

Kane County- Illinois

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2021 Report
August 31, 2021



KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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Kane County – Illinois
2021 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Like most counties, Kane County and its residents suffered from the outbreak of COVID-19. At its worst, the County experienced 17 percent unemployment. At least one in nine residents have been infected with COVID-19, and more than 800 residents have died from a COVID-19 infection. The County continues to seek ways to help residents recover from the physical and economic devastation of the ongoing pandemic.

Kane County is intent on pursuing data-based approaches to developing strategies that will ensure equitable outcomes for target populations, industries, sectors and/or specific businesses or agencies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes obtaining quantitative data, as well as qualitative data through stakeholder engagement plans, to articulate goals and target populations.

Kane County is also dedicated to the following:

- Developing stakeholder engagement plans to seek input from a diverse representation of constituents, community-based organizations and communities, themselves;
- Identifying evaluation criteria as an essential component of program development;
- Defining key performance indicators that will enable measurement of outcomes for each program; and
- Developing systems to track progress toward each goal.

Kane County faces unique challenges, as well as opportunities, in serving diverse populations spanning rural and urban communities. Most residents live in the metropolitan eastern third of the County. Residents in the rest of the County live in more rural settings. Serving the needs of all residents can cause logistical complications. However, Kane County is exploring partnerships with towns, cities, and other non-governmental entities to overcome these challenges and ensure equitable use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) money.

Uses of Funds

The Kane County Board (County Board) voted to accept SLFRF money on April 13, 2021. The County Board then created the American Rescue Plan Committee (Committee) to ensure the funds are spent in a responsible way that will have the greatest impact within the community.

The County Board is committed to supporting projects that promote a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. The County undertook one major project using SLFRF funds for the reporting period. The project falls under Expense Category 1.1, Public Health, COVID-19 Vaccination. The County also began planning for how to use SLFRF money to administer the program at large. That planning falls under Expense Category 7.1, Administrative, Administrative Expenses.

Public Health (Expense Category 1)

As vaccines for COVID-19 were made available to the general public, Kane County initially arranged for pop-up and drive-through vaccination clinics. The County knew the temporary approach was not sustainable. The County Board then approved the use of SLFRF money to support four mass vaccination clinics, one of which remains a more permanent, state-of-the-art facility in a heavily populated area that will be funded through at least November 2021.

Clinics were located throughout the northern and southern regions of the County in population centers. Special attention was paid to ensuring equitable access to the clinics by communities of color and the economically disadvantaged.

The largest clinic was initially opened in March 2021. It operated six days a week and was available outside of normal business hours to support those who could not afford to take or be granted time off from their jobs. Starting June 30, 2021, the site shifted operations to two days a week, including one weekend day. Additionally, Kane County partnered with Pace bus service to offer free transportation to and from vaccine clinics.

Negative Economic Impacts (Expense Category 2)

Not applicable for the reporting period.

Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (Expense Category 3)

Not applicable for the reporting period.

Premium Pay (Expense Category 4)

Not applicable for the reporting period.

Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (Expense Category 5)

Not applicable for the reporting period.

Revenue Replacement (Expense Category 6)

Not applicable for the reporting period.

Administrative (Expense Category 7)

As the Committee sought meaningful and impactful ways to use SLFRF money to support Kane County, it quickly became apparent that professional staffing to aid in administering the funds was needed. The Committee initiated a procurement process to hire a program manager to support projects and the Committee internally, along with an outside firm to manage administrative tasks associated with the funds. The hiring process was ongoing at the close of the reporting period.

Funds were allocated for an administrative assistant for the Committee, but the position was not filled, and funds were not expended for the position, during the reporting period.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The Kane County Board (County Board) formed a committee dedicated to developing and implementing plans for using SLFRF funds made available through the ARPA. The American Rescue Plan Committee (Committee) met twice during the reporting period ending July 31, 2021. In that time, the Committee reaffirmed its intent to include equitable outcomes for target populations, industries, sectors and/or specific businesses or agencies affected by the COVID-

19 pandemic in its decision-making process. This includes obtaining qualitative and quantitative data through stakeholder engagement plans to articulate goals and target populations.

By July 31, 2021, the Committee and County Board approved spending SLFRF money on mass vaccination clinics. The location of these clinics, along with the approach to their promotion, were directly influenced by the County's desire to serve its communities of color and the economically disadvantaged.

