

Howard County, MD

Recovery Plan



State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2022 Report

Howard County Government, Maryland
2022 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Howard County has embraced the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, working to leverage federal recovery funding in order to meet the community's greatest needs and build toward a more equitable, resilient and sustainable future. When the American Rescue Plan Act's ("ARPA") Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ("SLFRF") program was enacted, the County made a commitment to allocating and utilizing these funds in an open, deliberative and transparent manner. Building on experiences from the initial pandemic response and the CARES Act, the County created a process for identifying and prioritizing needs that included solicitation of proposals from internal and external stakeholders, engaging the community through various channels, and identifying potential community partners. Potential projects were vetted for eligibility and compliance considerations, matched to identified needs and aligned with demonstrated community support, and the result was a preliminary allocation budget that contained a number of impactful projects across all of the SLFRF expenditure categories. This allocation budget also contained significant unallocated and contingency funds and retained the flexibility to allow for reallocation, which proved to be critical when community needs changed due to factors including the Omicron surge and heightened workforce pressures.

The County has dedicated significant effort to the management of SLFRF funds, not only to ensure compliance with program regulations but to ensure efficient and effective program implementation. This combination of thoughtful need prioritization, effective program design and careful management has led the County to be recognized by President Biden, who highlighted the County's efforts to find creative ways to use SLFRF funds to support working families, and 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. The County's comprehensive approach has also allowed for the creation of partnerships to leverage additional public and private funding to maximize positive impacts in priority areas including education, health care, job training and nonprofit assistance.

The COVID-19 pandemic created new needs and exacerbated existing needs for impacted individuals, businesses, and organizations, but the unprecedented opportunity provided by the SLFRF program has allowed the County to work toward long-term solutions that not only provide immediate relief but seek to build future resilience. Foreclosure prevention and rental assistance programs include financial counseling to ensure long-term success. Mobile crisis team expansion and school-based mental health expansion seek to facilitate access to needed resources in a proactive manner. Grants to support nonprofits that assist small businesses provide the catalyst for vibrant local economies. The County continues to look for opportunities to effect long-term positive change, including expansions of programs for job training, childcare and early childhood development, and assistance for refugee populations. The County also recognizes the many opportunities that exist beyond the SLFRF program, including the numerous funding programs contained within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA") that could help the County build for the future in areas such as transportation, resilience, broadband, cybersecurity and stormwater, and is evaluating the potential to coordinate these opportunities with SLFRF 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 and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past two 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 to determine

- priority funding areas;
- 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
- to inform the 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 has collaborated with multiple partners during the planning and implementation of SLFRF programs. Working directly with this broad array of partners, which has included the Howard County Office of Workforce Development, the Howard County Public School System, the Howard County Economic Development Authority, the Downtown Columbia Housing Corporation, the Howard County Community Foundation, BGE, the Howard County Health Department, Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center and the Howard County General Hospital, the County has been able to promote equitable uses of SLFRF resources, leverage financial commitments from non-federal sources, and maximize the impact of various funding streams to benefit the County's recovery.

Through these efforts, the County has designed programs to address the community's most pressing challenges and priorities. For example, the County is using SLFRF funds to

- connect workers with apprenticeship and job training opportunities;
- support local businesses and nonprofits;
- expand residents' and students' access to broadband connectivity;
- promote the retention of critical staff in a variety of industries (including educators, bus drivers, healthcare workers, and public safety workers);
- provide rental and mortgage relief to families facing housing insecurity; and
- strengthen mental health services across the county.

The County has been engaged in planning for a number of other SLFRF-funded programs to support critical priorities that have emerged over the course of the pandemic recovery, including providing significant assistance in the area of childcare and increasing funding for existing programs that provide services to particularly vulnerable populations. As the County continues to allocate resources made available to the County and its various partners, decisions to use SLFRF funding will continue to be guided by community input and responsive to challenges that arise as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. The County's strong emphasis on diversity, equity,

and inclusion will ensure that it can continue to make tremendous strides toward recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Provided below is a general draft breakdown of the actual and proposed use of SLFRF funds. These allocations are estimates and flexible by design, allowing the County to adjust to continual modifications of federal guidance regarding eligible uses of SLFRF funding, to use new State and Federal funding sources for intended SLFRF expenditures as they become available, and to adjust to the evolving needs of our community in addressing the impacts of the pandemic.

- **Public Health Initiatives (EC 1):** **\$7 Million (estimated)**

The County plans to allocate \$7 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 this pandemic.

As of this report, SLFRF funding has been used to support several public health initiatives. The County invested in its behavioral health infrastructure and crisis intervention services to improve access to mental health services in the community. In addition to addressing pressing mental health challenges, the County used SLFRF funding to address critical staffing needs at the Howard County General Hospital. In doing so, the County was able to maintain the staffing necessary to provide emergency health services to residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional COVID-19 mitigation and prevention programs were implemented, including a program that provided dedicated rooms for temporarily housing unhoused persons who have COVID-19 or are showing possible symptoms and are unable to safely quarantine or isolate elsewhere, upgrading County buildings to incorporate touchless technology, and distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) and at-home COVID-19 tests to various communities. In the upcoming fiscal year, the County will be using funds for upgrading air filters as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) to improve ventilation and indoor air quality in County buildings.

The County is assessing other potential expenditures under this category to include expanding access to health services and continued investments in behavioral health services.

- **Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2):** **\$26 Million (estimated)**

The County plans to allocate \$26 million of its SLFRF funding to address the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our businesses, residents, nonprofit organizations, and industries.

The County has targeted economic recovery for families by allocating over \$3.5 million to three distinct rental assistance and foreclosure prevention programs, providing funding for career training and workforce readiness services for refugees seeking opportunities in Howard County, and designing a \$2 million program to support the recruitment and retention of bus drivers and attendants.

Further, as the County moves forward in its recovery from the pandemic, supporting local small businesses and nonprofit organizations is 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 \$1.5 million to support businesses and nonprofit organizations in Howard County.

The County also plans to allocate SLFRF funding to projects designed to further bolster the business community, support nonprofit operations, and invest in 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 and equitable economic recovery.

- **Public Sector Capacity (EC 3):** **\$2.5 Million (estimated)**

Howard 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 thousand 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 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination efforts, recently approved children's vaccine, boosters, physical and mental health access issues, and other County services.

The County is looking into other potential programs to direct funding in this expense category.

- **Premium Pay (EC 4):** **\$13 Million (estimated)**

Howard 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 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 past two years.

Potential expenditures under this category include additional premium pay for certain classifications of County employees, coverage of overtime expenses, and other associated labor costs.

