications as part of the agreed upon compliance requirements t ensure all compliance measures are met. In addition, Harris County owns the land where the development is located. The project also creates the opportunity to diversify housing types for different family needs and attract economic opportunity by investing in both residential and retail/commercial spaces. This project was previously named Houston Land Bank Yellow Cab.
Property Name: MFA Kingsland Park **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAPARK **Funding Amount:** $4,200,000.00	The Kingsland Park Apartments is a rental property that is exclusively for seniors. The apartment is made of five buildings with a mix of one- and two-bedroom units. This rental property was initially funded with Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to construct 198 rental units for seniors. The units are a mix of affordable units and market-rate units. A total of 146 units are affordable, and 57 are market-rate units. The existing property has an affordability period of 20 years. Approximately $4.25 million in ARPA funds will be used for Harris County to acquire and own the land, and the affordability period will be extended to 99 years. This project is converting 5 of the 57 market-rate units to affordable units for seniors making 65 percent or less of Area Median Income (AMI). This would make 75 percent of the total units affordable. This project is exclusively targeted to seniors, a group that may be overlooked when addressing affordable housing. Low-income earning seniors with fixed income face difficulty when it comes to access to affordable housing. This project addresses this issue by exclusively targeting renting seniors for the new affordable units being constructed. The purpose of this project also includes securing affordable units with long-term affordability to ensure that low-income residents have access to affordable housing, even after the pandemic has subsided. Key outcomes and performance indicators include the number of affordable units created for seniors and the number of units provided at each level of the Area Median Income, specifically those below 65 percent Area Median Income.
Property Name: MFA Knowles-Rowland **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAKNOWLES **Funding Amount:** $7,202,562	The Knowles-Rowland House project is a permanent supportive housing development project that aims to make housing accessible to those experiencing homelessness. Approximately $7.2 million in ARPA funds has been used to acquire an existing gymnasium on the Bread of Life Campus and redevelop the structure into 31 permanent supportive housing units for persons experiencing homelessness. The development also includes a lounge and dining areas for residents. A total of 31 units will be provided to individuals at the 30 percent AMI or below level. This development will also include supportive housing services to all residents, which include case managers, peer specialists, and resident service

	specialists, all provided by Knowles-Rowland House. Case Managers will provide mental health crisis intervention services, connection with mainstream benefits, and nutrition and income support. Peer specialists will provide residents with community socialization and will be responsible for maintaining overall safety and wellness. The developer has partnered with Temenos Community Development Corporation to provide supportive housing services. The target populations are individuals experiencing homelessness in Harris County and the key indicator of this project includes the number of persons experiencing homelessness housed, frequency of services provided to each resident, days housed, length of time employed, and hourly income rate, to name a few.
Property Name: MFA Lost Oaks **Project Code:** ARPA_MFALOSTOAK **Funding Amount:** $4,528,000.00	Lost Oaks is an acquisition and new construction project located at 810 Oak Street in Houston, Texas that is creating 78 new multifamily affordable housing units for LMI individuals and families. The unit mix will consist of 8 units for those making 30 percent AMI or less, 32 units for those making between 31 percent-50 percent AMI, and 38 units for those making between 51 percent-80 AMI. The Project will consist of 23 one-bedroom units, 50 two-bedroom units, and 5 three-bedroom units. The total units also include a minimum of 5 units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System, a minimum of 5 percent of units reserved for clients with mobility needs, and a minimum of 2 percent of units reserved for clients with vision/hearing needs. In addition to providing housing, the developer is providing on-site services such as credit counseling, financial planning, health screenings, and computer training. The Harris County Housing Finance Corporation (HCHFC) will own the land, and the project will enter a 99-year ground lease, which will keep the project affordable for 99 years. The desired outcome is to increase the number of available and new affordable housing units for low-income individuals and households so that affordable housing is more accessible in Harris County. HCD will carry out annual monitoring to ensure compliance with rent limits applicable to either current HOME or TDHCA rent levels. In addition, the compliance monitoring will ensure that tenants are meeting income requirements through lease documentation.
Property Name: MFA Manson Place Apartments **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAMANSON **Funding Amount:** $1,850,000.00	Manson Place is an acquisition and new construction project located at 3502 Reeves Street in Houston, Texas that is creating 76 multifamily housing units, with 74 affordable units reserved for LMI individuals and families. The unit mix will consist of 8 units for those making 30 percent or less AMI, 30 units for those making between 31 percent-50 percent AMI, and 36 units for those making between 51 percent-80 AMI. The affordable units will consist of 61 two-bedroom units and 13 three-bedroom units. The total units also include a minimum of 5 units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System, a minimum of 5 percent of units reserved for clients with mobility needs, and a minimum of 2 percent of units reserved for clients with vision/hearing needs. In addition to providing housing, the developer is partnering with service providers to provide educational and career services to residents. The Harris County Housing Finance Corporation (HCHFC) will own the land, and the project will enter

	a 99-year ground lease, which will keep the project affordable for 99 years. The desired outcome is to increase the number of available and new affordable housing units for low-income individuals and households, so that affordable housing is more accessible in Harris County. HCD will carry out annual monitoring to ensure compliance with rent limits applicable to either current HOME or TDHCA rent levels. In addition, the compliance monitoring will ensure that tenants are meeting income requirements via lease documentation.
Property Name: MFA Meadowbrook Plaza **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAMEADOW **Funding Amount:** $9,000,000.00	ARPA funds will be used for the acquisition and rehabilitation of a multifamily development at 600 E Little York. The development will include a total of 220 affordable rental units for LMI households. The total units also include a minimum of 5 units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System, 6 mobility units, and at least 3 vision/hearing units. For the acquisition portion of the project, the land associated with the development was acquired through the Harris County Housing Finance Corporation through a ground lease structure with a minimum of a 20-year affordability period. The developer will lease the land back, by paying a $20 per affordable unit fee per month, that will go back into the Housing Finance Corporation to fund other affordable multifamily developments. For the construction portion of the project, funding is being used for mainly site work and direct construction costs, such as roofing, masonry, concrete work, doors, and window repairs. Units are provided for the target population of individuals and households at or below 80 percent AMI. The key outcomes and KPIs include units provided to income-qualified tenants at the 30 percent AMI, 50 percent AMI, and 80 percent AMI levels.
Property Name: MFA New Hope Housing Avenue C **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAAVEC **Funding Amount:** $10,000,000.00	New Hope Housing Avenue C is an acquisition and new construction project located at 7501 Harrisburg Blvd, in Houston Texas that is creating 120 affordable rental units reserved for LMI individuals and families. All units are affordable. The unit mix will consist of 19 units for those making 30 percent or less of Area Median Income, 41 units for those making between 31 percent-50 percent of Area Median Income, and 60 units for those making between 51 percent-80 Area Median Income. The Project will consist of 90 one-bedroom units and 30 two-bedroom units. The total units also include a minimum of five (5) units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System and minimum of 5 percent units reserved for clients with mobility needs and a minimum of 2 percent of units reserved for clients with Vision/Hearing needs. In addition to providing housing, the developer is providing supportive services such as, life skills, career and employment services, and emergency assistance for basic needs. The Harris County Housing Finance Corporation (HCHFC) will own the land, and the project will enter a 99-year ground lease, which will keep the project affordable for 99-years. The desired outcome is to increase the number of available and new affordable housing for low-income individuals and households, so that affordable housing is more accessible in Harris County. Harris County Housing and Community Development will carry out an annual monitoring to ensure compliance

	with rent limits applicable to either current HOME or TDHCA rent levels. In addition, the compliance monitoring will ensure that tenants meeting income requirements via lease documentation.
Property Name: MFA New Hope Ennis **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAENNIS **Funding Amount:** $9,000,000.00	ARPA funds will be used for the acquisition and new construction of New Hope Housing Ennis, a 102-unit multifamily development for LMI seniors in Harris County. The 102-unit development will include a minimum of 6 mobility units and a minimum of 3 vision/hearing units. New Hope Housing will provide on-site supportive services available for tenants to ensure a variety of services are being provided to this vulnerable population. The project will be a newly constructed development carried out by non-profit New Hope Housing and its affiliates providing affordable housing to seniors in Harris County. Texas Affordable Multifamily Housing for the Aging Program (TAMFAP) funds will be combined with other charitable gifts and leveraged funds committed to New Hope Housing. The project is being constructed in the East Downtown sector of Houston with a completion date no later than July 2026. Harris County has acquired the land through a ground lease structure with a minimum 20-year affordability period. New Hope Housing will be required under the ground lease to pay $20 per unit per month, which will go to the Harris County Housing Finance Corporation to fund more affordable housing projects. New Hope Housing Ennis is one of many multifamily development properties under the management of New Hope Housing. The key outcomes and indicators will be the number of seniors housed at 30 percent AMI, 50 percent AMI, and 80 percent AMI.
Property Name: MFA OST Lofts **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAOSTLOFTS **Funding Amount:** $4,030,000.00	ARPA funds were used for the acquisition of a multifamily development at 5520 Old Spanish Trail in Houston, Texas. The development is currently under construction and will include a total of 130 rental units, with 109 units reserved for low to moderate income (LMI) households. The total units also include a minimum of 5 units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System, and some designated mobility units and vision/hearing units. The land associated with the development was acquired through the Harris County Housing Finance Corporation via a ground lease structure with a minimum of a 20-year affordability period. The developer will lease the land back by paying a $20 per affordable unit fee per month that will go back into the Housing Finance Corporation to fund other affordable multifamily developments. Designated affordable units will be provided for the target population of individuals and households at or below 80 percent AMI. Outside of access to affordable housing, other necessary services will be provided to tenants such as a Pre-Kindergarten Early Learning Center. The key outcomes and Key performance indicators (KPI's) include units provided to income-qualified tenants at the 30 percent AMI, 50 percent AMI, and 80 percent AMI levels.
Property Name: MFA Park Row Katy Living	ARPA funds were used for the acquisition and construction of a multifamily development at the Northwest corner intersection of Park Row and Greenhouse Rd in Houston, Texas. The actual street name has not

Project Code: ARPA_MFAPARKROW **Funding Amount:** $5,000,000.00	been established. The development includes a total of 93 rental units, with 58 being reserved for low- to moderate-income households. The total units also include a minimum of 5 units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System, and some designated mobility units and vision/hearing units. For the acquisition portion of the project, the land associated with the development was acquired through the Harris County Housing Finance Corporation through a ground lease structure with a minimum of a 20-year affordability period. The developer will lease the land back by paying a $20 per affordable unit fee per month that will go back into the Housing Finance Corporation to fund other affordable multifamily developments. The construction portion of the development is being carried out by the developer and is expected to be completed on or before December 2026. Units will be provided for the target population of individuals and households at or below 80 percent AMI. The key outcomes and KPIs include units provided to income-qualified tenants at the 30 percent AMI, 50 percent AMI, and 80 percent AMI levels.
Property Name: MFA Saddlecreek **Project Code:** ARPA_MFASADDLE **Funding Amount:** $3,004,150.00	ARPA funds used for the acquisition and construction of a multifamily development at 16000 Kuykendahl Rd. The development will include 72 rental units for LMI households. The total units also include a minimum of 5 units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System, 6 mobility units, and at least 3 vision/hearing units. For the acquisition portion of the project, the land associated with the development will be acquired through the Harris County Housing Finance Corporation through a ground lease structure with a minimum of a 20-year affordability period. The developer will lease the land back by paying a $20 per affordable unit fee per month that will go back into the Housing Finance Corporation to fund other affordable multifamily developments. The construction portion of the development will be carried out by the developer and is expected to be completed on or before December 2026. Units will be provided for the target population of individuals and households at or below 60 percent AMI. Outside of access to affordable housing, other necessary services will be provided to tenants such as an After School Learning Center. The key outcomes and KPIs include units provided to income-qualified tenants at the 30 percent AMI, 50 percent AMI, and 80 percent AMI levels.
Property Name: MFA The Rushmore **Project Code:** ARPA_MFARUSH **Funding Amount:** $5,975,000.00	The Rushmore is an acquisition and new construction project located at 800 Highway 6 South in Houston that will include 101 rental units, with 85 affordable rental units reserved for low-income residents. The unit mix will consist of 9 units for those making 30 percent or less AMI, 35 units for those making between 31 percent-50 percent AMI, and 41 units for those making between 51 percent-80 AMI. The project will consist of 28 one-bedroom units, 50 two-bedroom unit, and 19 three-bedroom units. The total units also include a minimum of five units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System, a minimum of six units reserved for clients with mobility needs, and three units reserved for clients with vision/hearing needs. The HCHFC will own the land, and the project will enter a 99-year ground lease, which will keep the project affordable during that

