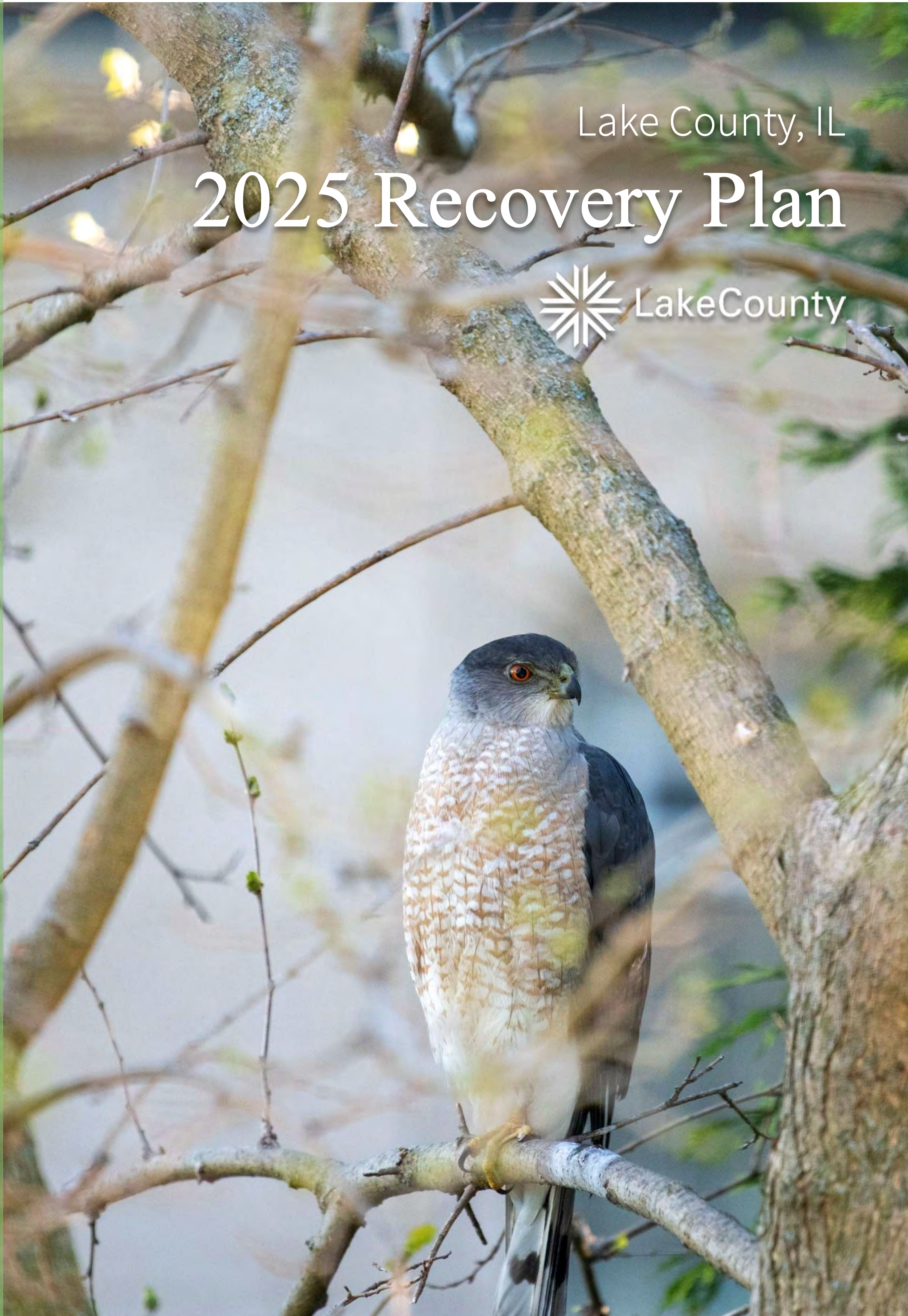
Lake County, IL

2025 Recovery Plan

LakeCounty



Lake County, IL

2025 Recovery Plan

NOTE: This document will be updated as additional decisions and allocations are provided by the Lake County Board.

Updated: July 31, 2025

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In 2021, Lake County received $135.2 million in direct local recovery assistance through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Since that time, the Lake County Board has remained committed to using this funding to not only meet urgent needs in the wake of the COVID-19 public health emergency but also to invest in meaningful, long-term projects and initiatives that will benefit the county for decades to come.