- **Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure (EC 5):** **\$3 Million (estimated)**

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

To date, 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 Howard County, which contains 56% of the County's population.

The County plans to allocate additional SLFRF funding to support a variety of capital needs, including implementing programs to improve stormwater infrastructure.

- **Revenue Replacement (EC 6):** **\$10 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. The U.S. Treasury’s Final Rule for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (“CSLFRF”) included an option for recipients to use a standard allowance of \$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 \$10 million.

The County has allocated revenue loss funding to implement projects that support the expansion of broadband connectivity for the Norris Lane neighborhood, a feasibility study for redevelopment of the Columbia Gateway Rail Corridor to economically revitalize the community, cybersecurity upgrades to safeguard information and combat cybersecurity threats, and utility assistance for commercial properties.

The County is currently exploring options for using a portion of funds made available under the standard allowance for use in funding administrative costs and non-federal match related to infrastructure, resilience, and mitigation grant programs, allowing SLFRF funds to be leveraged in order to maximize positive impact.

- **Administrative and Other (EC7):** **\$1.7 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 more resources for grants consulting and other contractual services. The County is allocating \$1.7 million to support administrative expenses and the evaluative and analytical reporting requirements of managing these funds.

The County has contracted the services of a consulting firm to provide professional support on preliminary eligibility, compliance advisement on legal, regulatory, and other requirements, commentaries, and program design of proposed projects to support the County in its effective management and oversight of SLFRF. The County has funded a Fiscal Specialist position for project management of SLFRF activities in all County departments.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Howard County has a longstanding commitment to promoting equity. 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. Most notably, in November 2020, 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.” The Collaborative was comprised of five workgroups focused on different topical areas, with each having promoting equity as part

of its core charge.¹ 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 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ("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 community engagement effort as part of its process to determine how best to allocate SLFRF funds.

Based on these inputs and solicitation of potential projects from a variety of stakeholders, and after the completion of an inclusive public engagement process, the County engaged in a mindful and deliberate process to prioritize and then implement SLFRF projects to support overall pandemic recovery. All allocation and project decisions were made in accordance with the overall needs of the community and with equity as a primary consideration. It is important to note that decisions regarding approved projects have been intentionally flexible, with sufficient contingency reserved to respond to unanticipated needs. This flexibility allowed the County to reallocate funding to better serve the needs of those most impacted by the "Omicron-surge" and will facilitate shifting resources to projects that best address ongoing recovery needs including childcare.

- a. Goals. The County's recovery efforts have focused on projects that serve a number of historically underserved, marginalized or adversely affected groups, including projects relating to housing insecurity and support for working families.
- b. Awareness. Howard County has a strong tradition of wide-reaching outreach efforts, which carried through the SLFRF engagement process. As recovery moves into a more long-term phase, the County is currently considering several additional targeted and inclusive outreach efforts to highlight the availability of a number of programs.
- c. Access and Distribution. All reasonable efforts have been made to remove any barriers to access regarding SLFRF programs. Howard County and any subrecipients comply with all applicable nondiscrimination regulations.
- d. Outcomes. Programs have been and will be selected to solve problems of greatest need in the course of effecting recovery. Program design focuses on effective delivery of services to the intended recipients, with the goal of creating positive, long-term investment and fostering lasting change. Addressing equity dimensions is a critical factor in program selection and design.

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

A number of programs have been implemented to address Negative Economic Impacts, including foreclosure prevention, rental assistance, utility assistance, small business outreach for minority, women and veteran-owned businesses. These programs each fill specific needs for traditionally disadvantaged populations and represent long-term investments designed to promote equity.

Other possible programs that address pandemic harms that have become increasingly apparent and are currently being evaluated, include programs in the areas of childcare,

¹ Howard County Executive Order 2020-10

assistance for unhoused and specifically vulnerable populations, and specialized tutoring services.

Equity Efforts

A focus on equity and providing assistance to those with the greatest need has been a central feature in the County's pandemic response, beginning with the CARES Act and running through the SLFRF program. The County has been uniquely willing to transfer funding to other units of government to support its citizens with the most need.

Distribution of Funding

The County has distributed funding through several programs designed to address the greatest needs and the most pressing harms created by the pandemic. Given the demographics and geography of the County, geographically targeting resources deployment was not seen to be beneficial, with the exception of projects dedicated for the Downtown Columbia area that suffered specific negative economic impacts.

Community Engagement

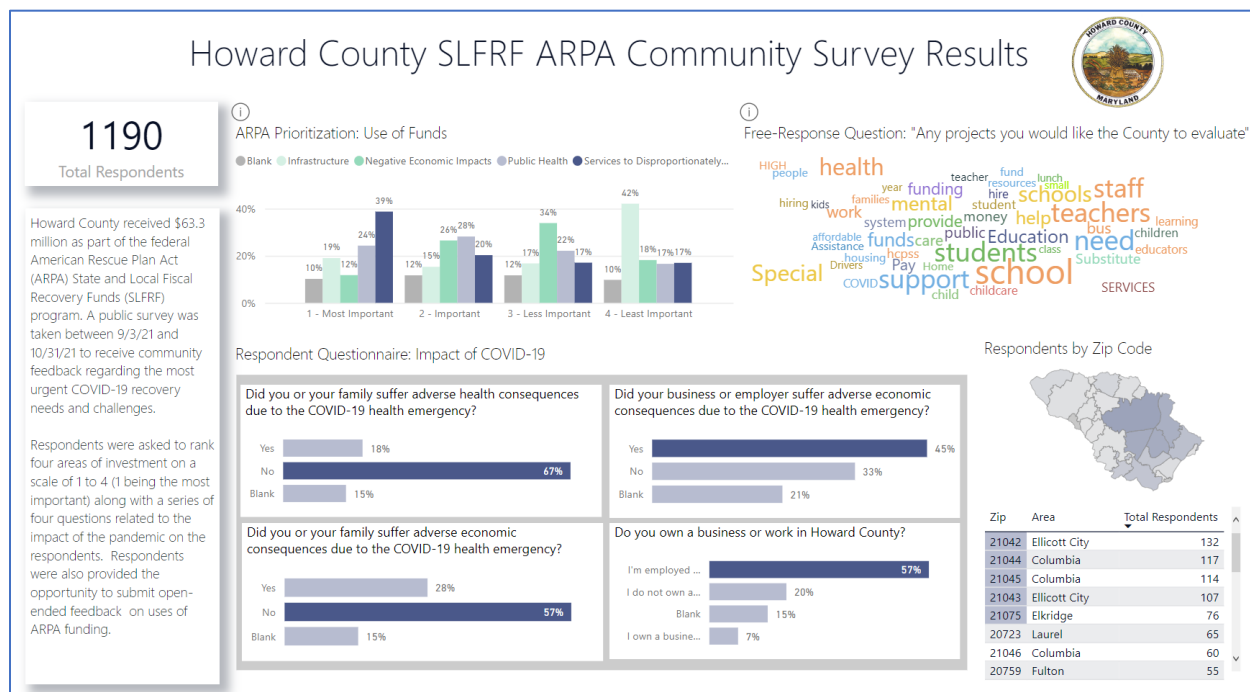
Howard County has a documented history of community engagement throughout various recent planning processes. The County's COVID-related community engagement efforts began with the establishment of the HoCo Rise Collaborative on November 12, 2020. This 50-member Collaborative was comprised of a diverse group of community leaders and stakeholders tasked with developing recommendations for immediate, short-term, and long-term recovery from the pandemic. The HoCo Rise Collaborative evaluated disparities and challenges in the community and provided recommendations and guidance to County leadership on ways to advance an equitable, 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 disadvantaged groups, the results of which continue to inform the County's overall recovery strategy.