	timeframe. The desired outcome through the partnership between the HCHFC and HCD is to increase the number of available and new affordable housing units for low-income individuals and households and to emphasize housing choice in a way that aims to offer homeownership opportunities to families and communities facing economic barriers.
Property Name: MFA The Upland **Project Code:** ARPA_MFAUPLAND **Funding Amount:** $7,440,000.00	The Upland is an acquisition and new construction project located at 1430 Upland Drive in Houston, Texas that is creating 120 new multifamily affordable housing units for LMI individuals and families. All units will be affordable; the unit mix will consist of 12 units for those making 30 percent or less AMI, 37 units for those making between 31 percent-50 percent AMI, and 71 units for those making between 51 percent-80 percent AMI. The project will consist of 10 zero-bedrooms (studio), 26 one-bedroom units, 60 two-bedroom units, and 24 three-bedroom units. The total units also include a minimum of 5 units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System, a minimum of 5 percent of units reserved for clients with mobility needs, and a minimum of 2 percent of units reserved for clients with vision/hearing needs. The Harris County Housing Finance Corporation (HCHFC) will own the land, and the project will enter a 99-year ground lease, which will keep the project affordable for 99 years. The desired outcome is to increase the number of available and new affordable housing units for low-income individuals and households so that affordable housing is more accessible in Harris County. HCD will carry out an annual monitoring to ensure compliance with rent limits applicable to either current Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) or Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) rent levels. In addition, the compliance monitoring will ensure that tenants are meeting income requirements through lease documentation.
Property Name: MFA Tidwell **Project Code:** ARPA_MFATIDWELL **Funding Amount:** $6,138,000.00	Tidwell Apartments is an acquisition and new construction project located at 300-334 Tidwell Road in Houston, Texas that is creating 99 new multifamily affordable housing units for LMI elderly residents. All units will be affordable and a designated senior multifamily development; the unit mix will consist of 16 units for those making 30 percent or less AMI, 0 units for those making between 31 percent-50 percent AMI, and 83 units for those making between 51 percent-80 AMI. The project will consist of 98 one-bedroom units, 1 two-bedroom unit, and 0 three-bedroom units. The total units also include a minimum of 5 units reserved for clients through the Coordinated Access System, a minimum of 5 percent of units reserved for clients with mobility needs, and a minimum of 2 percent of units reserved for clients with vision/hearing needs. The Harris County Housing Finance Corporation (HCHFC) will own the land, and the project will enter a 99-year ground lease, which will keep the project affordable for 99 years. The desired outcome is to increase the number of available and new affordable housing units for low-income individuals and households so that affordable housing is more accessible in Harris County. HCD will carry out annual monitoring to ensure compliance with rent limits applicable to either current HOME or TDHCA rent levels. In addition, the

	compliance monitoring will ensure that tenants are meeting income requirements through the lease documentation.

Program Name: *Eviction Appeal Support*

Project Number: ARPA_APPEALS
Funding Amount: $1,091,100.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
Harris County not only experienced an increase in the number of evictions filed but also a significant increase in the number of eviction appeals filed in Civil Court. For comparison, in 2019 there were 3,853 eviction appeal cases filed, versus 5,785 eviction appeal cases filed in 2023. Similarly, the days to disposition increased from 40 days in 2019 to 63 days in 2023. The increase in days to disposition can cause significant financial hardship for both tenants and landlords. A tenant must pay at least one month of rent and continue paying at the usual rate until disposition. If they are unable to pay, possession of the unit may be immediately obtained by the landlord. Thus, the longer the wait time for a case to be resolved, the higher the financial strain and risk of homelessness for the tenant, and the greater the business impact for the landlord. The Eviction Appeal Support developed a coordinated eviction defense program in which any tenant facing eviction and seeking legal advice can meet with an attorney or legal representative at the court where the tenant's eviction case is held, Justice Court or County Court at Law. Developing a countywide infrastructure has involved multiple legal services providers and dedicated resources for coordination.

The program has utilized the ARPA funds to hire a dedicated Associate Judge and a Court Coordinator who are focusing on the reduction of the eviction appeal cases backlog and the time to disposition.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The Eviction Appeals aims to reduce time to disposition and ensure an overall efficient appeal process to provide opportunities for tenants to potentially reverse eviction outcomes, avoid undue financial distress, and ensure landlord accountability. Since 2020, eviction appeals in Harris County have increased more than 400 percent. All cases referred to the County Civil Courts ARPA-funded Associate Judge are focused on eviction appeals, reducing time to disposition and ensuring an efficient appeal process.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of cases disposed	12,425

Program Name: *Legal Aid Eviction Services*

Project Number: *ARPA_LEGALAID*
Funding Amount: $7,549,328.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [HCD - Eviction Defense Program](), [ARPA Website – Legal Aid and Eviction Services]()

Project Overview:
The Legal Aid & Eviction Services program reduces homelessness and housing instability by providing tenants facing eviction with legal representation and legal advice, developing and sharing accurate information about legal rights and responsibilities with tenants at risk of eviction, and ensuring increased level of legal representation of tenants in Justice Courts with a high volume of eviction cases. This project serves Harris County residents with household income at or below 300 percent of the current Federal Poverty Level for the size of the household. Priority populations include households where a member has qualified for unemployment benefits, experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The target population for this program are households presumed to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, under the guidance of the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Vendors dedicate at least 70 percent of Harris County funds over the life of the grant to place attorneys and support staff in high-risk courtrooms and develop an outreach and marketing plan that targets tenants facing eviction in the prioritized courts. Remaining funds may be used to fund agreed-upon activities outside of the targeted area.

Those helped through the program must:

- Be a resident of Harris County
- Have income at or below 300 percent of the current federal poverty guideline
- Classify as a Priority Populations: this includes members of the Applicant's household, has qualified for unemployment benefits, experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship during or due to the COVID-19 outbreak

Performance Report

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of individuals who received assistance	253,610

Program Name: *Single Family Acquisitions*

Project Number: *ARPA_AHSFACQ*
Funding Amount: $12,052,990.41
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website – Single-family Acquisition]()

Project Overview:
HCD utilizes a two-pronged approach to administer the ARPA Single Family Acquisition and Resale Program. It utilizes the Community Land Trust Model to create affordable housing for low-income households.

The program includes the following:

- The Acquisition and Resale program: HCD acquires primarily newly constructed single-family homes located in Harris County and resales those homes to eligible low-income households.
- The Homebuyer Driven Program: HCD assists low-income homebuyers in acquiring a newly constructed home by providing a maximum of $150,000 in financial assistance toward the purchase of a home.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
There is an affordability crisis in Harris County. HUD defines "affordable" as having housing costs that total less than 30 percent of a household's income. In Harris County, almost 500,000 households with incomes below $75,000 are paying more than 30 percent of their incomes for their homes today. The cost burden of housing affects people across job types, income levels, and neighborhoods.

There are several reasons for the affordability crisis, including:

- Lack of availability of affordable homes for extremely low-income households
- Maintenance and housing quality challenges
- Spatial mismatch between need and available homes (i.e. number of bedrooms to occupancy comparison)
- Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused housing instability for an increased number of families due to job loss and income reduction or loss. Additionally, costs of goods have risen and impacted the affordability of construction and repair. These factors, combined with a projected population growth of 200,000 households in the next ten years, create a growing demand for housing. To meet projected needs and support existing residents, it is estimated Harris County will need an additional 20,000 new homes per year, primarily for those households earning less than $35,000 per year.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of homes sold	49

Program Name: *Single Family Reconstruction*

Project Number: *ARPA_AHSFREC*
Funding Amount: $1,489,043.49
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: HCD - Single-Family Reconstruction Program, ARPA Website – Single-Family Reconstruction

Project Overview:
The Single-Family Reconstruction Program is administered by HCD to provide funding for the preservation of affordable single-family housing owned by LMI households residing in Harris County. This program is designed to preserve up to 30 affordable single-family homes owned by LMI households residing in Harris County by providing funds for reconstruction of owner-occupied single-family homes.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Homeowners can become housing cost-burdened for a variety of reasons. Although many homeowners have long-term mortgages with fixed payments that do not increase on a month-to-month basis, other housing-related costs are variable, such as costs related to utilities, homeowner's insurance, property taxes, and HOA fees. When these variable costs rise, LMI homeowners can struggle to afford to pay their housing-related expenses, especially if the homeowner is on a fixed income. Additionally, when a homeowner lives in an older home, they may face significant, unplanned maintenance-related expenses when major items, such as roofing and heating or air conditioning, fail. Faced with a limited income and often with no savings from which to draw, LMI homeowners often prioritize paying their mortgage and property taxes. They defer maintenance, often to the detriment of their health and safety. Worse yet, deferred maintenance can actually make the cost of utilities rise, since a poorly maintained home operates less efficiently.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of affordable housing units preserved/developed	0*

*At the time of this report, there are no KPI's to be reported.

Program Name: Single Family Rehab

Project Number: *ARPA_AHSFREH*
Funding Amount: $300,000.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website - Single-Family Rehabilitation]

Project Overview:
The Single-Family Rehabilitation Program is being administered by HCD in conjunction with community-based non-profits serving as subrecipients who are delivering program services. This program has been designed to preserve up to 66 single-family homes owned by LMI households residing in Harris County by providing funds for specific rehabilitation services.

The program focuses on the following rehabilitation categories:

- Repair or replacement of roof (shingles and decking only)
- Repair or replacement of air conditioning/furnace unit and related components
- Repair or replacement of water heater
- Replacement or installation of freestanding, major appliances (refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, washing machine and/or dryer)
- Accessibility modifications (repair or installation of exterior ramp and/or exterior lift)
- Security improvements (replacement of front door, back door and/or deadbolts; replacement of broken windowpanes; repair, replacement, or installation of window locks)
- Basic health and safety improvements (replacement or installation of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors)

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Homeowners can become housing cost-burdened for a variety of reasons. Although many homeowners have long-term mortgages with fixed payments that do not increase on a month-to-month basis, other housing-related costs are variable, such as costs related to utilities, homeowner's

insurance, property taxes, and HOA fees. When these variable costs rise, LMI homeowners can struggle to afford to pay their housing-related expenses, especially if the homeowner is on a fixed income. Additionally, when a homeowner lives in an older home, they may face unplanned maintenance-related expenses. With limited income and often minimal savings, LMI homeowners tend to prioritize paying their mortgage and property taxes over other expenses. This often leads them to delay necessary maintenance, which can negatively impact their health and safety, while also helping to lower ongoing maintenance costs and reduce the risk of displacement.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Data
Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed	0*

*At the time of this report, there are no KPI's to be reported.

HOMELESSNESS

Program Name: CCHP 2.0

Project Number: *ARPA_CHHP2*
Funding Amount: $35,858,432.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: Coalition for the Homeless - Community COVID Housing Program , ARPA Website - CCHP

Project Overview:
To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect people experiencing homelessness who are at high risk for experiencing severe symptoms, Harris County has expanded the Community COVID-19 Housing Program (CCHP). The expansion of CCHP aims to scale permanent and long-lasting interventions that improve health and stability of homeless populations and increase the availability of Permanent Supportive Housing. The population served by the program includes unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals and those experiencing domestic violence, with assistance targeted to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

Supportive services are coupled with vouchers to create Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) which provides stable housing environments with voluntary and flexible supports to help manage serious, chronic issues such as mental and substance use disorders. This includes benefits advocacy to help people find benefits such as Social Security Disability Insurance and specialized Housing Navigation to help locate and secure affordable and suitable housing. Services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connect people with community-based health care, treatment, and employment services. Potential spillover effects include improving economic prospects and providing support for individuals to exit domestic violence situations and improve behavioral health.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Research suggests rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing are more likely than other interventions to reduce the rate at which individuals return to homelessness after previously exiting. Additionally, research suggests the provision of housing is an effective intervention for homeless individuals, including those with co-occurring mental illness and/or substance abuse. The provision of housing reduces substance use, increases abstinence, and reduces medical services utilization.

