Howard County, MD

Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2025 Report

Howard County Government, Maryland

2025 Recovery Plan

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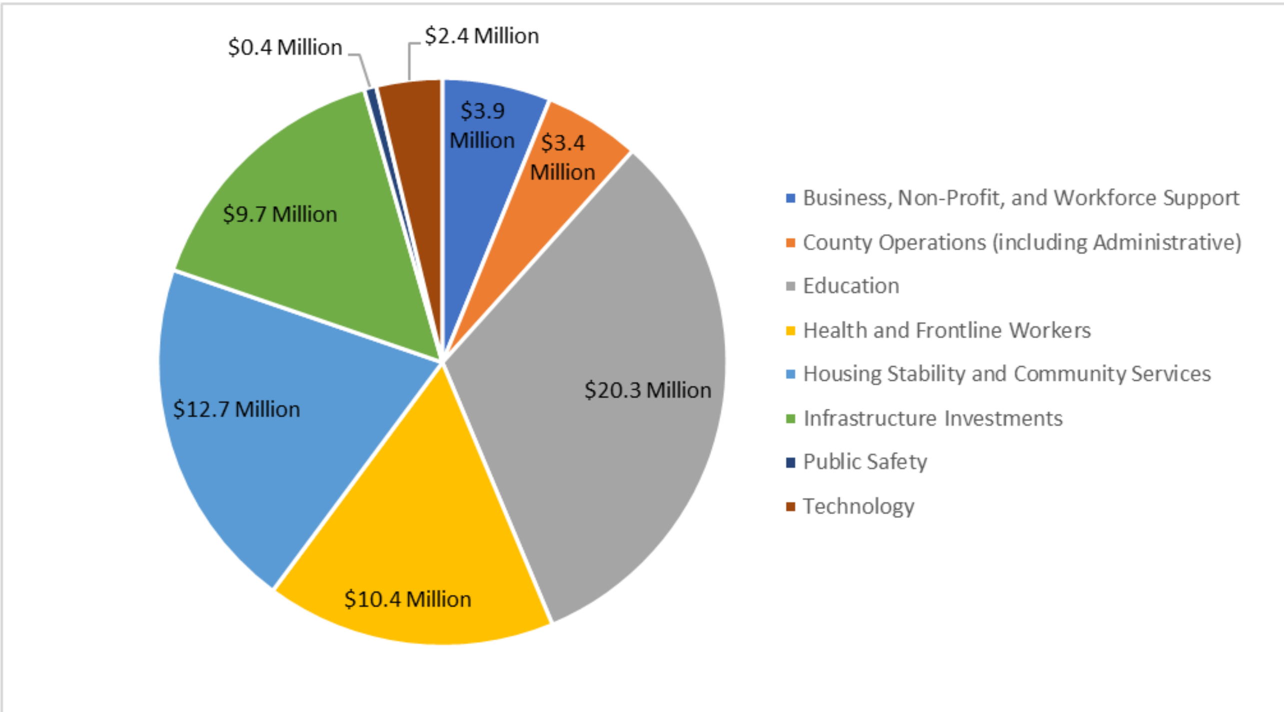
GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

As Howard County accelerates the pace of its recovery from the wide-ranging impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's (Treasury) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) have played a vital role in helping the County move forward with a purpose and meet the community's greatest needs, create opportunity, and build toward a more resilient and sustainable future. In 2020, the County made a commitment to allocating and utilizing pandemic recovery funds in an open, deliberative, and transparent manner and has held true to that commitment. The County applied early COVID-19 recovery funding made available through the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act) to allocate over $56.8 million toward COVID-19 response efforts, including on business and nonprofit assistance, public health-related expenses, and household assistance. When the County received the first tranche of its $63.2 million SLFRF allocation in 2021, County leaders built on their experiences from the initial pandemic response and the successes of the programs implemented with CARES Act funding, to create a process for identifying and prioritizing recovery needs as they evolve to ensure resources continue to be allocated to community programs and services in a methodical, needs-driven manner. As of December 31, 2024, the County has fully obligated its SLFRF funding in accordance with the guidelines from Treasury.

In keeping with the strategies outlined in the HoCo Rise Collaborative Report—a COVID-19 recovery blueprint developed by community stakeholders, the County has used SLFRF funds to **promote a strong public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic** by investing resources in COVID-19 mitigation efforts and PPE and test kit distribution, upgrading air system quality, community violence interventions, promoting access to health services, and addressing critical staff needs at the local hospital; **support business growth, tourism, arts and entertainment, entrepreneurship, and nonprofit organizations** to provide the catalyst for vibrant local economies; **boost workforce development, job training programs, and community college programs** to aid pandemic recovery and help people access and afford continuing education and workforce certification programs, find high-quality jobs, and enter the workforce; **expand school-based mental health services, mobile crisis services, and emergency shelter programs** to ensure all residents have access to timely and appropriate crisis intervention; **support local food insecurity initiatives** to expand access to affordable, locally-grown food and create sustainable markets for local and regional farmers; **invest in rental assistance, foreclosure assistance, and utility assistance programs** to ensure residents have the financial support needed to remain in their homes**; expand support for the childcare industry and the parents it serves** by investing in programs and services that improve access to quality, affordable child care; **promote a healthy lifestyle to the senior population** by creating an age-friendly outdoor fitness lot; **support front-line workers** by providing premium pay to those who served the community through the pandemic, including bus drivers, County and Health Department employees, and educators; **invest in stormwater and broadband infrastructure** to enhance water quality, promote access to broadband connectivity, and implement cybersecurity measures; and embark on programs to **mitigate and developing strategies to prepare for flood events**.

The graph below illustrates the SLFRF funding allocations across Howard County's Policy Categories:



Howard County has dedicated significant resources to the management of SLFRF funds, not only to ensure that SLFRF programs will be effective and efficiently administered, but also to augment the County's capacity to work on long-lived solutions that will address needs in childcare, mental health, aging in place infrastructure and services, and housing. To further the County's commitment to using SLFRF in a way that promotes long-term, sustainable outcomes, the County works with its subrecipients to build and expand community programs that will meet the evolving needs of our residents and ensure compliance and alignment with the goals of SLFRF through monitoring. This combination of thoughtful need prioritization, effective program design, and careful management of SLFRF recovery funding has led the County to be recognized by the National Association of Counties ("NACo"), who granted the County an Achievement Award for process, engagement, and transparency in the use of ARPA funding.

Uses of Funds

Howard County received a total of $63.2 million from the U.S. Department of the Treasury in SLFRF funding and continues to work innovatively and efficiently to use these funds to meet the overarching goal of promoting a strong recovery that benefits all residents, especially those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the County has taken steps to align resource allocation with the needs of a variety of groups throughout the County. Over the past five years, the County has built and implemented a roadmap for recovery that was defined by recommendations from community leaders, residents, business owners, industry partners, and other stakeholders. The County engaged in extensive efforts to solicit input from the community and its partners to:

- Determine priority funding areas and unmet recovery needs;
- Understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on residents, families, schools, businesses, and nonprofits;
- Create space for diverse groups throughout the County to come together to discuss ways COVID-19 relief funds can address both new and longstanding challenges; and
- Inform the evolving development of a comprehensive, community needs-driven SLFRF spending framework.

Part of the County's plan to successfully use SLFRF funding involves building partnerships to leverage both additional funding and stakeholder commitment. To support the strategic investment of SLFRF funds, the County collaborates with multiple partners during the planning and implementation of SLFRF programs including partners such as the Howard County Office of Workforce Development, the Howard County Public School System, the Howard County Economic Development Authority, the Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation, the Howard County Community Foundation, the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), the Howard County Health Department, the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, the Howard County General Hospital, the Arc of Howard County, the Luminus Network, Making Change, the Howard Community College, the First Call Medical Center, and much more. The County has been able to invest in programs and services that address the community's greatest needs, leverage financial commitments from non-federal sources, and maximize the impact of various funding streams to benefit the County's recovery.

Provided below is a general breakdown of the County's use of SLFRF funds. As of December 31, 2024, these allocations are only modifiable in compliance with established Treasury guidance regarding reallocation of obligated funds under certain circumstances.

- **Public Health Initiatives (EC 1): $9.2 Million (estimated)**

  The County has allocated $9.2 million of its SLFRF funding to tackle health disparities underscored by the pandemic and ensure the availability of staff, supplies, and infrastructure needed to continue responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. SLFRF funding has been used to support several public health initiatives. The County invested in COVID-19 mitigation and prevention programs to promote access to PPE and tests and address critical staff needs at the local hospital that arose during the pandemic as a result of the increase in hospitalization rates. In doing so, the County was able to maintain the staffing necessary to provide emergency health services to residents during the COVID-

19 pandemic. The County made significant investments in mental health programs, assistance to uninsured patients participating in the Alternative Destination program, and mobile crisis services to ensure all residents in need of support have access to timely, appropriate interventions and can be directly connected with community providers that can support their needs. Residents experiencing homelessness during the pandemic were provided dedicated rooms at motels for temporary housing when they were unable to safely quarantine and were COVID-19-positive or were experiencing possible symptoms. The County implemented a security grant program for faith-based and nonprofit organizations to enhance security personnel and infrastructure. The County used SLFRF to update County buildings to incorporate touchless technology and upgraded air filters as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") to improve ventilation and indoor air quality. The County has embarked on several facilities projects to improve indoor air quality by upgrading HVAC systems.

- **Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2): $26.1 Million (estimated)**

Over the last year, the County has allocated, planned for, designed, and implemented several new SLFRF-funded programs aimed at addressing the negative economic impacts experienced by our businesses, residents, nonprofit organizations, and industries over the course of the pandemic recovery. The County's investment to support economic recovery totals $26.1 million.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought many housing-related disparities to the forefront. Recognizing the rise in housing costs post-pandemic, the County has invested in housing stability programs, including three distinct rental assistance, foreclosure prevention, and utility assistance programs, to provide assistance beyond that available through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), to support low- and moderate-income households facing housing challenges. Over the last year, the County allocated an additional $3.2 million dedicated to developing new affordable housing units for low-income individuals and families in Downtown Columbia. In partnership with Howard County, the Howard County Housing Commission will be leveraging SLFRF with other funding sources provided by state and federal programs, including Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) funding from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

During the pandemic, the County saw a dramatic increase in the number of individuals in need of an emergency shelter bed and affordable housing options. The County's goal is to end homelessness in the County, and over the last 15 years, the County has dedicated significant resources, including $3.7 million in SLFRF, toward strengthening its homeless response system and supporting those at risk of and experiencing homelessness. The County was able to use SLFRF to significantly ramp up its efforts to shelter those experiencing homelessness during the pandemic through expanded motel shelter programming and a Cold Weather Shelter during the winter months. The County's emergency shelter programs supported by SLFRF are an important part of the County's broader crisis response system and play an integral role in ensuring residents in need of a place to stay have access to safe and accessible emergency shelters and timely mental health and substance use interventions. Now, the County is able to transition its focus toward advancing long-term, transformational outcomes and is using SLFRF to expand the capacity of the County's homeless response system to provide greater access to services to those in need in the County.

The County has also retained a strong focus on leveraging SLFRF to provide funding for career training and workforce readiness services. For example, the County implemented a program designed to help refugees seeking opportunities in Howard County gain access to employment, housing, social, and legal services. In partnership with the Howard County Office of Workforce Development and the Howard Community College, the County implemented a $3 million program that provides tuition assistance and emergency needs funding to students at the Howard Community College who are completing a degree or workforce certificate program to ensure they have the resources needed to remain in school, complete their programs, and successfully enter the workforce.

The County has targeted economic recovery to support the health and wellbeing of Howard County individuals and families by investing in programs that promote greater access to locally-sourced, healthy foods for all families, including those experiencing financial and food insecurity, through the County's Roving Radish marketplace and Mobile program. This program is specifically designed to serve residents in need by increasing access to healthy, locally grown food in underserved communities and providing these services at a discounted rate to households facing food insecurity. The Roving Radish program offers a 50 percent subsidy on all farm products to those households that qualify. This design ensures that the County residents, regardless of income, location, or access to reliable transportation, will benefit from this program and have access to healthy food options. Additionally, the County used SLFRF funds to build its first ever age-friendly fitness lot at the Centennial Park, with exercise equipment available primarily to older residents, but all ages are welcome.

Nationwide, the COVID-19 public health emergency put a strain on nearly all industries, employers, communities, and households. In the County, the impact of the pandemic on the childcare and education sectors was significant. Many childcare providers were forced to close their doors due to health and safety concerns. For the businesses that remained open during the pandemic, they experienced increased operational costs and greatly reduced revenue due to capacity limitations and enrollment rates. Parents experienced new challenges in balancing childcare and work as a large portion of the workforce shifted to remote work and needed childcare in a different location, if at all. Parents' ability to work — both remotely and in person — was limited because many childcare programs were closed or were operating at reduced capacity during the pandemic. Concurrently, parents with less income or who lost their jobs during the pandemic experienced increased affordability issues.

The County recognizes the importance of ensuring all families have access to quality and affordable childcare. In this way, the well-being of the communities in the County, especially as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, is dependent upon the strength of its childcare infrastructure. Therefore, the County is using SLFRF to support public and private childcare providers and promote greater access to high-quality, affordable, and accessible childcare.

Further, as the County moves forward in its recovery from the pandemic, supporting local small businesses and nonprofit organizations remains a top priority. These organizations have weathered significant challenges over the past two years, and continued support from the County through its SLFRF program is needed to ensure businesses and organizations have the resources to continue providing critical services to our community and emerge from the pandemic stronger and more resilient. To date, the County has awarded over $2.8 million to support businesses and nonprofit organizations in the County. The County has begun the planning, design, and initial renovations to its Historic Circuit Courthouse in Old Ellicott City to increase tourism activity to the area, thus promoting surrounding small businesses as well.

The County has allocated SLFRF funding to projects designed to further bolster the business community and promote a strong economic recovery. The County has dedicated significant SLFRF resources to develop targeted economic development programs that will create jobs, support local business expansion, attract investment, and spur economic growth. The County completed a comprehensive market analysis to ensure that SLFRF programs are responsive to employment and business needs and target investments toward key market growth opportunities, support nonprofit operations, and invest in long-term programs for housing and homelessness intervention and the childcare industry. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on these industries, and Howard County intends to deploy a large portion of its SLFRF allocation to respond to these impacts and help promote a strong economic recovery by the end of 2025.

- **Public Sector Capacity (EC 3): $31 Thousand (estimated)**

The County has taken a comprehensive approach to address the public health and negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on this community.

To date, the County has used $31,000 of its SLFRF funding to facilitate a telephonic Healthcare Townhall meeting in November of 2021 to engage with the community and respond to community concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination efforts, approved children's vaccine, boosters, physical and mental health access issues, and other County services.

- **Premium Pay (EC 4): $13.1 Million (estimated)**

The County leveraged the historic opportunity afforded to recipients through the SLFRF program to invest in workers and address long-standing inequities by boosting the wages of those who have been on the frontlines of the public health and economic crisis.

The County allocated over $13.1 million—approximately 20% of its total SLFRF allocation—to premium pay programs that disbursed $5.1 million to Howard County government employees and $8 million to the educators of the Howard County Public School System, thus providing additional resources to those who have provided critical support to our community over the first two years of the pandemic.

- **Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure (EC 5): $4.1 Million (estimated)**

Recipients of SLFRF funds are encouraged to use funds to make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

The County has utilized SLFRF funds to safeguard the County's wastewater treatment system and residents' access to water services by improving the cybersecurity infrastructure at the Little Patuxent Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Little Patuxent Wastewater Reclamation Plant is a publicly owned treatment works that serves the central part of the County, which contains 56% of the County's population. The County completed the environmental remediation at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center which is being used as standards training grounds for the Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS), Howard County Police Department (HCPD), and other public safety personnel. The County has implemented a program to improve stormwater infrastructure and enhance water quality for the Spring Valley Chase Pond and the Centennial Park/South Meadow Pond. A water infrastructure assessment is underway at the County's Belmont Manor facility to determine how to best rework the existing water system to address environmental covenants and improve water supply.

The County has allocated additional SLFRF funding to support a variety of capital needs, including implementing broadband initiatives to expand Wi-Fi and offering free access to 23 pool locations of the Columbia Association and the Howard County Fairgrounds.

- **Revenue Replacement (EC 6): $7.5 Million (estimated)**

Within the revenue replacement eligible use category, recipients are permitted to use SLFRF funding to invest in general government services to support a successful economic recovery from the budgetary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on recipient governments. Treasury's Final Rule for SLFRF included an option for recipients to use a standard allowance of up to $10 million for revenue loss for the entire period of performance for the SLFRF program. The County has elected to use the standard allowance of up to $10 million.

The County has allocated revenue loss funding to implement projects that support the expansion of broadband connectivity for the Norris Lane neighborhood and public school system, a feasibility study to explore the viability of redeveloping a pedestrian-centric corridor to economically revitalize the community, cybersecurity upgrades to safeguard information and combat cybersecurity threats, security alarm monitoring system conversion, 911 data center upgrade, police division relocation and workstation storage for body-worn camera footage; real-time occupancy system installation at various age-friendly 50+ Centers; renovations to the County's temporary Mental Health Unit for the Detention Center; renovations to the High Ridge Road Building; resources for women's reproductive, maternal, and infant health; facilities capital improvements; and utility assistance for commercial properties.

- **Administrative and Other (EC7): $3 Million (estimated)**

The SLFRF reporting process places a heavy emphasis on establishing clear and measurable criteria and metrics to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of grant-funded programs. Additionally, the heightened reporting requirements established for management of SLFRF funding will require continued resources for grants oversight, consulting, and other contractual services. The County has allocated funding to support administrative expenses and the evaluative and analytical reporting requirements of managing these funds. Two Grant Fiscal Specialist positions have been funded to perform project management, financial processes, and reporting requirements of SLFRF activities in all County Departments.

The County has contracted the services of a consulting firm to support the County in its effective management and oversight of SLFRF. The firm provides professional support on preliminary eligibility; compliance advisement on legal, regulatory, and other requirements; and program design and implementation. The firm also works alongside County leaders to evaluate and prioritize Federal, state, local, and other resources available to expand the reach and impact of the County's SLFRF allocation. The County engaged the firm to help design and implement a needs-driven process for investing SLFRF into areas of greatest need in the community, including in programs that address the impacts of the pandemic and longstanding challenges in the childcare, aging, mental health, and housing spaces. The County, in partnership with the firm, embarked on a series of stakeholder engagement activities aimed at identifying the universe of real needs in these priority areas and has paired that feedback with the results of comprehensive gap analyses to develop SLFRF programs designed to successfully close identified gaps and promote the long-term resilience of child care programs and providers, mobile crisis services, and behavioral health interventions.

- **Emergency Relief from Natural Disasters (EC8): $0.3 Million (estimated)**

  The interim final rule was released on August 10, 2023, implementing three new eligible uses to provide emergency relief from natural disasters, build critical transportation infrastructure, and support community development. This offered more flexibility to the County on embarking on flood mitigation projects and employing readiness strategies for flood emergency events. In 2025, the County allocated $306,340 in SLFRF funding to support projects that prepare the community for natural disasters, particularly flood events. This allocation includes funding to support the County's Flood Mitigation Grant program that assists owners of residential and commercial properties and business owners in flood-prone areas. Additionally, to support ongoing age-friendly initiatives, the County purchased a new back-up gas generator for the Bain 50+ Center which serves as a temporary emergency shelter during natural disasters.

Community Engagement

Howard County has a documented history of community engagement throughout various recent planning processes. The County's COVID-related community engagement efforts began with the establishment of the HoCo Rise Collaborative on November 12, 2020. This 50-member Collaborative was comprised of a group of community leaders and stakeholders tasked with developing recommendations for immediate, short-term, and long-term recovery from the pandemic. The County Executive established the HoCo Rise Collaborative to provide "an opportunity to dive deeper into the implications of this pandemic on all facets of our community."[1]

The HoCo Rise Collaborative evaluated disparities and challenges in the community and provided recommendations and guidance to County leadership on ways to advance a strong and community needs-driven recovery from the pandemic. During the outreach conducted by the HoCo Rise Collaborative, a series of community conversations were held with residents who identify with traditionally underserved groups, the results of which continue to inform the County's overall recovery strategy. The work of the Collaborative, including its March 2021 Report, informed the County's priorities for allocation of Coronavirus Relief Fund ("CRF") funding and serves as a foundation for its efforts to best utilize SLFRF to aid recovery and provide investment throughout the County.