We are proud to share that Lake County's portion of ARPA funds has been allocated through a comprehensive and equitable spending plan. From the beginning, the Board focused on addressing immediate challenges by supporting food assistance programs, PPE distribution, emergency housing support and other direct services to those most impacted by the pandemic. These early investments helped stabilize our communities when they needed it most.

Now, longer-term projects are coming to life that support the Lake County Board's strategic vision. These include investments on enhancing public safety, economic opportunities, infrastructure, sustainability, and building healthy, inclusive and resilient communities.

Lake County took a collaborative, community-informed approach to allocating ARPA funds. By engaging with residents, community organizations and local partners, we ensured that investments would not only help those in greatest need but also improve quality of life for everyone across the county.

Thanks to thoughtful planning and flexible implementation, Lake County's ARPA investments are already making a difference. And as more long-term projects reach completion, the impact of these investments will continue to grow, strengthening our communities and creating lasting value for generations to come.

Together with our partners and residents, Lake County is turning recovery into opportunity.

Regards,

Sandy Hart
Lake County Board Chair

Paul Frank
Lake County Finance and Administrative Committee Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, Lake County was allocated approximately $135.2 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The County is committed to using the funds in alignment with guidance put forth by the United States Treasury through the establishment of a special committee dedicated to the use of these federal funds in response and recovery to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Lake County's Strategic Plan, and committee-established guiding tenets direct the use of the funding in Lake County and are prioritized based on a number of scoring criteria.

All funds have been allocated to date towards numerous programs and projects that support response and recovery in the areas of:

- Community & Household Assistance
- Public Health
- Business & Economic Development
- Infrastructure
- Improvement of County Operations

Several community driven external programs and projects were also funded following a public engagement period and needs assessment.

ARPA PROJECTS IN ACTION

The first wellness center dedicated to Veterans, First Responders and their families in Lake County has opened. Project [230031]

Opening in summer 2025, the state-of-the-art Lake County Regional Operations and communications Facility will serve as a central hub to strengthen 9-1-1 services and emergency response across Lake County. Project [230019]

Through the Digital Growth Initiative, Lake County is working to make sure everyone has the technology and skills they need to take part in today's world. Project [230015/230016]

Lake Michigan Water is being connected to the Pekara water system, bringing this long-term, reliable source of water to more than 3,700 Public Works customers. Project [220018].

A new mixed-use development will serve as the headquarters for Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) and provide 32 affordable senior rental units in Lake County. Project [220001]

The Wauconda Fire District was able to purchase life-saving cardiac monitors and automated external defibrillators (AEDs), and support a Mobile Integrated Healthcare-Community Paramedicine program. Project [230029/230030]

In partnership with local communities, Lake County is planting 4,000 trees countywide to enhance green spaces and improve environmental health. Project [230021]

ARPA funds has allowed CASA Lake County to be able to maintain key staff positions to continue serving approximately 200 additional children in the child welfare system. Project [230025]

BACKGROUND & USE OF FUNDS

In 2020, Lake County received approximately $120 million of CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds. Programs were quickly implemented in immediate response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. A number of projects were implemented across a variety of programmatic areas. This included CARES funding allocations for use in:

1. Rental Support and Assistance
2. Business and Economic Assistance
3. Municipal and Local Essential Service
4. Public Health Support
5. PPE Stockpile & Distribution
6. County-wide Essential Services

These CARES Act funds were exhausted in early 2021. The County subsequently received approximately $136 million of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA Funds) and initially allocated portions of these funds to continue direct response-related programs that were initiated with CARES Act funds. This includes programs related to Food Insecurity, Homeless Food Support, and PPE Storage & Distribution related costs.

To guide the use of the funds, the Lake County Board established a special committee on COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery and Investment that works with staff on planning and executing programs and projects to support the response and recovery from the public health emergency.

Given the allowable time for use of funds, the availability and use of other funding sources, and the rapidly changing environment with respect to the pandemic, Lake County has allocated funds for numerous projects that align with the County's Strategic Plan and will ensure long-term recovery from the pandemic. Multiple presentations have been provided to the County's Finance & Administrative Committee with background on the fund, eligible use of funds, and how the County will align our fund use with the County's Strategic Plan. The Finance & Administrative Committee has provided consensus on Guiding Tenets regarding the use of the funds:

1. Investments will align with the County's Strategic Plan.
2. The County will evaluate use of ARPA against all other funding sources and target ARPA funds on investments that are not eligible for other funding.
3. The County will focus on regional investments, especially in critical infrastructure, which are non-recurring, targeted, and provide long term benefits.
4. Uses of ARPA funds should take into consideration operation costs for future years, post-ARPA, to ensure sustainability for any new programs or services.
5. The County will coordinate with, and be cognizant of, other partner local governments in and surrounding Lake County in order to develop plans and use funds most effectively.
6. County Administration will be the central point of contact and coordinator for requests and discussions related to proposed projects and planning.
7. Projects selected will consider:
    a) Equitable outcomes and underserved communities
    b) Community input
    c) Labor requirements established in the compliance documents
    d) Appropriate internal controls for responsible implementation

Similar to a structure employed with CARES Funding, the County established a number of task forces charged with providing needed recommendations and overseeing funded projects and programs. Task forces included (1) Community & Household Assistance, (2) Public Health, (3) Infrastructure, (4) Economic & Business Investment, and (5) County Operations Investment.