A condition for funding from Harris County included participation in an independent evaluation of CCHP's implementation and outcomes and a commitment from service provider agencies to engage with the evaluation partner identified by Harris County. The goal of the evaluation is to better understand how effective and equitable the CCHP program is at supporting people who experience homelessness in achieving housing stability. Results will be used to identify impactful solutions and improved to ensure the homeless population's needs are being addressed across the County.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of individuals housed	724
Number of individual enrolled (The Harris Center)	950

Program Name: Dennis Street

Project Number: *ARPA_DENNIS*
Funding Amount: $886,572.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
The Community Initiated Care program aims to strengthen community mental health and build community resilience, with a focus on neighborhoods experiencing high incidence of suicide. Positive social contagion behaviors, combined with existing trust and common lived experiences amongst community members will:

- Evoke change in attitudes and beliefs related to mental health and related treatment options
- Equip communities with skills to allow them to intervene on issues of mental health and
- Build an access bridge to qualified mental health professionals.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The program will undergo rigorous third-party evaluation. Metrics related to individual mental health, health equity, and community resilience will be tracked, with opportunities for improvement identified and program approach refined accordingly

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Total monthly new admissions	44
Discharge rate	62%
Residents discharged with functional improvement	57%

Program Name: Employ2Empower

Project Number: *ARPA_E2E*
Funding Amount: $1,441,359.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website – Employ2Empower]

Project Overview:
Employ2Empower (E2E) is a workforce program that employs unhoused individuals living in encampments. The expanded program served 160 individuals. The E2E program hired these individuals for up to 32 hours a week, at a pay rate of $15 per hour, while providing resources to meet their basic needs. The work included graffiti removal, illegal dumping abatement, and upkeep of public properties. E2E provided steady income, wrap-around services, and workforce development training, and connected participants to pathways to a permanent housing solution.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Even though unemployment rates are high among people experiencing homelessness, evidence also suggests that many people in this situation want to work, and, with the right work support and services, they can achieve positive employment outcomes. Many individuals' experiencing homelessness are not equipped to secure and retain employment effectively or for long periods of time. Challenges faced by this population consist of outdated or limited job search skills, lack of experience, as well as limited access to tools needed to help improve employability skills. The lack of employment options keeps these individuals in a cycle where they are not able to find stable housing due to a lack of wages and cannot find employment due to a lack of stable housing. Access to a low-barrier employment program is often the only opportunity for a second chance for this population. Breaking down the barriers to employment allows these individuals to rebuild their employment history and develop the skills necessary to gain sustainable employment, make a livable wage, and ultimately secure long-term stable housing.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of participants served	160

Program Name: *HAY Center*

Project Number: *ARPA_HAY*
Funding Amount: $9,004,938.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [The HAY Center], [ARPA Website – HAY Center]

Project Overview:
The HAY Center Campus will serve homeless youth and young adults who have aged out of the foster care system and are at or below 50 percent area median income (AMI). The campus features a 3.268-acre complex, will house a wraparound services building and affordable apartments units for youth aging out of foster care. The main building includes office space for county staff, meeting rooms for case planning with Transition Age Youth (TAY), a computer lab that TAY can utilize, life skills

training rooms, as well as a 41,000 square foot residential building with 50 apartments, community space, a kitchen, a small gym, a business center, and private study rooms.

The project aims to empower current and former foster youth to be successful, productive adults through training and mentorship in education, employment, and personal achievement.

The total cost of the project is expected to be $33 million, which includes $20 million in Harris County CDBG-DR funds, $3 million in private donations, and other funds to cover construction costs.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Access to affordable and stable housing and wraparound services are essential to Transition Age Youth (TAY), helping participants successfully transition to independent living. A national study indicated that up to 36 percent of former foster youth in the United States will become homeless within the first two years of leaving care. As a result, there is a higher risk for negative outcomes for TAY, including low education attainment, unemployment, criminal justice system involvement, mental health issues, and transient living.

Each year, more than 250 youth in the Houston area will exit the foster care system. Often, these youth do not have the support of a responsible adult to assist their transition to adulthood. The HAY Center can help meet the needs of TAY through affordable housing units and wraparound services. This project supports the need to increase access to quality affordable housing and reduce homelessness in Harris County.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Percent of project completed	100%

INFRASTRUCTURE

Project Names: *CFI - Avenue CDC, CFI – Bread of Life, CFI – Catholic Charities, CFI – Center for African American Military History, CFI – HOPE Clinic, CFI – Houston Area Urban League, CFI – Houston Land Bank, CFI – Ibna Sina Foundation, CFI – Interfaith, CFI – Legacy CDC, CFI – Memorial Assistance Ministries, CFI – TOMAGWA, CFI – YMCA*

Note: Each project under the CFI program is an individual project in the Project & Expenditure report.
Funding Amount: See table below
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website – Community Facilities & Infrastructure Investments]

Project Overview:
The Community Facilities & Infrastructure Investments (CFI) program utilizes ARPA funding for community facilities, infrastructure investments, and public services to increase the operational capacity of nonprofit organizations and local government programs. This includes a variety of initiatives pertaining to social services, housing, community development, and infrastructural improvement in alignment with the priority to improve the lives of county residents' outcomes.

Investments will prioritize improving the lives of county residents through:

- Reducing the number of residents experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, or food insecurity

- Expanding access to behavioral health supports
- Expanding access to healthcare
- Reducing violent crime and domestic violence or sexual abuse.

Funding has been distributed equally for projects across the four Harris County Precincts.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The following types of projects were selected that expand the scope and equitable impact of non-profit organizations and local governments:

- Renovation or construction of new physical infrastructure with a focus on augmenting the capacity of nonprofit organizations
- Strategic acquisition of pre-existing facilities to increase the operational capabilities of non-profit organizations
- Construction projects needing gap financing that are slated for completion within the stipulated ARPA expenditure deadlines
- Capital improvement projects designed to support nonprofit organizations dedicated to addressing food insecurity, homelessness, behavioral health, and/or violence or domestic violence reduction
- Existing programs that need an increase in operational capacity including but not limited to providing for increased staffing needs, in alignment that addresses barriers to the improvement or stabilization of the lives of county residents' such as food insecurity, housing insecurity and homelessness, domestic violence or sexual abuse, mental health, and behavioral health support.

Infrastructure Project Details	Project Overview
Project Name: CFI - Catholic Charities **Project Number:** ARPA_CFICC **Funding Amount:** $849,267.50	Funds are being used for the demolition and drainage construction scope related to new building construction.
Project Name: CFI - Center for African American History **Project Number:** ARPA_CFICAAMH **Funding Amount:** $750,000.00	Funds are being used to renovate the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum building in order to continue providing and expanding the behavioral health programs for their Ready and Forward Campaign.

Project Name: CFI - HOPE Clinic **Project Number:** ARPA_CFIHOPE **Funding Amount:** $1,531,150.00	Funds are being used for the renovation and service expansion of the Asian American Health Coalition of the Greater Houston Area also known as the HOPE Clinic.
Project Name: CFI - Memorial Assistance Ministries **Project Number:** ARPA_CFIMAM **Funding Amount:** $2,080,000.00	Funds are being used to build a facility that provides financial empowerment services to low-and moderate-income people. Services include financial education and coaching, free tax preparation, and financial "navigation" services aimed at helping clients determine and plan their financial goals.
Project Name: CFI - YMCA **Project Number:** ARPA_CFIYMCA **Funding Amount:** $939,267.50	Funds are being used to support the architecture, engineering design work and demolition expenses for the demolition and reconstruction of the M.D Anderson Family YMCA.

Capacity Building Project Details	Project Overview
Project Name: CFI - Avenue CDC **Project Number:** ARPA_CFIAVENUE **Funding Amount:** $422,436.00	Funds used to support Avenue Community Development Corporation (Avenue) to expand their Homebuyer Education, counseling and community programs to promote affordable housing in an underserved, predominantly Hispanic neighborhood.
Project Name: CFI - Bread of Life **Project Number:** ARPA_CFIBREAD **Funding Amount:** $500,000.00	Funds used to support Bread of Life, Inc. in their mission to serve marginalized communities of Harris County by providing food distribution and job training, education, and employment assistance.
Project Name: CFI - Houston Area Urban League	Funds used to support the Houston Area Urban League in expanding their capacity to provide housing services to communities in need of assistance through the Housing Preservation Center.

Project Number: ARPA_CFIHAUL **Funding Amount:** $500,000.00	
Project Name: CFI - Houston Land Bank **Project Number:** ARPA_CFIHLB **Funding Amount:** $658,122.00	Funds used to support the Houston Land Bank to expand and enhance their Traditional Homebuyer Program (THP) and to assist low and moderate-income families to become homeowners.
Project Name: CFI - Ibn Sina Foundation **Project Number:** ARPA_CFIISF **Funding Amount:** $1,128,632.00	Funds used to extend therapy services and health education group classes to underserved individuals and families. Providing mental health screening, assessment and treatment.
Project Name: CFI - Interfaith **Project Number:** ARPA_CFIMEALS **Funding Amount:** $200,000.00	Funds used to increase seniors' food security and their ability to live independently in their own homes by providing critical nutrition and need assessment services to Harris County residents age 60+
Project Name: CFI - Legacy CDC **Project Number:** ARPA_CFILEGACY **Funding Amount:** $300,000.00	Funds to increase the number of programs that Legacy Community Development Corporation provides for low-and moderate-income families. Expanded programs include financial literacy, budgeting, credit repair, housing relocation, social service referrals, rent assistance, and homebuyer certification. Funds are expected to allow Legacy to triple the number of families served
Project Name: CFI - TOMAGWA **Project Number:** ARPA_CFITOMAGWA **Funding Amount:** $1,447,500.00	Funds used to reduce the primary care disparity for underserved communities in Northwest Harris County through the provision of healthcare workers, prescription medications, and grants for medical care.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of CFI projects completed	1

Program Name: *Water Sewer Project Management*

Project Number: *ARPA_WATER*
Funding Amount: $30,220,903.12
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website – Wastewater Infrastructure

Project Overview:
The ARPA Wastewater Infrastructure project aims to increase access to functional sewer systems, particularly in vulnerable communities where minimizing environmental and public health impacts of septic system failure is critical. Insufficient access to reliable sewage infrastructure compromises general health and contributes to the spreading of contagious diseases, and decentralized systems in low-income areas have higher rates of failure, leading to polluted and compromised water sources.

The Harris County Engineering Department is investing ARPA funds to provide public wastewater infrastructure to Westfield Estates, a high-density, low-income neighborhood consisting of older homes. Homes in this subdivision currently rely on outdated septic systems for wastewater services, which have a 46 percent septic failure rate and can discharge raw sewage into yards, then into the roadside open ditches, and into Halls Bayou, which is an impaired waterway.

ARPA funds are being used for a feasibility study, program management services, property acquisition, construction of a sanitary sewer system and wastewater treatment facility, materials testing, and Harris County Engineering Department labor. Constructing a public sanitary sewer system and abandoning septic tanks will help minimize bacterial contamination in the subdivision and waterways. Access to wastewater services also has the potential to increase development within the area. When completed, the new system will deliver safer, more reliable wastewater services to over 700 homes.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
According to a study on the Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure, commissioned by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Value of Water Campaign, reliable water service is an enabling force for economic growth and prosperity. On the other hand, unreliable water service and deteriorating infrastructure can put communities and the economy at risk. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the need to act and invest across all levels of government and failing to act now could lead to prolonged economic and public health vulnerability.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), septic systems sited in densities exceeding the treatment capacity of regional soils and systems that are poorly designed, installed, operated, or maintained can cause problems. These can involve the contamination of surface and ground water, excessive nitrogen discharges to sensitive coastal water, and phosphorous pollution of inland surface water.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Percent of project complete	25.4%
Percent of funds spent	26.34%

EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

***Program Name**: Accessible Child Care Training Supports (ACCTS)*

***Project Number**: ARPA_ACCTS*
Funding Amount: $6,853,574.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website - ACCTS, Children's Learning Institute - ACCTS

Project Overview:
A thriving child-care workforce is a critical component to ensuring Harris County residents have better access to high-quality child care. Due to low pay, difficult working conditions, and limited free time, child-care workers are often unable to access high-quality training and education to support their career development and progression in the industry. Harris County aims to attract new workers to the sector, retain the existing workforce, and support members of the workforce in their career and wage growth. Harris County Accessible Child Care Training Supports (ACCTS) invests directly in the Harris County child-care workforce by providing highly incentivized training and education opportunities.

The ACCTS Program includes three strategies for child care workers to get important training that can help them earn higher wages and build long-term careers:

- Incentivized CDA Credential
- Incentivized High-Quality Training
- Scholarships for Specialized Certifications

Eligible participants include:

- Adult residents of Harris County with a high school diploma or GED equivalent, at 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines or below.
- Residents of other Texas counties who are currently employed in child care in Harris County, at 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines or below.
- Owner/operators of listed, registered, or licensed home care businesses in Harris County, at 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines or below.
- High school students in Harris County participating in an Early Learning, Human Services, or aligned Career and Technical Education program

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Child-care workers receive low wages for challenging and stressful work. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the hourly mean wage for child-care workers in the Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area is $12.35. This means that a single parent of two, working full-time in child care in Harris County, is likely to be living near or below the federal poverty guidelines. In addition, according to recent research by the Texas Policy Lab, the Texas child-care workforce is comprised of mostly low-income women of color, a group that has experienced significant hardship due to COVID-19. These conditions that impact child-care workers help explain the slow recovery of the child-care industry.