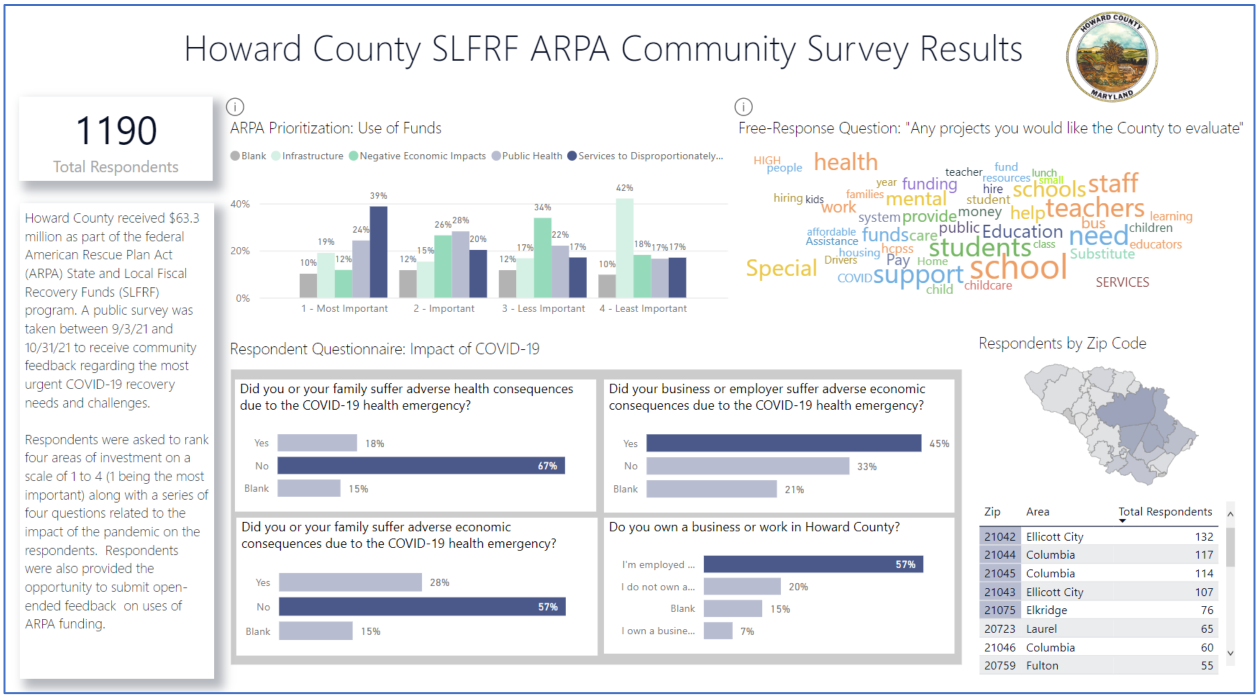
The County built on the work of the HoCo Rise Collaborative by engaging in a comprehensive public engagement process as part of its strategy to determine how best to allocate SLFRF funds. The County engaged in a mindful and deliberate process to incorporate community feedback into its allocation strategy by prioritizing and then implementing SLFRF projects that support overall pandemic recovery and are inclusive and responsive to community needs. All allocation and project decisions are made in accordance with the overall needs of the community.

Following the receipt of the first tranche of SLFRF funding, and to ensure the allocation of this funding was responsive to the needs of the community, the County launched a formal SLFRF community engagement process. This robust process included two community-wide online feedback opportunities (a survey and a free response form), a virtual public hearing, several stakeholder engagement meetings, and ongoing communication with the Howard County Council, as the Council Members are uniquely positioned to provide input as to the needs of their constituents. This approach allowed for continued dialogue with the communities most impacted by the pandemic and presented the County with opportunities to identify community priorities and ways SLFRF funds can be successfully leveraged to address community needs and ongoing challenges.

The County's community engagement efforts revealed that residents highly prioritize investing in programs that support the communities and residents disproportionately impacted by the pandemic; provide funding for the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic on the businesses and industries that suffered adverse economic consequences because of the shutdowns. Of the 1,190 residents who responded to the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund survey, and the 23 residents who responded to the free response survey on the County's website, responses most often mentioned utilizing this funding opportunity to support schools and students, address health care needs and access, expand mental health services, support workforce and worker needs, and address food and housing insecurity challenges.

Over the last several years, the County has embraced the opportunity to move from addressing immediate pandemic-related needs to working toward building long-term community resilience. Significant resources have been allocated to identifying existing gaps and finding lasting solutions for needs identified during the SLFRF stakeholder engagement process. County departments and consultants have undertaken systematic processes with the intended outcome of designing solutions to leverage remaining SLFRF resources in order to overcome challenges in the areas of mental health and mobile crisis services, emergency sheltering, aging, and child care. The County hosted another round of community engagement sessions with stakeholders from the mental health and child care sectors, for example, to understand the needs of providers and families as they continue to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Recommendations from these community engagement sessions have informed County leadership over the last year to allocate additional SLFRF funding to new programs that provide access to high-quality and affordable child care, housing, and mental health interventions.

The County released an Engagement Dashboard to reveal the results of their community engagement efforts and keep residents engaged throughout the SLFRF allocation process.



Recognizing that addressing the inequities captured by the HoCo Rise Collaborative and further documented during the community engagement process, the County's approach is also guided by critical input from stakeholders involved in the development of the following reports:

- Howard County Health Assessment Survey (2021)
- Howard County Local Children's Board Community Plan for Children, Youth, and Families (FY21-FY25)
- Howard County Economic Development Authority Strategic Plan (2017)
- Howard County Housing Opportunities Master Plan (2021)
- HoCo By Design (2023)

These reports are based on significant and timely conversations with individuals, businesses, practitioners, and other stakeholders from across the County. HoCo By Design, for example, is an inclusive, community-driven process intended to result in the creation of a General Plan update. The process includes extensive public engagement with community members, advisory committees, and County officials on topics including community growth, resource conservation, and public infrastructure needs. This collaborative process has been modified to preserve meaningful engagement, even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect this community. Overall, the County intends to allocate resources in ways that address the community needs highlighted during the community engagement process, promote equity and inclusion, and expand opportunities for all residents amid and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the County releases financial and programmatic data reported to Treasury quarterly on the County's website, designed to update stakeholders and the general public on the status of approved projects that have been funded with SLFRF.

Labor Practices

Howard County has a long and demonstrated strong commitment to supporting its workforce. This commitment has continued as the County has looked to use SLFRF funds to support workers and working families. The

County has developed a robust compliance infrastructure to administer its SLFRF activities, which ensures that procurement and other regulatory standards designed to encourage strong labor standards and support the workforce are being followed. In addition to federal standards, the County has its own living wage requirement, which is applied to contracts in excess of $100,000.

More directly, the County has shown its commitment to supporting the workforce by deploying its SLFRF funding to directly support workers, including designing retention bonuses for educators, bus drivers, critical hospital staff and public safety employees. The County has also used SLFRF funding to increase wages for mental health providers, advance a stipend-incentive program, educational training, and step pay increase for the County's Recreational Licensed Child Care Division to promote recruitment and improve employee retention, and to partner with the Howard County Office of Workforce Development on a number of job training programs.

Use of Evidence

While no rigorous program evaluations designed to build evidence are being contemplated, achieving meaningful outputs is of the utmost importance. As such, program outputs and outcomes will be closely monitored. In the case of "pilot" programs that are SLFRF funded, it is anticipated that data collection and analysis will be extensive such that program results can be used to inform future decision making.

Howard County's decisions regarding use of SLFRF funding have been informed by gathering evidence from a variety of sources. While the County has not engaged in a Learning Agenda process for SLFRF funds or its broader policy agenda, its decisions are guided by many of the same principles that place a high value on ensuring inputs from a variety of sources, setting broad goals, capturing program outputs, conducting meaningful analysis and evaluating program outputs against overall goals.

Performance Report

Performance management is incorporated into the SLFRF program by working closely with Howard County agencies, entities benefiting from provision of funding, and other partners to collaborate in tracking overarching goals that have been defined for these initiatives as well as collecting and measuring results for individual projects. The County has developed a public facing webpage which provides an overview of ARPA, helpful reference links, performance management dashboards, and reports on projects funded with State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds . The annual and quarterly reports can be found here:

Howard County, Maryland - American Rescue Plan

PROJECT INVENTORY

1. Project 01-02-0-1191-0107: COVID-19 At-Home Rapid Test Kit Mailers Shipping Services
Funding amount: $35,242.10
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.2-COVID-19 Testing

Project Overview

Howard County advocated for efforts, especially those recommended by the CDC, that helped prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community. SLFRF funding for this project expanded residents' access to at-home COVID-19 rapid test kits. The County utilized funds to cover its Mail Services' cost of shipping COVID-19 at-home rapid test kit mailers from May 2022 to February 2023 to County residents who applied for these supplies, which were provided by the County Health Department free-of-charge. Upon the resident's completion of an online request form, a mailer containing two test kits (total of four tests) was shipped within 7 to 12 days via USPS to the household. Aside from the general population, this provided an opportunity for individuals who could not otherwise afford to buy these self-test kits, as well as those with limited mobility, to obtain and use these kits in their homes to determine the need to self-isolate or seek further medical treatment.

Intended Outcomes

- To mail free COVID-19 at-home rapid test kits to County residents' homes.
- To perform the test to know if one is COVID-19 positive to take appropriate actions such as quarantining and/or seeking medical attention. Quarantining will prevent, or at a minimum, lessen the spread of COVID-19 and to protect vulnerable individuals and communities from exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance. However, the County's intervention aligned with the Administration's COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts related to the promotion of broad access to at-home COVID-19 tests to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcome:

Metric	Response
Number of COVID-19 at-home rapid test kit mailers shipped to County residents.	6,639

2. **Project 01-02-0-1720-0101: COVID-19 Home Tests**

Funding amount: $247,942.70
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.2-COVID-19 Testing

Project Overview
During the Fall/Winter season of 2021, case rates of COVID-19 rapidly rose and were expected to increase substantially due to holiday gatherings and travel. Due to this reason, Howard County used SLFRF funding to procure bulk quantities of at-home COVID-19 self-test kits in December 2021 and January 2022 from select suppliers (The JKF Group, Inc. and KM Printing, LLC) that carried FDA-approved test kits and met the unprecedented demand and quick turnaround. Several County agencies such as OEM, DCRS, DFRS, DSS, Administration, etc. distributed the kits from January to June 2022 to community members who needed to test themselves and/or their families even if they did not have symptoms and have not had close contact with someone who has COVID-19. Taking a self-test before joining indoor gatherings can inform individuals about their risk of spreading COVID-19, and can help protect vulnerable populations, such as individuals at risk of severe disease, older individuals, those who are immunocompromised, unvaccinated people, including children who cannot get vaccinated yet, from exposure to the virus.
Intended Outcomes:

- So that individuals, whether they are symptomatic or not, taking the COVID-19 test at home can determine their status quickly and can take immediate steps to isolate when appropriate.
- To distribute home-based test kits to underserved communities, business communities, and for the continuity of government.
- To help slow community spread of the virus.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance. However, the County's intervention aligns with the Administration's COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts related to the promotion of broad access to at-home COVID-19 tests to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
Number of at-home COVID-19 test kit packs ordered (2 test kits per pack).	9,830
Number of at-home COVID-19 test kit packs delivered.	9,830
Number of at-home COVID-19 test kit packs distributed to Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).	2,270
Number of at-home COVID-19 test kit packs distributed to underserved communities.	4,320
Number of at-home COVID-19 test kit packs distributed to business communities.	2,446
Number of at-home COVID-19 test kit packs distributed for the continuity of government.	794

3. Project 01-04-0-3130-0110: Historic Courthouse Renovation Central Air System Upgrade
Funding amount: $4,334,271.31
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.4-Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)

Project Overview

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Howard County engaged in a multi-year public outreach process to develop a plan for potential long-term redevelopment projects in Ellicott City. Old Ellicott City is a leading tourism destination and is considered an "economic engine for Howard County", with its large collection of independent businesses, restaurants, and historical sites. The Master Plan was adopted in 2020 and provided a vision for potential re-use of the historic courthouse built in the 1840s. The County had anticipated to start construction on the courthouse in 2021, however, the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant delays to the project. The redevelopment is intended to preserve the historic portions of the courthouse building while enhancing Ellicott City's downtown and expanding residents' and visitors' access to heritage, recreation, bicycling, and environmental tourism. The County leveraged SLFRF to support the planned reuse of the Historic Courthouse that was delayed several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Bureau of Facilities of the County's Department of Public Works is spearheading this project's overall renovation efforts. One of the renovation objectives was to upgrade the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning units in the building by leveraging SLFRF.

Intended Outcomes:

- To recognize the historical significance of the site and potential tourism implications to further enhance the area's desirability and improve the local economy.
- To preserve and restore the Historic Courthouse building and bring the restroom facilities to be in compliance with current ADA code and regulations.

Use of Evidence

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
The number of HVAC systems upgraded.	1

4. Project 01-04-0-3130-0113: Police Northern District Indoor Air System Quality Upgrade
Funding amount: $200,051.00
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.4-Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)

Project Overview
Howard County Police Northern District is installing an air handling unit in the Warfield Building. The County is utilizing SLFRF to upgrade the current air handling equipment which encounters service delays due to its age. This mitigation tactic improves indoor air quality against COVID-19 virus, reduces energy costs, and improves control of temperature and humidity for the First Responders and staff operating in the building.

Intended Outcomes:

- To improve temperature control and increase indoor air quality for the first responder staff occupants and visitors to the building.
- To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 virus in a congregate environment.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	**Response**
The number of HVAC systems upgraded.	1

5. Project 01-04-0-3130-0114: Gary J. Arthur Community Center Air System Quality Upgrade
Funding amount: $378,433.00
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.4-Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)

Project Overview

The Howard County Gary J. Arthur Community Center is a facility in Cooksville, MD, shared by the Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks, Health Department, and the Office on Aging and Independence. The Center is a true community facility built to serve the growing population in the western part of Howard County.
The Center welcomes individuals of all ages—residents and non-residents alike—and offers numerous amenities, including:

- A fitness room
- Gymnasium with two basketball courts
- Indoor walking track

- Multi-purpose rooms
- Commercial kitchen
- Activity rooms
- And much more

The Center’s rooftop and mezzanine mechanical rooms houses a 20-year-old water-sourced Energy Recovery Unit (Rooftop Air Handler), which supplies conditioned air to the space. This outdated unit features manual dampers that required frequent physical adjustments to manage temperature and humidity levels. Service calls often require a team of technicians, and delays in response time hinder the Center’s ability to maintain a comfortable indoor environment.

<u>Equipment Replacement and Modernization Plan</u>

To address equipment issues, the County—through its Bureau of Facilities—will use SLFRF funding to purchase and install replacement Rooftop Energy Recovery Units. The new unit will feature motorized dampers, which can be remotely adjusted and controlled by the Building Automation System (BAS). This will allow precise regulation of:

- Operation time
- Indoor temperature
- Fresh air intake

The use of BAS reduces energy consumption required to operate the rooftop unit during both occupied and unoccupied hours. Additionally, MERV air filters will be installed with the new system. Together, these upgrades serve as mitigation tactics against the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Intended Outcomes

- Reduce energy costs and improve control of airflow, temperature, and humidity.
- Increase indoor air quality for employees and visitors using the Center.
- Mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in a congregate environment.

<u>Use of Evidence</u>

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

<u>Performance Report</u>

- Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	**Response**
The number of HVAC systems upgraded.	0

6. Project 01-04-0-3133-0106: DPW Facilities COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts
Funding amount: $430,840.24
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.4-Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)

<u>Project Overview</u>
The Howard County's Department of Public Works (DPW) Facilities is responsible for the operation, maintenance, security and for providing custodial services at most County buildings. In response to the public health emergency, DPW Facilities implemented a variety of COVID-19 mitigation and prevention efforts for the safe opening and operation for employees working onsite in County offices and buildings. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not known how long the virus would live on hard surfaces. COVID-19 virus transmission could occur by touching infected surfaces such as door handles, then touching the face through their mouth, nose and eyes. This prompted the County to counteract by installing a touchless technology upgrade in its facilities that would help prevent the virus spread from one employee to another. The work was related to entry into buildings and access to various rooms within buildings. SLFRF funds were used to cover the upgrade costs from current locks to electronic locks and touchless key access to doors. This helps protect the Facilities Operations and Maintenance staff as well as security guards who work in these buildings by no longer needing to handle doors, including eliminating the need for individual keys. Risk Management Consultants, LLC and EAI Security Systems, Inc. were contracted to fill the purchase orders submitted in August and September 2021 respectively, and the last batch of work was completed in January 2022.

Another mitigation tactic implemented is upgrading air ventilation filters that have higher filtration efficiency against COVID-19 particles. SLFRF funds has been used to purchase an annual supply of MERV13 air filters for County buildings.

Intended Outcomes:
- To provide a safer work environment against COVID-19 for the Facilities employees who work onsite to deliver service and maintenance to the buildings.
- To provide a safer work environment against COVID-19 in congregate settings such as the County buildings by improving air ventilation systems through the use of upgraded air filters.

<u>Use of Evidence</u>
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

<u>Performance Report</u>
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	**Response**
Number of County buildings implemented with touchless technology upgrade.	23
Number of upgraded air filters ordered for use in County offices/buildings.	3,340

7. **Project 01-05-0-1191-0108: KN95 Face Mask Mailers Shipping Services**
Funding amount: $3,335.47
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.5-Personal Protective Equipment

Project Overview

Howard County advocates for efforts, especially those recommended by the CDC, that help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Funding for this project expanded residents' access to KN95 face masks. The County utilized SLFRF funds to cover its Mail Services' cost of shipping KN95 face mask mailers from May 2022 to February 2023 to County residents who requested personal protective equipment (PPE). The County Health Department supplied the KN95 face masks free-of-charge. Each household received four KN95 face masks per mailer which was shipped within 7 to 12 days via USPS after the resident completed an online request form. Aside from the general population, this provided an opportunity to individuals who could not otherwise afford to buy KN95 face masks, and those with limited mobility, to obtain and use these masks.

Intended Outcomes:

- To mail free KN95 face masks to County residents' homes to contribute to public safety practices during the pandemic.
- To reduce the health risk for individuals as well as for the public, especially the immuno-compromised and vulnerable populations that they might be in contact with by wearing KN95 face masks.
- To prevent, or at a minimum, to lessen the spread of COVID-19 throughout the community by wearing KN95 face masks.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance. However, the County's intervention aligns with the Biden Administration's COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts related to their promotion of broad access to Personal Protective Equipment to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcome:

Metric	**Response**
Number of KN95 face mask mailers shipped to County residents.	2,357

8. **Project 01-05-0-1220-0105: KN95 Face Masks**
Funding amount: $11,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.5-Personal Protective Equipment

Project Overview

The project funding supported the distribution of free KN95 face masks to members of the Howard County community. Face masks are one of the many personal protective equipment (PPE) that people must wear to protect themselves from COVID-19 infection as the virus is primarily contracted through inhaling COVID-19 particles in the air through the nose and mouth. Since KN95 face masks are made from several layers of filters, they can block up to 95 percent of harmful COVID-19 particles. Wearing face masks in public places reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19, and can help protect vulnerable populations, such as individuals at risk of severe disease, older individuals, those who are immunocompromised or unvaccinated people, including children who cannot get vaccinated yet, from exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19. The County purchased a bulk order of KN95 face masks in December 2021, and these were distributed to the community from January to September 2022.

Intended Outcomes:

- To distribute free KN95 face masks to the County community to promote public safety practices during the pandemic.
- To reduce the health risk for individuals as well as for the public, especially the immunocompromised and vulnerable population that they might be in contact with by wearing KN95 face masks.
- To prevent, or at a minimum, to lessen the spread of COVID-19 throughout the community by wearing KN95 face masks.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance. However, the County's intervention aligned with the Biden Administration's COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts related to their promotion of broad access to Personal Protective Equipment to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
Number of KN95 face masks ordered.	10,000
Number of KN95 face masks distributed to the Detention Center.	1,000
Number of KN95 face masks distributed through community organizations, faith-based organizations, government departments, and at events/festivals.	9,000

9. Project 01-07-0-1110-0104: HCGH Critical Staffing Needs
Funding amount: $2,035,382.00
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

Project Overview

From December 2021 to January 2022, Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) experienced critical staffing needs due to a spike in hospitalizations caused by the latest surge of COVID-19 Delta and Omicron variants. The increase in patient volumes and infection risks faced by health care providers for COVID-19 patients put an enormous strain on these employees and caused staffing shortages from sickness, quarantine period, and resignations. Vacancies were an industry-wide challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in nursing positions. To counteract this issue and ensure safe staffing ratios in clinical areas, HCGH employed agency staff to temporarily fill positions while working to fill vacancies, but the labor rate for agency staff is significantly higher than the Hospital's budgeted labor costs. SLFRF funding was used to support HCGH in offsetting the difference between the Hospital's budgeted labor costs compared to agency costs to provide critical staffing in January 2022.

Intended Outcomes

- To support the Hospital's frontline health providers by offering funding capacity for agency workers to fill in vacancies/shortages which will give relief to existing overworked workers.
- To offset the cost impact of using agency staffing to maintain an adequate nursing pool to serve patient volumes amidst the pandemic.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

The ARPA grant benefited HCGH as it allowed HCGH to have the staff needed to keep beds open and provide care to patients during the twin crises of the pandemic and staffing shortages. Without these dollars, many local patients would have been unable to receive care at HCGH and would have become sicker, had worse outcomes due to delayed care, or would have had to travel farther for their care.