Task forces compiled and submitted requests based on determined needs to the County Administrator's Office. The requests were reviewed and prioritized for funding recommendation based on several criteria that ensures alignment with the County's guiding tenets and US Treasury eligibility guidance. Scoring criteria that established priorities and recommendations included (1) Equity, (2) Evidence Basis, (3) Level of impact vs. effort, (4) Fiscal Sustainability, and (5) Level of Risk.

What follows is a broad overview of how ARPA funds are being used to foster an equitable recovery from the pandemic and economic downturn throughout the county.

a. ***Public Health (Eligibility Category 1)***
   The use of ARPA funds to support Public Health has been primarily focused on improving the ability of local emergency responders to deliver services and providing specific communities across the county with improved access to affordable mental health services. Funds have also been invested in technology improvements for the County's Health Department.
b. ***Negative Economic Impacts (Eligibility Category 2)***
   The use of ARPA funds to relieve negative economic impacts has been focused in large part on developing the programs and facilities needed to offer jobs training programs that will grow talent pools for local employers and increase the economic resiliency of many Lake County households. A strong emphasis was also placed on providing support to the socioeconomically disadvantaged through affordable housing projects, digital literacy programs, and food banks.
c. ***Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (Eligibility Category 3)***
   The use of ARPA funds to improve Public Sector Capacity has been focused on providing government entities (Lake County Public Health Department and Lake County Government) with the tools necessary to improve service delivery.
d. ***Premium Pay (Eligibility Category 4)***
   A premium pay program has been developed in the County focused on providing one time bonuses to our front line employees that were completing essential work during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.
e. ***Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (Eligibility Category 5)***
   A number of water improvement and waste treatment update projects have been funded at our treatment plants to support a number of communities in the County. A Countywide Broadband Plan is also being developed focusing on providing a path for all residents to obtain affordable, accessible, and fast broadband services.

A summary of projects and programs is included in the project inventory section of this report.

One project of highlight, Lake County launched the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance (FERA) Program on April 5, 2021. The FERA program provided low-income renters who experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic with up to 12 months of assistance for both rent and utilities, including internet. Applicants worked with one of 15 providers, comprised of Townships and Community Non-Profits, to approve and processes applications. Lake County stopped accepting FERA applications on June 30, 2022. At the same time the Lake County Eviction Prevention Program (LCEPP) was launched, allowing residents currently in court with a pending eviction to apply to receive assistance. Lake County launched the Lake County Retal Assistance (LCRA) Program on October 15, 2022 and ran two application rounds. Applicants worked with one of six provider to approve and processes application, households were able to receive up to six months of rental assistance. Lake County received $20,646,762.50 in ERA1 funding under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which was enacted on December 27, 2020 and $16,336,816.90 in ERA2 funding under the American Rescue Plan Act or 2021, which was enacted on March 11, 2021. In response to the success of the program and the continued needs in the community, Lake County was awarded an additional $425,767.74 in reallocated ERA1 funds and $108,167.66 in reallocated ERA2 funds from the US Treasury. Additionally, Lake County invested $6,000,000 in ARPA funds in the LCRA and LCEPP programs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The County launched its community engagement plan in June, 2022. Public input was collected through various means over the course of two months. The public had opportunities to provide input via an online survey that was available for the entirety of the engagement period, comment cards drafted and provided to County staff at 2 in-person events, and in the form of verbal discussion at the County's two in-person events.

The online survey was released and communicated to the public via various means that included press releases, and social media bursts. The survey requests feedback on prioritization of future uses of ARPA funds, and requests program or project ideas and priority needs in the community in which the individual resides. The survey was closed, and results compiled at the end of the public engagement period in August, 2022.