In addition to the central role the workforce plays in the availability of child care, the child-care workforce is perhaps the most critical influencing factor in the quality of early learning environments. In fact, 60 percent of a child-care center's Texas Rising Star rating, the state child-care Quality Rating and Improvement System, is tied to the training and behavior of child-care workers. To put it simply, investments in the child care workforce serve as investments in child care quality.

No evaluation will be conducted for this program.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
CDA training hours completed	14,485

Program Name: *Childcare Quality Network*

Project Number: *ARPA_QUALNET*
Funding Amount: $16,017,116.03
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website – Child Care Quality Networks, Harris County Public Library - ELQN

Project Overview:
Emerging research suggests that, now more than ever, children need support for their healthy learning and development. The full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child development may not be known for many years, but emerging research suggests that infants born during the pandemic scored lower on average in gross motor, fine motor, and communication skills compared to those born before it. Additionally, providers have noted delays in speech and language as well as trouble sharing and being in groups. The early care and learning community acknowledges that the pandemic has exacerbated housing and food insecurity as well as rising rates of neglect and household dysfunction.

Yet, at this urgent time for child development, there is less child care available to support young children than ever as a result of COVID-19. Research from Children at Risk indicates that approximately 25 percent of all child-care facilities closed statewide during the height of the pandemic and 20 percent of all available child-care capacity was lost. Communities of color were the most impacted by COVID-19-related closures. These communities experienced twice the rate of child-care disruptions and centers within these communities were twice as likely to close. In addition to the overall number of program closures, those seeking to reopen, including school-based programs, struggle to hire qualified staff to support young children due the pandemic.

Additional support will be needed to build back this supply of qualified staff and ensure the adults working in early learning settings have the resources they need to thrive. One way Harris County addresses this need is by creating an Early Learning Quality Network. Our quality network is comprised of two parts, a Quality Network Support Hub, and Local Network Organizations. The Quality Network Support Hub provides planned, and on-call supports for each Local Support Organization to accomplish its goals. These supports can include but are not limited to training and coaching on baseline definitions of quality, on materials and support to create community plans, and on access to experts in various aspects of the early childhood field. The Local Network Organizations are housed at a community-based organization within a target community across Harris County. An Advisory Group was formed to guide their work and includes child-care providers, families, education and health professionals, and other key community stakeholders. The Local Network Organization holds community conversations to adopt a definition of quality for their community and identifies key initiatives to support child care while building relationships. They fund and oversee quality initiatives across all types of child care including center-based, home-based, and family and friends child care.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
School Readiness Consulting LLC (SRC) will be completing the evaluation for the Early Learning Quality Network project. Their approach to the project will include a formative implementation and a descriptive examination of program impacts over the course of the three-year project. SRC will use a mixed-methods approach and design, leveraging both quantitative and qualitative data sources, and will use a theory-of-change model to inform the data protocols and analysis. The resulting findings and recommendations, along with the dissemination of results focusing on storytelling and community-centered change, will provide information that Harris County can utilize in continuous implementation and the strengthening of Early Learning Quality Networks.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Total community engagement	3,392

Program Name: *Collaborative for Children*

Project Number: *ARPA_ECIF2COLLAB*
Funding Amount: $3,299,350.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: Collaborative for Children, ARPA Website – Collaborative for Children

Project Overview:
Collaborative for Children was chosen to expand its Centers of Excellence (COE) Program across Harris County. The COE aims to create a cost-effective statewide formula for school readiness by offering a three-tier model of support and training for children, families, and child-care staff.

Level 1 targets child care centers with the highest need, where 50 percent or more of the children receive subsidies, and provides intense on-site and remote intervention along with a professional learning community and access to the Collab-Lab.

Level 2 provides services to centers that have less than 50 percent of children receiving subsidies and is more focused on teacher development, on-demand training, professional learning communities, and Collab-Lab visits. The COE Level 3 Model provides pop-up centers to shelters, apartment complexes, community parks, and large-scale events to connect families to resources that support social-emotional learning and STEAM activities.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Collaborative for Children's Center of Excellence (COE) model is based on research and lessons learned through community-wide collaborations.

The RAND Policy Research Corporation will be evaluating Early Childhood Impact Fund investments, including Collaborative for Children.

Performance Report:
Collaborative for Children's target goals are to empower early childhood teachers, families, directors, and community leaders who engage with children 0-5 years with proven skills and strategies to help them effectively develop proficiencies that allow children to regulate their behavior and emotions, form positive relationships, engage in group activities, and make cognitive gains that will ready them for kindergarten and life-long learning.

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of children served Children participating in centers	19,867

Program Name: *County Connections*

Project Number: *ARPA_HCDE*
Funding Amount: $8,387,126.68
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: CASE, ARPA Website – County Connections

Project Overview:
County Connections Youth Summer Initiative provides grants to organizations that offer comprehensive summer programming, short-term projects, and other enrichment for children ages 5-18 through The Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) Center for Afterschool Summer and Enrichment (CASE) for Kids. County Connections fills gaps in existing enrichment services for youth, sponsors full and partial scholarships to assist families with program fees, and includes college and career readiness initiatives for older children. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, grantees provided direct service activities, virtual learning activities, or hybrid lessons. This program aims to ensure accessibility and meet the health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19 to provide children with enriching activities they did not have during the pandemic.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
County Connections collects data on the number of students served, types of organizations and services offered as part of programming, as well as zip codes/precincts in which each of these organizations reside. Ongoing program evidence consists of student demographic data collection of those currently served.

Performance Report:

Program	KPI Description	Actuals to Date
County Connections 2022	Students Enrolled	5,570
County Connections '23 - '25	Students Enrolled	16,251

Program Name: *Early Childhood Initiatives Roles*

Project Code: *ARPA_CHILDCARE*
Funding Amount: $1,896,327.65
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
Harris County's Early Childhood Initiatives department recognizes the necessity of investing in early childhood development and the expansion of access to affordable, dependable, high-quality child care. This funding allowed the County to hire an Associate Director and Analyst to support Early Childhood Initiatives throughout the County. The Associate Director is responsible for providing senior leadership to the County's early childhood work and leads the management of internal County processes and procedures to ensure the success of the portfolio. The Analyst develops reports, tracks partner and portfolio progress, and analyzes data to understand the effectiveness of the early childhood portfolio.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The design of child-care facilities should be intentionally built to meet the needs of all young children based on their cognitive and motor capabilities. The long-standing underfunding for child-care infrastructure has led to environments that, at best, do not support learning and development and, at worst, are unsafe for children. A study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services across 10 states found that 96 percent of child-care programs receiving Child Care and Development Fund dollars have one or more potentially hazardous conditions for children. Without additional investment, these conditions will not change, and children will continue to be cared for in environments that do not meet their needs to develop, learn, and be safe and healthy.

In the Harris County area, there is currently no public funding available to provide access to funding for child-care facilities outside of traditional means, such as loans. Data is not systematically collected about the state of child-care facilities in Harris County. However, the county does have data on the supply and demand of child care courtesy of an analysis by the Texas Policy Lab (TPL) at Rice University. This analysis—available on TPL's website divides Harris County into child-care markets to show where there are child care deserts based on an estimate of demand for child care. This analysis supports the need to both improve the quality of child-care environments to expand the number of child-care slots available through expanding child care, especially high-quality child care that accepts child-care subsidies, as the analysis found that 83 percent of Harris County child-care markets are subsidy-accepting deserts, 98 percent are quality rated provider deserts, and 99 percent are high-quality provider deserts.

In addition, Harris County has conducted outreach with child-care centers and child-care homes, specifically those that serve low-income children and children of color, to understand their specific needs around child-care facilities.

An evaluation is not required for this program.

Performance Report:
Due to the nature of this program, no key performance indicators have been created for this project.

Program Name: *Early REACH*

Project Number: *ARPA_CCAPACITY*
Funding Amount: $53,740,531.90
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: Early REACH, ARPA Website - Early REACH

Project Overview:
Early REACH (Raising Educational Access for Children in Harris County) programming works with high-quality child-care centers to add 800-1,000 new child-care slots that are in, or near, child care deserts and have a high social vulnerability index. This is a pilot program using a contracted slots model to increase providers' capacity to provide high-quality child care. The focus is on children with the least access to care: infants, toddlers, and three-year-olds, families with low incomes, and families in high-poverty areas. Additionally, Early REACH assists the staffing of child-care environments by requiring a living wage for classroom staff and supporting good working conditions to reduce teacher turnover. Early REACH also creates strong, durable small businesses by building entrepreneurial practices to support the sustainability of child care.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
A third-party evaluation will be conducted by Brazelton Touchpoints Center. The approach used for this evaluation will be a community-based participatory research model that includes both quantitative and qualitative data. The evaluation will be both exploratory and summative. During the evaluation process, the evaluators will focus on the quality improvement initiatives being implemented through the Early REACH pilot.

In addition to the evaluation of quality improvement initiatives, there will be a third-party evaluation analyzing the child-care center, family, and market impacts and cost-effectiveness of the contract slots model.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of children served	1,458

Program Name: *Helping Hands*

Project Number: ARPA_HELPING
Funding Amount: $2,500,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website – Helping Hands

Project Overview:
Helping Hands provides funding and support to community-based organizations in improving and increasing efforts to contact and inform likely eligible residents and enroll them in public benefits programs. The targeted public benefits programs for Helping Hands include Children's Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), CHIP for pregnant women, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Harris Health Financial Assistance Program. The program aims to enroll at least 1,000 residents in public benefits programs and build sustainable benefits enrollment capacity and knowledge among Harris County community-based organizations. The Alliance of

Community Assistance Ministries (ACAM), the intermediary organization, conducts a granting program to subrecipients to achieve the goal of Harris County Helping Hands.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
The Helping Hands program was developed based on considerable evidence documenting the positive impact safety net programs have on child wellbeing and child outcomes. Harris County has significant need for this program with 26 percent of children living at or below the federal poverty guidelines and 65 percent of county children living at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines. Despite the need for and positive impact associated with safety net programs; Harris County has significant gaps in participation for available programs. As an example, some estimates find that 105,000 - 110,000 Harris County children are likely eligible but unenrolled for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and that 85,000 Harris County residents are eligible but not enrolled in Texas Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
# of benefit applications submitted	1,595

Program Name: *Home-Based Child Care Entrepreneurship*

Project Code: *ARPA_ECIFHOME*
Funding Amount: $550,231.29
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: Child Care Entrepreneurship, ARPA Website – Home-based Child Care Entrepreneurship

Project Overview:
The Alliance Home-Based Child Care (HBCC) program worked to close the child-care gap in Harris County by providing professional child-care training, business development, and instruction services for entrepreneurs, specifically targeting refugee women as child-care providers. The key priorities for The Alliance were to connect refugee communities, close the child-care gap for low- to moderate-income populations, provide opportunities to increase household incomes and allow parents and/or other caregivers to enter the workforce with safe and consistent child care.

The Alliance HBCC supported eligible refugee women to establish licensed home-based child-care businesses throughout Harris County. With ARPA funding, they expanded their client and training services to add 184 child care slots for 58 new child care providers over three years.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on child care, with nearly 4.5 million child-care slots lost nationwide. Prior to COVID-19, Harris County experienced a significant shortage of affordable child care options. According to a February 2021 report, 25 percent of all child-care centers in Texas closed due to COVID-19. Many child-care programs are not licensed and only 43 percent of licensed child-care providers accept subsidies, resulting in a lack of affordable, quality child care. Moreover, many families suffered financial hardship during the pandemic and child care is the second most expensive item in the family budget, falling just behind housing.

During the pandemic, fewer families enrolled their children in child-care programs, which resulted in the closure of many child-care facilities. Child-care facilities also saw an increase in employee shortages and turnover during the pandemic, which created challenges for ensuring child-care centers were adequately staffed. As families returned to work, they experienced obstacles in finding child care. Working families need access to culturally competent, accessible, and affordable child care.