Metric	Response
Number of Full-Time-Equivalents of Agency Nurses and Nursing Staff who worked at HCGH in January 2022 and were partly supported by this ARPA grant.	121.40
Number of Hours Worked by these Agency Staff at HCGH in January 2022 and were partly supported by this ARPA grant.	21,488

10. Project 01-07-0-6026-0103: Non-Congregate Housing for COVID-19 Positive Unhoused Persons
Funding amount: $52,920.00
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine

Project Overview

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) deemed the COVID-19 pandemic as a medical emergency and provided guidance that individuals who had possible or known exposure to COVID-19 should self-isolate or quarantine. Unhoused persons who tested positive for COVID-19, however, were unable to self-isolate at home and there were no designated isolation facilities, at the time. Therefore, this necessitated Howard County to create an emergency shelter program using SLFRF funding.

Through the County's Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS), the department contracted the services of Columbia Lodging company to dedicate rooms for this program from January to February 2022. These rooms were used temporarily by placing persons who had COVID-19 or showed possible symptoms and were unable to isolate or quarantine elsewhere. Isolation and quarantine prevent the virus spread and protects the public health.

Intended Outcomes:

- To temporarily use a portion of the hotel comprising of twelve rooms to isolate individuals who have had a possible or known exposure to COVID-19 or who have a moderate or high risk of severe disease and are unable to isolate or quarantine in their home, or home of a family member or friend, due to risks imposed by virus transmission, especially for individuals with high-risk or vulnerable individuals also living in the residence.
- To help slow the spread of the virus within the community.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance. However, the County's intervention aligned with the Biden Administration's COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts related to their promotion of broad access to isolation and quarantine to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of rooms available for isolation and quarantine for the general population.	12 rooms were rented in Jessup, Howard County for the period from January 11, 2022, to February 28, 2022. The capacity available was for 12 individuals to be able to self-isolate at the same time.
Number of individuals with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms temporarily placed in isolation rooms.	3
Average length of stay in days.	8
Number of rooms used.	2
Additional demographics.	• 3 individuals, all homeless

	• 2 Adults, 1 child • 2 households • 1 individual employed • 1 individual on SSI Disability • 2 adult females, 1 female child under age 5 • Meals provided by Department of Corrections (breakfast, lunch and dinner) • 3 individuals exited to Grassroots Emergency Shelter • No veterans • 1 individual with a disability

11. Project 01-11-0-1720-0111: Nonprofits and Faith-Based Organizations Security Grants
Funding amount: $ 588,783.54
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.11-Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, communities across Maryland have experienced an increase in hate crimes, with a bias motivation against groups of people of a particular race, ethnicity, ancestry, and religion. To respond to this pandemic impact, Howard County allocated SLFRF funding to support a community violence intervention program that provided security grants to nonprofit organizations and faith-based organizations in the County experiencing heightened risk of hate crimes and threats of violence. The County solicited grant applications from early November 2023 through December 1, 2023. A review panel consisting of members from the County's Administration, HCPD, Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and Department of Technology and Communication Services (DTCS), vetted organizations that qualified under the eligibility criteria. The awarded organizations used funding for costs associated with enhancing security operations and safety infrastructure. OEM provided ongoing oversight to organizations who received funding, through its coordinated engagement and emergency preparedness efforts.

The Nonprofit and Faith-Based Security Grant program offered two funding opportunities to eligible nonprofit and faith-based organizations in Howard County. The Security Personnel Grant allowed organizations to hire security personnel or supplement existing security personnel, pay for a security assessment or plan, conduct security training, and/or develop and execute a security drill. The Security Infrastructure Grant dedicated funding to organizations to purchase new security cameras for a facility owned, pay for facility alarm systems, install door locks and/or improve cybersecurity.

Intended Outcomes:

- To equip and prepare affected organizations with security systems and personnel for deterring and responding to potential acts of violence and hate crimes.
- To promote a sense of safety and protection to members, congregants, and residents at nonprofit establishments and houses of worship who have experienced an increase in hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Security Personnel Grant Metrics:	
Number of personnel funded in whole or in part by the grant.	75
Number of security training sessions funded by the grant.	11
Number of organizations who used funding to pay for a security assessment or plan.	5
Number of organizations who used funding to develop and execute a security drill.	3
Security Infrastructure Grant Metrics:	
Number of organizations who used funding to purchase new security cameras for the facility.	12
Number of organizations who used funding to pay for facility alarm systems.	6
Number of organizations who used funding to install door locks.	9
Number of organizations who used funding to improve cybersecurity.	1

12. Project 01-12-0-1110-0102: Mobile Crisis Teams Expansion
Funding amount: $688,304.09
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.12-Mental Health Services

Project Overview
Howard County contracted with Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. to run a mobile crisis program that provides mobile crisis services to support individuals experiencing a behavioral crisis. The Mobile crisis teams respond to behavioral health crisis calls received via the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and in partnership with the County's Police Department. The increased demand for mobile crisis services resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency necessitated the Mobile Crisis Team to expand its services. This resulted in higher operating costs as well as increased costs for recruitment and retention of clinical staff. SLFRF funding offset the increased costs of the Mobile Crisis Team operations from December 2021 to September 2023 and from January to June 2024 to give financial relief in support of the program's mission to serve those in need.
Intended Outcomes:

- To increase service capacity responding to crisis phone calls.
- To provide 24-hour service, 7 days a week of operation.
- To recruit and retain quality clinicians to provide much needed professional services.
- To support a program that helps individuals and their families experiencing a behavioral health crisis access timely and appropriate crisis intervention services.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
Number of Crisis Intervention Clinicians funded in part or wholly by this Award.	19 unique individuals
Number of calls on Grassroots Hotline.	157,190
Percentage of Grassroots Hotline calls referred to Mobile Crisis Team (MCT).	0.17% (204 total GR MCT calls referred by GR HL)
Number of MCT calls dispatched by the Howard County Police Department.	1,285
Number of MCT calls that result in law enforcement intervention (co-response calls).	1,647
Number of clients served by MCT.	1,935
Number of MCT calls that result in a petition for emergency evaluation (EP).	353
Number of MCT calls that result in transport to the hospital.	258
Number of times MCT is dispatched to schools.	192
Description and number of call types MCT responded to (e.g., psychiatric emergency, homelessness, suicidal, evictions, drug-related)	See (A) to (G) Below
Psychiatric Emergency (A)	1,141
Suicidal (Non-death) (B)	539
Conflict - Agency (C)	43
Conflict - Minor (D)	89
Conflict - Family (E)	406
Death (F) (M+S+H+T+D) (See below)	153
Medical	73
Suicide	37
Homicide	4
Trauma	31
Drug Related	8
Miscellaneous (G)	269
Homicidal Ideation	11
Self Harm	14
Substance Use Disorder	16
Physical Aggression	21
Property Destruction	6
Oppositional Behavior	25
Eviction	17
Intimate Partner Violence	6
Emotional Dysregulation	34

Other: Food insecurity, Mental Health Assessment, Assessment for Discharge, Third Party Issues, Removal from Shelter, Runaway, Relationship Issues.	98

13. Project 01-12-0-1220-0109: Mental Health Awareness Public Service Announcements
Funding amount: $36,998.00
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.12-Mental Health Services

Project Overview
The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed and exacerbated the prevalence of behavioral health and addiction challenges in this community and highlighted the heightened need for public service announcements to help build community awareness of the mental health resources available to residents in Howard County. To meet this goal, the County allocated SLFRF funding for associated costs to disseminate mental health awareness and helpline information using a variety of modes, including broadcast and cable outlets, online digital platforms, social media, movie theatres, and more. This project was a joint effort by the Howard County Office of Public Information (PIO) and Howard County Health Department's Communications and Public Information to deliver mental health advisories through media outlets.

The PIO recorded the PSA videos in October 2022 which were distributed through a variety of media outlets from November 2022 to February 2023.

Intended Outcomes:

- To use numerous media outlets to reach a vast and diverse range of audiences and promote community-wide awareness of mental health resources.
- To build awareness of available behavioral health resources that County residents can access.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of Delivery Outlet Modes.	5: 1 Online target campaign, 2 radio advertising, 1 cinema/movie theatres, 1 tv sports network spots
Target Audience.	Parents Ages 25-54 with children, Howard County Residents. People affected with depression and other mental illness, Influencers of those affected (Parents), Adults 25-64, General public.
Geographic Target.	Howard County residents, Influencers of Howard County residents, Metropolitan area, Columbia in Howard County, Baltimore/Howard County.
Advertisement Volume.	249,975 online impressions, Ravens Play by Play, 100,000 Mobile ticker Units, 433,333 display ad units, radio population of 1,117,700 Avg Daily, 2 Movie Theatres PSA aired: Columbia Mall 14 and Snowden Square 14, 28

	movie screens PSA aired, Estimated On Air Impressions: Ages 35-64 = 51,724, Households = 88,627. Estimated Monthly TV Commercials = 436. Estimated Number of Networks = 30. Estimated Monthly Streaming Video Impressions = 63,937.
Advertisement Duration.	Throughout November 1, 2022, to February 26, 2023.

14. Project 01-14-0-1720-0112: Emergency Department Diversion
Funding amount: $112,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.14-Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

FirstCall Medical Center (FCMC) administers an Alternative Destination Program in partnership with Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center and the Howard County's Health Department and Department of Fire and Rescue Services. The goal of this program is to transport low-acuity patients to FCMC, an urgent care facility, over transportation to the emergency department. SLFRF were used to enhance and extend the impact of this program by expanding the resources available to FCMC to serve uninsured patients.

This program sought to directly address the public health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the County's hospital system, specifically the capacity challenges, staffing shortages, and resource constraints that arose during the pandemic and continue to affect hospital operations. Large portions of the community rely on the emergency department for medical care, including a growing number of residents without health insurance. The hospital continued to incur significant costs associated with providing uncompensated care to uninsured residents. This program was also designed to address the impact of the pandemic on uninsured patients by expanding access to alternative, lower-cost medical care options provided through urgent care. SLFRF funding was used by FCMC to recoup incurred costs for medical care provided to uninsured patients unable to pay a portion or all of their medical bills and staff licensed nurses on the triage line.

Intended Outcomes:

- To aim for continued sustainability for First Call Medical Center to deliver the program's services to eligible patients.
- To offer uninsured patients improved access to alternative, lower-cost medical care for diagnosis and treatment and to help remove barriers to accessing treatment.
- To address challenges the Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center's Emergency Department faces to maximize its services for emergency cases, reduce patient wait times, faster response to care for acute patients, and relieve emergency staff from burnout due to high patient volumes.

Use of Evidence

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of medical calls received via the triage line.	6,214
Number of patients transported to FCMC via the triage line.	1,592
Number of uninsured patients transported to FCMC via the triage line.	176
Number of uninsured patients served by FCMC.	7,036
Number of uninsured patients’ unpaid medical bills recouped with SLFRF payments.	380
Number of programmatic licensed nurses supported in whole or in part by this grant.	2

15. Project 02-01-0-1120-0215: Roving Radish Food Program Expansion
Funding amount: $45,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview

Howard County, through the Office of Community Sustainability and in partnership with the Horizon Foundation, Howard County General Hospital, and many other businesses and organizations, operates the Roving Radish program. The program’s mission is to promote access to locally grown and healthy foods, support local farms, create sustainable food markets, and provide healthy meals to the County residents. The program is also dedicated to serving families in need and offers a discounted price to households facing food insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic, the Roving Radish program experienced a significant increase in members, customers, and local suppliers participating in the program. To meet the growing demand for this program, the County used SLFRF funding to support the expansion of the program’s storefront location, the Roving Radish Marketplace, and installation of additional freezers which increased the capacity to store local meats, produce, and other items offered at the shop.
Intended Outcomes:

- To accommodate growing customer needs for food products and store size.
- To increase the food storage capacity of the Marketplace.
- To promote greater access to locally grown and healthy foods, with a particular focus on serving families experiencing food insecurity.
- Create sustainable food markets for local and regional farmers to support farmers and the broader farming industry in this community.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Cumulative number of active non-subsidized members.	113
Cumulative number of active subsidized members.	356
Number of purchase transactions by non-subsidized members.	988
Number of purchase transactions by subsidized members.	6,519
Number of Howard County farms suppliers participating at the Marketplace.	32 (9 unique)
Dollar Amount of Howard County Farm Products Purchase to be sold at the Marketplace.	$89,334.87
Number of regional farm suppliers participating at the Marketplace.	11 (5 unique)
Dollar Amount of Regional Farm Produce Purchase to be sold at the Marketplace.	$31,558.43

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs:

Metric	Response
Number of households served.	469

16. Project 02-01-0-1120-0222: Roving Radish Mobile Market
Funding amount: $447,850.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview

Howard County, through the Office of Agriculture, used SLFRF funding to implement a mobile market program, aptly named "Roving Radish Mobile Market". The new program mimicked the County's existing Roving Radish Marketplace traditional food pantry, but instead of being stationary, the Mobile Market became a mobile pantry that will visit and distribute healthy foods and locally grown produce to individuals and families across the community. The mission of the program was to promote greater access to locally grown and healthy foods, support local farms, and create sustainable food markets. This program was specifically designed to serve residents in need by increasing access to healthy, locally grown food in underserved communities and providing these services at a discounted rate to households facing food insecurity. The Mobile Market offered a 50 percent subsidy on all farm products to those households that qualify and had specials each week that sold at cost to all customers and free to customers that qualify for a subsidy. This design ensured that Howard County residents, regardless of income, location, or access to reliable transportation, would benefit from this program and have access to healthy food.

SLFRF funds supported the Roving Radish Mobile Market through the acquisition of a dedicated mobile market truck, staff, and other operational costs; subsidized food purchases; and free local food offerings for families in need.

Intended Outcomes:

- To accommodate growing customer needs for food products, increase service locations, and promote accessibility for families, seniors and residents who do not have access to reliable transportation.

- To promote greater access to locally grown and healthy foods, with a particular focus on serving families experiencing food insecurity.
- Create sustainable food markets for local and regional farmers to support farmers and the broader farming industry in this community.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Cumulative number of active non-subsidized members.	56
Cumulative number of active subsidized members.	755
Number of purchase transactions by non-subsidized members.	1343
Number of purchase transactions by subsidized members.	6238
Number of Howard County farms suppliers participating at the Marketplace.	31
Dollar Amount of Howard County Farm Products Purchase to be sold at the Marketplace.	$37,452.12
Number of regional farm suppliers participating at the Marketplace.	12
Dollar Amount of Regional Farm Produce Purchase to be sold at the Marketplace.	$92,736.29

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs:

Metric	Response
Number of households served.	811

17. Project 02-01-0-3130-0234: FISH Food Pantry Relocation
Funding amount: $32,000
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview
In coordination with DPW Facilities, the County used SLFRF funding to renovate two suites in a County-owned building at the Long Reach Village Center in preparation for the FISH Food Pantry relocation. Through volunteer support, donations, grants, and community partnerships, these nonprofit organizations operate food pantries in the County for all individuals and households experiencing food insecurity, including offering a grocery delivery service for those who are unable to visit an in-person distribution center, and providing emergency food, referral information and limited financial assistance to County residents in need.

Intended Outcomes:

- To promote the food pantry programs by relocating to an improved and more viable space where they can continue services to help those households experiencing food insecurity, resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Percent of renovation completed.	100 %
Description of renovation development, including any project timeline delays or challenges.	Completed.

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs:

Metric	Response
Number of households served.	0

18. Project 02-01-0-3133-0224: SAFE Food Pantry
Funding amount: $9,196.82
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview
The Columbia Flier Building is Howard County-owned and managed by the DPW Facilities. It serves as a no-cost lease space for three food pantries that support food insecurity initiatives. In late October 2022, The S.A.F.E. – "Supplying Allergy Friendly and Emergency" - Food Pantry, Inc. relocated to one of the spaces in the building. Staffed by a dedicated group of volunteers, S.A.F.E. seeks to engage with and educate the community about the importance of increasing access to gluten free and allergen-friendly food. S.A.F.E. distributes an assortment of fresh and canned goods, including gluten free and allergy-friendly food and provides these safe food options to those in need, especially households that are facing food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new site served as office space and central storage location for food to be distributed to clients through other channels.

Prior to the relocation, DPW Facilities deemed, after inspection, that HVAC upgrades were necessary for the space to effectively house a food pantry to properly control odors, moisture, and heat. The County's DPW Facilities used SLFRF funds to improve the ventilation system in the Columbia Flier Building for a safer environment for the food pantry.

Intended Outcomes:

- To improve the HVAC system to ensure reliable operation of air flow and keep the air fresh and healthy indoors for the food pantry staff.
- To have cleaner air in the space where fresh produce and food resources are being stored.
- To promote greater access to gluten-free, allergen-friendly, healthy, and safer food options for people with special dietary restrictions, with a particular focus on serving families in the County experiencing food insecurity.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
Number of Households Served by the SAFE Food Pantry through its partnership with the Howard County Food Bank.	42
Number of Households Served by the SAFE Food Pantry through its direct distribution in collaboration with Columbia Community Care.	74

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs:

Metric	**Response**
Number of households served.	116

19. Project 02-02-0-1300-0214: Water and Sewer Utilities Household Assistance
Funding amount: $633,893.77
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview
Many Howard County residents experienced inability to pay utility bills that have accumulated due to financial hardships caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the County's use of SLFRF funding, this program provided water and sewer utilities assistance to households in the County that incurred utility arrearages and faced risks of service disconnection due to nonpayment. In 2022, the assistance allocation methodology developed identified households who had at least $250 in arrears incurred on bills dating back from March 1, 2020, when the COVID-19 public health emergency was federally declared, to March 31, 2022. In 2023, the County continued to fund this year's batch of delinquent accounts of any amount. In 2024, the County funded a batch of delinquent accounts of any amount, including late charges and other fees.

Intended Outcomes:

- To prevent water and sewer service disruption and termination for households in the County.
- To provide financial relief for residents so that they can continue to receive water service which is a necessity for every household.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Average amount of assistance per household served.	$454.73

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent Mortgage and Utility Aid:

Metric	Response
Number of households served.	1,394
Number of households receiving eviction prevention services. (including legal representation)	0
Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed.	0

20. Project 02-02-0-3130-0236: Emergency Shelter Facility Expansion
Funding amount: $905,574.19
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview
The Emergency Shelter Program aims to address the pressing need for increased shelter space within Howard County. Designed in response to the rising demand for emergency shelter services during the COVID-19 pandemic and the persistent challenge of homelessness in the community, this program seeks to expand the capacity of the County's existing shelter programs and expand the number of emergency shelter beds to ensure all individuals seeking shelter have access to safe and supportive accommodations. To advance these goals, this project is separated into two phases. Phase I provides funding for the County to renovate the lower floor of the shelter and convert offices into a dedicated emergency shelter for women. This phase also provides the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc., the shelter service provider, with a SLFRF grant to purchase furniture to expand the number of emergency shelter beds. Under Phase II, Howard County aims to fund additional renovations to the first floor community family room, to transform areas to a medication storage room and a family sleeping room, and to further expand the capacity of the emergency shelter dedicated for men on the second floor.

Intended Outcomes:

- Provide shelter as a crisis response for people experiencing homelessness.
- Reduce the number of individuals/households who are experiencing homelessness.
- Increase access to emergency cold weather sheltering.

Use of Evidence

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent Mortgage and Utility Aid:

Metric	Response
Number of unduplicated individuals housed	99
Number of individuals discharged	51
Number of individuals discharged to stable living conditions	38

21. Project 02-02-0-3130-0241: Emergency Shelter Facility at Lynn Buff Court
Funding amount: $2,321,077.02
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview

Howard County plans to use State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) funding for the construction of a night-by-night non-congregate emergency shelter. The shelter will be built at 9530 Lynn Buff Court in Laurel, MD, and will have 20 rooms, each with a private bathroom, and will provide a safe sleeping space for unsheltered individuals. Currently, there is only one emergency shelter in the County and the construction of the new Emergency Shelter will expand the capacity to serve the growing unhoused population. The Bureau of Facilities of the County's Department of Public Works is spearheading this project and will oversee the construction of the emergency shelter building.

Intended Outcomes:

- To increase the number of beds available to the unhoused population.
- To have multiple night-by-night Emergency Shelters in Howard County.