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.

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](#) (2020)
- [Howard County Economic Development Authority Strategic Plan](#) (2017)
- [Howard County Housing Opportunities Master Plan](#) (2021)
- [HoCo By Design](#) (ongoing)

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.

Following the release of the January 2022 SLFRF Quarterly Report, the County released a [summary document](#) designed to update stakeholders and the general public on the status of approved projects that have been funded with SLFRF. This document showed the direct linkage between each of the approved projects and the results of the community engagement process. This document is attached to the end of this report.

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 to fill a critical need 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 one or more “pilot” programs that have been proposed and may be selected, it is anticipated that data collection and analysis would be extensive such that program results can be used to inform future decision making.

The County’s decisions regarding use of SLFRF funding have been and will be 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 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. Howard County has developed a public facing webpage which provides an overview of the ARP Act, helpful reference links, performance management dashboards, and reports on projects funded with State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to-date. The annual and quarterly reports can be found here:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/finance/american-rescue-plan-arp-funding#additional-information>

PROJECT INVENTORY

1. Project 01-02-0-1191-0107: COVID-19 At-Home Rapid Test Kit Mailers Shipping Services

Funding amount: \$13,590.76

Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health

Expenditure Category: 1.2-COVID-19 Testing

Project Overview

Howard County advocates for efforts, especially those recommended by the CDC, that help 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 to June 2022 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 seek 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 does 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 at-home COVID-19 tests to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcome:

Indicator	Metric
Number of COVID-19 at-home rapid test kit mailers shipped to County residents.	2,742

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, the 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 does 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 at-home COVID-19 tests to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Indicator	Metric
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 01-04-0-3133-0106: DPW Facilities COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts**
Funding amount: \$430,840.52
Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health
Expenditure Category: 1.4-Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

Project Overview

The County's 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 will be applied to purchase for the County's FY2023 annual supply of MERV13 air filters to be used in 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.

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:

Indicator	Metric
Number of County buildings implemented with touchless technology upgrade.	23
Number of upgraded air filters ordered for use in County offices/buildings. (Procurement will begin in July 2022.)	0

4. Project 01-05-0-1191-0108: KN95 Mask Mailers Shipping Services

Funding amount: \$1,536.30

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 to June 2022 to County residents who requested these personal protective equipment (PPE). The County Health Department supplied the KN95 face masks free-of-charge. Each household received four 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 immunocompromised 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 does 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:

Indicator	Metric
Number of KN95 face mask mailers shipped to County residents.	1,204

5. Project 01-05-0-1220-0105: KN95 Masks

Funding amount: \$15,000

Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health

Expenditure Category: 1.5-Personal Protective Equipment

Project Overview

The project funding supported distribution of free KN95 face masks to members of the 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 masks in December 2021 and these were distributed to the community from January to June 2022 with a few stock left that has yet to be distributed as of this report.

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 does 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

Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Indicator	Metric
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.	8,000

6. Project 01-07-0-1110-0104: HCGH Critical Staffing Needs

Funding amount: \$2,035,382

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 have been an industry-wide challenge since the beginning of COVID-19, particularly in nursing positions. To counteract this issue and ensure safe staffing ratios in clinical areas, HCGH has 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 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:

The ARP grant has benefited HCGH as it has 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.

Indicator	Metric
Number of FTE's of Agency Nurses and Nursing Staff who worked at HCGH in January 2022 and were partly supported by this ARP grant.	121.40
Number of Hours Worked by these Agency Staff at HCGH in January 2022 and were partly supported by this ARP grant.	21,488

7. Project 01-07-0-6026-0103: Non-Congregate Housing for COVID-19 Positive Unhoused Persons

Funding amount: \$52,920

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) has deemed the COVID-19 pandemic as a medical emergency and provided guidance that individuals who have had possible or known exposure to COVID-19 should self-isolate or quarantine. Unhoused persons who have tested positive for COVID-19, however, are unable to self-isolate at home and there are no designated isolation facilities, at this time. Therefore, this necessitated the 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 community spread of the virus.

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. 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 isolation and quarantine to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Performance Report

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Indicator	Metric
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

8. Project 01-12-0-1110-0102: Grassroots - Expand Mobile Crisis Teams

Funding amount: \$600,000

Expenditure Category Group: 1-Public Health

Expenditure Category: 1.12-Mental Health Services

Project Overview

The County contracted Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. to run a mobile crisis program to serve individuals and families in need of urgent mental health care. Mobile crisis teams operate by responding with the Howard County Police Department to psychiatric emergencies and post-traumatic events. 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 June 2022 to give financial relief in support of the program's mission to serve those in need, especially through the ongoing pandemic.

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 who are undergoing emergency crisis through conflict intervention and counseling.

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:

Indicator	Metric
Number of Crisis Intervention Clinicians funded in part or wholly by this Award.	20
Number of calls on Grassroots Hotline.	34,276
Number of face-to-face contacts.	879
Number of Mobile Crisis Team community responses.	642

9. Project 02-02-0-1300-0214: Water and Sewer Utilities Household Assistance

Funding amount: \$161,083.01

Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts

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

Project Overview

Many County residents are experiencing 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, the purpose of this program was to provide water and sewer utilities assistance to households in the County that incurred utility arrearages and faced risks of service disconnection due to nonpayment. 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.

