

Jackson County, Missouri

Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2021 Report as of August 31, 2021

Executive Summary

Jackson County, Missouri is a large diverse county located in west central Missouri. It is the second most populous county in the state of Missouri with just over 717,000 residents (2020 US Census). Jackson County received \$122.6 million in federal CARES Act funding in 2020 to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Those dollars were broadly allocated in a funding allocation of 1/3 of the funds to the incorporated cities within Jackson County to address concerns and needs of those communities caused by the pandemic. Another 1/3 of the funds were used by Jackson County to shore up the public safety health net by directly supporting our public hospitals and federal qualified health centers. The final 1/3 of funds were used to support the area school districts as well as the public health needs and operating and public safety needs of Jackson County. Jackson County continues to experience the full public health and economic impact from COVID-19 and plans to use American Recovery Funds to help mitigate that ongoing impact.

- As of August 25, 2021, the Kansas City Region reported 193,842 total cases, an increase from 179,575 total cases reported on August 6, 2021. On the same day, the Kansas City Region reported 2,608 total deaths from COVID-19, an increase from 2,457 total deaths from COVID-19 reported on August 6, 2021.
- As of August 25, 2021, Eastern Jackson County reported 34,923 total cases and 431 total deaths from COVID-19, up from 31,892 total cases and 388 deaths from COVID-19 on August 6, 2021.
- In Eastern Jackson County, the 7-day case rate per 100,000 persons was 306.06 per 100,000 on August 25, 2021. This remains three-times higher than the upper threshold of “High” classification defined by the CDC.
- Of the total population in Eastern Jackson County, 42.6% of residents have completed their vaccination series as of August 25, 2021, an increase of 2.1% over August 6, 2021.
- On August 25, 2021, the Jackson County Health Department received report of six hospitals in Jackson County reporting under 5% capacity to accept new patients.

Jackson County proposes to use the \$136,551,645 in American Recovery Program funds provided by the Federal government for the following purposes:

\$28.5 million to support ongoing public health response and recovery needs.

\$88 million for revenue replacement.

\$20 million to mitigate negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency.

Total of \$136.5 million.

Expenditure Category: Public Health \$28.5 million

Jackson County has incurred significant costs associated with responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that these costs will continue for a significant period of time. An estimated \$28.5 million of American Recovery Program funds will be used by Jackson County to continue our COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts as well as providing capital improvements to county Health Department facilities.

- Approximately \$16.5 million will be used by Jackson County to continue our expanded operations of the Jackson County Health Department. This will employ supplemental staff to continue our daily testing, contact tracing, and vaccination efforts for Jackson County residents. This funding will support these expanded operations through the end of 2023.
- Approximately \$5 million will be used by Jackson County to equip and improve a new Jackson County Health Department to provide adequate office, laboratory, testing and vaccination space for pandemic response.
- Approximately \$2 million will be used by Jackson County to continue to provide equipment such as PPE as well as ongoing COVID-19 testing for county associates.
- Approximately \$5 million will be used by Jackson County to perform health outreach to disadvantaged communities who are seeing lower than average vaccination participation and higher than average rates of COVID-19 infections. Funding for this effort will allow this outreach to continue into mid-2023.

Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement \$88 million

Jackson County incurred approximately \$22 million loss in general revenue from 2019 to 2020. That revenue loss is projected to continue through at least 2024. Jackson County proposes to use \$88 million of its American Recovery Program Funds for revenue replacement. These funds will be used to ensure continuity of operations for all county programs at pre-pandemic levels. This will also ensure that all collective bargaining agreements for all county associates are honored throughout the period to maximize staff retention and minimize any service disruption that occurs due to employee attrition.

Expenditure Category: Mitigate Negative Economic Impact of COVID-19 in the Community \$20 million

Jackson County will continue to solicit proposals to address needs that arise throughout our communities. Funding will be directed to support needs in our most disadvantaged communities and small business. It is these same disadvantaged communities and small businesses that are suffering the most negative impact from the effects of COVID-19. The County will also continue aid to not-for-profit and educational organizations throughout the county and who are best positioned to support the long-term needs of Jackson County residents. Additional areas of support will also include the following:

- Child Care. Grants will cover eligible expenses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal of helping early child care professionals stay in business and making child care more affordable for families.
- Behavioral/Mental Health. The grants will allow Jackson County to provide comprehensive community mental health services and address needs and gaps in existing treatment services for those with severe mental health conditions.