The RAND Policy Research Corporation will be evaluating Early Childhood Impact Fund investments, including Home-Based Child Care Entrepreneurship.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Home-based participants enrolled	136

Project Name: *INSPIRE*

Project Number: ARPA_INSPIRE
Funding Amount: $4,323,370.43
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services | The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD](), [ARPA Website - INSPIRE]()

Project Overview:
Inspire provides grants to qualifying families to promote community inclusion, prevent institutionalization, and improve developmental outcomes for young children. Progress on outcomes are captured on several diagnostic batteries. Inspire participants can receive up to $5,000 in financial assistance for assistive technology, learning materials, and/or services directly related to the disability, plus $1,000 for respite care (apx. 100 hours). It is estimated that 250 Harris County residents will receive a grant each year (500 unduplicated within the 24-month contract term). Qualification for Inspire includes, being a Harris County resident between the ages of 0 – 6 years, meet low income requirement of 200 percent below Federal Poverty Level (FPL) guidelines (income determination made based on parent or legally authorized representative), have a developmental delay, IDD, or pervasive developmental disorder, live in a natural/family home (excludes residential settings providing room/board, intermediate care facilities, inpatient facilities, etc.), have a need that can be met by allowable program services defined in the statement of work, not currently receiving funding or services considered duplicative to Inspire's authorized funding/services.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
Significant research indicates the benefits of access to Assistive Technology for children with disabilities, particularly related to measuring full inclusion of children with disabilities in school and community. When used and implemented properly, assistive technology is documented to greatly enhance the learning and wellbeing of children with disabilities. Further, respite care (or *family support*) has been documented to result in positive child outcomes in multiple literature reviews.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Families Served	142

Program Name: Kids' Meals

Project Number: *ARPA_ECIF2MEALS*
Funding Amount: $1,255,430.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: Kids' Meals, ARPA Website – Kids' Meals

Project Overview:
Kids' Meals was chosen to expand the healthy meal delivery program to children and families in Harris County. The purpose of Kids' Meals is to provide children relief from severe food insecurity and food deserts in poverty-stricken neighborhoods. The organization aims to end generational poverty by providing children with meals until they reach kindergarten, thus negating low school engagement, substandard academic development, and poor emotional and physical health. Kids' Meals also delivers meals for every child in the home up to age 18 during the summer when most children don't have access to food in school-based settings. A secondary component of Kids' Meals is to distribute educational materials, essential information about vital wraparound services, and monthly newsletters which detail services and programs offered by collaborative social service partners.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Based on current data from the non-profit organization Children at Risk, it is estimated that at least 88,000 children are living with food insecurity in Houston. Of those, at least 26,000 are under the age of six and qualify for our meal delivery services. This program addresses food insecurity worsened or created by the COVID-19 pandemic by delivering free, healthy meals to young children ages 0-5. In addition to providing food, the program provides resources to families to help end the cycle of poverty in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The RAND Policy Research Corporation will be evaluating Early Childhood Impact Fund investments, including Kids' Meals.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of households served	93,224

Project Name: Resiliency Fund

Project Number: *ARPA_RESFUND*
Funding Amount: $6,101,000
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: ARPA Website – Resiliency Fund

Project Overview:
The local Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Domestic Violence (DV) response network in Harris County contains a multitude of shelter-based and nonresidential interventions and programs aimed at supporting families experiencing DV and IPV. Further, there are approximately 325 families experiencing DV placed in publicly supported, affordable housing. This network is a key intervention point for reaching extremely vulnerable children with needed services. Harris County's Early

Childhood Initiatives is interested in supporting the DV and IPV response network, as well as aligned networks and programs, by responding to the developmental needs of young children in Harris County exposed to IPV and DV. The Early Childhood Resiliency Fund helps to reduce the harmful developmental impacts of early exposure to violence by investing in trauma-informed programs and strategies for young children exposed to DV and IPV. Eligible families are families with young children that have been exposed to DV/IPV. The purpose of this program is to improve developmental outcomes for the eligible population. Progress towards the goal is measured through various diagnostic batteries.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
Resiliency Fund's program design is rooted in research on the detrimental effects of continued IPV exposure on child development and outcomes and evidence that IPV and DV rose significantly in Harris County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Harris County Early Childhood Resiliency Fund will be evaluated by a third-party evaluator. The evaluation's scope will include determinations of success and impact related to KPIs and how much the program achieved equitable and representative participation from affected populations. Evaluation findings will be distributed to local, relevant organizations, made available online for public download, and included in the Harris County Early Childhood Initiatives final report.

The Harris County Early Childhood Resiliency Fund also includes descriptions of the evidence base for each applicant's proposed intervention.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Families Receiving Resiliency Fund services	343

Program Name: *Responsive Intervention Services & Engagement (RISE)*

Project Number: *ARPA_RISE*
Funding Amount: $4,300,507.17
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
Responsive Intervention Services & Engagement (RISE) works to improve the continuum of care for young children with disabilities in Harris County.

Three strategies are deployed through RISE:

- Dedicated resource specialists: Harris County residents are able to access a 24/7 resource helpline to advise families of children with disabilities on resources and navigating the service landscape. There are no specific eligibility requirements for this service. The service target is 1,200 callers a month.
- Enhanced Early Intervention Services: Certified Family Partners (CFP) was incorporated into the program to support family navigation and retention in the services. Eligibility criteria for Early Childhood Initiatives (ECI) were also expanded. Eligible families include families of children up to age three with qualifying developmental delays or medical diagnoses. The service target is 160 children through ECI, and 500 families through CFP.

- Applied Behavior Analysis - Skills Intervention Program (ABA-SKIP): The intervention is designed for children ages 3-8 years old with autism displaying inappropriate classroom behaviors and developmental delays. Eligible families include those with children ages 3-8 with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental delays. Service target is 100 children.

Outcomes are measured through basic enrollment and service data in the strategies.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
While child poverty has gone down in Texas (decreasing by 20 percent between 2012 and 2020), the state continues to rank among the bottom half of all states (37th for child poverty). Racial disparities also continue among children and their families due to systemic racism. About one in four African American and Hispanic children experienced poverty in 2020, at 26 and 27 percent respectively, compared to 9 percent of white children.

Research shows kids from lower-income families who receive early intervention services often perform better academically and achieve long-term educational gains. With nearly 65 percent of Texas students coming from families considered economically disadvantaged, bridging the gap between access and quality, evidenced-based interventions, coupled with Certified Family Partners, significantly increases marginalized communities' ability to combat economic and educational issues compounded by COVID.

No evaluation will be conducted for this program.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of children/families enrolled	389

Program Name: *Rupani Foundation*

Project Number: ARPA_ECIF2RUP
Funding Amount: $3,999,472.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: Rupani Foundation, ARPA Website – Rupani Foundation

Project Overview:
The Rupani Foundation uses community-driven approaches to provide holistic, culturally relevant, and respectful support programs for resource-limited families parenting or expecting infants and toddlers. By partnering with the Hackett Center for Mental Health and Children's Museum Houston for their "Thriving Together" program, they strive to amplify their efforts to improve relational health between caregivers and young children, build caregiver knowledge and skills for nurturing interactions, and address common feelings of isolation and stress within families facing systemic barriers.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The Rupani Foundation uses brain-based and parent-centered approaches to promote early learning and family well-being. Using the *Thriving Together* Approach, the Rupani Foundation provides wraparound supports, experiential reinforcement, best-in-class research, and evidence-based curriculum.

The RAND Policy Research Corporation will be evaluating Early Childhood Impact Fund investments, including the Rupani Foundation program.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Brain builder sites	29

Program Name: *Safe Babies*

Project Number: *ARPA_ECIFSAFE*
Funding Amount: $1,200,297.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website – Safe Babies]

Project Overview:
Safe Babies is an initiative implemented by First3Years, which works to promote secure attachments for infants and toddlers in foster care with positive collaboration between birth and foster parents and supporting reunification staff and stakeholders at every level of the foster care system.

Their initiatives include working directly with birth families and foster families to strengthen relationships and facilitating broader systemic changes for a developmentally informed child welfare system, so all children receive the level of care necessary to thrive. Safe Babies supports children, birth and foster families, early childhood professionals, stakeholders, and child welfare staff across Houston and Harris County. Their work is linked to COVID-19 as one of many solutions to support birth and foster families that may be affected by parental stressors due to school closures, high rates of unemployment, rising food costs, and lack of quality child care in their communities.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The Safe Babies program promotes nurturing, responsive relationships utilizing research and developmentally informed practices. First3Years contracts with The University of Texas at Austin's Texas Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing to conduct the program evaluation for their Safe Babies initiative, operating across Tarrant, Dallas, and Harris Counties. The evaluation found that a major strength of the program is in providing support for coparenting between birth parents and caregivers.

The RAND Policy Research Corporation will be evaluating the Early Childhood Impact Fund investments, including Safe Babies.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Children 0-3 served	55

Program Name: *SHINE Facilities Fund*

Project Number: *ARPA_SHINE*
Funding Amount: $14,309,050.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website - SHINE]()

Project Overview:
The SHINE Childhood Facilities Fund is Harris County's first-ever facilities-specific funding for providers in the region to receive support for construction, remodeling, and expansion projects for the physical spaces in which they offer early learning and care. The SHINE Fund serves to increase providers' access to capital and resources to make safe and nurturing environments for Harris County's children. It also serves as a model to further examine the efficacy of offering providers access to funding pre-determined for altering their facilities, and in turn, its effects on children's learning and growth.

This project is designed to reach all Harris County Precincts. The SHINE Facilities Fund prioritizes areas within each Precinct with a High Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and a low supply of quality child care, and prioritizes providers who serve or will begin to serve infants and toddlers of marginalized backgrounds (e.g., children with disabilities, low-income children, homeless children, and children in foster care).

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
A well-designed facility for the care of children considers all individuals and groups who will be impacted by the design; a child-care facility should consider the safety and well-being of children, taking into account children with different abilities, the caregivers that staff the program, and the caregivers and/or families that are to convene in the facility at various business hours. A study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services across 10 states found that 96 percent of child-care programs receiving Child Care and Development Fund dollars have one or more potentially hazardous conditions for children. Without additional investment, these conditions will not change, and children will continue to be cared for in environments that do not meet their needs to develop, learn, and be safe and healthy.

In the Harris County area, there is currently no public funding available to provide access to funding for child-care facilities outside of traditional means, such as loans.

Data is not systematically collected about the state of child-care facilities in Harris County. However, the county does have data on the supply and demand of child care, courtesy of an analysis by the Texas Policy Lab (TPL) at Rice University. This analysis—available on [TPL's website]() divides Harris County into child-care markets to show where there are child care deserts based on an estimate of demand. The analysis supports the necessity to improve both the quality of child care environments and the availability of child care slots, particularly by expanding high-quality child care that accepts subsidies. The study found that in Harris County, 83 percent of child care markets do not accept subsidies, 98 percent lack quality-rated providers, and 99 percent lack high-quality providers.

In addition, Harris County has conducted outreach with child care centers and child care homes, specifically those that serve low-income children and children of color, to understand their specific needs around child care facilities.

No evaluation will be conducted for this program.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Data
Number of child care seats impacted	N/A

Program Name: *upWORDS*

Project Number: ARPA_ECIFWORDS
Funding Amount: $4,607,487.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: upWORDS, ARPA Website - upWORDS

Project Overview:
The upWORDS program is a 15-week early language development program offered universally to families with children 0-3 years of age. It is a part of the upWORDS Community Model, a tiered framework in which universal and targeted interventions work in tandem to achieve goals of supporting early brain development and reducing developmental disparities in Harris County. The Community Model also provides training to 6,000 professionals who work with young children on topics including early brain and language development and positive parenting. Their initiatives include language development programs, home visitation for new moms, developmental pediatrics for identified children, programming for children exhibiting speech and language delays, extended parent training, care coordination, training for early care professionals, and providing families with kits containing educational resources.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Researchers have found that babies born during the pandemic have worse outcomes than those born pre-pandemic. This is largely due to lack of exposure to early learning opportunities during this time, as well as higher rates of parental stress. Texas Children's Hospital implements its program to reach parents of young children and their families in ways that target both elements, especially focusing on low-income communities.