The County also hosted two in-person public engagements outside of government facilities on opposite ends of the County. One was held in July, 2022 in Waukegan, IL, and the other was held in Round Lake, IL at community and cultural centers. A preliminary welcome presentation was provided to all attendees with background on current allocations, ARPA background, and information as to what the County is looking for with next steps. The engagements were station based – each task force was represented at the event with a summary of some projects already funded to answer questions and discuss community needs with attendees. Comment cards were available to all attendees to leave with feedback, input, and ideas. All presentations, materials, comment cards, and handouts were available in English and Spanish. Interpreters were on hand to support all discussions.

One virtual townhall-type session was also held that functioned as a listening session to community members and organizations. Similar to the in-person events, a welcome presentation with educational information and next steps was provided followed by question/answer session and opportunity to place feedback and input in the chat function of the virtual environment.

Following the in-person and virtual engagements, the online survey was closed. All input in the various forms was compiled and presented to the ARPA special committee and communicated to the public. Lake County received 1,630 online responses and 2,049 comments with 97.5% of the responses from individuals living in Lake County. The two evening in-person sessions and one online listening session had roughly 80 individuals attend from the community, providing 90 comments.

The data was compiled and yielded Public Health/Mental Health as the top priority need in the County, followed by Community & Household Assistance, Infrastructure, and Economic Business Investment. Below is a summarization of the comments received, based on frequency:

High Frequency

- mental health programs
- gun violence prevention and public safety programs
- equity, access, or affordability to programs
- temporary housing or housing assistance for unhoused population WITH qualifiers or stipulations
- programs to assist with affordable housing
- programs related to clean drinking water/replacing water pipes
- improving sewers and flood control
- roads/transportation infrastructure
- oversight and transparency in the use of ARPA funds
- reducing programs that would reduce property taxes or send taxpayers money directly
- general programs assisting small and local business

Medium Frequency

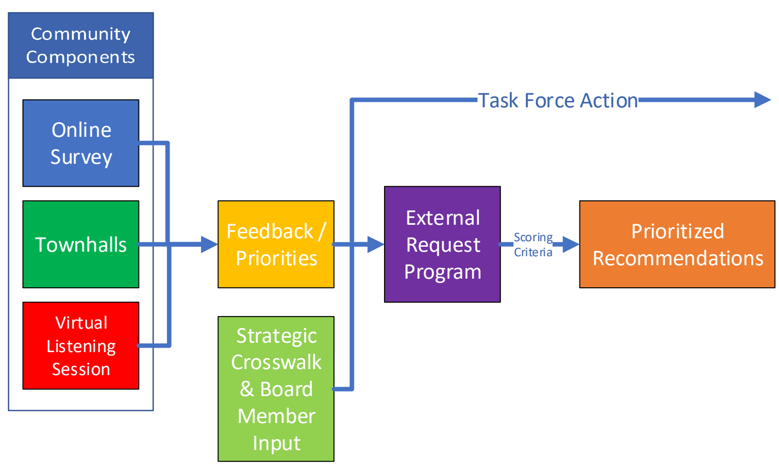
- substance abuse programs or overdose mitigation
- infrastructure programs in general
- additional pedestrian/bicycle/outdoor spaces

Low Frequency

- programs to assist with food access
- programs assisting with events in Lake County
- programs related to pandemic/COVID

Following the engagement period, the County developed an external project and program solicitation process. Applications were solicited from not-for-profits, non profits, and local units of government other than municipalities. It was stressed that the programs or services needed to be within the geographical boundaries of Lake County.

Lake County received 100 applications at a value of approximately $120M. The projects were scored based on a predetermined public rubric of the following items:



1. Impact vs. Effort (10%)
2. Project Readiness (5%)
3. County-wide Impact (15%)
4. Budget Details (10%)
5. Fiscal Sustainability (5%)
6. Leveraged Funds (5%)
7. Performance Tracking (5%)
8. Equity (10%)
9. Evidence Basis (10%)
10. Risk (5%)
11. Alignment with Public Engagement (20%)

The projects are being scored and reviewed by a 3rd party consultant. A prioritized, recommended list of externally requested projects and programs will be presented to the ARPA special committee for review. The Committee will have an opportunity to use some of the County's remaining funds to fund some of these programs and projects.

LABOR PRACTICES

Lake County launched a **Buy Local. Build Local. Work Local.** initiative in 2013 to increase the outreach and procurement opportunities for businesses located within Lake County, including women-owned businesses and minority-owned business enterprises (L/W/MBE). The overarching objective is to maximize participation from these businesses in the County's procurement process, in accordance with applicable law. The County will take all necessary and reasonable steps to assure that business enterprises defined as L/W/MBE shall have a fair opportunity to participate in County contracts. As part of its Economic Opportunity Program (EOP) commitment the County will make every effort to achieve the following objectives:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which L/W/MBEs can compete fairly for contracts by providing any necessary training and assistance in bid preparation;
3. To ensure that the County's EOP is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To establish a means for firms identifying themselves as L/W/MBEs to register for procurement opportunities and work cooperatively with contracted firms to report on measures that demonstrates the County's commitment to its EOP; and,
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of L/W/MBEs through notification of contract opportunities.