Use of Evidence

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Metric:	Response
Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	N/A

Number of new emergency shelters made available for unhoused population	0

Other performance metrics for quarterly reporting by the County throughout the period of performance:

Metric:	**Response**
Projected/actual construction start date.	12/01/2025
Projected/actual initiation of operations date.	N/A

22. Project 02-02-0-6026-0216: Emergency Shelter
Funding amount: $283,164.32
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview

The Emergency Shelter Program provided emergency assistance to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable households by responding to, preventing, reducing, and ending homelessness within this community. This program assisted households experiencing homelessness by providing cold weather shelter and hypothermia shelter and connecting households with emergency shelter. Howard County used SLFRF funds to contract with Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center to administer two Emergency Shelter Programs, namely Cold Weather Shelter and Code Blue Emergency Shelter. SLFRF funds for the Cold Weather Shelter program covered costs for program staff including resident assistants and security staff, client transportation, and securing hotel/motel rooms from November 2022 through when the cold season ended in 2023. SLFRF funds for the Code Blue Emergency Shelter program covered costs of client transportation and securing hotel/motel rooms to provide emergency overnight shelter. These programs were intended to provide emergency shelter services to individuals and families that were facing financial or housing instability or experiencing homelessness. These programs formed an important part of the County's broader crisis response system and played an integral role in ensuring residents in need of a place to stay had access to safe and accessible emergency shelters.

Intended Outcomes:

- Provide shelter as a crisis response for people experiencing homelessness.
- Reduce the number of individuals/households who are experiencing homelessness.
- Increase access to emergency cold weather sheltering.

Use of Evidence

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
Cold Weather Shelter:	

Number of Cold Weather Shelter nights.	172
Number of hotel rooms rented.	63
Number of unduplicated individuals served.	159
Number of bed nights (number of individuals served in the number of rooms provided).	4,998
Code Blue Emergency Shelter:	
Number of Cold Blue Emergency Shelter nights.	20
Number of hotel rooms rented.	314
Number of unduplicated individuals served.	188
Number of bed nights (number of individuals served in the number of rooms provided).	593

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent Mortgage and Utility Aid:

Metric	Response
Number of households served.	220
Number of households receiving eviction prevention services. (including legal representation)	0
Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed.	0

23. Project 02-02-0-6100-0202: Foreclosure Assistance
Funding amount: $2,000,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview
The Howard County Department Housing and Community Development (DHCD) administered a mortgage assistance program with County funding prior to investing SLFRF funds into the program. Due to the demand of services, the County funds were depleted and the existing program transitioned to a federally-compliant program, however the program design did not change significantly as it was designed as an SLFRF-eligible program. Using SLFRF funding, the program provided foreclosure assistance to homeowners who were at risk of losing their homes from falling into arrears with mortgage payments caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program served households with the County's Adjusted Median Incomes that were below 80% of HUD Baltimore limits. SLFRF funds were to prevent foreclosures for homeowners in the County and the ability to remain in their homes as they develop, in collaboration with a financial counseling service, long-term strategies that address their housing needs. DHCD began using SLFRF funds for the program from October 2021 through May 2023.

Intended Outcomes:

- To prevent approximately 50 to 60 home foreclosures.

- To enable approximately 50 to 60 households to remain in their homes as they develop, in collaboration with a financial counseling service, long-term strategies that address their housing needs.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance. A large body of evidence does exist to indicate the positive impacts that homeownership has on community stability, which was an important goal of this program.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Average amount of assistance per household served.	$31,772.82

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent Mortgage and Utility Aid:

Metric	Response
Number of households served.	62
Number of households receiving eviction prevention services. (including legal representation)	0
Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed.	0

24. Project 02-02-0-6100-0206: Rental Assistance
Funding amount: $987,240.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview
The Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) contracted with Making Change, Inc. to run a rental assistance program for households in the County funded by the ERAP Grant (Emergency Rental Assistance Program). However, due to the high demand of services, ERAP funds were depleted. SLFRF funding was utilized as a stopgap measure, enabling DHCD to continue providing emergency rental assistance from July 2022 to December 2024 while pending release of the second round of ERAP funding. Eligible County residents who received rental assistance payments were those whose household incomes were within the low and moderate ranges (at or below 65% AMI) and faced a court-ordered eviction for failure to pay rent. The COVID-19 pandemic caused more severe negative economic impacts to this population and those imminently at-risk of homelessness. Financial assistance to eligible households included the payment of rental arrears not to exceed twelve months, including reasonably accrued late fees; three months of prospective rent; and court fees, legal services or attorney's fees related to eviction proceedings. The direct assistance funding was fully utilized through May 2023 and Making Change redirected other applications received to other nonprofit organizations. By June 2024, Making Change utilized all ARPA funding related to administering the program.
Intended Outcomes:

- To provide rental and utilities assistance to low- and moderate-income households.
- To prevent eligible households from being evicted or being homeless.
- To provide funding assistance for court and legal fees incurred by households from eviction proceedings.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Average amount of rental assistance per household served.	$11,392.41
Average amount of eviction prevention services assistance per household.	$108.68

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent Mortgage and Utility Aid:

Metric	Response
Number of households served.	79
Number of households receiving eviction prevention services. (including legal representation)	34
Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed.	0

25. Project 02-02-0-6100-0207: Live Where You Work
Funding amount: $500,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview
Low- and moderate-income residents working in Downtown Columbia faced significant negative impacts and financial burdens when businesses were ordered by the Governor of Maryland to shut down or reduce customer capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, shutdowns put a significant burden on this population to afford, maintain, or obtain affordable housing.

To revive Downtown Columbia, support lower-income employees and business employers, and mitigate the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, a pilot program, "Live Where You Work" (LWYW), was created and sponsored by the County and Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation (CDHC). LWYW utilizes SLFRF funding to provide rental subsidies from June 2022 to December 2026 to low- and moderate- income employees of businesses located within or near Downtown Columbia.

This program provides employees with the opportunity to afford to reside in the downtown area near their work, improving diversity across the downtown community. Additionally, the employees reap the benefits of reduced transportation expenses and shorter commute times.

Intended Outcomes:

- To provide household assistance to low- and moderate-income employees of Downtown Columbia businesses.
- To help the revitalization of Downtown Columbia businesses in its efforts of recruiting and maintaining staffing levels.
- To promote a diverse and thriving population in Downtown Columbia.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	Response
Average rental subsidy per employee participant.	$24,139.27
Number of Downtown Columbia Employer participants.	5
Number of Downtown Columbia Landlord participants.	5

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent Mortgage and Utility Aid:

Metric	Response
Number of households served.	11
Number of households receiving eviction prevention services. (including legal representation)	0
Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed.	0

26. Project: 02-04-0-2070-0223: Elkridge Mobile Home Park Broadband
Funding amount: $35,070.41
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.4-Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs

Project Overview
The Elkridge Mobile Home Park is a community in Howard County that has 88 households and roughly 225 residents. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, to prevent and mitigate the virus spread, County schools had to transition students to receive online learning remotely, while many companies had to transition to remote work. Unfortunately, a majority of the homes in this community lacked internet access. To take action, a partnership with the Howard County Library System and the County's CARES Act grant funded the project's initial phase to help bring free public Wi-Fi, expand broadband, and offer reliable internet connection for the Elkridge residents. The County continued making progress in closing the digital divide by using SLFRF funding which implemented phase two of providing broadband connectivity to the Elkridge mobile home community by installing additional poles and building mount structures.

Intended Outcomes:

- To bring no-cost wireless high-speed internet access to the Elkridge residents.
- To allow students to receive online education.
- To enable residents to telework and improve economic opportunities.
- To contribute to limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.4-Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs.

Metric	**Response**
Number of households served.	88

27. Project 02-34-0-1110-0203: Columbia Festival for the Arts Nonprofit Assistance
Funding amount: $150,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview
All nonprofit organizations rely heavily on fundraising, especially through charity events. As the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread, many organizations had to adjust to remote work and the harsh reality of event cancellations.
Among the negatively economically impacted by the pandemic are the nonprofit organizations that deliver festivals and events to the community in the Howard County, namely the Columbia Festival Inc., AKA Columbia Festival of Arts (CFA), a 501(c)(3). CFA festivals are typically held on an annual basis but have been suspended due to the pandemic or have seen a decline in patronage. CFA experienced a decrease in operating grants, corporate sponsorships, and donor gifts compared to pre-pandemic historical trends. The County provided SLFRF funding to support the Columbia Festival of Arts to deliver community events such as the Long Reach Village Festival held in October 2021.
Intended Outcomes:

- To provide assistance to nonprofit organizations such as the CFA that deliver services in the County, for instance, a festival to highlight the 50th anniversary of one of the County's oldest neighborhoods, the Long Reach Village - a central hub for art, education, entrepreneurs and economic empowerment.
- To stimulate and revitalize small businesses, visual artists and food vendors participating in the festival, and provide income to event staff.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of village businesses/organizations that participated in the Long Reach Festival.	11
Number of vendors that participated in the Long Reach Festival.	17. Breakdown: 4 food trucks/trailers vendors. 13 artist vendors and their diversity breakdown: Caucasian – 9 (69%) African American – 2 (15%) Asian – 1 (8 %) Native American – 1 (8%)
Number of performing artists supported by this funding.	6
Number of staffing supported by the grant.	14
Narrative of how the Long Reach event impacted the community.	SLFRF funding has supported the successful completion of the Long Reach 50th Anniversary Celebration on October 15 and 16, 2021. Visitors from the community came to enjoy the music, fine arts & crafts, as well as the food. Many patrons also visited the local Long Reach businesses that represented their companies outdoors.

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Metric	Response
Number of Non-Profits Served.	1

28. Project 02-34-0-1110-0204: Tourism
Funding amount: $907,877.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview
The program was designed to provide intervention and relief due to the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on nonprofit organizations within Howard County. The focus of this program was to grant SLFRF aid to tourism activities through the Howard County Tourism Council, Inc., a nonprofit organization, throughout FY2022 and FY2023. When a State of Emergency was declared by the Governor of Maryland due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tourism sector was ordered to shut down or reduce customer capacity and received lower levels of participation from the public. The pandemic required the public to exercise social distancing, and therefore large crowds and social gatherings were curtailed. The Howard County Tourism Council advocates, promotes, and markets the businesses of its members, which

include hotel, restaurant, retailer, transportation, and arts and culture related industries. These businesses were affected by decreased visitor spending during the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic did not have the resources available to renew their membership with the Howard County Tourism Council, Inc., which resulted in a significant decrease in revenue for the organization.

Intended Outcomes:

- To increase marketing for recovery of Howard County Tourism.
- To aid industries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To sustain strong marketing campaigns for the entire County.
- To support businesses through advertising.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of marketing campaigns funded in part or wholly by this grant.	123
Through advertising, number of businesses supported in part or wholly by this grant.	14,830
Number of user sessions on visithowardcounty.com	1,159,476
Number of page views on visithowardcounty.com	2,541,221

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted):

Metric	Response
Number of Non-Profits Served.	1

29. Project 02-34-0-1110-0205: Small Business - The 3rd
Funding amount: $250,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview

The 3rd Inc. is a nonprofit owned by Women of Color (WOC) that supports other WOC entrepreneurs and business owners in Howard County by building a community that provides mentorship and education, networking and skill-building opportunities, and access to a community hub that showcases WOC owned businesses. The County awarded SLFRF funding to The 3rd in early 2022 to ensure the organization had the resources needed to respond to an increase in demand for support services from the WOC owned businesses in the area that were significantly impacted by the pandemic. In 2023, the County awarded additional funding to The 3rd to address additional needs beyond those addressed with the first round of relief funding, as the organization continued to experience significant financial and operational challenges as a direct result of the impact of the pandemic.

Intended Outcomes:

- To support activities of a mixed-use community space open to all to collectively learn from each other's businesses, networking, education, and support.
- To nurture start-ups, current, growing, and future businesses, and to energize small business communities to ensure they thrive through the pandemic and challenging economy.
- To support women-owned businesses and Women of Color entrepreneurs.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
The 3rd's activities supported in part or wholly by the grant.	20 one-hour webinars for capacity building. 6 in-person networking events. Hiring of a new part time position to enhance program delivery. 3-day community event. Investment in The 3rd building's infrastructure. 3 Coffee and Conversation with members (1x monthly). Strategic Planning Session 09/27/22. Opening of The 3rd Space 11/01/22 (soft opening week of over 300 participants). Small Business Saturday Event 11/26/22. Holiday Bazaar Event 12/17/22. End of Year Board Meeting 12/05/22. 3 Member Orientations (1x monthly). 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration 06/18/23. WOCAX: Women of Color Art Expo 06/23/23-06/25/23. The 3rd supported their first 4th of July at the lakefront in 2023. WOCAX 365: An Art and Networking Event in October 2023. ELEVATE leadership development program biweekly meeting for 8 sessions. Subsidized rental pricing for 2 Howard County nonprofits to conduct fundraisers in The 3rd's space in end of 2023.
Number of business/org memberships with The 3rd.	222

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Metric	**Response**
Number of Non-Profits Served.	1

30. Project 02-10-0-1110-0212: Afghan Refugees Employment
Funding amount: $98,500.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Project Overview

Howard County, in partnership with Luminus Network, Inc., funded the Immigration Legal Services program to hire a legal team to serve immigrant communities that live in the County, including low-income individuals and families referred by the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees (MORA). The goal of this program is to increase access to meaningful employment opportunities. Through this program, participants will have access to the legal assistance, education, and comprehensive employment support services that are necessary for accessing employment opportunities and gaining financial stability, which is one of the keys to successfully resettling in a new community. Luminus also connects individuals with services that are critical for obtaining and maintaining a job, including health services and housing placement.

Intended Outcomes:

- To increase access to employment opportunities and improve employment outcomes among the population served.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of work-authorized Afghans placed into employment in Howard County employers.	16
Number of work-authorized Afghan placed into employment in other regions employers.	100
Average number of months employees retained employment after placement with support through Luminus' retention case management.	6
Number of employers in Howard/PG/Anne Arundel Counties who participated in the program.	60
Number of entry and professional level candidates who were provided training materials and training.	64
Number of candidates interviewed and logged in the data system.	335
Number of non-Afghan candidates in the system.	89
Number of work-authorized non-Afghan placed into employment in Howard County employers.	24
Number of Afghan candidates in the system.	230

Number of candidates in Howard County.	78
Number of Afghan refugees supported for certifications in different areas such as nursing, accounting, IT, and interpretation.	36
Number of Afghan refugees supported for in-person class close to their home or a specific English class.	4

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives):

Metric	Response
Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs.	0
Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs.	0
Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs.	0

31. Project 02-10-0-1110-0228: Immigration Legal Services
Funding amount: $100,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Project Overview

Howard County, in partnership with Luminus Network, Inc., is funding the Immigration Legal Services program from February 2024 to June 2026 to hire a legal team to serve a diverse spectrum of immigration communities that live in the County, especially low-income individuals and families referred by the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees (MORA). Through this program, immigrants have greater access to legal assistance, education, and comprehensive support services, including assistance with completing applications for work authorization, naturalization and citizenship, permanent residence applications, and Temporary Protective Status. Luminus aims to ensure that immigrants have access to the legal services that are necessary for accessing employment opportunities and gaining financial stability, which is one of the keys to successfully resettling in a new community. Luminus also connects individuals with services that are critical for obtaining and maintaining a job, including health services and housing placement.

Intended Outcomes:

- To provide application assistance and immigration processing fees at no-charge to immigrants.
- To offer legal relief, education, representation and citizenship advise to immigrants.
- To conduct workshops and seminars to inform immigrant communities regarding their rights and legal options to prevent exploitation and misinformation.
- To help immigrants apply for the authorization to work in the United States to gain financial independence and stability.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	**Response**
Number of individuals assisted with Luminus Consultation Fees.	19
Number of individuals assisted with Luminus Fees for Relative Petition.	2
Number of individuals assisted with Luminus Fees for Adjustment of Status Application.	1
Number of individuals assisted with Luminus Fees Master Hearing Representation.	1
Number of individuals assisted with Luminus Fees Employment Authorization.	0
Number of individuals who have been approved with employment authorization finding employment.	0
Number of individuals assisted with Luminus Fees Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (Initial or Renewal).	0
Number of immigrants "Know Your Rights Workshops" community engagements held by the Legal Department.	7
Number of immigrants provided with personalized legal support: for asylum applications.	2
Number of immigrants provided with personalized legal support: in family-based petitions.	2
Number of immigrants provided with personalized legal support: for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).	0
Number of immigrants provided with personalized legal support: for U and T Visas.	0
Number of immigrants provided with personalized legal support: for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS).	0
Number of individuals connected by Social Services with essential services, including healthcare, education, and career development opportunities.	0
Number of individuals provided with legal representation.	14

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives):

Metric	**Response**
Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs.	0
Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs.	0
Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs.	0

32. Project 02-10-0-1150-0225: Complete4Success Scholarship
Funding amount: $1,827,333.48
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Project Overview
The Howard Community College ("HCC"), in collaboration with Howard County's Office of Workforce Development, is implementing a new scholarship program that provides pathways to success for students nearing the completion of workforce certification or associate degree programs. The goal of this program, aptly named the Complete4Success Program, is to enable HCC to provide financial assistance to students to ensure they have the resources needed to remain in college, obtain a degree or certification, and gain employment in industries offering higher wages and benefits and opportunities for career advancement.

HCC utilizes funding provided by Howard County to implement the Complete4Success Scholarship Program to provide support each semester to students classified as "near completers" to help them complete their degree program. Howard Community College students are working part-time, raising families, and trying to make ends meet. Many of the students pursuing an associate degree are leaving school prematurely to enter the workforce, and this decision often comes down to finances. Through this program, HCC provides tuition and fees for approximately 1,200 students with 8 credits or less toward completion of their associate degree program. HCC advisors also identify near-completers who may be prepared to earn the certificate credential on the pathway to their degree, thereby enabling the students to enter the workforce earlier.
Intended Outcomes:

- Serve students at the greatest risk of leaving college without a degree or certification.
- Invest in the future of Howard Community College students.
- Promote access to career placement and advancement opportunities.
- Increase financial support available to students nearing completion of a certification or associate degree program.
- Support the successful completion of certification and degree programs.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	Response
Number of near-completers who participate in the program.	748
Number of near-completers who earn their associate degree.	227
Number of near-completers hired post completion of their associate degree and industry/sector classification.	Data collection ongoing as self reporting is required 06/30/25

Number of near-completers pursuing further education.	Data collection ongoing as self reporting is required. None reported as of 06/30/2025

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives):

Metric	Response
Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs.	748
Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs.	227
Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs.	0

33. **Project 02-10-0-1150-0227: Complete4Success Student Assistance Fund**
Funding amount: $872,666.52
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Project Overview

The Howard Community College ("HCC"), in collaboration with Howard County's Office of Workforce Development, is implementing a new scholarship program that provides pathways to success for students nearing the completion of workforce certification or associate degree programs. The goal of this program, aptly named the Complete4Success Program, is to enable HCC to provide financial assistance to students to ensure they have the resources needed to remain in college, complete their program, obtain a degree or certification, enter the workforce, and gain employment in industries offering higher wages and benefits and opportunities for career advancement.

In addition to providing tuition and fees for students nearing the completion of workforce certification or associate degree programs, HCC will utilize SLFRF funds provided by the County to create a student assistance fund to ensure students have the resources and support needed to remain in school and complete their courses and credentials needed to gain meaningful employment. This fund will help students address financial challenges and overcome obstacles that impact their ability to remain in the program and earn their degrees and certificates. HCC is committed to helping students address emergency needs and financial emergencies, including those related to food and housing insecurity, balancing employment and schooling, childcare, and accessing required technology.

Intended Outcomes:

- Serve students at the greatest risk of leaving college without a degree or certification.
- Invest in the future of Howard County College students.
- Promote access to career placement and advancement opportunities.
- Increase financial support available to students' nearing completion of a certification or associate degree program.
- Help students address and overcome financial challenges.
- Support the successful completion of associate degree programs.
- Support the successful completion of certification programs.

Use of Evidence

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	**Response**
Number of individuals served by the student assistance fund.	336
Number of students referred to the OWD for support.	0

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives):

Metric	Response
Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs.	0
Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs.	0
Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs.	0

34. Project 02-11-0-1110-0231: Child Care Needs Assessment Survey
Funding amount: $3,060.94
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.11-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

Project Overview
The Arc of Howard County contracted with the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at the Kennedy Krieger Institute (KKI) to develop and disseminate an online needs assessment survey that identified the needs of parents and legal guardians raising children with disabilities in grades six and above who require after-school care with supports (e.g., feeding, medication, assistive technology/communication, behavioral, functional mobility, toileting, transportation, etc.). Howard County granted SLFRF funding to The Arc of Howard County for use towards project costs.

Intended Outcomes:

- To conduct a needs assessment survey that will help the County to assess the needs of families with children with intensive needs.
- To provide a survey report of recommendations for the County to seek available services and/or develop programming to address identified gaps in child care services.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Description of Survey activities performed.	The childcare and disability survey, a partnership between The Arc of Howard County, the Howard County Government, the Howard County Autism Society (now called Autism Society of Maryland), and the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD), was launched 7/6/2023, and was closed on 9/7/2023. MCDD utilized Apricot, a secure, web-based data management system, for the 13-question survey. MCDD disseminated the survey 5 times in late July and August to Howard County parents and guardians raising children with disabilities in grade six and above who receive special education and related services through an individualized education program (IEP). The survey was also disseminated to the Education Advocacy Coalition for

	Students with Disabilities listserv, all Howard County Academic Life Skills (ALS) programs, and the Maryland Commission on Disabilities. MCDD received 67 responses, but 4 responses were removed as the students' grades were not applicable to the survey or the respondents did not live in Howard County. The total number of responses received was 63.
Report of the Survey with findings and recommendations.	Howard County may wish to conduct targeted outreach for after-school care to children with disabilities attending public separate day schools; to consider how to provide transportation to and from after-school care; to consider offering after-school care until 6:00 p.m.; full-time working parents indicated a need for summer camps for four or more weeks.