The RAND Policy Research Corporation will be evaluating Early Childhood Impact Fund investments, including upWORDS.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Children attending first upWORDS class	1,233

FAMILY FINANCIAL STABILITY

Program Name: *Child Tax Credit*

Project Number: ARPA_CHILDTAX
Funding Amount: 421,121.92
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
According to the IRS, the Child Tax Credit (CTC) has not been claimed for at least 30,000 children in Harris County, representing over $90 million in missed payments. To combat child poverty and help eligible families claim the credit, Commissioners Court approved a $0.5 million contract with BakerRipley for community outreach, non-filer form preparation assistance, and tax preparation assistance. The program's main goal was to ensure the low-income families at risk of missing out enroll in the 2021 expanded CTC, which could lead to a significant decline in child poverty. Through the reporting period, 3,189 children have been claimed under the CTC as a result of outreach and assistance efforts, and 6,175 households have filed taxes as a result of assistance. Populations that were targeted for outreach included extremely low-income families, households with low education levels, disabilities, or limited internet access, and mixed immigration status households. To measure the impact of this program, BakerRipley tracked metrics on households that receive information about the CTC, the number of households accessing the CTC non-filer portal as a result of assistance, the number of households filing taxes as a result of assistance, the number of children claimed under the CTC as a result of outreach and assistance, and other key metrics on tax-related services accessed. While difficult to measure, increased uptake of the CTC will help to combat child poverty across the County.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
According to a study by the National Academy of Sciences, the CTC project is among the most successful major federal assistance programs for alleviating child poverty. The same study also noted child poverty rates are disproportionately higher for children of color. The Center on Poverty and Social Policy predicts that, if all likely-eligible children are covered, the expanded CTC has the potential to reduce monthly child poverty by up to 40 percent and that "expanding coverage to all eligible children is key to achieving the Child Tax Credit's full anti-poverty potential, with the greatest gains to be realized for Black and Latino children."

The Treasury Department estimates that most eligible children will receive their CTC payments automatically because their families filed tax returns in the preceding two years or used the IRS' non-filer portal to claim Economic Impact Payments (EIPs). However, an estimated four million children will not receive automatic payments; therefore, aggressive outreach is crucial in order to helping the lowest-income and hardest-to-reach families access the CTC. These four million children come from very low-income families, from families with immigrant parents whose children have social security numbers but who may be hesitant or unable to file their tax returns, and from families not required to file taxes (e.g., caregivers receiving benefits such as Social Security). The latter group may include grandparents who have dependent children in their care.

The literature indicates that minority households (most significantly African American and Hispanic or Latino households), families with the lowest income levels, and those with earnings from self-employment are among the least likely to file taxes and, thus, are most at risk of failing to claim and receive the CTC. Studies have also shown that immigrant and Hispanic populations are among the largest groups with the lowest tax-filing rates and highest amounts of unclaimed tax benefits; therefore, these families may benefit from extra assistance from trusted messengers who can help with navigating IRS requirements and forms, many of which are provided only in English.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's weekly Household Pulse Survey, introduction of the expanded CTC coincided with a decrease in food insufficiency in households with children. These households also reported less difficulty paying weekly expenses, which is further explained by data collected from the same survey showing that 91 percent of low-income households nationally (and 93 percent in Texas) used their monthly CTC payments to cover basic household necessities (food, utilities, rent or mortgage, clothing) or education costs.

Harris County allocated the full adopted budget of this program to evidence-based interventions. A program evaluation will not be conducted for this program.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of children claimed under CTC	4,076

Program Name: *Flexible Financial Assistance*

Project Number: *ARPA_DAP*
Funding Amount: $65,400,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: Harris County Recovery Assistance, ARPA Website – Flexible Financial Assistance

Project Overview:
In 2021, Harris County and Catholic Charities partnered to administer a total of $60 million in financial assistance to Harris County residents in response to the financial distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the Harris County Recovery Assistance (HCRA) program. The program provided a one-time cash transfer of $1,500 to households located within Harris County that met eligibility requirements such as having at least one household member enrolled in a public assistance program, or a total household income at or below 60 percent of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Area Median Family Income. Recipients were allowed to use the payment for any COVID-related emergency expenses such as healthcare, rent or mortgage, utilities, food, internet, transportation, child care, and other past-due expenses.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The program was based on studies conducted regarding the effectiveness of unconditional cash grants for alleviating poverty and studies showing that federal Economic Impact Payments helped families afford basic needs. Research also showed that households were unable to afford basic needs during the pandemic. By April 2020, a Pew Research study reported that only 23 percent of households had emergency funds that would last 3 months, and about half of low-income Americans had reported a job or wage loss due to COVID-19 by that point. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Urban Institute, and the Federal Reserve all indicate that families struggled with food insecurity and paying for bills and other basic expenses, and that the impacts were felt especially by those who entered the pandemic with fewer resources and/or experienced a layoff. While the impacts were lessened by safety net programs, for many households, such assistance has not been enough.

Beneficiaries were surveyed to learn about uses of funds and recommendations for future programs; the Harris County Department of Economic Equity and Opportunity then prepared a program assessment that was transmitted to Commissioners Court.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of households assisted	40,000

Program Name: Neighborhood Tax Centers

Project Number: ARPA_NTC
Funding Amount: $2,069,727.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: Tax Credit Assistance, ARPA Website – Neighborhood Tax Centers

Project Overview:
Through Harris County's three-year investment in tax preparation assistance, the BakerRipley Neighborhood Tax Centers (NTC) program will help more than 40,000 families prepare tax returns, capture EITC and CTC, and secure ITINs, expanding reach through 12 mobile tax assistance sites. This investment will return around $70 million in net refunds to Harris County families and save an estimated $10 million in tax preparation fees. Funds are exclusively used for direct staff costs for tax preparation, program communications, and outreach. Populations served include extremely low-income families, households with low education levels, disabilities, or limited internet access, and mixed immigration status households. To measure the impact of this program, BakerRipley is tracking households that receive information about tax assistance, the number of households filing taxes as a result of assistance, net refunds captured, ITINs secured, and other key metrics on tax-related activities.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The COVID-19 pandemic has been a source of economic hardship for families and individuals in Harris County. BakerRipley NTC program provides hard-working families with much-needed tax assistance, leading to increased financial stability and poverty reduction for thousands of families across Harris County. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shared that in 2015, the EITC lifted about 6.5 million people out of poverty. By ensuring Harris County residents claim this and all other available tax credits and offering no-cost tax preparation, the NTC program can help alleviate the economic burden caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The NTC program focuses on vulnerable populations to help transition families out of poverty.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of households filling taxes	103,713

Program Name: *Uplift*

Project Number: *ARPA_UPLIFT*
Funding Amount: $857,591.22
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
The Uplift Guaranteed Income Pilot was initially designed as an 18-month initiative aimed at providing continuous cash transfers to eligible low-income individuals and households. The goal was to ensure an income floor and address economic inequality for communities most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Each participating household was to receive $500 per month, with funding planned for two cohorts: one composed of residents from the ten highest-poverty ZIP codes, and the other made up of priority populations under ACCESS, a coordinated safety net service delivery model administered by Harris County Public Health.

Unfortunately, the program has been cancelled and will not move forward as originally planned.

Background and Purpose
The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the economic vulnerability of low-income families, many of whom live paycheck to paycheck and are at constant risk of housing or financial instability. Over 200,000 Harris County workers—8.6 percent of the workforce—are considered "working poor," with incomes below the federal poverty line despite holding jobs. The program aimed to address these disparities by providing direct, unconditional cash assistance to help stabilize households, increase employment opportunities, and improve physical and mental well-being.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation
The pilot was to include a research and evaluation component to support randomized participant selection and assess the program's effectiveness. This approach was modeled after successful guaranteed income pilots like the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED), which demonstrated positive outcomes such as reduced income volatility and increased employment among participants.

Performance Report:
Program has been cancelled prior to serving any individuals; therefore, no KPIs are available.

SMALL BUSINESS

Program Name: *Harris Hub*

Project Number: *ARPA_HARRISHUB*
Funding Amount: $6,426,417.49
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website – Harris Hub]

Project Overview:
Harris Hub provides funding to Business Support Organizations (BSOs) to increase their capacity to provide in-depth and culturally competent technical assistance to small and micro businesses affected by the pandemic, with a focus on Minority- or Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE)

and business owners in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) as designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Selected Technical Assistance vendors provide customized services to small businesses that include, but are not limited to:

- Business Financial Review
- Assistance with loan applications/process
- Business Mentoring/Coaching
- Financial Literacy/Credit Counseling
- Technology Services (website, software, etc.)
- Marketing and Branding
- Business Plan Creation
- Assisting with navigating the procurement and certification process

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
This program will be assessed via a robust evaluation strategy, implemented in partnership with an evaluation vendor. The following metrics and data points reflect the County's goals in defining and tracking program performance, efficiency, and impact. The responsibility for collecting the data points will be shared jointly amongst the Harris Hub vendors and third-party evaluators depending on the scope of their work.

The required data should be granular, beneficiary-level, and may include, but is not limited to, the following types of variables:

- Technical assistance webinar, seminar, coaching rates
- Granular beneficiary data
- Business revenue measures
- Amount of money applied for (outside loans/capital) and amount received
- Jobs (full-time or part-time) retained or created
- Number of businesses receiving technical assistance
- Number of total hours of technical assistance provided
- Number and percentage of businesses who received technical assistance services who were able to stay in business one year later
- Number of businesses that increase skills such as improved knowledge about the local market or gained new ideas about products, services, techniques, or technologies (as determined by a client assessment or pre/post-test for classes)
- Number of businesses that receive financial support through grant funding (if applicable)
- Number of new businesses created/launched
- Number of business closures and causes
- Number of small businesses that submit a response to government requests for bids and/or proposals
- Number of government contracts awarded to businesses that received Harris Hub-affiliated assistance (TA and/or grant funds)
- Number of small businesses that submit a response to government bids and/or proposals as a Prime contractor
- Number of businesses assisted in getting certifications and listing of certification type
- Beneficiary satisfaction with program services (e.g., client survey to rate their satisfaction with coaching or with classes taught).

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of businesses that received TA	253

Program Name: *Small Business*

Project Number: *ARPA_SMALLBUS*
Funding Amount: $32,022,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website – Small Business Relief]

Project Overview:
Harris County created the $30 million Harris County Business Relief Fund to accelerate recovery for microenterprises and small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund provided grants ranging from $5,000 to $25,000 to eligible microenterprises and small businesses located inside Harris County. LiftFund, a Texas Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) with over 25 years of experience serving small and underserved entrepreneurs, administered the program and coordinated outreach through 90 community partners and five navigator agencies.
Use of grant funds was restricted to business-related expenses including payroll, working capital, business rent, inventory, supplies, equipment, and other operating costs.

To qualify for the program, applicants had to meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Located within Harris County
- Registered business operating in Harris County
- Must have 30 or fewer employees (including part-time, contractors, full-time employees and owners)
- In operation before April 2020
- Experienced negative impact on operations due to the pandemic
- Annual revenue of less than $500,000 dollars in 2019 and 2020
- In good standing with the Texas Comptroller's office with no outstanding tax obligations or liabilities

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Overall program design of the Harris County Business Relief Fund was grounded in evidence, such as using a prioritization index to maximize equitable outcomes (rather than a first-come-first served basis), including factors such as which sectors had been most impacted by the pandemic.

Subsequent data analysis and recipient surveys allowed evaluation of the program based on variables such as:

- Applicant and beneficiary demographics
- Industry
- Business size
- Perceptions of business sustainability
- Business operations
- New job creation
- Business needs and challenges
- Funding utilization
- Employee recruitment and turnover

- Perceived likelihood of remaining in business

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of businesses assisted	2,577

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Program Name: *Apprenticeship Advantage*

Project Number: *ARPA_APPRENT*
Funding Amount: $17,578,691.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: Union Apprenticeships — Texas Gulf Coast Area Labor Federation, Texas | NPower, ARPA Website – Apprenticeship Advantage

Project Overview:
Apprenticeship Advantage promotes the apprenticeship model of workforce development, which includes on-the-job training and early job placement in partnership with employers. Program goals include creating and expanding opportunities for U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) in traditional and high-growth emerging industries within Harris County. Apprenticeship Advantage develops the Harris County workforce while fostering access to apprenticeship opportunities for underemployed and unemployed residents, dislocated workers, opportunity youth, people of color, women, and those without college degrees. This program responds to the COVID-19 public health emergency's economic impact on Harris County workers, including disproportionate challenges for those without living wage jobs.

Complementing training opportunities, wraparound support services included in the program increase apprenticeship retention, completion, and job placement rates. The program includes apprenticeships for in-demand technical skills, supports the energy transition with green jobs such as low-emission vehicle repair, and features the first-ever International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) apprenticeship for sports and entertainment sector employees.

Apprenticeship Advantage is administered by two subrecipients, the Texas Gulf Coast Area Labor Federation and NPower. The Texas Gulf Coast Area Labor Federation provides pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training across 10 union trades, and NPower provides apprenticeship training and job placement in digital skills careers, including cybersecurity.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
A wealth of evidence supports the effectiveness of apprenticeship programs in helping participants secure long-term employment in living wage jobs. Research suggests wraparound services to be an enabling factor in successful program completion, which prompted their inclusion in the original Request for Proposals (RFP).