Illinois state law mandates an open and competitive bidding process and requires that publicly procured contracts be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder with no demonstrated preference based on the bidder's location, race and gender. All public works construction for contractors and subcontractors is subject to the Wage of Employees on Public Works (Prevailing Wage) Act (Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 48, Section 39s, et. seq.). Not less than the minimum wage rates as established by Lake County or State of Illinois Department of Labor shall be paid.

All infrastructure projects will be constructed using Federal, State, and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Perspective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and labors.

USE OF EVIDENCE

The strategic tenets that guide the development and selection of projects and programs funded with ARPA dollars include a requirement that all applications include a consideration of evidence basis.

Each investment is evaluated on an individual basis and is a scored criteria in the County's rubric. Applications are assessed based on the evidence basis being used to implement the requested project or program.

Lake County recognizes that the U.S. Department of Treasury requires that subrecipients whose projects are categorized in certain Expenditure Categories report whether their project is evidence based and how much of the project budget is being used to execute those evidence-based interventions. All Lake County SLFRF funded projects classified in expenditure categories that require reporting on the use of evidence are evidence based; the basis for those interventions is included in the “Use of Evidence” section of each relevant project, and the full funding amount for each intervention is devoted to evidence-based practices.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Every project or program request considered for funding requires specific key performance indicators (KPI’s) to be proposed. The KPI’s are required to be tracked quarterly and should be able to demonstrate the success of the program.

Lake County has invested in a performance report tracking software that all team members will use to enter their program KPIs on a quarterly basis for reporting purposes.

Lake County recognizes that the U.S. Department of Treasury requires that subrecipients whose projects are categorized in certain Expenditure Categories track and report on specific key project indicators (“KPIs”). As of June 30, 2022, none of the projects that would need to track and report these KPIs have begun, making the outcome for each “0.” The County is aware of all projects with required KPIs for annual and quarterly reporting and is tracking all required and additional KPIs as enumerated and described in the Performance Report section of this document.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Lake County has allocated approximately $121 million of projects and programs with the ARPA funds received. The following is a summary of the initiatives that have been allocated funding with a description, and additional information based on project type.

Community & Household Assistance Projects

PROJECTS »

Creation and Preservation of Affordable Housing in Lake County

Funding Allocated: $3,590,000

Expenditure Category: 2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Overview of Projects

- **Project [220001]: Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) – Eve B. Lee Place**
  - Funding Allocated: $1,500,000
  - The proposed project consists of the construction of a 3-story, 31,855 square foot building in the Village of Libertyville, IL. The mixed-use building will serve as the headquarters for Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) while also providing 32 units of affordable senior rental housing. The units mix will consist of (28) 1-bedroom and (4) 2-bedroom units. All the rental units will be limited to households earning less than sixty percent of the area median income, including 8- units less than thirty percent of the area median income. The office space will be occupied by CPAH and utilized to run affordable housing programming such as housing and financial counseling, down payments assistance and foreclosure prevention.
  - **Performance Report**

    Project Status: The property has been acquired, and construction has started.

Performance Measure	Phase	Expected Output/Outcome
Site Control	Deed/Ownership	9/15/2024
Financing	IHDA Closing	Sept. 2024
Plans	Village Approval	June 2024
Construction	Escrow Draws	Oct. 2024
Lease Up	Signed Leases	Oct. 2025

» **[Project [220004]: Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) – Highland Park Townhomes]()**

- Funding Allocated: $550,000
- The proposed affordable housing project consists of the new construction of 8 units. The units will be townhome style structures and are to be located at 925-937 Deerfield Rd. in the City of Highland Park on an approximate 0.5-acre property. All eight townhome units will be 3-bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms and approximately 1,600 square feet. The units will be sold via the Community Land Trust (CLT) model. Four of the units will be sold to households earning less than eighty percent of the area's median income. Four of the units are to be sold to households earning less than one hundred twenty percent of the area median income.
- **Performance Report**

  Project Status: CPAH is finalizing financing and construction is scheduled to begin the 3rd quarter 2025.