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.11-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care:

Metric	Response
Number of children served by childcare and early learning services (pre-school/pre-K/ages 3-5).	0
Number of families served by home visiting.	0

35. Project 02-11-0-5011-0226: Child Care & Family Scholarship Programs
Funding amount: $3,000,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.11-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

Project Overview
Howard County and the Department of Recreation and Parks' ("Recreation and Parks") Recreational Licensed Child Care and Early Learning Center (RLC) have allocated SLFRF funding to address the extensive staffing and programming needs for public childcare. Public childcare is significantly more affordable than private childcare options in the County, and a high percentage of families taking advantage of this program are receiving scholarships based on income level. This project is intended to bolster, support, and preserve existing public childcare providers and services to ensure families can continue to access affordable childcare within the County. Currently, the Recreation and Parks childcare services have a waitlist of approximately 1,000 families. This program addresses the gap in staffing needs and childcare coverage to expand the existing program and increase access to childcare services for the families on the waitlist.
Intended Outcomes:

- To promote childcare staff recruitment and retention to recover from workforce shortages and meet the demand for services.
- To award childcare scholarships to low- to moderate-income families who could otherwise not afford to send their child(ren) to childcare centers.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	Response
Number of Current Employees receiving Step increase.	192
Number of New Employees receiving Step increase.	123
Number of Employees receiving Stipends bi-annually.	229
Number of Employees supported by Educational Stipends.	197
Number of Families supported by Scholarships.	598
Number of Community Outreach Activities Child Participants.	0

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.11-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care:

Metric	Response
Number of children served by childcare and early learning services (pre-school/pre-K/ages 3-5).	153
Number of families served by home visiting.	0

36. Project 02-11-0-D000-0237: Childcare Capacity Expansion
Funding amount: $1,100,000
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.11-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

Project Overview
Howard County has awarded SLFRF funding to the Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA) to create and administer the Child Care Capacity Expansion Grant Program that will provide grants to licensed childcare small businesses and nonprofits located in Howard County to increase their capacity to create additional childcare seats by funding necessary improvements. This initiative aims to increase the availability of high-quality childcare, ensuring more families have access to these essential services, which responds to the negative impacts experienced by childcare providers and the families that rely on their services as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts.
The program offers grants to two types of eligible providers in Howard County: Center-based Child Care Providers and Family-based Child Care Providers. These providers can apply for funding to pay for costs to acquire, expand, renovate, and construct childcare facilities to meet new regulations established by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), which providers must meet to be reimbursed for public Pre-K expenses under the State's Pre-K Expansion Program. Eligible grant activities include:
• Acquisition: Purchase of an existing childcare facility;
•Expansion: Construction or purchase of additional space for an existing childcare facility
•Renovation: Repairs, renovation, upgrades of an existing childcare facility to bring it up to code; and/or
•New Construction: Construction of a new childcare facility.
Intended Outcomes
•To expand childcare facility spaces to offer additional childcare programming and seats.
•To increase access to affordable, high quality child care.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	Response
Project highlights and accomplishments: Briefly discuss program accomplishments and results achieved during this reporting period. Anecdotal information may be included.	The project is in its initial phase.

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.11-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care:

Metric	Response
Number of children served by childcare and early learning services (pre-school/pre-K/ages 3-5).	0
Number of families served by home visiting.	0

37. Project 02-37-0-1110-0201: County Procurement - Local Business Support
Funding amount: $34,530.58
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.37-Economic Impact Assistance Other

Project Overview
The project was designed to enable Howard County to engage with the community to identify the economic hardships caused to small businesses. By understanding the financial insecurity and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the County Administration can implement programs that address local economic conditions and support small and minority, woman- and disabled-owned businesses.
Within the County Administration, a position was created to be responsible for outreach activities with local businesses, minority enterprises, the Economic Development Authority (EDA), and the Chamber of Commerce. The role included activities such as attending community events, engaging with the EDA, attending Howard County Equal Business Opportunity Commission meetings, and evaluating and analyzing the information obtained from these events. The role reported to the County Administrator and assisted in designing and implementing outreach programs targeting local and minority businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The County Procurement position was filled in late September 2021, however, the position was dissolved and absorbed in January 2022.
Intended Outcomes:

- To execute engagement and outreach actions/activities with local businesses, minority enterprises, the EDA, and the Chamber of Commerce to expand opportunities to local businesses adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To develop County relationships with local and minority, woman- and disabled-owned businesses, and identify areas for collaboration and support.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance. A large body of evidence does exist to indicate the positive impacts that strategic and targeted community outreach has on local business stability and economic growth, which is an important goal of this recovery program.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of hours spent on this project.	762.72

38. Project 02-15-0-6100-0229: Downtown Columbia Affordable Housing Program
Funding amount: $3,280,385.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.15-Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Project Overview
Howard County intends to leverage SLFRF funds to support an affordable housing project in Downtown Columbia to address the pressing need for accessible and affordable housing within this community. In 2019, the Howard County Housing Commission received a competitive Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) award from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to support the construction of a mixed-use building that will feature 174 apartments with a mix of market-rate and affordable units; a new state-of-the-art theatre; artists' studios, performing arts rooms, and classrooms; art galleries; a cafe and bar, gift shop, fitness center and yoga room; lounges; and a residential courtyard. This development will add units of high-quality housing for low-income individuals and families. This project contributes to the County's long-term approach to recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes ensuring stable housing is available for low- and moderate-income individuals.

Intended Outcomes

- To develop a combination of mixed-income housing units which offers 50% of affordable housing units at affordable rents to low- and moderate-income households in Downtown Columbia.
- To add new housing units to attract a diverse population with a wide-range of incomes from housing vouchers, to very low-income, workforce, and market-rate households to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	Response
Project highlights and accomplishments: Briefly discuss program accomplishments and results achieved during this reporting period. Anecdotal information may be included.	The project is in the design phase

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.15-Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing:

Metric	Response
Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	0
Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed	0

39. Project 02-19-0-HH01-0238: HCHD Community Health Worker Network
Funding amount: $ 300,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.19- Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview

The Howard County Health Department (HCHD) administers the Community Health Worker Network (CHW) program which is a vital initiative to establish a community health worker network and enhance healthcare access and outcomes for underserved communities within the County. This program recruits and trains residents to serve as Community Health Workers, who act as liaisons between healthcare providers and the community, promote health education, and provide preventive care as well as chronic disease management. HCHD has identified target populations concentrated in the communities of Columbia (ZIP Codes 21044 and 20145), Laurel (20723), Savage (20763), Jessup (20794), and Elkridge (21075). Howard County will use SLFRF funds for the expansion of the CHW program by funding three new (3) Certified Lead CHW's who will be working full time and overseeing nine (9) part-time CHWs assigned to the respective communities in the County with high hospitalization rates, high poverty rates, and dense populations to ensure better coverage. The program aims to reduce health disparities in selected ZIP Codes, to develop coordination of CHW networks across all organizations in the County, and to build a strong CHW network at the HCHD.

Intended Outcomes:
• To reduce annual hospital encounters (age-adjusted rates) related to diabetes to under 50 and hypertension to under 100 in selected ZIP Codes.
• To reduce low-birth weight and pre-term births among Black community members in selected ZIP Codes by increasing referrals to the Maternal Infant Health Navigator to 20 per month.
• To reduce opioid deaths in selected ZIP Codes by increasing Narcan trainings to 160 per year (3,000 individuals).
• To create a CHW learning collaborative in Howard County.
• To create a CHW infrastructure at HCHD.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes for the Period of Performance from July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026:

Metric	Response
Number of Lead CHW/CHW supported by this grant.	18
Number of Community Outreach Activities/Events held or attended by the CHW Network program staff. List and describe Activities/Events and dates, and number of attendees/participants	63
Number of clients referred to health care and related resources by CHWs: Clients residing in Columbia (ZIP Codes 21044, 21045 and 21046)	35
Number of clients referred to health care and related resources by CHWs: Clients residing in Laurel (ZIP Code 20723)	37
Number of clients referred to health care and related resources by CHWs: Clients residing in Savage (ZIP Code 20763)	23
Number of clients referred to health care and related resources by CHWs: Clients residing in Jessup (ZIP Code 20794)	2
Number of clients referred to health care and related resources by CHWs: Clients residing in Elkridge (ZIP Code 21075)	14
Hospitalization utilization rates related to diabetes in selected ZIP Codes across age groups (Target 10% reduction)	51.81%
Hospitalization utilization rates related to hypertension in selected ZIP Codes across age groups (Target 10% reduction)	100.63%

Number of clients referred to the Maternal Infant Health Navigator program	1
Number of opioid deaths in Howard County	54
Number of Narcan trainings held (Target 160 per year)	32
Number of Narcan training attendees (Target 3,000 individuals).	1,127

40. Project 02-22-0-6024-0233: Age-Friendly Outdoor Fitness Park
Funding amount: $221,747.70
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.22- Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview
Howard County's Office of Aging and Independence (OAI) offers several programming activities and facilities directed to enhancing the quality of life and overall wellbeing of the County's residents, with a particular concentration on the adult and senior population. COVID-19 has created social isolations and limited access to fitness facilities while putting a strain on physical and mental health of individuals. To respond to the many long-term negative effects of the pandemic, the OAI Outdoor Spaces and Buildings work group has identified the importance of making outdoor spaces more age-friendly through renovation and construction projects and by adding outdoor exercise equipment and improved walkability. SLFRF funded the development of an outdoor space in Centennial Park which is operated by the County's Recreation and Parks and installed a wide array of exercise equipment as a resource to improve health outcomes and created fitness opportunities for people of all ages and ability levels. This neighborhood park is often utilized by older adults, youth, and families.
Intended Outcomes:

- To promote increased opportunities for physical activity, mobility, and a healthy lifestyle, especially for the adult demographic.
- To have access to a cost-free public exercise space and quality fitness equipment, in proximity and within walking distance to residents in surrounding the areas.
- To build a community space for people of multiple generations to exercise, socially interact with other people, while enjoying nature and the outside environment.
- To convert the walking paths in the park to be ADA compliant.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Project highlights and accomplishments: Briefly discuss program accomplishments and results achieved during this reporting period. Anecdotal information may be included.	The County opened its First Age-Friendly Fitness Lot in early June 2024. It features equipment and exercise diagrams to cater to all ages, especially to older adults who want to remain active, healthy, and connect with their community.

41. Project 02-26-0-E000-0208: HCPSS - School Based Mental Health
Funding amount: $980,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.26-Addressing Educational Disparities: Mental Health Services

Project Overview
The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) offers a School-Based Mental Health Services (SBMHS) program for the elementary, middle, and high school student population. Student Support Teams provide an organized method for identifying and connecting students with appropriate resources and interventional pathways for their mental health, academic, and behavioral needs, such as with a School Counselor or Social Worker, or refer students and their families to an external community agency. It is a free benefit to students connecting with any HCPSS-employed Social Workers.

SBMHS' workforce has grown and gradually increased its reach to more schools through the years. At this time, there are 11 Social Workers supporting the school system, but since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, the need for student mental health services has exponentially spiked because of traumatic impacts from these trying times. The growing demand for school-based mental health services resulted in higher case volumes that exceed SBMHS' staffing capacity.
As the pandemic continued, mental health staff shortage was especially alarming to students and their families who needed immediate intervention but could not afford to receive mental health services from external community agencies or private providers. This SLFRF program was intended for HCPSS to recruit 4 additional full-time Licensed Clinical Social Workers in SY 2022-2023 and continue to fund 3 in SY 2023-2024 to expand student's access to counseling services.
Intended Outcomes:

- To increase Social Work staff by 4 Full-time-equivalents to bring the total to 15 employees starting with SY 2022-2023 and then continue to fund 3 in SY 2023-2024.
- To have adequate Social Work staff to respond timely to increased cases of students adversely impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and are seeking accessible mental health services.
- To reach more school locations for students from other sites to have equal access to the HCPSS mental health care program.
- To eventually cover 77 schools from the current coverage of 45 schools.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of additional Social Workers recruited by HCPSS SBMHS with the SLFRF funding.	4
Number of additional schools and locations served by the HCPSS SBMHS program.	18
Number of students accessing SBMH services.	1,117
Demographics by race and gender identity of students receiving SBMH services:	
Asian American and Pacific Islander	<10
American Indian or Alaska Native	<10
Asian American	64
Black or African American	429
Hispanic/Latino	420
Two or More Races	60
White	198
Male	559
Female	614
Non-Binary	<10
Demographics by student grade level served by the HCPSS SBMHS program:	
Elementary School	435
Middle School	382
High School	360

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.26-Addressing Educational Disparities: Mental Health Services:

Metric	Response
NCES School ID or NCES District ID. (National Center for Education Statistics)	2400420
Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.	0

42. Project 02-27-0-E000-0209: School Bus Drivers
Funding amount: $2,000,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.27-Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time

Project Overview
To recognize the demanding and necessary nature of the services that school bus drivers and attendants provide for Howard County students, teachers, and parents alike, this program funded retention bonuses for existing bus drivers and attendants, signing bonuses to attract new bus drivers and attendants, disbursements to bus contractors to assist in recruitment and hiring new staff to activate the remaining routes, and overhead costs for the bus contractors for each incentive bonus paid. The performance period was July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

100 bus driver vacancies have impacted the County Public School System since the beginning of the 2021 school year. The driver shortage subjected existing bus drivers to working multiple routes and schedules that are beyond the ordinary scope of work. Additional school system staff were required to stay onsite later in the day to monitor children being transported by school bus services. Students were forced to go to school earlier and return home later. In early November 2021, interruptions to school bus service spiked, affecting nearly 100 bus routes. This was a huge problem affecting families who do not own vehicles and parents whose work schedules prohibited them from taking their children to school, as they relied on school bus services to ensure their children reached their classrooms and received the education they need.

Intended Outcomes:
- To boost morale and provide compensation for the heightened risks for school bus drivers and attendants who have put their physical well-being at risk to meet the daily needs of HCPSS students' transportation needs for their continued education during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To reduce the likelihood of employee turnover and gaps in student transportation services to HCPSS.
- These short-term financial incentives are important to stay competitive and to promote the recruitment and retention of high-quality bus drivers and attendants.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
Number of existing drivers and attendants assigned to an available bus route as of November 8, 2021, receiving Employee Retention Bonuses.	
• Number of drivers	661
• Number of attendants	129
Number of drivers and attendants with routes activated after November 8, 2021, and hired between November 8, 2021, and May 1, 2022, receiving Employee Retention Bonuses.	
• Number of drivers	2

• Number of attendants	0
Number of new drivers and attendants hired between November 8, 2021, and January 31, 2022, receiving a total of $1,500 Sign-on Bonuses for each inactive route activated.	
• Number of drivers	34
• Number of attendants	4
Number of Contractors that have inactive route(s) as of November 8, 2021, receiving Incentive Bonuses up to a total of $3,000.	
• Number of Contractors	36

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.27-Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time:

Metric	**Response**
NCES School ID or NCES District ID. (National Center for Education Statistics)	2400420
Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.	0

43. Project 02-30-0-6030-0239: Boosting Family Child Care Workforce Program
Funding amount: $ 300,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.30-Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

Project Overview

Howard County is awarded SLFRF funding to the Department of Community Resources and Services' Office of Children and Families to administer the Boosting Family Child Care Workforce Program. This initiative aims to increase access to quality family childcare programs by assisting providers with training in business development, marketing, and professional development. Participants also gain access to higher education opportunities and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) programs, such as MD EXCELS and Accreditation. Additionally, the Childcare Business Incubator Lab at Howard Community College offers participants start-up education, skills for delivering high-quality childcare programming, and support in navigating licensing processes and regulations. Funds are also available for purchasing necessary supplies, including laptops/tablets and curriculum and assessment tools. The program addresses challenges faced by childcare businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Howard County has seen a significant loss of family childcare programs, with the number of providers decreasing from 305 in 2019 to 264 in 2024, and it is expected to drop further to 187 by 2028. This project aims to support family childcare business development, create a knowledgeable educator workforce for PreK expansion, fill critical gaps in care, and establish comprehensive coaching relationships with childcare professionals to provide rich, meaningful learning experiences for all children.

Intended Outcomes:

• To increase the number of family childcare providers in Howard County.

• To increase access to quality childcare by assisting childcare providers with training in business development, marketing, professional development, and access to higher education (associate and bachelor's degrees).

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of Child Care Providers that complete the training/courses	0
Number of Family Child Care business launched	0

44. Project 02-32-0-1110-0213: Entrepreneur Accelerator
Funding amount: $215,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.32-Business Incubators and Start-Up or Expansion Assistance

Project Overview
Howard County allocated SLFRF funding to two cohorts of early-stage and historically under-served entrepreneurs and small businesses after completion of the HoCo Higher Spring and Fall 2022 Entrepreneur Accelerator Programs. Through a partnership program between the County, Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA), and M&T Bank, the Accelerator Program was a 10-week curriculum on learning the essentials of business planning, operations, credit building, digital communication and financial management. The participants were local companies in the County who received $5K each in seed funding to grow their businesses, and in addition, six winners who participated in an elimination round pitch competition were awarded another $50K in total prize money. These entrepreneurs comprised of minority-owned and women-owned businesses who operate a variety of industries and only generate $1M or less of annual gross revenue. Small businesses create the economic engine that pushes the County forward and helps our community thrive. HoCo Higher is an innovative program that has helped entrepreneurs, especially those who are traditionally underserved, reach new heights and access important resources and support structures. These small businesses have been affected more by the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Intended Outcomes:

- To provide seed funding and prize money to early-stage entrepreneurs and historically underserved small businesses to help them innovate and grow their businesses.
- To provide technical training to early-stage entrepreneurs and historically underserved small businesses through a structured curriculum where they can learn and improve their business practices and find success in the future.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of minority-owned businesses graduating from the Entrepreneur Accelerator Program supported by this grant.	17
Number of women-owned businesses graduating from the Entrepreneur Accelerator Program supported by this grant.	4
Number of women-owned and are minority-owned businesses graduating from the Entrepreneur Accelerator Program supported by this grant.	10
Number of other businesses graduating from the Entrepreneur Accelerator Program supported by this grant.	2

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.32-Business Incubators and Start-Up or Expansion Assistance:

Metric	Response
Number of small businesses served.	33

45. Project 02-34-0-1110-0211: Downtown Columbia Performing Arts
Funding amount: $505,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview
Among the negatively economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are the nonprofit organizations that operate performance arts venues in Downtown Columbia, namely, the Inner Arbor Trust (IAT) and the Merriweather Arts and Culture Center (MACC, formerly known as Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission (DCACC)); and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), which occasionally performs at the Merriweather Post Pavilion. Since the pandemic, these organizations' earned income declined from lower-level public patronage, limited participations from artistic partners, decreased contributions from sponsors, operating grants, and donations which were heavily driven before the pandemic. Meanwhile, programming costs have increased as these organizations implement safety protocols to ensure events are COVID-19 safe.
The program was designed to provide intervention and relief to MACC, IAT, and BSO that experienced negative economic impacts resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Howard County expended SLFRF funds towards MACC and BSO's events and activities via the Howard County Arts Council to support events, activities, and/or operations within these months:

- IAT: April 2022 through June 2022
- Through Howard County Arts Council:
  - BSO: August 2022
  - MACC: August 2022 to September 2023

Intended Outcomes

- To support these organizations' operations in hosting and delivering live music entertainment, concerts, festivals, fundraisers, and many other public events requiring large venues.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

For **IAT**, the program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
Number of events/activities funded in part by this grant.	10
Number of attendees for events.	7,684
Impact to the community.	The community is positively impacted by engagement in diverse cultures and heritage as well as engagement with arts at no or low cost, which increases engagement and inclusion.