Harris County has partnered with Elite Research to pursue a comprehensive program evaluation for Apprenticeship Advantage. The goals of the evaluation are:

- To understand how effective and equitable the Apprenticeship Advantage program is in supporting unemployed and underemployed individuals who were affected by COVID-19 in achieving upward mobility.
- To understand how effective and equitable the Apprenticeship Advantage program is in creating and/or expanding opportunities for U.S. Department of Labor RAP in traditional and high-growth emerging industries within Harris County and in creating access to opportunities for the unemployed, underemployed, dislocated workers, opportunity youth, people of color, women, and those without college degrees who were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19; and
- To understand how effective wraparound support services are in increasing program completion, placement, and retention rates.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of beneficiaries enrolled	1,201

***Program Name**: Hire Up Harris*

Project Number: *ARPA_HIRE*
Funding Amount: $14,224,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: Hire Up Harris, ARPA Website – Hire Up Harris

Project Overview:
Hire Up Harris supports comprehensive approaches to workforce development characterized by training complemented by soft skills development, professional skills development, and wraparound services. The goals of this program include the promotion of skills training and wraparound support services that can lift target populations—underemployed, unemployed, dislocated workers, opportunity youth, people of color, women, and those without college degrees—from poverty and economic insecurity. Harris County also seeks to build capacity among organizations that provide workforce training. Importantly, this program aims to support programming that includes wraparound support services that increase apprenticeship program completion, placement rates, and retention rates.

Hire Up Harris is administered by two subrecipient vendors, Wesley Community Center and Volunteers of America Texas.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Harris County has partnered with Elite Research to pursue a comprehensive program evaluation for Hire Up Harris. The goals of the evaluation are:

- To understand how effective and equitable the Hire Up Harris program is in supporting unemployed and underemployed individuals and their families who were affected by COVID-19 in achieving upward mobility.
- To understand how effective and equitable the Hire Up Harris program is in creating access to opportunities, both training and soft/professional skills, for the unemployed, underemployed, dislocated workers, opportunity youth, people of color, women and those without college degrees who were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

- To understand how effective the wraparound support services are in increasing program completion, placement, and retention rates.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of beneficiaries enrolled	2,615

Project Name: *Workforce Administration*

Project Number: ARPA_JOBSADMIN
Funding Amount: $625,992.76
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services
Website: [DEEO ARPA Workforce Programs]

Project Overview:
The Department of Economic Equity and Opportunity (DEEO) activates resources, partners, direct assistance, and data to eliminate economic disparities and disinvestments in Harris County. This Workforce Administration funding allowed DEEO to hire an Assistant Director of ARPA Initiatives, who is responsible for overall implementation, compliance, reporting, and close-out of programs funded by ARPA. Responsibilities include program evaluation and reporting, portfolio management, managing staff responsible for DEEO ARPA programs, communicating project progress to various stakeholders, and developing and managing relationships with the subrecipients and subcontractors implementing ARPA programming. The funding also allowed DEEO to hire a Project Manager responsible for the day-to-day management of the Small Business programs once implemented. Both positions are funded until 2026, aligning with the closeout of ARPA programs.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
Not required due to expenditure category

Performance Report:
Due to the nature of this program, no key performance indicators have been created for this project.

COUNTY OPERATIONS

Project Name: *Data Fellows*

Project Number: *ARPA_DATAFELLOW*
Funding Amount: $521,614.81
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
The Harris County launched the Data Fellows Program to empower County government agencies to improve their services to citizens through data-driven decision-making. Talented data analysts collaborated with County leaders to tackle key data challenges through operational guidance, performance tracking, county-wide support, and automation. Data Fellows seek data-driven performance in County government and are dedicated to improving services rendered to the citizens of Harris County.

Program success is measured through consideration of the following components: the number of projects achieving success metrics, the number of Data Fellows in a full-time role with the County after the completion of the program, and cost savings and revenue accretion from projects. The Data Fellows project assisted in providing operational guidance, helping departments build data tools and reporting to manage day-to-day operations, offered performance tracking, supported performance reporting for budget process and department meetings, built integrations for reporting County-wide measures, and created workflows to connect different data sources for better reporting. With streamlined data processes, the County will be better informed and thus better able to make decisions that optimize future performance.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The Data Fellows will measure the success and sustainability of projects, dashboards, process improvements, and procedures of analysis.

Performance Report:
Due to the nature of this program, no key performance indicators were created for this project.

Project Name: *External Admin*

Project Number: *ARPA_EXTADMIN*
Funding Amount: $19,947,061.73
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
To effectively and efficiently complete the administrative and research programming duties outlined within ARPA, Harris County applied funding to various sub-awardees in the execution and oversight of active, ongoing projects.

Harris County awarded Boston Consulting Group (BCG) a contract to assist with three main areas—strategy development and program design, program execution, and compliance support. BCG worked with Harris County to develop its strategic portfolio by researching pandemic impacts to facilitate an extensive stakeholder engagement and community input process. Additionally, BCG collaborated with Harris County to establish a robust and centralized Portfolio Management Office (PMO) that tracked program milestones and KPIs, and streamlined program approval processes. Lastly, BCG supported the evaluation of program eligibility, informed program designs relative to compliance considerations, and performed compliance monitoring of active projects. The Pierre Law Firm, PLLC and Jackson Walker, LLP assisted Harris County with Special Counsel Services in connection with ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Not required due to expenditure category

Performance Report:
Due to the nature of this program, no key performance indicators were created for this project.

Project Name: *FLEX Fund*

Project Code: ARPA_FLEX
Funding Amount: $110,002,403.64
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
The FLEX Fund is a budgeting approach that allows local governments to reallocate General Fund resources by using eligible federal funds to cover certain government services. By doing so, it frees up General Funds that can then be redirected to support projects aligned with broader community priorities.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Not required due to expenditure category

Performance Report:
Due to the nature of this program, no key performance indicators were created for this project.

Project Name: *FY24 General Fund Support*

Project Code: *ARPA_GFSUPPORT*
Funding Amount: $19,500,000.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
The Harris County Office of County Administration (OCA) was directed by Commissioners Court to develop a project for $19,500,000 in revenue replacement during the FY 2024 budget cycle. Due to significant losses in revenue during the COVID-19 Pandemic, a budget shortfall has been projected for fiscal year 2024 and 2025.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Not required due to expenditure category

Performance Report:
Due to the nature of this program, no key performance indicators have been created for this project.

Project Name: *Internal Admin*

Project Number: ARPA_INTADMIN
Funding Amount: $3,063,900.83
Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Services

Project Overview:
Harris County hired a Pandemic Recovery Manager to support the selection, design, implementation, and evaluation of all projects funded by ARPA, and contribute to overall program management across associated working groups and other County departments. The Manager is responsible for monitoring related legislation and federal guidance, overall portfolio performance, communication with key County stakeholders, and analyzing investments to ensure success and mitigate risk. The Director of Portfolio Management is responsible for supporting project management of the entire ARPA portfolio, working with ARPA-funded programs and associated Harris County departments. The Compliance Manager ensures that all ARPA programs are compliant with ARPA guidelines and regulations. Harris County Office of County Administration hired seven additional roles to support programs at the portfolio level. These include Health, Housing, Jobs & Education, and Justice and Safety.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluation:
Not required due to expenditure category

Performance Report:
Due to the nature of this program, no key performance indicators have been created for this project

JUSTICE & SAFETY

JUSTICE AND SAFETY

Program Name: *County Jail Capacity*

Project Number: *ARPA_MTC*
Funding Amount: *$37,246,926.00*
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: [ARPA Website – County Jail Capacity]

Project Overview:
The Harris County Jail population grew during the COVID-19 pandemic. A few factors contributing to the increase in jail population included the growth of the court backlog (already high following Hurricane Harvey impacts), a spike in violent crime during the pandemic, and State legislative changes. In order to remain at recommended capacity levels, the Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) determined a need for outsourced jail capacity. Commissioners Court allocated $25.7 million to relocate Harris County Jail inmates to the Giles Dalby Correctional Facility in Post, Texas via a contract with Management & Training Corporation (MTC). The facility provided medical and dental services to inmates, as well as recreational spaces and transport to court as needed. The goals of this program were to provide a safer environment for both inmates and HCSO personnel and to meet state jail regulations.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Not required due to expenditure category

Performance Report:
Due to the sensitive nature of this program, key performance indicators cannot be shared for this project.

Program Name: *County Jail Capacity La Salle*

Project Code: *ARPA_LASALLE*
Funding Amount: $16,500,000.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: [LaSalle Corrections], [ARPA Website – County Jail Capacity La Salle]

Project Overview:
The Harris County Jail population grew during the COVID-19 pandemic. A few factors contributing to the increase in jail population included the growth of the court backlog (already high following Hurricane Harvey impacts), a spike in violent crime during the pandemic, and State legislative changes. In order to remain at recommended capacity levels, the Harris County Sheriff's Office determined a need for outsourced jail capacity. Commissioners Court allocated $16.5 million to relocate more than 500 pretrial defendants to La Salle Correctional Facilities in La Salle, Louisiana, and almost 200 to facilities in Jefferson County, Texas, via a contract with La Salle Corrections. The contract allowed for facilities management, office administration, food service, commissary, laundry, transportation, logistical support, inmate security, and healthcare. The goals of this program were to

provide a safer environment for both inmates and Harris County Sheriff's Office personnel and to meet state jail regulations.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Not required due to expenditure category

Performance Report:
Due to the sensitive nature of this program, key performance indicators cannot be shared for this project.

Program Name: *Court Backlog*

Project Number: *ARPA_CRTBLOG*
Funding Amount: $61,670,598.08
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: Criminal Courts Dashboard, Civil Courts Dashboard, ARPA Website – Court Backlog

Project Overview:
Addressing the criminal case backlog generated by pauses during the pandemic is key to ensuring speedy access to trial for defendants and victims. ARPA funding is dedicated to increasing the speed and efficiency of these operations. Funds were allocated to accelerate evidence processing and provide additional court space, judges, jury services, court staff, and attorneys to mitigate impacts of the pandemic-related court backlog. Funding supports the development of a pretrial analytics database and a program to quickly bring one-time, low-level offenses to disposition. Additionally, ARPA funding is helping improve forensic science staff retention efforts and support elevated pathology and decedent transport needs. Further, funds support the Children's Assessment Center in addressing child abuse through a digital conversion project, upgraded technology, single-session therapy, new staff, and training sessions. Both defendants and survivors of crimes have been negatively impacted by having cases remain unheard for long periods of time. Overall, the key outcome goals are reducing exposure to the criminal justice system and increasing the speed of access to a hearing or trial. Impacts of funding are measured in terms of the decrease in number of court cases in the backlog, improvements in the average time to case disposition, number of backlog cases disposed, clearance rates, contribution to backlog cases by emergency response dockets, associate judge dockets, and case management analysts. Progress in staff hiring and retention is also being tracked.

The Court Backlog project is a Revenue Replacement program designed to support Harris County in reducing and responding to the negative economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the pandemic, courts experienced interruptions to court operations, which, combined with elevated levels of crime occurring during the pandemic, led to a significant court backlog. Harris County's multi-faceted approach allowed the County to expand jury operations, provide additional staffing of court judges, and access additional resources, ultimately reducing the backlog. The pandemic caused the Country Criminal Courts at Law to limit trial activity, adding to the backlog of jury trials. Expanding jury operations will allow for addressing the pending jury cases. Harris County's Emergency Response Dockets (ERDs) address judicial backlogs; therefore, expenses related to additional visiting judges, hired support staff, and purchasing necessary equipment allow ERDs to appropriately address the backlog. Additionally, the discovery of evidence has been a significant contributor to the backlog, and hiring temporary staff to process evidence would allow for an expedited discovery process. Additional staffing is also required in areas of programming to modernize evidence intake procedures, including evidence review personnel at the District Attorney's Office, and support staff for operations to help expediently address the court backlog. Adding six associate judge positions and one judge position also alleviated the court backlog and improved the efficiency of the process.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Harris County's multi-faceted approach to reducing the court case backlog includes investments in every segment of the justice pipeline, including system intake, case preparation, case disposition, and case management. Jury services and jury facilities were expanded, which included establishing additional jury operations at NRG Stadium and in the Family Law Center. The District Attorney's Office (DAO) instituted an overtime hours project for assistant district attorneys (ADAs) and investigators in which they reviewed backlog felony and misdemeanor cases and made plea offers, in addition to submitting a backlog of older cases for filing. Six associate judges and supporting staff were added to the District Courts to handle pretrial hearings and events, and funding was approved for the DAO and Harris County Sheriff's Office for evidence management. The discovery of evidence has been a significant contributor to the backlog, so hiring temporary staff to process and manage a backlog of body-worn camera requests, process 911 calls, and integrate digital evidence systems has helped expedite the progress of backlog cases. Funding for decedent transport, pathology contract work, and an overtime initiative for the Institute of Forensic Science also reduces the case backlog through timely provision of laboratory reports and autopsies required by the DAO and law enforcement. ARPA-funded ERDs are also leveraged as tools to reduce the case backlog. Two District Court ERDs manage pretrial hearings for bond and in-custody cases, and two Emergency Response Trial Dockets (ERTDs) can include trials for all criminal case types. Two misdemeanor ERDs operate as a trial impact court and a pretrial docket for domestic violence cases filed in the County Criminal Courts at Law. Adding four District Court Case Management Analyst positions improves the efficiency of the process, from initiation through final case disposition.