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 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:

Indicator	Metric
Number of households served.	282
Average amount of assistance per household served.	\$571.22

The below fields are required Performance Indicators for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent Mortgage and Utility Aid:

Indicator	Metric
Households Served. Number of households served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs). (Numeric - max 10 characters)	282
Households receiving eviction prevention services. Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	0
Affordable housing units preserved or developed. Number of households served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs)	0

10. Project 02-02-0-6100-0202: Foreclosure Assistance

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

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) has been administering a mortgage assistance program for some time using County funding. Due to the demand of services, the County funds have been depleted and the existing program transitioned to a Federal program. The process did not change significantly as the program is eligible under the SLFRF. Using SLFRF funding, the purpose of the program is to provide foreclosure assistance to homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes from falling into arrears with mortgage payments caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will serve households with the County's Adjusted Median Incomes that are below 80% of HUD Baltimore limits. SLFRF funds will prevent foreclosures for homeowners in the County and 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 and will continue until December 31, 2024.

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 does 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 is an important goal of this program.

Performance Report

Measurable outcomes as of this reporting period:

Indicator	Metric
Number of households served. (Required by Treasury as noted below.)	32
Average amount of assistance per household served.	\$23,537

The below fields are required Performance Indicators for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent Mortgage and Utility Aid:

Indicator	Metric
Households Served. Number of households served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs). (Numeric - max 10 characters)	32
Households receiving eviction prevention services. Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	0
Affordable housing units preserved or developed. Number of households served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs)	0

The COVID-19 pandemic brought many housing-related disparities to the forefront. Howard County aims to address these disparities and promote equitable housing outcomes by offering resources and support to Howard County residents facing housing challenges through the Foreclosure Assistance program with SLFRF funds with the goal of keeping County residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in their homes.

The below chart is a breakdown of **Equity by Race** of this program's actual use of SLFRF funding to households as of June 30, 2022 reporting period. It is evident that this program promotes equitable outcomes and provides an equitable distribution of funding. As illustrated below, 81% of the applicants are members of minority groups. Furthermore, a significant amount of the funding (79%) was dedicated to underserved populations in Howard County.

Race	# HH	% of HH	\$ Approved	% of \$ Approved	Avg \$ Approved based on # HH
American Indian or Alaska Native and Black	1	3.13%	\$8,056	1.07%	\$8,056
American Indian or Alaska Native and White	1	3.13%	\$10,596	1.41%	\$10,596
Asian	2	6.25%	\$88,076	11.69%	\$44,038
Asian and White	1	3.13%	\$50,394	6.69%	\$50,394

Black or African American	19	59.38%	\$391,297	51.95%	\$20,595
Black or African American and White	1	3.13%	\$6,093	0.81%	\$6,093
Choose not to respond	1	3.13%	\$64,277	8.53%	\$64,277
Other	1	3.13%	\$41,637	5.53%	\$41,637
White	5	15.63%	\$92,759	12.32%	\$18,552
Total	32	100.00%	\$753,185	100.00%	\$23,537

11. Project 02-02-0-6100-0206: Rental Assistance

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

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) has contracted with Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, 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, the ERAP funds have been depleted. SLFRF funding is a stopgap measure which enables 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 will be receiving rental assistance and utility payments are those whose household incomes are within the low and moderate ranges and who have experienced negative economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and are at imminent risk of homelessness. Financial assistance to eligible households can include the payment of rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, and utilities and home energy costs arrears.

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 prevent interruption or discontinuation of utilities such as gas and electric 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

There are no actual measurable outcomes as of this reporting period since the project is still in its initial phase:

Indicator	Metric
Number of households served. (Required by Treasury as noted below.)	0
Average amount of assistance per household served.	\$0

The below fields are required Performance Indicators for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent Mortgage and Utility Aid:

Indicator	Metric
Households Served. Number of households served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs). (Numeric - max 10 characters)	0
Households receiving eviction prevention services. Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	0
Affordable housing units preserved or developed. Number of households served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs)	0

12. Project 02-02-0-6100-0207: Live Where You Work

Funding amount: \$500,000

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. This put a significant burden on this population in terms of being able to afford to 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), has been created and sponsored by the County and Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation (CDHC). LWYW will utilize SLFRF funding to provide rental subsidies from June 2022 to December 2024 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. Further, the employees would reap benefits of reduced transportation expenses and shorter commute times. The employees would also serve as building blocks in contributing to efforts to improve the diversity of the downtown community.

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

There are no actual measurable outcomes as of this reporting period since the project is still in its initial phase:

Indicator	Metric
Number of households served. (Required by Treasury as noted below.)	0
Average rental subsidy per employee participant.	\$0
Number of Downtown Columbia Employer participants.	0

The below fields are required Performance Indicators for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent Mortgage and Utility Aid:

Indicator	Metric
Households Served. Number of households served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs). (Numeric - max 10 characters)	0
Households receiving eviction prevention services. Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	0
Affordable housing units preserved or developed. Number of households served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs)	0

13. Project 02-10-0-1110-0212: Afghan Refugees Employment

Funding amount: \$98,500

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

Maryland is a leading destination state for newly arriving Afghan refugees. Howard County is doing its part in welcoming and helping the Afghan refugees who have settled in the County and must rebuild their lives. To enable this population to achieve self-sufficiency and financial stability, the County, in partnership with Luminus Network, Inc., is funding with SLFRF the Afghan Refugees Employment and Retention Program from April 11, 2022 to April 10, 2023 to hire an Employment and Retention Specialist who will work with the Afghan refugee community to identify underserved and job-seeking individuals, provide these individuals with workforce-preparation job training, and connect unemployed and underemployed candidates with employment opportunities in the County.

Intended Outcomes:

- To place around 75 work-authorized individuals into entry-level or higher positions with living wage salaries.
- To recruit and train job-seeking adults.
- To create meaningful career opportunities.
- To connect local businesses with skilled workers.
- To build workforce inclusivity.
- To support worker retention.

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:

Indicator	Metric
Number of work-authorized Afghans placed into employment in Howard County employers.	2 In process
Number of work-authorized Afghan placed into employment in other regions employers.	4
Average number of months employees retained employment after placement with support through Luminus' retention case management.	2
Number of employers in Howard/PG/Anne Arundel Counties who participated in the program.	26
Number of entry and professional level candidates who were provided training materials and training.	18
Number of candidates Interviewed and enter their data in the system.	46

The below fields are required Performance Indicators for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives):

Indicator	Metric
Workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs. Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs Required for Tier 1 recipients only	0
Workers completing sectoral job training programs. Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs Required for Tier 1 recipients only	0
People participating in summer youth employment programs. Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs Required for Tier 1 recipients only	0

14. Project 02-26-0-E000-0208: HCPSS - School Based Mental Health

Funding amount: \$980,000

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 because of traumatic impacts from these trying times. The growing demand for school-based mental health services has resulted in higher case volumes that exceed SBMHS' current staffing capacity.