Performance Measure	Phase	Expected Output/Outcome
Site Control	PUD Approval	Nov. 2022
Financing	Closing	July 2025
Design	Permit Drawings	July 2025
Construction	Reimbursement Draws	July 2025 – May 2026
Closeout	Beneficiary Reporting	June 2026

» **[Project [220005]: Housing Opportunity Development Corporation (HODC) – Scattered Site Rental]()**

- Funding Allocated: $1,540,000
- The proposed project consists of the acquisition of seven (7) single family homes to be rehabilitated and rented to income qualified households. All the homes will be purchased from the Lake County Housing Authority (LCHA) and rented to households earning less than sixty percent of the area's median income.
- **Performance Report**

  Project Status: Housing Opportunity Development Corp. (HODC) completed the acquisition and rehabilitation of seven (7) single family homes. Each unit is being occupied by a household earning less than 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Performance Measure	Phase	Expected Output/Outcome
Site Control	Deed/ownership	Feb. 2024
Financing	HAP/Lease	Feb. 2024
Rehabilitation	Certificate of Occupancy	March 2024
Closeout	Beneficiary Reporting	April 2024

Use of Evidence

The goal of the projects is to provide affordable housing units to low-income households. Providing housing that is affordable (less than 30% of their income) is recognized by the CDC as a Social Determinant of Health. "When families have to spend a large part of their income on housing, they may not have enough money to pay for things like healthy food or health care. This is linked to increased stress, mental health problems, and an increased risk of disease."[1]

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

1st: The creation of quality income restricted units brings opportunities to lower income households who would otherwise be unable to find housing. The lack of affordable housing furthers geographic disparity and prevents equal access for low-income households

2nd: The project will serve low-income households.

PROJECT [210002] »

Food Distribution to Homeless

Funding Allocated: $227,000

Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview

In Lake County, over 80% of the homeless emergency shelter beds are provided through PADS Lake County in partnership with different host churches. When churches closed their doors in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PADS moved homeless families into hotel rooms to provide non-congregate shelter in accordance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) stated recommendations and best practices.[2] Additionally, A Safe Place, Lake County's largest domestic violence shelter, decompressed and moved households with children into hotels in accordance with HUD guidance.[3] This shift created a new need. While meals were provided at the church sites and at the site-based DV shelter, there was no ability to provide hot meals at the hotels. Community Action Partnership (CAP) is a nonprofit, human services organization providing an array of services and financial assistance to low-income residents.[4] Since 2005, CAP has operated CAP Catering, a social enterprise providing employment and culinary career opportunities.[5] In 2020, CAP agreed to leverage their catering capacity to deliver hot meals to households sheltered in hotels. Over time, CAP developed a system for meal ordering and a schedule that minimizes food waste. This activity was funded through public and private funds.

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1 Healthy People 2030. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

2 https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Non-Congregate-Approaches-to-Sheltering-for-COVID-19-Homeless-Response.pdf

3 https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html

4 https://www.caplakecounty.org/Childhood-Education.html

5 https://www.capcateringservices.com/

Use of Evidence

Providing meals in shelter reduces food insecurity and improves shelter services. People who are food insecure have adverse health outcomes. For children, food insecurity impact school achievement, physical health and behavioral problems.[6]

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

This activity supports a vulnerable population with a racial equity lens, as outlined in Treasury guidance. Households experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic are vulnerable due to their unhoused status, with an increased risk of illness from COVID-19. Black and Latinx communities are disproportionately represented in the homeless population in Lake County. While 17% of Lake County residents living in poverty are Black, 60% of people experiencing homelessness are Black.[7] Providing food assistance to those sheltering in motels would provide food assistance to those in disproportionate need and help counter the disparity of food insecurity. CAP’s program is directly targeted to allow clients using shelters across Lake County to receive sufficient nutrition while they weather the current economic crisis. Shelter residents are then less likely to result in nutrition-related illnesses, which could be a threat to their future economic stability. A program or service for which the eligibility criteria are such that the primary intended beneficiaries earn less than 60 percent of the median income for the relevant jurisdiction (e.g., State, county, metropolitan area, or other jurisdiction); or through each shelter operator’s intake process, all CAP’s clients are certified as homeless and low-income, below the 60 percent area median income.

Performance Report

Organization	CRF Code	Category	Metric	Value
Community Action Partners	CRF2101	Individuals Served	Individuals	2,561
Community Action Partners	CRF2101	Meals Provided	Meals	29,172
Community Action Partners	CRF2101	Households Served	Households	1,379

PROJECT [210001] »

Food Distribution

Funding Allocated: $2,000,000

Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview

[6] https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/child-hunger-facts
[7] https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5787/coc-analysis-tool-race-and-ethnicity/

Northern Illinois Food Bank's 60-member food pantries in Northern Illinois Food Bank's 53-member food pantries in Lake County distributed 83% of the total meals provided by the Food Bank. These pantries rely heavily on the Food Bank for nutritious food, including fresh produce, protein, dairy, and shelf-stable items. Monthly mobile markets at the College of Lake County and Cristo Rey in Waukegan serve about 500 households each, with additional markets at other community locations serving up to 250 households.