As mentioned in the Uses of Funds section (Page 4 under the Public Health subheading), clinics were located throughout the County in population centers in accessible buildings. The County ensured equitable access to the clinics by supporting three of the four clinics in the areas of the County with the lowest median family income. Those same three clinics were in areas with a high Hispanic/Latino population, when compared to the rest of the County. The clinic located in Elgin was adjacent to zip codes with large numbers of Housing Choice Voucher Program (formerly known as Section 8 housing) residents. Bilingual volunteers and sign language interpreters helped to staff all four of the vaccination clinics.

No other projects funded by ARPA were approved during the reporting period. The County Board and the Committee are committed to ensuring equity is prioritized during the following stages of developing ARPA-funded projects:

- Setting goals;
- Raising awareness of programs;
- Ensuring access to programs and services; and
- Measuring and documenting outcomes.

The Committee will explore goals and programs related to addressing negative economic impacts (Expense Category 2) on traditionally marginalized communities and providing services to disproportionately impacted communities (Expense Category 3) as it moves forward.

Community Engagement

Kane County broadly advertised the availability of the mass COVID-19 vaccination clinics to the community through a variety of news media, social media, videos, and newsletters. Printed materials were also distributed through libraries, businesses, and government buildings. The County translated advertisements and other literature about the clinics to Spanish as part of the outreach effort to raise awareness among the County's Hispanic/Latino communities, which accounts for 32 percent of the County's population.

Extensive outreach activities are intended to continue in the next reporting periods. The American Rescue Plan Committee (Committee) also authorized the use of SLFRF money to hire a program manager (see Use of Funds on page 4 under the Administrative subheading). In addition to other responsibilities, the program manager is intended to plan and coordinate town halls and other ongoing, inclusive stakeholder engagement activities to obtain a variety of promising ideas that are eligible under SLFRF regulations and meet the emerging needs of Kane County residents. The Committee is also discussing plans for an online submission portal for feedback, community needs, and project ideas. The online portal would allow residents who could not attend a town hall to be heard and inform the decision-making process.

Labor Practices

Kane County did not use SLFRF funds for any infrastructure projects during this reporting period.

Use of Evidence

Kane County did not use SLFRF funds for evidence-based interventions or on the evaluation of projects. The Kane County Board and American Rescue Plan Committee are committed to developing key performance indicators and evaluating future projects.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination	\$885,183.16	\$885,183.16

A Project Inventory is provided on the following page.

Project Inventory

Project [0001]: Mass COVID-19 Vaccinations

Funding amount: \$885,183.16

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1

Project overview

- The project to offer mass COVID-19 vaccination clinics was established at a time when COVID-19 vaccines in Illinois were being distributed solely by the state and county departments of public health. Kane County started a mass vaccination campaign to ensure eligible residents had the ability to receive a vaccine if desired.
- The Kane County Board began the process of establishing mass vaccination clinics at its March 9, 2021 meeting. Subsequent to the receipt of SLFRF money, the County approved SLFRF funds to cover expenses associated with mass vaccination clinics. The program ran for the full duration of the reporting period.
- The primary delivery mechanism for this project was four vaccination clinics located throughout the County.
- Partners for this project included the Illinois Department of Public Health, the City of Batavia, the City of Aurora, the City of Elgin, the Village of Carpentersville, Cook County, the Illinois National Guard, Pace Suburban Bus, Jewel-Osco, various health care systems and 123 Medical Reserve Corp volunteers who donated a collective 4,066 hours of their time.
- The intended outcome of the project was to deliver a COVID-19 vaccine to as many residents as possible, with a focus on ensuring equitable distribution.
- Project URL: <https://www.kanevax.org/>

Use of Evidence

- The goal of the project was to deliver a COVID-19 vaccine to as many residents as possible, with a focus on ensuring equitable distribution, ease of access and availability. SLFRF money was not used for evidence-based interventions in this project.

Performance Report

- The Kane County Health Department delivered and, with the partners listed above, administered 168,997 COVID-19 vaccination doses for the reporting period.
- The first mass vaccination clinic operated by the County administered 96,955 vaccine shots during the reporting period, by far the most of any of the four clinics.
- The three clinics located near communities of color and economically disadvantaged populations administered a combined 52,412 vaccine shots during the reporting period.