As the pandemic continues, mental health staff shortage is especially alarming to students and their families who need immediate intervention but cannot afford to receive mental health services from external community agencies or private providers. This SLFRF program is 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 FTE's 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 in able 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 does not qualify as an evidence-based intervention pursuant to the requirements found in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

There are no actual measurable outcomes as of this reporting period since the project has not started:

Indicator	Metric
Number of additional Social Workers recruited by HCPSS SBMHS with the SLFRF funding.	0
Number of additional schools and locations served by the HCPSS SBMHS program.	0
Number of students accessing SBMH services.	0

The below field is a required Performance Indicator for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.26-Addressing Educational Disparities: Mental Health Services:

Indicator	Metric
NCES School ID or NCES District ID. The National Center for Education Statistics ("NCES") School ID or NCES District ID. Separate IDs with comma's for multiple entries. Example - 10002, 10005,10010, etc. (Numeric - max 750 characters)	2400420
Students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs. Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs Required for Tier 1 recipients only Numeric field.	0

15. Project 02-27-0-2070-0210: Hurricane Electric Broadband Expansion

Funding amount: \$192,000

Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts

Expenditure Category: 2.27-Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time

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

Performance Report

Measurable outcome as of this reporting period:

Indicator	Metric
Number of schools serviced.	77

The below fields are required Performance Indicators for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.27-Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time:

Indicator	Metric
NCES School ID or NCES District ID. The National Center for Education Statistics ("NCES") School ID or NCES District ID. Separate IDs with comma's for multiple entries. Example - 10002, 10005,10010, etc. (Numeric - max 750 characters)	2400420
Students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs. Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs Required for Tier 1 recipients only Numeric field.	0

16. Project 02-27-0-E000-0209: School Bus Drivers

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

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 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 is from 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 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:

Indicator	Metric
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

The below fields are required Performance Indicators for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.27-Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time:

Indicator	Metric
NCES School ID or NCES District ID. The National Center for Education Statistics ("NCES") School ID or NCES District ID. Separate IDs with comma's for multiple entries. Example - 10002, 10005,10010, etc. (Numeric - max 750 characters)	2400420
Students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs. Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs Required for Tier 1 recipients only Numeric field.	0

17. Project 02-32-0-1110-0213: Entrepreneur Accelerator

Funding amount: \$100,000

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 15 early-stage and historically under-served entrepreneurs and small businesses after completion of the HoCo Higher 2022 Entrepreneur Accelerator Program, which is a partnership program between the County, Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA), and M&T Bank. The 2022 Accelerator Program was a 10-week curriculum from March 23, 2022 to May 25, 2022 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, three winners from the class who participated in an elimination round pitch competition were awarded another \$25K 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 Howard 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 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:

Indicator	Metric
Number of minority-owned businesses graduating from the Entrepreneur Accelerator Program supported by this grant.	13
Number of women-owned businesses graduating from the Entrepreneur Accelerator Program supported by this grant.	2
Total	15

The below field is a required Performance Indicator for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.32-Business Incubators and Start-Up or Expansion Assistance:

Indicator	Metric
Non-Profits Served. Number of Non-Profits served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate non-profit assistance programs) (Numeric value - max 10 characters)	15

18. Project 02-34-0-1110-0203: Columbia Festival for the Arts Nonprofit Assistance

Funding amount: \$150,000

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 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 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:

Indicator	Metric
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.

The below field is a required Performance Indicator for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Indicator	Metric
Non-Profits Served. Number of Non-Profits served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate non-profit assistance programs) (Numeric value - max 10 characters)	1

19. Project 02-34-0-1110-0204: Tourism

Funding amount: \$586,000

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 the 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. 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. A lot of the membership is from the hospitality industry that was adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Intended Outcomes:

- To increase marketing for recovery of Howard County Tourism.
- To sustain strong marketing campaigns for the entire County.
- To support businesses through advertising.

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:

Indicator	Metric
Number of marketing campaigns funded in part or wholly by this grant.	75
Through advertising, number of businesses supported in part or wholly by this grant.	8,534
Any other quantitative activities/metrics and brief description for each.	695,756 user sessions on visithowardcounty.com. 974,725 page views on visithowardcounty.com.

The below field is a required Performance Indicator for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted):

Indicator	Metric
Non-Profits Served. Number of Non-Profits served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate non-profit assistance programs) (Numeric value - max 10 characters)	1

20. Project 02-34-0-1110-0205: Small Business - The 3rd

Funding amount: \$150,000

Expenditure Category Group: 2-Negative Economic Impacts

**Expenditure Category: 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations
(Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)**

Project Overview

The program's design is to provide intervention and relief due to the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and minority-owned nonprofit organizations within the County. This SLFRF allocation supports the operations of The 3rd Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, from February to December 2022. The 3rd Inc. is women-owned and Women of Color-operated that is geared to serve other Women of Color entrepreneurs and business owners in Howard County by pioneering a sustainable, local-based model to support Women of Color entrepreneurs through access, education, mentorship, and community. This is done through a membership, innovative physical space, and community connections. The organization is demonstrating the viability of this model with a new space based in Columbia, MD, a diverse community near Baltimore and Washington, D.C. professional networks.

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 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:

Indicator	Metric
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.
Number of business/org memberships with The 3rd.	125

The below field is a required Performance Indicator for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Indicator	Metric
Non-Profits Served. Number of Non-Profits served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate non-profit assistance programs) (Numeric value - max 10 characters)	1

21. Project 02-34-0-1110-0211: Downtown Columbia Performing Arts

Funding amount: \$505,000

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 Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission (DCACC) and Inner Arbor Trust (IAT); 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 is designed to provide intervention and relief to DCACC, IAT, and BSO that experienced negative economic impacts resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The County will funnel SLFRF funds towards DCACC and BSO's events and activities via the Howard County Arts Council. Funding will be used to support events, activities, and/or operations within these months:

- DCACC: July 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022.
- BSO: July 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022.
- IAT: April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

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, primarily: Color Burst Park Dance Series and a signature event featuring Soulful Symphony from DCACC; Movie with Orchestra – a joint presentation by DCACC and BSO; a BSO family-focused educational program; and various programs by the IAT.