For **BSO**, the program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
BSO's "Movie with Orchestra" event at Merriweather scheduled on August 14, 2022:	
Event description and impact to the community.	A performance of the musical score by the BSO to a showing of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Fans of the film series turned out in their favorite house costumes and cheered alongside their peers throughout the film. It truly was a community event that highlighted, for the BSO, the power of cultural events to bring together cross- sections of our community as well as how important the venue can be in that experience. Several individuals indicated their desire for additional concerts like this, and arts and political leadership both are interested in an annual BSO-MPP concert event in the future. This forging of a relationship is exactly the outcome BSO hoped for – becoming a more meaningful part of the Howard County community while also serving BSO's mission to provide noteworthy and impactful musical experiences to and for the community.
Number of attendees who are Howard County residents.	1,783 sold, 1,468 attended, ~4,800 capacity. In addition to the paid tickets, 141 free tickets were distributed by the BSO through community partners.
Number of attendees who are non-Howard County residents.	494 (34%, of 1,468 attendees for whom BSO has addresses)
Program Income: Ticket Sales.	$71,357
Number of Artists served.	87
Number of Volunteer hours.	18

For **MACC**, the program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Merriweather Post Pavilion Halloween Movie Night on October 15, 2022:	
Event description and impact to the community.	Free community Halloween movie night and costume parade on the stage at Merriweather. In addition to giving community members a chance to come together for a free, holiday event on a Saturday night at the iconic Merriweather Post Pavilion, the costume parade gave parents and their kids a chance to experience the thrill of standing on Merriweather's stage in front of friends and family.
Number of attendees.	300
Program Income: Ticket Sales.	$0
Number of Artists served.	0
Number of Volunteer hours.	0
MD AIR "Unbound" on October 29, 2022 and November 4 and 5, 2022:	
Event description and impact to the community.	The Merriweather District Artist-in-Residence program brings artists from throughout the country to Downtown Columbia to create new works and share them with the community. MACC has been involved with this program in past years and this year became the key partner to bring the artists and their art outside of the studio and exhibition space and into the community through MACC's community workshop day. This year's community workshop day held on October 29, 2022, offered members of the community a chance to create their own custom hats, shirts, and bags that were customized with airbrushing and graffiti art from MD AIR artist, Dez. Additionally, they were able to make a sustainability pledge and lock it in with hempcrete, participate in drumming and musical movement, and contribute to a community mural that was displayed at the MD AIR exhibition on November 4 and 5, 2022. Both the workshops and the exhibition were free to attend.
Number of attendees.	2,500 Total (1,000 at community workshop day on October 29, 2022; 1,500 at Exhibition across two days on November 4 and 5, 2022.)
Program Income: Ticket Sales.	$0
Number of Artists served.	4
Number of Volunteer hours.	0
Howard County Public School System High School Gifted and Talented Orchestra (HCPSS HSGTO) with the band, Guster, on May 21, 2023:	
Event description and impact to the community.	In partnership with the Columbia Festival of the Arts and the Howard County Public School System, MACC produced a performance of the Howard County High School Gifted and Talented Orchestra (HCPSS HSGTO) with the band Guster, offering students a chance to work with and learn from professional musicians.
Number of attendees.	2,869
Program Income: Ticket Sales.	$61,875
Number of Artists served.	120

Number of Volunteer hours.	0
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at Merriweather Post Pavilion performing the film, Rocky, on September 13, 2023:	
Event description and impact to the community.	In partnership with BSO, DCACC will bring another large-scale, "spectacle" program, with the BSO performing the film Rocky in hopes to better resonate with residents who may not have previously been exposed to orchestral music.
Number of attendees.	~1,000 (801 paid tickets. Does not include attendance in Skyboxes or comps)
Program Income: Ticket Sales.	$30,975
Number of Artists served.	50
Number of Volunteer hours.	0

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted):

Metric	Response
Number of Non-Profits Served.	4

46. Project 02-34-0-1110-0217: International Overdose Awareness Day Event
Funding amount: $12,135.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview

Howard County has provided SLFRF funding to Sobar, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports activities that promote long-term recovery from alcoholism and addiction. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic recession have negatively impacted behavioral health and created new barriers for those suffering from mental health and substance use disorders to access services that provide harm reduction, treatment, recovery and support, and general healthcare.

This funding will provide Sobar, Inc. with the resources needed to recover from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to cover the operational costs associated with supporting the annual recovery celebration and candlelight vigil in honor of the International Overdose Awareness Day held in Ellicott City, Maryland on August 31 in 2022 and 2023, and in the Fall of 2024, 2025, and 2026.

Intended Outcomes:

- To hold an annual event that increases access to behavioral health resources, Naloxone training, substance use and overdose response, prevention, treatment and recovery options for affected individuals and family members in need of support.
- To promote awareness in the community while healing and remembering those individuals who were lost to overdose, and the pain of families left behind.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	Response
Number of online registrations to the event.	137
Number of attendances to the event.	252
Describe the recovery support tools and resources provided or referenced at the event.	Conducted Naloxone Training. Provided Dotera Drug Disposal Bags. Promoted 988 as the new number replacing the National Suicide Hotline and 211. Demonstrated the administration of NARCAN and an overdose response call. Speakers discussed overdose and community resources. Listened to family response and journeys of recovery from addiction, losing a loved one, and the hope of recovery and healing.

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted):

Metric	Response
Number of Non-Profits served.	1

47. Project 02-35-0-1110-0219: It's My Amphitheatre Performance Arts
Funding amount: $530,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.35-Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality

Project Overview
It's My Amphitheatre, Inc. ("IMA") operates the Merriweather Post Pavilion and is the entity booking, promoting, and producing the majority of the shows at the venue. As with many Howard County businesses in the tourism, travel, and hospitality industry, the IMA experienced significant negative economic losses when they were forced to temporary cease operations when the County instituted non-essential business closure orders to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Although the IMA has since reopened its doors and resumed operations, revenues remain low due to decreased show attendance and subsequent concession and merchandise sales. Further, operational costs have increased greatly due to a sharp rise in inflation due to the pandemic.

The County provided SLFRF funding to It's My Amphitheatre to address the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and offset the increased operational costs the organization experienced during the pandemic associated with procuring PPE, testing and cleaning expenses, and other COVID-19 mitigation efforts, including relocating waste receptacles and using metal detector screens at events.

Intended Outcomes:

- To offer cash flow funding which will give some relief to revenues lost from temporarily closing its operations during the pandemic and after reopening, as well as increased operational costs.
- To transition the garbage collection area to make way for a hygienic COVID-19 testing location for staff.
- To fund COVID-19 testing expenses for onsite testing.
- To procure PPE and cleaning materials to implement COVID-19-safe practices for the protection of cleaning crew and staff.
- To minimize crew exposure to COVID-19 using metal detectors instead of pat downs to screen patrons.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
Number of COVID-19 tests performed.	3,423
Number of PPEs – face masks distributed.	2,780
Number of PPEs – disposable gloves distributed.	30,300
Number of shows within the timeframe supported by the grant.	63
Number of tickets sold from shows performed within the timeframe supported by the grant.	592,334

48. Project 02-35-0-1110-0220: Toby's Dinner Theatre Performance Arts
Funding amount: $150,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.35-Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality

Project Overview
As with many Howard County businesses in the tourism, travel, and hospitality industry that were severely affected at the onset and during the COVID-19 pandemic, Toby's, The Dinner Theatre of Columbia, Inc. ("Toby's Dinner Theatre") had to temporarily cease operations from March 13, 2020 through November 11, 2020 and again from January 4, 2021 through March 22, 2021, when the County instituted non-essential business closure orders to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As a result of these mandatory business closures, Toby's Dinner Theater experienced a significant reduction of revenue. Toby's Dinner Theatre offers guests a dinner-and-a-show-style experience with award-winning Broadway and original musicals. Although the business has reopened its doors, attendance remains low and operating costs have increased greatly due to the pandemic and inflation. The County provided SLFRF funding to Toby's Dinner Theatre to address the significant economic impact of the pandemic on the organization to ensure it had the resources necessary to remain open and continue providing this community with access to live entertainment. SLFRF

funding was used to offset the cost of four (4) payroll cycle expenses in January and February 2023 for staff and servers who transform into show performers as actors, stagehands, and techs, which are all core labor components of the theatre's productions and are necessary to drive business revenue.

Intended Outcomes:

- To offset payroll costs of up to four 2-week pay-period cycles to maintain adequate staffing to deliver live entertainment.
- To provide financial assistance to the theatre to address revenue lost from temporarily closing its doors during the pandemic.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
Number of payroll cycles supported wholly or in part by this grant.	4
Headcount of employees supported wholly or in part by this grant.	415
FTE count of employees supported wholly or in part by this grant.	216.91
Number of shows performed within the timeframe supported by the grant.	53
Number of people who attended shows performed within the timeframe supported by the grant.	12,165

49. Project 02-35-0-1110-0221: Drama Learning Center Performance Arts
Funding amount: $80,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.35-Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality

Project Overview
Howard County used SLFRF funding to support the Drama Learning Center ("DLC", or Williams Theatre Group, Inc.) in the Arts and Culture Sector to help address the significant negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Drama Learning Center relies upon in-person experiences for students and audiences and transitioning that model to a virtual platform was operationally successful but ultimately not fiscally sustainable. When the organization had to temporarily cease operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, it lost the bulk of its earning potential, resulting in a roughly 80% loss from which it is still recovering. DLC is working to pay back debts accrued, regrow their production team, fund improvement projects that have been postponed since the pandemic, and cover monthly rent payments for their facility that houses the theater, classroom, studio, and shop space. DLC used SLFRF funds to address a portion of their fiscal recovery challenges by covering rent expenses and redirecting tuition funds to help grow the program.
Intended Outcomes:

- To offset 8 months of rental property costs which will help in DLC's efforts in rebounding from lost revenues from business interruption caused by the COVID-19 mandated business closures.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of months' rent supported wholly or in part by this grant.	8
Enumerate any resulting success from the funding as it relates to growth in staff and updates to repairs and maintenance.	Since the Drama Learning Center utilized grant funding towards rent expenses, the entity had funds available to hire a new Production Assistant and 10 new Teaching Artists; and was able to fix a water fountain and install a new bottle refill station, resulting in over 150 single-use plastic water bottles saved in the last month of FY23 Q3 alone. The relief provided over the quarter of April to June 2023 allowed the DLC to build its biggest Summer ever, with 32 classes and spots for 965 campers, an increase of 54% over Summer 2022 made possible by the flexibility to hire more teaching artists. The DLC has also contracted eight new theater designers to build high-quality productions. The goal for July to September 2023 is to replace the carpet throughout the theater and install safer, more accessible seating. The balance of this relief funding gave the DLC an additional month of rent coverage during its annual period of largest expense. DLC paid contractors a total of $23,763.50 in the month of July but was unable to find a break in programming that would give enough time to install new carpet or seating and hoped to get it done before the end of the calendar year.

50. Project 02-35-0-3130-0232: Historic Courthouse Renovation Planning and Design
Funding amount: $1,010,425.15
Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts
Expenditure Category: 2.35-Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality

Project Overview
Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Howard County engaged in a multi-year public outreach process to develop a plan for potential long-term redevelopment projects in Ellicott City. Old Ellicott City is a leading tourism destination and is considered an "economic engine for Howard County" with its large collection of independent businesses, restaurants, and historical sites. The Master Plan was adopted in 2020 and provided a vision for potential re-use of the historic courthouse built in the 1840s. The County had anticipated to start construction on the courthouse in 2021, however, the COVID-19 pandemic caused

significant delays to the project. The redevelopment is intended to preserve the historic portions of the courthouse building while enhancing Ellicott City's downtown and expanding residents' and visitors' access to heritage, recreation, bicycling, and environmental tourism. The County intends to leverage SLFRF to support the planned reuse of the Historic Courthouse that was delayed several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DPW Facilities is spearheading this project, and as the overall renovation scope is being solidified, DPW Facilities has initiated renovation efforts and has contracted an architectural firm to begin the architectural, interiors, space design planning stage. One of the interior renovation objectives is to convert the restrooms to meet access and ADA requirements.

Intended Outcomes:

- To recognize the historical significance of the site and potential tourism implications to further enhance the area's desirability and improve the local economy.
- To preserve and restore the Historic Courthouse building and bring the restroom facilities to be in compliance with current ADA code and regulations.

Use of Evidence

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	Response
Description of activities towards completion of project.	The County has contracted an architectural and planning firm and work continues on the design development, construction documents, permitting, and bidding. Selective demolition and removal of acoustical ceiling panels. Asbestos and lead inspection. Demolition of old telecommunications structured cabling. Conduit inspection in parking lot.

51. Project 03-04-0-1110-0301: Healthcare Townhall
Funding amount: $31,489.93
Expenditure Category Group: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
Expenditure Category: 3.4-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

The project was for Howard County to reach out to the community at a Healthcare Townhall held on November 17, 2021, to disseminate information and updates regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination efforts, recently approved children's vaccine, boosters, physical and mental health access issues, and other services. The Townhall was a collaborative event whereby the County, led and hosted by the County Executive, along with a panel of health officers from the Maryland State Senate, Howard County Health Department (HCHD), and Howard County General Hospital (HCGH), and representatives from Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS), and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) solicited and addressed questions from the general public, underserved communities, and families with children. The discussions were informative and responsive, referencing guidelines and regulations, current state of the pandemic and practices in place, and recommendations to available resources that the community can use to seek, receive services, and gather further information to aid themselves, their children, and families in tackling healthcare concerns arising from the pandemic.

A survey was also conducted asking participants to give their input to three questions, namely,

- If they have had their child vaccinated or if they were planning to (Responses were 68% Yes, 32% No);
- Their level of concern about the spread of COVID-19 in 2021-2022 Winter season compared to the year before (Responses were 20% more concerned, 33% about concerned, 47% less concerned);
- If they felt that mental health services in the County were readily available (35% readily available, 48% available but difficult to access, 18% not available)

The County hosted the Townhall telephonically to have a broader reach to all residents and social distancing regulations necessitated for the event to be held virtually. Stones' Phones' services were contracted as it has proven ability to reach most of the County constituents using a pre-call telephone-based platform during a previously hosted telephone Townhall meeting for residents about the pandemic.

Intended Outcomes:

- To engage and have meaningful conversations between the County and the community, address their healthcare concerns, and refer them to various services and support systems relative to the pandemic.
- To reach out to a wider range of audience virtually, telephonically, by Facebook, and by email.
- To conduct polling questions to gather feedback from the community about their children's vaccination, pandemic levels of concern, and thoughts on mental health services accessibility.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	**Response**
Number of automated pre-calls made the day before the Healthcare Townhall to invite County residents to participate.	229,928
Number of completed calls to County residents on the day of the Healthcare Townhall.	123,500
Number of County residents who participated in the Healthcare Townhall.	10,516
Number of County residents who spoke their questions during the call.	15
Number of responses collected from the online survey.	700

52. Project 04-01-0-1110-0401: County and Health Department Employees Bonus Pay
Funding amount: $5,110,669.53
Expenditure Category Group: 4-Premium Pay
Expenditure Category: 4.1-Public Sector Employees

Project Overview

On July 26, 2021, the Howard County Executive issued Executive Order 2021-13 authorizing a second round of premium pay for essential workers. These County workers included first responders, emergency workers, staff who are required to work in the front lines to provide public services, and employees who provide support function in their agencies and whose work are not able to perform telework and therefore must report to work onsite either full time or intermittently. The members of the Health Department, even though not technically County employees, were also included in this program as they have provided critical testing, vaccination services, and other related activities to work towards safety during this health crisis. These public servants have continued to face risking their own safety in service of the community, and in doing so, many were plagued with sickness due to infections, feeling burnt-out from backfilling staff shortages and taking-on extra shifts, and stress-levels at an all-time high. The County used SLFRF funding to support premium pay for these essential workers.

Intended Outcomes:

- To compensate the County's essential workers who have put their physical well-being at heightened risk to meet the daily needs of residents, businesses, and the general public, and who have worked for the continuity of County operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To boost morale, encourage employment retention, and reduce service gaps.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Number of County Agency employees who received Premium Pay.	2,751
Number of State Health Department employees who received Premium Pay.	139

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 4.1-Public Sector Employees:

Metric	Response
Sectors Designated as Essential Critical Infrastructure.	Sectors Designated as Essential Critical Infrastructure Sectors include: "Any work performed by an employee of a State, local, or Tribal government".[1] Therefore, employees of the Howard County local government are included.

[1] Treas. Reg. 31 CFR 35 at pg. 407, available at: https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf.

Number of workers to be served.	2,890
Premium Pay Narrative.	Premium pay is designed to compensate essential workers that have made, and will continue to make, great personal sacrifices to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors in Howard County. Employees who do not meet one of the two criteria identified in the Final Rule received premium pay because they performed essential work, such as fieldwork, interacting with the public daily, and recurrently working onsite during the COVID-19 pandemic and were therefore at a greater risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. For example, premium pay was provided to the State Attorney's Office and the Howard County Circuit Court to support the employees who interacted with coworkers and the general public to safeguard the community. Premium pay was awarded to County Administration and Finance Department workers in recognition of the recurring in-person administrative, technical, and financial support they provide to ensure that government operations run efficiently and effectively. As the legislative branch of government in Howard County, County Councilors also received premium pay, as their work is directly tied to the continuity of government operations in Howard County. The Council is currently hosting in-person hearings. Essential employees of the Department of Community Resources and Services received premium pay because they serve older adults, caregivers, adults with disabilities, and agencies supporting these groups to ensure that these vulnerable populations continue to have access to support services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Public Works, Inspection/Licensing and Permits, Parks and Recreation, Technology and Communication, and Planning and Zoning workers are responsible for supporting and maintaining County infrastructure and amenities and are continually exposed to the public and handle infrastructure used by the public. Fire and Rescue, Police, Sherriff, and Correctional workers received premium pay because they are responsible for public safety and are in a frontline position that puts them at a greater risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. As a result of working on the frontline in the County's hospitals, Health Department workers have endured the brunt of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and have therefore been awarded premium pay. Howard County believes it is more important than ever to support and retain the essential workers who have stepped up to meet the changing needs and demands that have arisen during the pandemic.
K-12 Workers Served.	0

53. Project 04-01-0-E000-0402: HCPSS Public Education Commitment Bonus
Funding amount: $7,999,988.22
Expenditure Category Group: 4-Premium Pay
Expenditure Category: 4.1-Public Sector Employees

Project Overview

On December 20, 2021, the Howard County Executive announced to pledge $8 million in SLFRF funding to provide bonuses to Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) educators, subject to approval of the bonus structure utilized to support the school system employees. This was in recognition of the educators' critical role in providing high-quality public education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To facilitate minimal disruption in school learning throughout the pandemic, educators had to transition to hybrid modes of delivering classes to students via virtual and in-person. In Fiscal Year 2021, the school instituted virtual learning primarily. In Fiscal Year 2022, educators and students returned to school buildings full time and consequently continued to put their health at risk in serving the student population.

On January 18, 2022, HCPSS published an article to use the $8 million of SLFRF funding with a match funding of $8.1 million from the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) III grant so that all full-time employees will receive a $1,800 bonus and part-time employees receive a pro-rated bonus. The County disbursed SLFRF funds to HCPSS for this project in June 2022.

Intended Outcomes:

- To compensate HCPSS essential workers who have put their physical well-being at heightened risk to meet the daily needs of the students' continued education and operations and maintenance of school facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To commend educators by issuing premium pay will boost morale and encourage employment retention.
- To reduce the likelihood of employee turnover and gaps in service to HCPSS.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Metric	Response
Job classifications of educators and staff who received the bonuses:	
Clerical Staff	52
Paraeducators	464
Instructional Personnel	3,457
Professional Personnel	16
Student Services Staff	164
Total	**4,153**

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 4.1-Public Sector Employees:

Metric	Response

Sectors Designated as Essential Critical Infrastructure.	Sectors Designated as Essential Critical Infrastructure Sectors include: "Educational work, school nutrition work, and other work required to operate a school facility".[2] Therefore, teachers, educators, and all staff members of the Howard County Public School System are included.
Number of workers to be served.	4,153
Premium Pay Narrative.	The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) authorizing that one such eligible use of funds is to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers. The $8 million in ARPA funding provided by the County will be used to provide premium pay to 4,153 educators and education support personnel. Full-time employees will receive a premium pay in the amount of $1,800 and part-time employees will receive a prorated amount based on percent of full-time equivalent employees. These employees qualify under the HEROs Act of 2020 as essential workers, specifically, provision, "(D) a worker at business which the State or local government official has determined must remain open to the public during the Public Health Emergency as result of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus." On March 5, 2020, the Maryland Governor, Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency to prevent the spread of Covid-19. On March 16, 2020, the State Superintendent of Schools transitioned all instruction to on-line learning requiring all teachers and teacher support positions to continue working during the pandemic. On-line instruction continued until March 1, 2021, when instruction transitioned to hybrid instruction where teachers and instructional support positions were required to report in-person at least 3 days a week. Hybrid instruction lasted until September 8, 2021. Since September 8, 2021, to present day, Howard County schools have conducted in-person instruction requiring educators and education support positions to report to school buildings daily. On January 18, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education and School Superintendent approved a fixed amount of premium pay for all employees working as of January 25, 2022. This premium pay represent compensation akin to "hazard pay" for the added work, contributions, sacrifices, and risks educators and educational support positions have taken during the state of emergency, without regard for specific calculation for any one component. As indicated above, per Treasury Department rules for use of SLFRF funds for premium pay, employees earning more than 150 percent of state average wages require supplemental justification, as an objective of premium payments is directed toward lower earners. Of the 4,153 employees receiving

[2] Treas. Reg. 31 CFR 35 at pg. 407, available at: https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf.

	premium pay, 670 earn more than $98,850, which include 643 Teachers, 1 Professional Support (1 ROTC Advisor), and 26 Student Services staff (5 Psychologists and 21 School Counselors). These employees are paid based on the same salary schedules and the higher earners are the result of longevity and not due to any difference in the nature of the hazard work performed. The school system intentionally used a flat rate approach so that the premium pay would be more impactful as a percent of earnings for those employees earning less.
K-12 Workers Served.	4,153

54. Project 05-01-0-2070-0501: Little Patuxent Wastewater Treatment Plant Cybersecurity
Funding amount: $73,752.63
Expenditure Category Group: 5-Infrastructure
Expenditure Category: 5.1-Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment

Project Overview

Cyberattacks are a growing threat to critical infrastructure sectors, including wastewater systems. Following the completion of a Cyber Resiliency Review (CRR) with the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cyber Infrastructure and Security Agency (CISA), Howard County sought to bolster the network security of its Little Patuxent Wastewater Treatment Plant SCADA network, which processes over 20M gallons of wastewater daily. Using SLFRF funding, Howard County installed an Operational Technology (OT) ICS security platform to perform asset visibility and inventory, threat detection, vulnerability management, and managed threat hunting. As part of this implementation, the County will gain access to an anonymized cyberthreat intelligence platform promoting collective defense across critical infrastructure organizations as well as an incident response retainer, should a cyberattack occur within the wastewater treatment SCADA network. The County's Department of Technology and Communication Services (DTCS) procured the services of Dragos Inc. for a 12-month term service. The actual go-live date was November 14, 2022, when the sensor was received. The sensor is fully tuning, and implementation of the platform and service has been completed.

