

Kalamazoo County **Recovery Plan**

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2025 Report

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Kalamazoo County Government recognizes the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had within our community and the historic opportunity State, and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide to address that impact. When Treasury released the Interim Final Rule in May 2021, Kalamazoo County Government staff began the considered process of participating in a variety of webinars hosted by the White House, National Association of Counties, State of Michigan, and the Government Finance Officers Association to gain a thorough knowledge of the eligible uses of these funds and the corresponding reporting requirements. Kalamazoo County Government received our first deposit of \$25,742,981.50 at the end of June 2021, its second deposit mid-2022, and presentations to the Board of Commissioners, which outlined important planning information, began in July 2021.

After securing the funds, staff worked to develop a draft grant application process that allowed the community, County departments, and other municipalities to apply for these funds. The preliminary results of that work were presented to the Board of Commissioners in August of 2021 for their feedback. Additionally, a community feedback session regarding proposed use of the funds was held on August 24, 2021.

Kalamazoo County Government developed a comprehensive grant process which incorporated questions to ensure that equity and community engagement were considered during the scoring and funding selection process. The grant application process opened on February 28, 2022 and closed on April 29, 2022. The Board of Commissioners has formed several sub-committees to review the submitted applications and make recommendations to the full board for funding consideration. Kalamazoo County Government is committed to a collaborative, transparent process that will address the negative impact of COVID-19 in our community.

Uses of Funds

Early discussions with the Board of Commissioners outlined the need to explore uses that support public health, including addressing community violence issues and mental health, broadband infrastructure, education assistance, premium pay for essential workers, revenue losses that occurred in 2020, and those that may arise in future years.

As staff worked to develop a comprehensive grant application process, the Board of Commissioners considered and approved the following use of funds to support internal needs as well as administrative costs:

- Gun Violence Intervention/Prevention
- Board of Commissioners Chambers Upgrades
- Clerk/Register of Deeds Software Management System
- Essential Work Premium Payments

- Weather-Related Disaster Relief for Municipalities and Individuals

After the grant application process was closed at the end of the April, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners formed several sub-committees to review the grant applications received in order to prioritize the requests received to support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. At the time of this report, the final decisions related to the funding of the submitted applications has not occurred.

Kalamazoo County is also eligible for Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds through ERA1 and ERA2 funding. These funds have been flowing through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority with three local service providers, Housing Resources Inc, Integrated Services of Kalamazoo, and Open Doors facilitating the application and disbursement process. At the end of July 2021, the three service providers had assisted 1,365 families and spent about \$7.5 million in rental and utility assistance.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners has established equity, diversity and inclusion as a top priority for our County. During the development of the grant application process and scoring matrix, the Board of Commissioners outlined the beginning steps for ensuring equitable outcomes will be realized. As the Board of Commissioners selects submitted grant projects to be funded, the feedback received from the community as well as required qualitative and quantitative data will be utilized to monitor our equity goals.

Community Engagement

Kalamazoo County Government has received some community feedback through the public comment portion of our Board of Commissioners meetings. A community feedback session was also held in August of 2021. This session utilized dialogue with the community along with virtual polling information. At the same time, an online survey was released for those unable to attend. As part of the grant application process, questions were incorporated to focus on the need for community feedback in both the development of programming as well as the results. As the Board of Commissioners begin to select projects for funding, it is our expectation that community feedback remain a central theme throughout this process.

Labor Practices

At this time, Kalamazoo County invested in a variety of capital infrastructure projects outlined for county-owned facilities, county parks, and community projects, such as water/sewer/broadband and roads. Kalamazoo County required strong labor standards to

promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects while also supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers.

Use of Evidence

During the development of the grant application process and scoring matrix, the Board of Commissioners outlined the beginning steps for use of evidence-based interventions and/or program evaluations. As the Board of Commissioners selects submitted grant projects to be funded, the data provided will detail how this data was utilized to support those efforts.

Performance Report

During the development of the grant application process and scoring matrix, the Board of Commissioners outlined the beginning steps for use of performance reporting. As the Board of Commissioners selects submitted grant projects to be funded, the data provided will detail how this data was utilized to measure the results of individual projects.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Gun Violence Intervention/Prevention

Funding amount: 1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- The County will partner with the City of Kalamazoo to identify intervention and prevention strategies to combat the increasing gun violence in our City and County. Potential programmatic ideas being explored include creating more opportunities for youth programming, working through athletics like youth football to reach youth, exploring ways to reach youth not involved in athletics, providing funding to small businesses to mentor youth and offering gun safety items and training.
- This project has not started.

Use of Evidence

- Not applicable as this funding was allocated under the category of Provision of Government Services.

Performance Report

- Not applicable as this funding was allocated under the category of Provision of Government Services.

Board of Commissioners Chambers Upgrade

Funding amount: 99,650

Project Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- The project will fund upgrades to the Board of Commissioners chambers in order to facilitate the ability for residents to participate either in person or remotely in County board meetings. started.

Use of Evidence

- Not applicable.

Performance Report

- Not applicable.

Clerk/Register of Deeds Software Management System

Funding amount: 145,000

Project Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- Funding will support a software upgrade to replace obsolete point of service software utilized by the Office of the Clerk/Register of Deeds. The new software includes a self-service feature which will allow individuals to obtain vital record documents completely online.

Use of Evidence

- Not applicable.

Performance Report

- Not applicable.

ARPA Consultants (Guidehouse)

Funding amount: \$537,319

Project Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- Funding to support the use of consultants and software systems to communicate with public regarding ARPA spending efforts, administer ARPA grant program, assist with revenue replacement calculations and ensure allocations meet the federal government's specifications.

Use of Evidence

- Not applicable.

Performance Report

- Not applicable.

County Employee Essential Work Premium Payment

Funding amount: \$8,820,404.69

Project Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- Funding was provided for two essential work premium pay programs. Program one provided a one-time payment for current and retired County staff in the amount of \$13.00 per hour for the first 77 hours of essential work premium pay not to exceed \$1,000. Program two provided a one-time payment at a rate of \$3.00 per hour for every hour beyond 77 hours for current and retired employees not to exceed \$7,500. Program two also provided a one-time payment at a rate of \$3.00 per hour for each hour worked for separated employees not to exceed \$7,500.

Use of Evidence

- Not applicable.

Performance Report

- Not applicable.

Other County Transformational Projects

Funding amount: \$ 16,236,026.31

Project Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- Funding in this category supports funding to maintain aging critical infrastructure to ensure government is able to remain resilient in the future in the event another pandemic or emergency is declared.

Use of Evidence

- Not applicable.

Performance Report

- Not applicable.

Transformational Community Projects

Funding amount: \$24,647,563

Project Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- Funding in this category supports community non-profit agencies and other units of local government funding to maintain aging critical infrastructure to ensure their entities are able to remain resilient in the future in the event another pandemic or emergency is declared. A large portion of these agencies and units of local government provide, will provide, or expanding services offered to ensure water/sewer/broadband infrastructure is hardened and community needs are met going forward.
- This category also leveraged ARPA funds to provide disaster relief financial assistance and/or services for those affected by the May 7, 2024, tornadoes. FEMA denied federal assistance for Kalamazoo County.

Use of Evidence

- Not applicable.

Performance Report

- Not applicable.