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

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

Indicator	Metric
Number of events/activities funded in part by this grant.	10
Number of attendees for events.	7,684
Narrative of how the community is impacted.	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 **DCACC**, there are no actual measurable outcomes as of this reporting period since the project has not started:

Indicator	Metric
DCACC's second season of Color Burst Park Dance Series(4 parts) in the months of July and August 2022:	

Brief description of these events, dates occurred and narrative of how the community is impacted.	None
Number of attendees per event.	0
DCACC's signature event featuring Soulful Symphony with a popular touring artist at Merriweather Post Pavilion scheduled in the Fall of 2022 (Est. October 8):	
Brief description of these events, dates occurred and narrative of how the community is impacted.	None
Number of attendees per event.	0

For **BSO**, there are no actual measurable outcomes as of this reporting period since the project has not started:

Indicator	Metric
BSO's family-focused educational program in advance of the Merriweather Post Pavilion program estimated to take place in July or August 2022:	
Brief description of these events, dates occurred and narrative of how the community is impacted.	None
Number of registrations via BSOmusic.org.	0
Number of attendees and/or count capacity in collaboration with the respective host venue.	0
BSO's "Movie with Orchestra" event at Merriweather scheduled on August 14, 2022:	
Brief description of the event and how the community was impacted.	None
Number of attendees who are Howard County residents.	0
Number of attendees who are non-Howard County residents.	0
Percentage of new to system patrons for the BSO.	0

The below field is a required Performance Indicator for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted):

Indicator	Metric
Non-Profits Served. Number of Non-Profits served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate non-profit assistance programs) (Numeric value - max 10 characters)	4

22. 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 the 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 does 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:

Indicator	Metric
Number of hours spent on this project.	762.72

23. 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 the 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, lead and hosted by Executive Calvin Ball, 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 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 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:

Indicator	Metric
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

24. 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 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:

- The premium pay program is intended 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. The County intends to track the number of County employees who receive premium pay.

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:

Indicator	Metric
Number of County Employees who received Premium Pay	Employee Count
County Agencies	2,751
State Health Department	139
Grand Total	2,890

The below fields are required Performance Indicators for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 4.1-Public Sector Employees:

Indicator	Metric
Sectors Designated as Essential Critical Infrastructure. List of Sectors Designated as Essential Critical Infrastructure by the chief executive of the jurisdiction, if beyond those included in the Interim Final Rule (Text - max characters 1,500)	Sectors Designated as Essential Critical Infrastructure Sectors include: "Any work performed by an employee of a State, local, or Tribal government". ² Therefore, employees of the Howard County local government are included.
Number of workers to be served. (Numeric - max characters 7), DO NOT include commas "," when entering Amounts	2,890
Premium Pay Narrative. Recipients must submit a written justification to Treasury describing how the premium pay or grant is responsive to workers performing essential work during the public health emergency unless the worker or groups of workers receiving premium pay meet one of two criteria: (1) The eligible worker(s) receiving	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

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

<p>premium pay earn (with the premium included) below 150 percent of their residing state or county's average annual wage for all occupations, as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics; or (2) the eligible worker(s) receiving premium pay is not exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act overtime provisions. Please see the User Guide for additional detail on information to include and not to include in the description.</p> <p>Please see User Guide for additional detail on information to include and not to include in the description.</p> <p>(Text - max characters 3,000)</p> <p>K-12 Workers Served. Number of workers to be served with premium pay in K-12 schools</p> <p>(Numeric - max characters 10). DO NOT include commas "," when entering number</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>0</p>
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25. Project 06-01-0-2070-0602: 04-01-0-E000-0402: HCPSS Public Education Commitment Bonus

Funding amount: \$8,000,000

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 have returned to school buildings full time, and consequently have 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 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:

Indicator	Metric
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

The below fields are required Performance Indicators for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 4.1-Public Sector Employees:

Indicator	Metric
<p>Sectors Designated as Essential Critical Infrastructure. List of Sectors Designated as Essential Critical Infrastructure by the chief executive of the jurisdiction, if beyond those included in the Interim Final Rule (Text - max characters 1,500)</p>	<p>Sectors Designated as Essential Critical Infrastructure Sectors include: "Educational work, school nutrition work, and other work required to operate a school facility".³</p> <p>Therefore, teachers, educators, and all staff members of the Howard County Public School System are included.</p>
<p>Number of workers to be served. Number of workers to be served (Numeric - max characters 7), DO NOT include commas ", " when entering Amounts</p>	<p>4,153</p>
<p>Premium Pay Narrative</p>	<p>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 ARP funding provided by the County will be used to provide premium pay to 4,153 educators and education support personnel.</p> <p>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]."</p> <p>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</p>

³ Treas. Reg. 31 CFR 35 at pg. 407, available at: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf>.

	<p>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.</p> <p>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 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 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.</p>
<p>K-12 Workers Served. Number of workers to be served with premium pay in K-12 schools (Numeric - max characters 10). DO NOT include commas "," when entering number</p>	4,153

26. 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 seeks 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, the County will install 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) will procure the services of SHI International Corp. for a software license and subscription with a 12-Month Term and service with a 1 Year Retainer from September 30, 2022 to September 29, 2023.

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

Performance Report

There are no actual measurable outcomes as of this reporting period since the cybersecurity software service term has not started:

Indicator	Metric
Number of responses to cybersecurity incidents and events.	0

The below fields are required Performance Indicators for quarterly reporting to Treasury specific to Expenditure Category 5.1-Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment, aside from the project baseline fields:

Indicator	Metric
Projected/actual construction start date. REQUIRED if the project has started. NOT REQUIRED if you selected "Not Started" for the "Status to Completion" question. Projected/actual construction start date Valid Date - (MM/DD/YYYY)	As of this report, the cybersecurity software service term has not started, therefore this field is not applicable at this time.
Projected/actual initiation of operations date. REQUIRED if the project has started. NOT REQUIRED if you selected "Not Started" for the "Status to Completion" question. Projected/actual initiation of operations date Valid Date - (MM/DD/YYYY)	As of this report, the cybersecurity software service term has not started, therefore this field is not applicable at this time.
Location (for broadband, geospatial location data).	Address

<p>REQUIRED if the project has started. NOT REQUIRED if you selected "Not Started" for the "Status to Completion" question. Select one of the valid predefined responses from the picklist: -Latitude/longitude (WGS84 or NAD83 geographic coordinate system) -Address -Address Range -Road Segment</p>	
<p>Location Details. REQUIRED if the project has started. NOT REQUIRED if you selected "Not Started" for the "Status to Completion" question. Enter Location Details in respect to Location (Text - Max Characters 255)</p>	<p>8900 Greenwood Place, Savage, MD 20763 Source: Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Division https://www.howardcountymd.gov/public-works/little-patuxent-water-reclamation-division</p>
<p>National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). REQUIRED if the project has started. NOT REQUIRED if you selected "Not Started" for the "Status to Completion" question. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number (if applicable; for projects aligned with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund) (Text - Max Characters 50)</p>	<p>MD0055174 Permit# document saved to file. Source: Maryland NPDES Search Portal: http://mes-mde.mde.state.md.us/WastewaterPermitPortal/</p>
<p>Public Water System (PWS) ID number. REQUIRED if the project has started. NOT REQUIRED if you selected "Not Started" for the "Status to Completion" question. Public Water System (PWS) ID number (if applicable; for projects aligned with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund) (Text - Max Characters 50)</p>	<p>0130002 Source: List of Community Water Supply in Maryland: https://health.maryland.gov/mdckd/Documents/watersupply.pdf</p>
<p>Median Household Income of service area. REQUIRED if the project has started. NOT REQUIRED if you selected "Not Started" for the "Status to Completion" question. For median income of Census Tracts and other geographic areas, recipients should refer to the most recent American Community Survey 5-year estimates available through the Census</p>	<p>\$124,042 Source: American Community Survey Data Census https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Income%20%28Households,%20Families,%20Individuals%29&g=0500000US24027&tid=ACST5Y2020.S1903</p>