Between October 2021 and December 2023, the Food Bank utilized $2 million in ARPA funds from Lake County to distribute 2.2 million pounds of food, encompassing a variety of nutritious options. Despite a decrease in food assistance requests, rising food prices and inflation continue to challenge households. The Food Bank is ramping up outreach to ensure residents know they can access free food assistance, helping families use their limited income for other essential expenses

Use of Evidence

Generally, people who are food insecure have adverse health outcomes. For children, food insecurity impacts school achievement, physical health, and behavioral problems.[8] The Food Bank sources fresh produce and protein where possible, which studies have shown increase better health outcomes in the long-term.[9]

Racial disparities exist in food insecurity. Increasing access to food would help create more racial equity in Lake County. In 2021, USDA found that Black individuals are almost three times as likely to face hunger as white individuals, while Latino individuals are two and a half times as likely as white individuals.[10]

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

» The Northern Illinois Food Bank aims to serve 90% of food-insecure individuals in its service area by partnering with public and private institutions to provide convenient food access. Distribution methods include traditional food pantries, online pantries, and mobile markets. The Food Bank collaborates with community-based and faith-based organizations, human service agencies, and public institutions to maximize local presence and accessibility.

» Efforts include reducing unconscious bias and increasing cultural competency through training. Providing free food helps avoid the worst consequences of food insecurity and improves health outcomes, especially for those below Federal poverty guidelines. Beneficiaries can self-attest to COVID-19-induced hardship to receive assistance.

Performance Report

This project was completed in 2022.

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[8] https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger
[9] https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6765436/
[10] https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/104656/err-309.pdf?v=2013.2

Northern Illinois Food Bank	CRF2100	Food Assistance	Meals	13,182,275
Northern Illinois Food Bank	CRF2100	Food Assistance	Individuals Fed	868,559
Northern Illinois Food Bank	CRF2100	Food Assistance	Individuals Fed (unduplicated)	72,379
Northern Illinois Food Bank	CRF2100	Food Assistance	Pounds of Food	15,818,730

PROJECT [210016] »

Non-Congregate Shelter for Domestic Violence Survivors

Funding Allocated: $420,000

Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

Lake County is the third largest county in Illinois, and home to 714,342 residents (U.S. Census 2020). The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2021) predicts that one out of every three women and one out of every seven men will be a victim of domestic violence in their lifetime and one out of every three children will witness it. In a January 2022 speech, the Lake County IL State's Attorney stated that domestic violence has tripled in the county over the past 3 years. For the past two years, the County has experienced numbers of victims much higher now, as shelter has been provided to up to four times more victims and children on any given day as compared to pre-pandemic numbers of people served.

A Safe Place has operated a congregate shelter since 1978, used hotels for overflow shelter for over a decade, but during the pandemic the virus and the increased demand for shelter required A Safe Place to adapt. Just last July, 4 times more survivors/children were sheltered with basic needs addressed than pre-pandemic (from 23 to 108 people, the most ever sheltered at once in the County). Currently an average of 70-90 individuals are sheltered on any given day. Congregate sheltering was approved for 33 people, but adaption is necessary. Eight individuals are now sheltered, each in their own bedroom at the congregate shelter and use hotels (primarily extended stay suites & some traditional hotel rooms). This allows the sheltering of more people and meeting the greatly increased demand, while still following CDC, DHS, and Lake County Health Department social distancing guidelines. Hotel shelter is socially distanced communal living, with each household in their own room. Hotel sheltered clients and children can receive the same services as clients at our congregate shelter. A Safe Place has staff on-site at the hotels 6 days/week and staff are on-call 24 hours/day. ASP has a room as a staff office at each hotel, with Housing, Shelter (advocates/case managers), and Human Trafficking program located there. Staffed office hours include an "open-door policy". Clients can walk to these offices, meet with staff, and pick up basic needs (toiletries, clothing, etc.). Moreover, services provided at the hotels include: therapy, counseling, case management, art therapy, daily groups, and childcare. They can also receive legal advocacy and transportation services. Hot meals are delivered 4 days/week, with enough food given to each household to last 6 days. For the 7th day, clients are given a grocery store gift card for a store near the hotel. Shelter residents are COVID-19 tested as they rotate into and out of shelter and temperatures each shift. A Safe Place's staff are also trained COVID-19 ambassadors and have been educating shelter residents about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Use of Evidence