Performance Report:

Program	KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Court Backlog: Associate Judges (AJs)	Cases progressed by AJs/disposed by home court	3,422
Court Backlog: Associate Judges (AJs)	Cases returned to home court in pending status	2,229
Court Backlog: Felony ERD & ERTD	Backlog cases disposed of by Visiting Judges	2,963
Court Backlog: Case Management Analysts	Cases referred to AJs	5,448
Court Backlog: Case Management Analysts	Cases with AJ settings	8,080
Court Backlog: Case Management Analysts	Process improvements identified	195

Court Backlog: Overall Felony Backlog	Overall reduction in felony cases in backlog	69.6%
Court Backlog: Overall Misdemeanor Backlog	Overall reduction in misdemeanor backlog	73.5%
Court Backlog: Children's Assessment Center	Children trained in abuse prevention & reporting	69,339
Court Backlog: Children's Assessment Center	Overall clinical health assessments performed	1,836
Court Backlog: Children's Assessment Center	VHS tapes converted to digital	31,852

Program Name: *Detention Officers*

Project Number: *ARPA_DTNOFFICER*
Funding Amount: $4,995,329.07
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: Harris County Sheriff's Office

Project Overview:
The Detention Officer Retention Incentive Program provides incentive payments to Detention Officers in the Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) with the goal of improving staff retention. The HCSO is committed to ensuring public safety, including the safety of HCSO employees and the justice-involved persons entrusted to their care in the County Jail system. While HCSO maintains the largest jail in Texas and continues to grow its department, employee turnover continues to be high. Turnover of Detention Officers is costly to the department because it is labor- and cost-intensive to recruit and train new employees. Additionally, when turnover rates are high, the number of staff available to perform supervisory duties decreases. Currently, 67 percent of Detention Officer resignations occur within the initial two years of employment. By providing retention incentives for Detention Officers during this important period, the HCSO targets increased employee retention. Incentivizing Detention Officer staff may additionally contribute to improved safety conditions for Harris County Jail inmates and staff by ensuring adequate jail staffing.

Through the Detention Officer Retention Incentive Program, Detention Officers employed with HCSO as of program approval in April 2023 will receive an initial incentive payment of $1,000 in October 2023, followed by $1,000 payments for every six months of additional service completed through the duration of the program. Each newly hired Detention Officer will receive a $1,000 retention incentive for every six months of service. Ultimately, The Detention Officer Retention Incentive Program will decrease employee turnover and will encourage skilled Detention Officers to retain their positions longer. The program will be evaluated by HCSO after twelve months and will terminate at the end of twenty-four months.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
This project does not use evidence-based interventions. The program will be evaluated by HCSO after twelve months.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Original Detention Officers Retained (hired before April 2023)	1,109
Total number of new hires (hired after April 2023)	684

Program Name: *Jail-Based Competency Restoration*

Project Number: *ARPA_JCBR*
Funding Amount: $645,608.98
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD Jail-Based Competency Restoration, ARPA Website – Jail-based Competency Restoration

Project Overview:
The Harris County Jail houses over 250 inmates who are incompetent to stand trial or participate in the proceedings against them, and who are awaiting competency restoration services at the state hospital. Typically, inmates who are incompetent to stand trial are transferred to a state hospital for treatment. However, these facilities have been at capacity since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in wait times as long as 500 days before treatment is received. During this time, all proceedings against them are at a standstill—thereby contributing to both the criminal court backlog and the rising jail population—and their health often deteriorates under the stresses of incarceration. The Jail-Based Competency Restoration (JBCR) program, operated by The Harris Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities, provides mental health treatment to these inmates and combines individual and group therapy, co-occurring substance abuse services, trauma-informed care, peer support services, medication management and nursing services with a focus on individualized care, and factual and rational court education services. During FY 2022, the program maintained a competency restoration rate of 93 percent—more than double the average rate for other JBCR programs in Texas (40 percent)—while its average length of stay, 55 days, is a fraction of the wait time for a state hospital bed.

Commissioners Court approved an allocation of $645,609 for an ARPA-funded expansion of The Harris Center's JBCR program, sponsored by the Harris County Sheriff's Office. The program expansion, which includes pre- and post-units, increases program capacity from 20 to 50 patients and aims to reduce the number of people in the Harris County Jail who are on the state hospital waitlist and ensure speedier access to trial by providing behavioral health services. The pre- and post-units provide limited services to inmates before they enter the program to reduce their length of stay once admitted and prevent restored patients from relapsing while their cases are pending, which would require another round of treatment before their case is resolved.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
The JBCR program was evaluated through a combination of data tracking, analytics, and aggregate data compiled from stakeholder reports and participant survey responses. Program evaluation occurred continuously throughout the duration of the program, due to the nature of reporting standards. Data and metrics were due on a monthly, quarterly, biannual, and annual basis to various stakeholders. The Program Manager self-monitored the JBCR Program at both the midpoint (March 30) and end of each fiscal year (September 30).

The JBCR program used a survey design to measure program participant satisfaction. Upon completion of the JBCR Program, the participants were provided with an exit survey inquiring about patient satisfaction in the following areas: quality of services provided, quality of service provided by medical staff, quality of service provided by clinical staff, and quality of service provided by peer support staff. Patients also asked to respond to a series of statements regarding their treatment while in JBCR. Finally, there is an option for free response, where patients expressed their opinions on the program using their own words. The data from the surveys was then analyzed and compiled into a final report submitted as part of the program evaluation.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of individuals served by JBCR program	195

Program Name: *TeleDeputy*

Project Number: *ARPA_TELEDEPUTY*
Funding Amount: $1,290,453.40
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: Harris County Sheriff's Office, ARPA Website - Teledeputy

Project Overview:
The Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) TeleDeputy Unit allows deputies to work overtime at the Emergency Dispatch Center (EDC) to respond to calls for services that do not require an on-scene law enforcement response. Response times of the HCSO have spiked in recent years due to increased calls for service, population growth, traffic saturation, and staffing levels. The HCSO has five patrol districts, serving around 1.9 million Harris County residents, and has four priorities of calls. The average response time for a Priority 1 call, including in-progress shootings, increased 28 percent from 13 minutes and 32 seconds in 2019 to 17 minutes and 18 seconds by the program's launch in September 2023.

The TeleDeputy Unit staffing plan allows up to 126 shifts per week and 504 workforce hours, and all Priority 3 and 4 calls for service that are eligible for TeleDeputy are routed to the unit. During 2022, HCSO responded to 410,862 dispatched calls for service, with close to 60 percent of these calls being Priority 3 and 4, which generally do not require an on-scene law enforcement response. Managing these lower-priority calls for service remotely will allow patrol deputies to provide a faster response time to higher-priority 1 and 2 calls requiring an on-scene patrol investigation and should decrease response times to all priority levels of calls for service. The program targets a decrease of approximately 30 percent in response times to Priority 1 calls and 10-minute decreases in response times to Family Violence calls across all patrol districts. This reduction may impact homicide rates, as over 30 percent of cases investigated by the HCSO Homicide Unit in 2022 involved a Family Violence component. The HCSO tracks response times to calls for service, the total number of calls and specific call types managed by the TeleDeputy Unit, and the number of reports and supplements generated.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Not required due to expenditure category

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Total calls for service addressed by TeleDeputy	34,416
Total number of reports produced by TeleDeputy	13,985

Program Name: *Violent Persons Warrants Task Force*

Project Number: *ARPA_VIPER*
Funding Amount: $6,149,724.00
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Website: Harris County Sheriff's Office, ARPA Website – Violent Persons Warrants Task Force

Project Overview:
During the COVID-19 pandemic, Harris County experienced a rise in violent crime, resulting in an increase in warrants issued and an accumulation of outstanding warrants. The Harris County Violent Persons Warrants Task Force is a multi-agency task force led by the Harris County Sheriff's Office in collaboration with Harris County Constables that sought to address the backlog in outstanding warrants and reduce extradition costs through accelerated execution of warrants related to the most violent offenses. Outstanding warrants for offenders accused of aggravated offenses and murder were prioritized. ARPA funding for the program supported personnel costs and equipment required for the Task Force.

In March 2022, the Harris County Sheriff's Office had 50,247 outstanding warrants. Of these outstanding warrants, 4,833 were for aggravated offenses and 703 warrants were for murder. Prior to 2019, the Criminal Warrants Division received between 3,000 and 4,000 warrants per month. Following the spike in criminal activity during the pandemic, in 2022 the Criminal Warrants Division received an average of 6,000 new warrants per month.

Prioritization of warrants for aggravated offenses and murders will improve community safety, reduce opportunities for recidivism, and reduce overall violent crime rates.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Not required due to expenditure category.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Total number of warrants served	4,351

RE-ENTRY / RE-INTEGRATION

Program Name: *Re-entry Re-integration*

Project Number: *ARPA_REENTRYWEC*
Funding Amount: $3,928,328.50
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:
The Women's Empowerment Center's (WEC) core mission is to address the needs of women housed in the jail facility and successfully prepare them for transition out of the criminal justice system through connection to services during and after incarceration. The WEC provides women in custody with intensive, individualized case management and productively engages them in a robust series of programming opportunities and wraparound services designed to meet their unique needs. ACCESS Harris provides early intervention intensive programming and case management for the women in the facility and works in partnership with the Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) staff to ensure the successful execution of re-entry support and services. The supportive services offered by HCSO and ACCESS Harris aim to provide a holistic approach to coordinated care to meet the needs of the female jail population. This solution allows members of coordinated care teams to deploy an interdisciplinary response to bring together different safety-net service departments and provide a complete picture of a participant's health, track service provision and progress towards goals, and coordinate discharge and aftercare planning when individuals return to their communities. The WEC represents a shift away from a detention-focused corrections model and towards a more rehabilitative, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed approach that reduces harm, improves stability, and lowers recidivism.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Research shows that incarceration has been proven to exacerbate health conditions and complicate health and justice outcomes for both reentering people and the communities to which they return. Research has also found that access to, and utilization of, community and social services during reentry can reduce recidivism. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated lockdowns reduced the availability and accessibility of needed services, leaving individuals to manage their needs without adequate support. Without these essentials, recidivism is an unfortunately likely outcome. This creates challenges related to public health, housing, education, and employment for reentering people, families, and communities hit hard by mass incarceration. Reentry reforms benefit not only justice-involved people but also the communities that they return to following incarceration. When formerly incarcerated people have access to social support programs, such as food assistance and health care, recidivism rates fall, keeping people out of prison and their communities safer.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Participants enrolled in the ACCESS Re-Entry cohort	651

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Program Name: *Youth Diversion Center*

Project Number: *ARPA_YOUTHDEV*
Funding Amount: $7,611,641.00
Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions
Website: Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD Juvenile Justice Services , ARPA Website – Youth Diversion Center

Project Overview:
The Youth Diversion Center, operated by the Harris Center for Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, serves as an alternative to juvenile detention for Harris County youths ages 13-17, who have committed low-level, non-violent offenses and temporarily need respite care due to a behavioral health crisis. Offenses qualifying for diversion are determined by the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department and the District Attorney's Office. The Youth Diversion Center provides clients with comprehensive rehabilitation services in a safe, supportive environment with crisis intervention, family counseling, and reintegration services included during their stay.
This rehabilitation program diverts youths out of the criminal justice system and helps them learn new skills and successfully transition back into their communities. A team of trained professionals, including psychiatrists, mental health counselors, care coordinators, nurses, and peer navigators, work with children and their families at the center to develop individualized diversion plans. The length of stay for most children averages around 10 days, and clients receive frequent assessments to determine when they are ready to leave the center. To further promote enduring success and prevent recidivism, youths are connected to long-term behavioral health services within the community.

Use of Evidence & Program Evaluations:
Not required due to expenditure category.

Performance Report:

KPI Description	Actuals to Date
Number of youths served by YDC program	185

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