<p>website.</p> <p>Currency field with max 12 characters, 2 decimals.</p> <p>DO NOT include a "\$" sign or commas "," when entering Amounts.</p>	
<p>Lowest Quintile Income of the service area.</p> <p>REQUIRED if the project has started.</p> <p>NOT REQUIRED if you selected "Not Started" for the "Status to Completion" question.</p> <p>The final rule defines a household as low income if it has (i) income at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) for the size of its household based on the most recently published poverty guidelines by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or (ii) income at or below 40 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) for its county and size of household based on the most recently published data by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).</p> <p>Currency field with max 12 characters, 2 decimals.</p> <p>DO NOT include a "\$" sign or commas "," when entering Amounts.</p>	<p>\$46,440.</p> <p>(i) At or below 185% x \$27,750 based on a Four-Person Family = \$51,337.50.</p> <p>Poverty Guideline: First Person \$13,590, Each Additional Person \$4,720, Four-Person Family \$27,750.</p> <p>Source: HHS Poverty Guidelines for Year 2022: https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references</p> <p>(ii) At or below 40% x \$116,100 AMI = \$46,440.</p> <p>Source: AMI in HUD FY 2022 Income Limits Summary for the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD MSA contains the following areas: Anne Arundel County, MD; Baltimore County, MD; Carroll County, MD; Harford County, MD; Howard County, MD; Queen Anne's County, MD; and Baltimore city, MD.: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2022/2022summary.odn</p>

27. Project 06-01-0-1300-0605: Water and Sewer Utilities Business Assistance

Funding amount: \$11,414.37

Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Many 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. The assistance allocation methodology developed was to identify 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.

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.

The program concluded with the following measurable outcomes:

Indicator	Metric
Number of businesses served.	9
Average amount of assistance per business served.	\$1,268.26

28. Project 06-01-0-2070-0602: Norris Lane Broadband Connectivity Expansion

Funding amount: \$100,000

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 was 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. In order 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 work was 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 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.

The program concluded with the following measurable outcome:

Indicator	Metric
Number of Norris Lane residences qualified to receive FIOS broadband services.	12

29. Project 06-01-0-2070-0604: Cybersecurity Upgrades

Funding amount: \$235,850

Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The 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 have been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic. The County will use 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) will procure the services of the vendors listed below. Funding will secure licenses, subscription, and services of three cybersecurity software platforms:

- Infojini Inc. for the Security Incident and Event Monitoring (SIEM) Platform at \$36,000. Software service maintenance term is from 07/11/2022 to 07/10/2023.
- Vendor and service term TBD for Breach and Attack Simulation (BAS) Platform at \$100,000.
- CDW Government LLC. for the Identity Threat Protection via User and Entity Behavior Analytics (UEBA) at \$99,850. The County will use SLFRF funds for software service maintenance term from 07/12/2022 and not to exceed 12/31/2024.

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

There are no actual measurable outcomes as of this reporting period since the cybersecurity software service terms have not started:

Indicator	Metric
Security Incident and Event Monitoring (SIEM) Platform	
Number of responses to cybersecurity incidents and events.	0
Breach and Attack Simulation (BAS) Platform	
Number of cybersecurity breaches and attack simulations performed or mitigated.	0
Identity Threat Protection via User and Entity Behavior Analytics (UEBA)	
Number of prevented cybersecurity threats before data is stolen or exfiltrated.	0

30. Project 06-01-0-D000-0603: Columbia Gateway Rail Corridor Feasibility

Funding amount: \$300,000

Expenditure Category Group: 6-Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Columbia Gateway is an integral part of Howard County. The County intends to transform this business park into an innovation district that stimulates economic growth, expands 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 Assessment – 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.
- Financial Analysis – 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 Columbia Gateway feasibility project to explore from a civil engineering, and financial and community support standpoint.
- To determine the viability of redeveloping Columbia Gateway 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

There are no actual measurable outcomes as of this reporting period since the project has not started:

Indicator	Metric
Physical Assessment: Summary description of completed activities as it relates to this project stage.	Not started.
Financial Analysis: Summary description of completed activities as it relates to this project stage.	Not started.
Community Engagement: Summary description of completed activities as it relates to this project stage.	Not started.

31. Project 07-01-0-1300-0702: Admin Support Finance

Funding amount: \$350,000

Expenditure Category Group: 7-Administrative

Expenditure Category: 7.1-Administrative Expenses

Project Overview

The 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 the US Treasury 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 ARPA 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:

Indicator	Metric
Number of programs assisted by SLFRF funding that this consultation service coordinated in part.	32

32. Project 07-01-0-1310-0701: Finance Position Grants Manager

Funding amount: \$70,000

Expenditure Category Group: 7-Administrative

Expenditure Category: 7.1-Administrative Expenses

Project Overview

The project is designed to employ Fiscal Specialist(s) who will be responsible for overseeing the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant programs in all 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 in order to expend the ARPA grant according to all government regulations in conjunction with the County's Grants Management policies and procedures. SLFRF funding will support this position from November 2021 to December 2026.

Intended Outcome:

- To coordinate fiscal activities and ensures adherence to Federal reporting requirements on eligible programs designed for use of ARPA 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:

Indicator	Metric
Number of programs assisted by SLFRF funding that this consultation service coordinated in part.	32

Appendix

American Rescue Plan Act Funding: Prioritizing Resident Feedback and Community Needs

Howard County intends to utilize its \$63.3 million allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act's ("ARPA") State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ("FRF") to create a stronger, more resilient county. To achieve this goal, the County pursued a variety of community engagement strategies to capture the ongoing COVID-19 recovery needs of residents, businesses, nonprofits, and stakeholders. This summary outlines the County's funded projects and how the County's decisions regarding use of FRF were guided by residents' needs identified through a detailed community engagement process, including:

- State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Survey (Fall 2021, 1,166 responses)
- Project Solicitation via the County's ARPA website (Fall 2021, 23 responses)
- Howard County Health Assessment Survey (2016, over 2,000 responses)
- HoCo Rise Collaborative Report (2021)
- Howard County Local Children's Board ("LCB") Community Plan for Children, Youth and Families (2020)
- Howard County Economic Development Authority's ("EDA") Strategic Plan (2017)
- Howard County Housing Opportunities Master Plan (2021)

Projects Funded with State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

To date, Howard County has allocated over \$23 million to the following initiatives using FRF to promote a strong, equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and address pressing community needs.