Intended Outcomes:

- To increase security to further safeguard the County's wastewater treatment system against cyber threats.
- To protect the health of the County population for which the facility serves, as well as to protect against any cyber-attacks that could be detrimental to the environment.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 5.1-Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment, aside from the project baseline fields:

Metric	Response
Projected/actual construction start date.	Jul 28, 2022
Projected/actual initiation of operations date.	Nov 14, 2022
Location.	Address
Location Details.	8900 Greenwood Place, Savage, MD 20763
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).	MD0055174
Public Water System (PWS) ID number.	0130002
Median Household Income of service area.	$129,549
Lowest Quintile Income of the service area.	$46,440

55. Project 05-06-0-3130-0504: Public Safety Training Center Environmental Remediation
Funding amount: $133,485.73
Expenditure Category Group: 5-Infrastructure
Expenditure Category: 5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview

The outdoor firing range at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center complex located in Howard County is being used by public safety officers and staff operating the facility. Following a site characterization evaluation completed in 2021, the County decided to move forward with source removal, soil excavation and disposal of untreated soils.

The County's Bureau of Facilities used SLFRF funds for the identification, management, transportation, sampling, and disposal of lead contaminated soils at the training center. A coordination of remediation efforts was conducted and completed by a contractor in 2023.

Intended Outcomes:

- To convert the site to a safer environment for safety training officers, workers, and visitors.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater:

Metric	Response
Projected/actual construction start date.	11/15/2022
Projected/actual initiation of operations date.	06/12/2023
Location	Address
Location Details.	2200 Scott Wheeler Dr, Marriottsville, MD 21104

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).	MDRCN062Y
Public Water System (PWS) ID number.	Not applicable.
Median Household Income of service area.	$129,549
Lowest Quintile Income of the service area.	$46,440

56. Project 05-06-0-3142-0502: Stormwater Pond Water Quality Enhancement
Funding amount: $2,400,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 5-Infrastructure
Expenditure Category: 5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview
Howard County, through the Stormwater Management Division (SMD), is using SLFRF funding for the construction of stormwater management pond water quality retrofits for the existing Spring Valley Chase Pond and Centennial Park/South Meadow Pond. Each pond is fed by storm runoff predominantly from residential subdivisions and public roadways. Currently, both ponds provide quantity and flood control for the upstream drainage area. The retrofit projects will add and enhance the water quality treatment component provided to the stormwater that enters the ponds. Additionally, concerns for the water temperature from the Spring Valley Chase Pond will be addressed by the project design. The Centennial Park/South Meadow project also includes minor stream restoration, which will reduce the erosion of the stream channel upstream from the pond, further reducing pollutant loads into and out of the pond. As part of the retrofit of these ponds, the metal outlet structures will be replaced with a concrete outlet structure to help to extend the life of the ponds and increase the benefits of public safety to residents living near and downstream from the ponds. Intended Outcomes:

- To enhance the health of the natural environment of the ponds and the surrounding areas inhabited by residents and wildlife by installing retrofit infrastructure to reduce polluted stormwater runoff for two existing stormwater management ponds.
- To improve water quality, flood control, and volume management using modernized technology for the existing stormwater pond systems.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater

Metric	**Response**
Projected/actual construction start date.	05/01/2024 .
Projected/actual initiation of operations date.	08/01/2024
Location	Address
Location Details.	**Spring Valley Chase Pond:** 12212 Woodford Drive, Marriottsville MD 21104

	Centennial Park/South Meadow: 10000 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).	Not applicable.
Public Water System (PWS) ID number.	Not applicable.
Median Household Income of service area.	$129,549
Lowest Quintile Income of the service area.	$46,440

57. Project 05-11-0-3130-0506: Belmont Facility Water Infrastructure Improvements
Funding amount: $400,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 5-Infrastructure
Expenditure Category: 5.11-Drinking water: Transmission & distribution

Project Overview
Howard County allocated SLFRF funding to improve the Carriage House drinking water system infrastructure on the historic Belmont Manor and Historic Park property owned by the County. The property is open for tours and efforts for the historic preservation of the property is supported in part by donations and proceeds from holding private events at the Belmont Manor. The Carriage House system provides potable water to the following locations at the Belmont property: Carriage House, maintenance building, barn, and cottage. Due to the regulatory and administrative requirements associated with working in and around the covenant area, the County has proposed several options for reworking the Carriage House system to remove the drinking water system infrastructure, which includes a well and water distribution piping, from the area of the existing environmental covenant. The County proposes to leverage SLFRF for the environmental site assessment and renovations.

Intended Outcomes:

- To implement a long-term solution by removing the existing infrastructure from the environmental covenant and improving the water supply line and distribution system.
- To upgrade the water infrastructure to allow continued use of the historic property and its facilities.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 5.11-Drinking water: Transmission & distribution:

Metric	Response
Projected/actual construction start date.	A site assessment was completed in late 2024. Water system upgrade work was initialized in December 2024.
Projected/actual initiation of operations date.	Pending completion.

Location	Address
Location Details.	6555 Belmont Woods Rd, Elkridge, MD 21075
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).	Not applicable.
Public Water System (PWS) ID number.	Not applicable.
Median Household Income of service area.	$140,971
Lowest Quintile Income of the service area.	$48,680

58. Project 05-21-0-2041-0505: Howard County Fairgrounds Broadband Expansion
Funding amount: $32,709.25
Expenditure Category Group: 5-Infrastructure
Expenditure Category: 5.21-Broadband: Other projects

Project Overview

Howard County Fairgrounds hosts hundreds of events each year, including the renowned Howard County Fair. It is a site destination drawing large crowds to visit and participate in seasonal, cultural, and food festivals, arts and crafts shows, vendor showcases and more.

The County continues to work on narrowing the digital divide especially in rural areas where communities struggle to connect to Wi-Fi, including the Fairgrounds in western Howard County. In effect, the County has used SLFRF funds to expand broadband for visitors and staff throughout the Fairgrounds, including the administrative building, dining hall, livestock and auction area, and the Midway, among others. The project involves fiber optic cable lateral installation, conduit, fittings, termination panel, cable routing, splicing and testing at the Fairgrounds location.

Intended Outcomes:

- To increase access to publicly available broadband in Howard County, including in areas that are unlikely to have broadband without public investment.
- Use of Evidence
- This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.
- Performance Report
- Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 5.21-Broadband: Other projects:

Metric	**Response**
Projected/actual construction start date.	09/13/2023
Projected/actual initiation of operations date.	09/13/2023
Is the project designed to, upon completion, reliably meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds? If no, please explain why not.	Yes
If no, is the project designed to, upon completion, meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps download speed and between at least 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps upload speed, and be scalable to a minimum of 100 Mbps download speed and 100 Mbps upload speed?	Not applicable

Is project designed to provide service to households?	No
Technology Type Planned. If Other, please Specify.	Fiber
Total Miles of Fiber Deployed Planned.	1
Technology Type Actual. If Other, please Specify.	Fiber
Total Miles of Fiber Deployed Actual.	1
Funded Locations Served:	
Total Number of Funded Locations Served.	Planned: 1 Actual: 1
Total Number of Funded Locations Served Receiving 25/3 Mbps or below (Pre - SLFRF Investment).	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Total Number of Funded Locations Served Receiving between 25/3 Mbps and 100/20 Mbps (Pre - SLFRF Investment).	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Total Number Receiving Minimum 100/100 Mbps (Post - SLFRF Investment).	Planned: 1 Actual: 1
Total Number Receiving Minimum 100/20 Mbps and scalable to 100/100 Mbps (Post - SLFRF Investment).	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Total Number of Funded Locations Served By Type:	
Residential.	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Total Housing Units.	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Business.	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Community Anchor Institution.	Planned: 1 Actual: 1

59. Project 05-21-0-2070-0503: Broadband Expansion at Columbia Association Pools
Funding amount: $1,033,402.70
Expenditure Category Group: 5-Infrastructure
Expenditure Category: 5.21-Broadband: Other projects

Project Overview

Howard County used SLFRF funding to invest in the expansion of broadband access at the 23 locations of the Columbia Association (CA) pools for the benefit of County residents. The pool is among various services and activities offered at the Columbia Association sites. Membership is required to access the pools, but the Columbia Association provides income-based discounts so that everyone in the community can access the facilities. This initiative aimed to expand coverage areas and provide a seamless and fast Wi-Fi experience for all users. By expanding public Wi-Fi and raising awareness about its availability in these locations, residents are empowerment to connect, learn, and thrive in the digital world. The project involved fiber optic cable lateral installation, conduit, fittings, termination panel, cable routing, splicing and testing at twenty-three pool building locations.

Intended Outcomes:

- To increase access to publicly available broadband in Howard County, including in areas that are unlikely to have broadband without public investment.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
The program concluded and broadband expansion was completed by May 2024 for the following CA Pool Locations:
Bryant Woods, Clary's Forest, Clemens Crossing, Dasher Green, Dickinson, Dorsey Hall, Faulkner Ridge, Hawthorn, Hobbits Glenn, Hopewell Mini Water Park, Huntington, Jeffers Hill, Kendall Ridge, Locust Park, Longfellow, MacGill's Common, Phelps Luck, River Hill, Running Brook, Stevens Forest, Swansfield Mini Water Park, Talbott Springs, and Thunder Hill.

Treasury-required Performance Indicator(s) specific to Expenditure Category 5.21-Broadband: Other projects:

Metric	**Response**
Projected/actual construction start date.	07/27/2023
Projected/actual initiation of operations date.	08/25/2023
Is the project designed to, upon completion, reliably meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds? If no, please explain why not.	Yes
If no, is the project designed to, upon completion, meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps download speed and between at least 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps upload speed, and be scalable to a minimum of 100 Mbps download speed and 100 Mbps upload speed?	Not applicable
Is project designed to provide service to households?	No
Technology Type Planned. If Other, please Specify.	Fiber
Technology Type Actual. If Other, please Specify.	Fiber
Total Miles of Fiber Deployed Planned.	7.13
Total Miles of Fiber Deployed Actual.	5.84
Funded Locations Served:	
Total Number of Funded Locations Served.	Planned: 23 Actual: 23
Total Number of Funded Locations Served Receiving 25/3 Mbps or below (Pre – SLFRF Investment).	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Total Number of Funded Locations Served Receiving between 25/3 Mbps and 100/20 Mbps (Pre – SLFRF Investment).	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Total Number Receiving Minimum 100/100 Mbps (Post – SLFRF Investment).	Planned: 23 Actual: 23

Total Number Receiving Minimum 100/20 Mbps and scalable to 100/100 Mbps (Post – SLFRF Investment).	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Total Number of Funded Locations Served By Type:	
Residential.	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Total Housing Units.	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Business.	Planned: 0 Actual: 0
Community Anchor Institution.	Planned: 23 Actual: 23

60. Project 06-01-0-1110-0601: Workstation Storage for Body Worn Camera Footage
Funding amount: $62,124.16
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

<u>Project Overview</u>
On August 15, 2022, Howard County initiated a new program to equip all uniformed Howard County Police Department officers who regularly interact with members of the public with body worn cameras (BWCs). Officer body-worn cameras are devices that record interactions between community members and law enforcement officers. The video and audio recordings from BWCs can be utilized to validate statements, behaviors, and other evidence; demonstrate transparency to their communities; build trust between uniformed officers and the public; and to deter unprofessional, illegal, and inappropriate behaviors by both law enforcement and the public. The County utilized SLFRF funds to purchase the computers that will store the recorded video and audio data.

Intended Outcomes:

- To store body-worn camera video footage.
- To increase public confidence and trust in law enforcement.
- To promote transparency and improve the reliability of eyewitness testimony.
- To deter unprofessional, illegal, and inappropriate behaviors of both Police Officers and the public.

<u>Use of Evidence</u>
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

<u>Performance Report</u>
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

61. Project 06-01-0-1110-0612: Howard County Farm Bureau
Funding amount: $5,708.87
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
Howard County provided SLFRF funding to the Howard County Farm Bureau to ensure the organization had the resources to provide community support and conduct outreach activities. A few such activities include those of the Howard County FFA (Future Farmers of America) program, scholarships for local students, and hosting an annual Christmas Parade to raise funds for local food banks. Similar to other businesses and organizations, the Farm Bureau had experienced a loss of membership support and reduced fundraising activities over the past 24 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the interruption of these events, it had been difficult to continue to provide outreach to different areas of the agriculture community.

The Howard County Farm Bureau used SLFRF funds to support activities by the Howard County FFA students, particularly for costs associated with attending the National FFA Convention & Expo in late October 2022. This event brought together the next generation of leaders stepping into meaningful careers in the agricultural sciences, business, and technology fields. During this convention, FFA youth participants had an opportunity to engage with their peers at a national level and develop personal and professional relationships with alumni and leaders in this field.

Intended Outcomes:

- To invest in promoting agricultural education and literacy for the Howard County FFA Organization such as the 95th National FFA Convention & Expo from October 26 to 29, 2022.
- To help the Howard County Farm Bureau in recovering from reduced membership participation and interruption in fundraising activities caused by COVID-19.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

62. Project 06-01-0-1110-0621: Early Childhood Education Center and Multi-Service Center
Funding amount: $2,000,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
Howard County awarded a $2 million SLFRF grant to the Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC) to support their acquisition of land in Jessup, Maryland along the Route One corridor. This investment will enable the development of a new Early Childhood Education Center and Multi-Service Center. The child care

center will offer year-round Head Start and Pre-K programming to low-income families in Howard County. This project aims to close an existing gap in the County's child care system by increasing the availability of affordable child care options in this area and adding 92 new child care seats. The Multi-Service Center will house a food bank and provide a comprehensive range of services provided by CAC and its community partners, including the Howard County Office of Aging, Office of Workforce Development, Veterans Affairs, and Making Change, among others, all designed to improve access to social services, address food insecurity, and foster opportunities for collaboration with community partners.
Intended Outcomes:

- To help address the need for affordable child care options for families in Howard County living below the poverty line with children under the age of five.
- To contribute to meeting the requirement for a mixed delivery system found in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (e.g., 50/50 division between Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) and private providers) by the 2027 School Year.
- To respond to under-utilization of Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Childcare Scholarship Program (CCSP) in Howard County.
- To increase available physical slots to meet the 50/50 delivery of service to additional children of mixed ages.
- To increase access to nutritious food for low-income families living below the poverty line with children under the age of five.
- To create a one-stop-shop for community members to access services including early childhood education, energy assistance, food assistance, housing assistance, and weatherization assistance.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

63. Project 06-01-0-1110-0622: Preservation Maryland – Ellicott City Jail Renovations
Funding amount: $500,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
Preservation Maryland, a nonprofit dedicated to preservation efforts in the state and to promoting tourism and small business development, is utilizing $500,000 from Howard County's allocation of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) revenue loss to support rehabilitation and adaptive reuse efforts of the historic Ellicott City Jail. Once rehabilitated, the structure will be under a long-term lease with the County. It will serve as a collaborative space for Preservation Maryland and other nonprofits, a public multi-purpose space for community meetings and events, and as a Center for Preservation and Climate Studies in partnership with University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (UMD).

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

64. Project 06-01-0-1300-0605: Water and Sewer Utilities Business Assistance
Funding amount: $44,607.17
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Many Howard County businesses experienced the inability to pay utility bills that accumulated due to financial hardships caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. SLFRF funding was used for this program's purpose of providing water and sewer utilities assistance to businesses in the County that had incurred utility arrearages and were facing risks of service disconnection due to nonpayment. In 2022, the assistance allocation methodology developed identified businesses who had at least $250 in arrears incurred on bills dating back from March 1, 2020, when the COVID-19 public health emergency was federally declared, to March 31, 2022. In 2023, the County continued to fund this year's batch of delinquent accounts of any amount. In 2024, the County funded this year's batch of delinquent accounts of any amount, including late charges and other fees.

Intended Outcomes:

- To prevent water and sewer service disruption and termination for businesses in the County.
- To provide financial relief for businesses so that they can continue to receive water service which is a necessity for these establishments.

Use of Evidence

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

65. Project 06-01-0-1310-0617: Infrastructure/Grant Management
Funding amount: $433,795.56
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Howard County commissioned the services of Hagerty Consulting to provide expert advice on strategies for leveraging Federal, state, local, and other grant funding streams to maximize use of all available funding. Hagerty provides a comprehensive approach solution to federal funds management by helping the County identify funding needs, scope potential projects, conduct fund matching exercises, and assist with preparation and submission of grant applications. Hagerty worked with the County to identify opportunities to pursue traditional federal recovery programs administered by FEMA and HUD and emerging federal funding opportunities under IIJA and IRA to supplement the COVID-19 recovery resources available to the County and its partners. Hagerty advised on strategies to layer and optimize federal funding to meet the County's goals and advance a strong recovery from the pandemic. Hagerty leveraged the effective compliance and program design infrastructure to support the effective management and oversight of SLFRF to advance a unified approach to grant management to support the County's management of new federal funding streams.

Intended Outcome:

- To seek professional consultation to maximize and obtain Federal, state, local, and other grant funding streams available to the County and its strategic partners to meet needs and support priority projects.

Use of Evidence

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Metric	Response
Number of detailed grant program overviews developed and submitted to County leadership that outline alignment with County priorities, application requirements, eligible uses, and required documentation.	91
Number of grant applications prepared through this consultation service and submitted.	18
Combined total amount of grant funding requested.	$85,501,540

66. Project 06-01-0-1531-0607: Repeat Offender Division Relocation
Funding amount: $231,315.15
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
The Repeat Offender Division of the Howard County Police Department has dedicated operational teams for crime reduction, fugitive warrants processes, and repeat offender proactive enforcement aimed at protecting and ensuring the safety and security of the County community. The Division has intended to increase its ability to combat crime and address elevated concerns about community violence increases amid the COVID-19 pandemic by relocating personnel currently operating out of separate offices to one larger shared office space. This transition was to increase operational efficiency and provide safer working conditions for employees working on-site during the COVID-19 pandemic. The County supported these efforts by utilizing SLFRF funding to help cover the capital and operational needs associated with relocating this division to a new office. The project was completed by March 2023.

Intended Outcomes:

- To prevent and reduce community violence and promote public safety in Howard County.
- To accommodate facility expansion needs of the Division's workforce and advancement of its operations.
- To ensure a safer working environment for the Division and its guests.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

67. Project 06-01-0-2070-0602: Norris Lane Broadband Connectivity Expansion
Funding amount: $18,966.15
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
Norris Lane is a historic district in Elkridge, Howard County that is composed of 12 homes located in Patapsco State Park on a land grant. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, County schools had to transition to delivering education through distance learning and many companies had to transition to remote work. However, the homes in this community had limited access to telecommunication services. Existing cable infrastructure from cable providers were beyond reach as the intersection of Landing Road and Norris Lane was over 1 ½ miles away from connectivity, and the first home on Norris Lane is even farther by 4,600 feet from the intersection. Additionally, the 12 homes were under the minimum density requirement of 30 homes per mile in the County's Cable Franchises, and construction costs to the residents were prohibitive. The lack

of reliable internet access hampered the ability of homeowners to telework and allow their children to participate in remote learning and resulted in frequent network disruptions during online classes. The remote nature of the community also impacted access to reliable cellular service. Therefore, this project was funded with SLFRF to deliver new technology, dependable network connectivity, and broadband services to the Norris Lane residents. To achieve these outcomes, specific infrastructure changes were done by the cable provider (Verizon) to serve 12 addresses currently on Norris Lane. The work commitment began in February 2022 and completed in May 2022.

Intended Outcomes:

- To provide reliable internet access that allows the residents' children to obtain home-based modes of learning for safety purposes.
- To enable residents to successfully telework.
- To allow residents, parents, and children to work and receive education from home.
- To contribute to limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

68. Project 06-01-0-2070-0604: Cybersecurity Upgrades
Funding amount: $1,135,850.00
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
The Howard County is committed to ensuring that the integrity and security of the flow of data and critical information of government employees and agencies, residents and business populations, and other entities it engages with, remain uncompromised. Further, the challenges associated with securing critical infrastructure were heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic. The County used SLFRF funds for modernization of its cybersecurity program and improving security controls to keep up with the fast-evolving technologies and persistent threats to the County's network devices. The County's Department of Technology and Communication Services (DTCS) procured the services of the vendors listed below. Funding secured licenses, subscription, and services of three cybersecurity software platforms:

- Security Incident and Event Monitoring (SIEM) Platform
- Breach and Attack Simulation (BAS) Platform
- Identity Threat Protection via User and Entity Behavior Analytics (UEBA)
- Cloud Access Security Broker (CASB)

- Privileged Access Management (PAM)
- LastPass – Password Security Manager
- Governance Risk Compliance

Intended Outcomes:

- To implement upgraded cybersecurity software to keep up with evolving technology.
- To protect the integrity and security of the County's data and information and the transmission thereof.
- To improve systems to effectively combat against cybersecurity threats and attempts.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

69. Project 06-01-0-2070-0606: Security Alarm Monitoring System Conversion
Funding amount: $138,765.00
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
The Howard County Police Department's Communications Division, through the 911 Call Center, directly monitors emergency alarms in every County-owned building, which includes alarms within the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). The existing alarm receiver housed in the 911 Call Center was installed over twenty years ago and requires additional system backup to support the number of alarm systems located across the County. The County utilized SLFRF funding to establish an updated security alarm monitoring system that provides comprehensive and secure monitoring of alarms located in County-owned buildings.
Intended Outcomes:

- To upgrade the security alarm system to a reliable, centralized system that is capable of receiving alarms and coordinating a timely and effectual response to alarm calls.
- To ensure the safety of County staff, school workers, students, and other individuals in buildings owned by the County and to protect County property.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

70. Project 06-01-0-2070-0609: 911 Data Center Upgrade
Funding amount: $32,298.48
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
Howard County is dedicated to ensuring data flow security and protecting sensitive call and dispatch information maintained in its 911 data center. The County's Department of Technology and Communication Services (DTCS) used SLFRF funding to procure workstations for upgrading all terminals within its 911 data center. This allowed the County to maximize using technological advances with faster operating systems and robust hardware, from using multiple computer screens with clearer digital images, improved location-tracking, to larger data storage capacity. These critical tools and equipment are essential to the effective operations of the 911 data center in using vital information from calls and dispatching the appropriate law enforcement agency to respond to County citizens whose lives and properties are facing emergent danger.

Intended Outcomes:

- To implement upgraded workstations to keep up with evolving technology.
- To protect the integrity and security of the County's data and information and the transmission thereof within the 911 data center.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

71. Project 06-01-0-2070-0610: Hurricane Electric Broadband Expansion
Funding amount: $191,943.00
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) distributed Chromebooks to students so that they can do remote learning from home. But as students returned to in-

classroom instruction beginning with SY 2021-2022, they were expected to bring their Chromebooks for instructional use. Per HCPSS webpage on school-issued laptop requirements,

> "Pre-K through Grade 1: Students will have access to Chromebooks at school when needed for instruction. These devices will not be assigned to individual students. Students at these grade levels who currently have Chromebooks assigned to them will be asked to return them to school. Instructions on returning devices will be shared with families by their child's school. Grades 2-12: Students will bring HCPSS laptops back and forth each day."

Using school-issued laptops in classrooms is a new process for HCPSS and the existing bandwidth could not support volume needs, thus, the Howard County Department of Technology and Communication Services (DTCS) contracted with Hurricane Electric to be an internet provider for sufficient bandwidth capacity to HCPSS. This SLFRF program will fund the expanded WIFI services every month in Calendar Year 2022.

Intended Outcomes:

- To provide reliable internet access allowing HCPSS students to use laptops in classrooms.
- To enable students to successfully use their laptops to receive education while in classrooms.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

72. Project 06-01-0-2070-0623: Wi-Fi Access at Schooley Mill Park
Funding amount: $7,290.75
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Howard County, through the Department of Technology and Computer Services (DTCS), used SLFRF funding to provide free access to public Wi-Fi at Schooley Mill Park which is a recreational park in the County. The Wi-Fi service covers a large area around the park buildings and reaches open spaces to the farthest extent. DTCS purchased a service contract to perform the installation of access points (AP) and antennas that run data lines to the AP's and existing switches were used to connect the APs to the County's network. This service allows visitors to connect to free Wi-Fi at the park.

Intended Outcomes:

- To create Wi-Fi connection free of charge for park visitors.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

73. Project 06-01-0-3130-0618: High Ridge Road Facility Renovation
Funding amount: $310,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The High Ridge Road Building in Ellicott City has aged and is in need of several significant facility upgrades since its last renovation in 1980's, including to the building's HVAC systems and restrooms. It currently houses the Howard County Arts Council's Center for the Arts on the upper-level, the Community Action Council of Howard County Maryland's Head Start Program on the lower-level, and two non-profit organizations that provide dynamic arts community gatherings.

Howard County leveraged its SLFRF funding for the planning and design phase of the renovation project to modernize and improve the building's exterior, interior, HVAC systems, restrooms, parking lot and facilities for people operating in and visiting the building, including enhancing accommodations for those with disabilities. Additionally, the renovation will create a viable site for the D9 Chapter to move into the upper-level after the current tenant relocates. The D9 Chapter is a membership of fraternity/sorority non-profit organizations that provides services to benefit young adults and other member of the community by holding events and activities such as coat drives, food giveaways, gas donations and giveaways, food pantry support, prom dress giveaways, scholarship opportunities, mentoring programs volunteer coordination, small business support, backpack and school supply giveaways, and much more.

Intended Outcomes:

- To provide a workable space as a hub for non-profit organizations to operate and deliver their community service-driven objectives.
- To transform the facilities to be usable for all individuals, including those with limited mobility or protected under the American with Disabilities Act.

Use of Evidence

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

74. Project 06-01-0-3130-0619: Temporary Mental Health Treatment Detention Unit
Funding amount: $336,514.00
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
The Howard County Detention Center is renovating its Mental Health Unit to better accommodate the increasing number of incarcerated individuals in need of mental health support. During construction period, the County utilized SLFRF to support the establishment of a temporary detention area within the facility. This area catered specifically to individuals requiring mental health services, ensuring continuous care and support throughout the renovation process. By prioritizing mental health within its corrections system, the County is not only improving conditions for its vulnerable population but also setting a precedent for compassionate and effective community-driven corrections practices.
Intended Outcomes:

- To safely house and improve conditions for incarcerated individuals experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge.
- To help address the needs of the growing population of individuals with mental illness who are incarcerated.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services

75. Project 06-01-0-3130-0620: Centennial Park West Bathroom Facility Renovation
Funding amount: $ 260,000.27
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The Centennial Park in Ellicott City, MD is operated by Howard County's Department of Recreation and Parks. The regional park welcomes all individuals to come together as a community to use the space for recreation and enjoyment. The park features hiking trails, a lake, ball courts, multi-purpose fields, a skatepark, playgrounds, an amphitheater, picnic areas, and the recent development of a fitness lot which opened in Summer 2024. To continue serving the needs of the community, the County aims to update the park's amenities. Specifically, the County, through its Bureau of Facilities, intends to use SLFRF to renovate the West Area Centennial Park restroom building to meet current ADA codes. The updates will include new interior finishes, improved lighting, toilet partitions, and plumbing fixtures for improved durability and aesthetics. Additionally, a single-user ADA-compliant restroom with an adult changing table will be added. These upgrades will benefit individuals of all ages and abilities, making the public restrooms more accessible and user-friendly.

Intended Outcomes

• To improve a bathroom that is designed to be functional, hygienic, and an attractive amenity for the park's visitors.
• To ensure restroom facilities at the park are accessible.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

76. Project 06-01-0-3133-0608: Secured Access for ESJP in Circuit Courthouse
Funding amount: $5,185.74
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
In 2021, Howard County undertook the largest capital project in its history to open a new Circuit Courthouse that could accommodate the increased caseload and technology capabilities that modern judicial systems rely on to serve this community. The County utilized SLFRF funding to cover costs associated with the installation and maintenance of a secure door access system for the Edgemoor-Star America Judicial Partners (ESJP) Office within the Courthouse. ESJP was selected by the County as its preferred partner to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain the County's new Circuit Courthouse.

Intended Outcomes:

- To install a secure door access system for the ESJP Office within the Circuit Courthouse.

Use of Evidence
This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

77. Project 06-01-0-6023-0613: Age-Friendly 50+ Center Real-Time Occupancy Counting System
Funding amount: $26,844.85
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
Howard County's six senior centers, referred to as "50+ Centers", are hubs for accessing services that support the senior population, such as socialization opportunities, access to broadband and learning technology, hot meals, health information and services, and opportunities to stay active and maintain independence within the community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the 50+ Centers were closed for over a year, worsening social isolation among older adults. Additionally, older adults experienced elevated levels of stress, worry, anxiety, and fear due to the increased risk of adverse outcomes should they become infected with the virus. The 50+ Centers re-opened but experienced a slow return to normal operations due to continuing spikes of COVID-19 infections, new strains, and lingering apprehension toward returning to congregate settings.
The County's Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS), which manages these centers, was faced with the challenge of limiting and tracking the number of both staff and 50+ Center members visiting the facilities to ensure safety and optimize operations. SLFRF funding was used to install an automatic people counting system and technology to monitor the flow of people at the senior centers, manage occupancy at a safer level, and reduce the risk of adverse outcomes from possible COVID-19 infections.
Intended Outcomes:

- To install precise, real-time tools that measure facility usage and monitor the flow of people entering and leaving the facility.
- To monitor trends in facility usage to support efficient operations and ensure staff availability is sufficient.
- To inform social engagement strategies and offer social and health support to the County's older adult population.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

78. **Project 06-01-0-D000-0603: Rail Corridor Feasibility**
Funding amount: $225,000
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Howard County continues to explore ways to stimulate economic growth, expand transit, pedestrian, and cycling infrastructure, and offers space for community programming and recreational areas. The County will utilize SLFRF funding to cover costs to conduct a feasibility study to explore the acquisition and redevelopment of an out-of-use rail line known as the "Rail Line" or "Right Of Way" ("ROW") through the project oversight and administration of the Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA). The project will be implemented in three stages:

- Physical Site Feasibility – This initial stage will mainly comprise of desktop and field survey civil engineering analysis that will speak to Right of Way (ROW), topography and environmental factors such as wetlands, etc.
- Economic Feasibility – This second stage will include a cost analysis and revenue projections with sensitivity analysis that will inform HCEDA's overall valuation of the ROW and the income projections related to activation/redevelopment of the ROW.
- Community Engagement – This final stage will include in-person, online and other tactical efforts to engage with the adjacent and broader community members and stakeholders. The County's goal is for the redevelopment to be a benefit to the community at large, and therefore HCEDA will be seeking to gain feedback and insights as to what attributes will be most impactful including, but not limited to public parks, internet infrastructure, connectivity and programming.

Intended Outcomes:

- To conduct a feasibility project to explore from a civil engineering, and financial and community support standpoint.
- To determine the viability of redeveloping a pedestrian-centric mobility corridor to bring economic and community revitalization to this Howard County locale.

Use of Evidence

This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific to Expense Category 6.1 – Provision of Government Services.

79. Project 06-01-0-HH01-0611: Howard County Health Department's Reproductive, Maternal, and Infant Health
Funding amount: $1,491,810.42
Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

<u>Project Overview</u>
The Howard County Health Department (HCHD) strives to promote access to health care and other resources needed to support the health of mothers, babies, and families in this community. The HCHD is revamping their Reproductive, Maternal, and Infant Health program to expand access to reproductive health services and family planning support. SLFRF funding will be used to establish a doula program in Howard County that will include training and certifying doulas, provide prenatal and postpartum support services to families, increase access to low-cost pregnancy support and a wide variety of parenting programs and resources, and expand reproductive services offered at the Wellness Center at Howard Community College (HCC).

MOMCares
MOMcares is a tax-exempt non-stock corporation serving mothers and families, providing support, self-care opportunities, and healing experiences designed to strengthen the family unit with the matriarch at the center of its work. As a Postpartum Doula Program, MOMCares is designed to support Black mothers in the NICU who self-identify as under-supported and facing financial stressors. MOMCares provides packaged meals, transportation, bedside support, birth planning, education and self-care opportunities to mothers in need.

Patient Navigation
The HCHD Patient Navigator is a bilingual-preferred outreach coordinator who provides proactive outreach to local hospitals and obstetrics offices regarding utilization of the Maryland Postpartum Infant and Maternal (PIMR) referral form. While the form is intended for use by Maryland hospitals to refer high risk infants and mothers at hospital discharge to their local health department for community-based services, the Patient Navigator encourages prenatal care providers to also use the form for families who may need pregnancy services. This Patient Navigator collects PIMR forms and provides outreach and care coordination for the mother and infant. Additionally, this Patient Navigator coordinates prenatal and postpartum educational support classes in collaboration with the Office of Children & Families (OCF) and their home visiting program or other community groups looking to provide educational outreach and support for families.

Low-Cost Pregnancy Support
Items purchased for Low-Cost Pregnancy Support ware being used to support the activities of the HCHD Patient Navigator, including infant carriers, convertible car seats, cribettes with safe sleep kits, ancillary breastfeeding support supplies (storage freezer bags, cream, pads, etc.), and infant care supplies (diaper cream, pacifiers, teethers, sleep sack, etc.). Dinner and snacks are being provided to individuals participating in the prenatal and postpartum educational support classes (quarterly in person meetings for both support groups) and space may be rented for in-person meetings if needed. Additionally, childcare is provided free of charge from the OCF by individuals seeking to obtain their certification in childcare. Intended

Outcomes:

- Promote access to health care and reproductive services in Howard County.
- Expand the capacity of the Maternal Health program by hiring and training maternal health staff, including a full-time Patient Navigator, Registered Nurse, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, part-time Access Coordinator, and doulas.
- Increase access to low-cost comprehensive prenatal and postnatal care and resources for low-income individuals.
- Enhance reproductive, educational, and mental health services for clients served at the HCC location.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Aside of an explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services, performance indicators are not required for reporting to Treasury specific 6.1-Provision of Government Services.

80. Project 07-01-0-1300-0702: Admin Support Finance
Funding amount: $1,970,000.00
Expenditure Category Group: 7-Administrative
Expenditure Category: 7.1-Administrative Expenses

Project Overview
Howard County has commissioned the services of Hagerty Consulting to provide expert advice on ARPA subject matter and guidance on regulatory use of SLFRF for eligible programs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This consultation is essential to provide support on preliminary eligibility, commentaries, and program design of proposed projects to support the County in its effective management and oversight of SLFRF. Consultation is also necessary in ensuring that the County is in compliance with legal, regulatory, and other requirements in rolling out various ARPA program activities. The County needs this administrative service of professionally interpreting Treasury's guidance so that the County and its prospective subrecipients are well-informed in its processes of reaching appropriate decisions. SLFRF funding will support consulting services from June 2021 to December 2026.

Intended Outcome:

- To seek professional consultation on eligibility and justification concerns and advise on structuring programs while adhering to Federal reporting requirements designed for use of SLFRF funding to mitigate the adverse impacts from COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	Response
Number of programs assisted by SLFRF funding that this consultation service coordinated in part.	86

81. Project 07-01-0-1310-0701: Finance Position Grants Manager
Funding amount: $384,025.30
Expenditure Category Group: 7-Administrative
Expenditure Category: 7.1-Administrative Expenses

Project Overview
The project was designed to employ Fiscal Specialist(s) who are responsible for overseeing ARPA grant programs in all Howard County departments to ensure compliance with the requirements of Federal regulations and grant award terms and conditions. This position ensures that internal control policies and procedures are followed to expend the ARPA grant according to all government regulations in conjunction with the County's Grants Management policies and procedures. This position coordinates fiscal activities and ensures adherence to Federal reporting requirements on eligible programs designed for use of ARPA funding to mitigate the adverse impact from COVID-19 pandemic. SLFRF funding supports the position.
Intended Outcome:

- To coordinate fiscal activities and ensure adherence to Federal reporting requirements on eligible programs designed for use of SLFRF funding to mitigate the adverse impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	Response
Number of programs assisted by SLFRF funding that this consultation service coordinated in part.	85

82. Project 07-01-0-2070-0703: OpenGov
Funding amount: $186,720.00
Expenditure Category Group: 7-Administrative
Expenditure Category: 7.1-Administrative Expenses

Project Overview

Howard County commissioned the services of OpenGov to provide reporting and dashboard technology services to support effective implementation of SLFRF-funded programs. The software centralized financial and grant performance data, facilitated transparency and improved public trust, and supported ongoing citizen engagement by providing up-to-date information on SLFRF project expenditures and outcomes in an interactive reporting dashboard in the County's website.

Intended Outcomes:

- To utilize data analysis resources to track program performance in supporting effective implementation of SLFRF-funded programs.
- To use as a reporting tool for internal stakeholders and public-facing dashboard presentations.

Use of Evidence

This program did not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following outcome:

Metric	Response
Describe project progress towards completion.	The reporting tool has been configured and is being utilized by the County.

83. Project 07-03-0-1310-0704: Administrative Costs After Obligation Deadline
Funding amount: $456,630.29
Expenditure Category Group: 7-Administartive
Expenditure Category: 7.3-Costs Associated with Satisfying the Administrative and Other Legal Requirements of the SLFRF Program After the Obligation Deadline has Passed

Project Overview

Costs associated with satisfying the administrative requirements of the SLFRF Program after the Obligation Deadline of December 31, 2024.

84. Project 08-12-0-3130-0802: Bain 50+ Center Emergency Generator
Funding amount: $291,516.00
Expenditure Category Group: 8- Emergency Relief from Natural Disasters
Expenditure Category: 8.12- Mitigation Activities

Project Overview
Howard County utilized SLFRF to purchase and install a new emergency generator at the Bain 50+ Center (the Center) in Columbia, Maryland. This initiative aligns with the County's Flood Mitigation Plan and Howard County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, both developed in response to devastating floods in 2016 and 2018. The Center, situated outside of a flood zone, plays a crucial role as a community disaster shelter during storms and emergencies. The emergency generator ensures the Center can remain operational during power outages caused by disasters, thereby safeguarding its ability to provide essential services and shelter to vulnerable populations, including older adults and community members in need of assistance. This proactive measure enhances community resilience, reinforces the County's capacity to support the community during crises, and aligns with the County's age-friendly initiatives.
Intended Outcomes:

- To extend operations of the facility to serve the community, especially during emergencies.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

85. Project 08-12-0-3142-0801: Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
Funding amount: $14,823.50
Expenditure Category Group: 8- Emergency Relief from Natural Disasters
Expenditure Category: 8.12- Mitigation Activities

Project Overview
Howard County leveraged SLFRF funding to benefit residents and business owners through the 2024 Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. This initiative aimed to reduce the risk of property damage from potential floods by implementing flood proofing projects and adopting flood mitigation strategies. Under the project, the County matched 50 percent of flood proofing costs, up to a maximum match of $6,000 for property owners (including both residential and commercial properties) and $3,000 for business owners. This grant program was available to those with structures in high-risk Flood Zones A or AE, as determined by a certified FEMA Flood Elevation Certificate. Eligible improvement projects for primary residential or commercial building structures include flood doors, sealant, relocation of HVAC units, shields, drainage systems, improvements to structural stream crossings or driveways, and removal of debris from stream channels.
Intended Outcomes:

- To increase the flood resilience of residents and business owners for their property, business, merchandise, and/or equipment by mitigating the risks of flood damages.
- To preserve properties that lie within the Ellicott City Historic District to help the cultural and economic investment for building owners, the community, and visitors that frequent the area.

Use of Evidence
This program does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report
Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Metric	Response
Number of flood protection measure completed – Flood doors.	2
Number of flood protection measure completed – Sealant.	1
Number of flood protection measure completed – Relocation of HVAC units.	0
Number of flood protection measure completed – Shields.	0
Number of flood protection measure completed – Improvements to structural stream crossings/driveways.	0
Number of flood protection measure completed – removal of debris from stream channels.	0
Number of flood protection measure completed – Drainage systems.	1
Number of flood protection measure completed – Other (describe).	1

Appendix