Supporting County Schools, Students, and Educators | \$10.9 Million

Investing in HCPSS educators and school bus drivers and expanding school-based mental health services to all public schools in Howard County.

- ✓ **FRF Survey respondents** strongly support investing in educators and school bus drivers, and dedicating resources to schools and school-based mental health programs for students and educators.
- ✓ **Website comments** strongly support providing financial assistance to frontline workers and expanding mental health programming for youth.
- ✓ **Health Assessment Survey** results support expanding mental health services for children and youth.
- ✓ **LCB Community Plan** advocates for funding mental and behavioral health programs that support children.

Housing Stability Program | \$2 Million

Providing grants to homeowners to prevent foreclosures.

- ✓ **FRF Survey respondents** strongly support dedicating resources toward housing needs.
- ✓ **HoCo Rise Collaborative** identifies housing as one of five critical areas of need and recommends increasing initiatives that keep residents in permanent housing.
- ✓ **Housing Opportunities Master Plan** supports the creation of programs that encourage housing stability.
- ✓ **Website comments** support housing projects.

Public Safety Initiative | \$1.5 Million

Funding the County's body-worn camera program.

- ✓ **FRF Survey respondents** support expanding community policing and increasing public safety.

Investing in Health Care, Frontline Workers, Services, and Programming | \$7.9 Million

Supporting Howard County General Hospital, Howard County Health Department, and frontline County employees, and expanding community-based mental health services and COVID-19 testing resources.

- ✓ **FRF Survey respondents** strongly support funding COVID-19 testing, prevention, and protective efforts, as well as mental health services and outreach programs.
- ✓ **Website comments** reveal that mental health is a leading priority of residents.
- ✓ **HoCo Rise Collaborative** lists COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts as crucial to the County's ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ **Health Assessment Survey** results support improving and expanding mental health services.

Industry Support for Tourism, Small Business, and Nonprofit Organizations | \$826,000

Providing funding to the tourism industry and assistance to small businesses and nonprofit organizations.

- ✓ **FRF Survey respondents** strongly support investing in small businesses, nonprofits, and impacted industries, such as the tourism industry.
- ✓ **HoCo Rise Collaborative** recommends supporting local businesses, industries, and nonprofits by providing the support and resources needed to thrive.
- ✓ **EDA Strategic Plan** supports the prioritization and retention of existing businesses and industries in the County.
- ✓ **LCB Community Plan** supports increased collaboration among government and nonprofit organizations.
- ✓ **Website comments** support investments in industries negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional Projects in Development

As Howard County continues to respond to COVID-19 and its myriad impacts, additional projects have been identified for consideration for funding with State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Support for Child Care Industry

Funding to attract child care staff, expand and support existing child care businesses, encourage the opening of new child care centers, and provide child care scholarships to qualifying families.

- ✓ **FRF Survey respondents** call for expanding funding to support child care providers and families in need of child care in Howard County.
- ✓ **HoCo Rise Collaborative** identifies child care as one of five critical areas of need and recommends increasing the availability of affordable, quality child care.
- ✓ **Website comments** support increasing the availability of and support to child care providers.
- ✓ **LCB Community Plan** advocates for funding for improving early education access and options.

Prenatal Care Program

Subsidizing the cost of prenatal care for uninsured mothers.

- ✓ **FRF Survey respondents** support improving access to health care services.
- ✓ **Heath Assessment Survey** results support improving access to affordable health care.
- ✓ **LCB Community Plan** recommends expanding access to affordable and quality behavioral health care.

Broadband Expansion Project

Expanding cable television and internet services to an underserved community in the County.

- ✓ **FRF Survey respondents** support increasing and expanding the availability of internet for residents.
- ✓ **HoCo Rise Collaborative** recommends providing targeted support to close the digital divide and address the need for access to online learning, work, and services.

Live Where You Work Program

Providing rental assistance to qualifying employees in downtown Columbia to allow residents to live where they work.

- ✓ **FRF Survey respondents** strongly support affordable housing initiatives.
- ✓ **HoCo Rise Collaborative** supports the implementation of affordable living plans in Howard County.
- ✓ **Housing Opportunities Master Plan** supports increasing the amount of housing that serves low- and moderate-income households.
- ✓ **Website comments** support affordable housing initiatives.

Food Assistance Programs

Distributing food to communities, supplying food pantries, and providing grants to partners in the food bank network.

- ✓ **FRF Survey respondents** support funding food assistance programs.
- ✓ **HoCo Rise Collaborative** recognizes food access as critical to long-term recovery in Howard County.
- ✓ **LCB Community Plan** recommends increasing access to food to all Howard County residents.

Utility Assistance Program

Providing utility assistance to households in Howard County.






- ✓ **FRF Survey respondents** support funding utility relief programs.
- ✓ **HoCo Rise Collaborative** supports the implementation of housing support programs.
- ✓ **Housing Opportunities Master Plan** supports the creation of programs that encourage housing stability and affordability in Howard County.
- ✓ **Website comments** support projects designed to provide utility assistance to homeowners.

Stay Connected!

- Website: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/public-information/contact-us>
- Phone Directory: 410-313-2022

Summary of Prioritization of Projects Identified through Community Engagement

In determining how best to distribute ARPA funds, Howard County is guided by the feedback received through a robust community engagement process designed to hear directly from County residents, key stakeholders, and organizations about how funding should be allocated. This summary highlights the support identified for each of the County's priority initiatives.

	State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Survey	County Website	Health Assessment Survey	HoCo Rise Collaborative Report	Community Plan	Strategic Plan	Housing Opportunities Master Plan
Schools, Education, and Students \$10.9 Million							
Health Care, Frontline Workers, Services, and Programming \$7.9 Million							
Housing Stability Program \$2 Million							
Supporting Industries and Businesses \$826,000							
Public Safety Initiative \$1.5 Million							
Utility Assistance Program							
Support for Child Care Industry							
Broadband Expansion Project							
Live Where You Work Program							
Food Assistance Programs							
Prenatal Care Program			