We anticipate serving an estimated 152 households or 228 individuals. A Safe Place has developed relationships with an extended stay hotel chain and a "regular" hotel in Lake County, IL to shelter victims of domestic violence and their minor children. The remaining $352,380 will be used to allow A Safe Place to increase the number of rooms we have available from the current 16 rooms to 35 rooms (an increase of 19 rooms), allowing us to shelter 29 more victims and children each month during the coming 8 months. These funds will be used to shelter clients and their children in hotels who are fleeing domestic violence.

Sheltering services incorporate a Coordinated Entry and assessment system that improve client outcomes through referrals to appropriate program interventions[11]. Providing shelter services in low-capacity and non-congregate settings is in accordance with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control's Guidance for Homeless Service Providers[12].

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

This activity supports a vulnerable population with a racial equity lens, as outlined in Treasury guidance. Households experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic are vulnerable due to their unhoused status, with increased risk of illness from COVID-19. Black and Latinx communities are disproportionately represented in the homeless population in Lake County. While 18% of Lake County residents living in poverty are Black, 39% of people experiencing homelessness are black.[13] Providing shelter assistance to those disproportionately impacted will help counter the disparity of housing insecurity.

A Safe Place reflects the diversity of the communities we serve as:

- 78% of clients, our CEO and 67% of the executive staff and 58% of the Board of Directors identify as female;
- 32% of clients, our CEO and 63% of executive staff identify as Latinx;
- 58% of clients identify as Latinx or Black and 68% of our staff identify as Latinx or Black; as well as 17% of Board members
- 3% of clients and 13% of Board members identify as Asian/Pacific Islander
- Before we accept people into the shelter program they must qualify for services. They must have experienced domestic violence within the past 12 months and be fleeing domestic violence with nowhere else to go to qualify for emergency shelter. The households accepted into the shelter program are, according to the McKinney Vento Act, homeless. They are low-income since the abuser typically controlled the household finances and many do not have jobs since the abuser did not allow them to earn an income.

Performance Report

This project was completed in July 2024.

A Safe Place	CRF2103	Non-congregate Shelter	Individuals Sheltered	337
A Safe Place	CRF2103	Non-congregate Shelter	Hotel/motel stays	364

- Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation): 0

[11] http://www.evidenceonhomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/evidence-page-chronic-homelessness-April-2018.pdf
[12] https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html
[13] https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5787/coc-analysis-tool-race-and-ethnicity/

» Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed: 0

PROJECT [210016] »

Non-Congregate Shelter for Homeless

Funding Allocated: $420,000

Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

PADS' traditional model of shelter presents an unsafe situation in light of the pandemic, especially for particularly vulnerable individuals. The model includes having clients board buses and vans each evening and morning and having those same individuals eat and sleep in common areas of church buildings. This exposes individuals to a high likelihood of virus transmission, while hotel shelter, which would be provided by these funds, creates a situation that is much less likely to result in virus transmission and includes several ancillary benefits. Since clients have a consistent place to sleep nightly, they are more able to navigate back to housing, maintain hygiene (access to shower), and live with greater dignity. PADS has been providing emergency shelter in Lake County for decades. Our primary shelter model involved transporting individuals to area churches during the fall/winter months. Since March 2021, PADS has primarily provided shelter in area hotels. This program includes the distribution of food, laundry supplies, mail, PPE, and the provision of case management.

PADS Lake County serves exclusively people experiencing homelessness in our hotel shelter program. Each household is screened before entry into our shelter program to verify their homeless status and determine the most appropriate interventions for the individual(s).

Use of Evidence

Sheltering services incorporate a Coordinated Entry assessment that improves client outcomes through referrals to appropriate program interventions[1]. Providing shelter services in low-capacity and non-congregate settings is in accordance with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control’s Guidance for Homeless Service Providers.[14]

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

This activity supports a vulnerable population with a racial equity lens, as outlined in Treasury guidance.[15] Households experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic are vulnerable due to their unhoused status, with increased risk of illness from COVID-19. Black and Latinx communities are disproportionately represented in the homeless population in Lake County. While 17% of Lake County residents living in poverty are Black, 60% of people experiencing homelessness are Black.[16] Providing shelter assistance to those disproportionately impacted will help counter the disparity of housing insecurity. Shelter programs allow homeless clients from across Lake County to receive temporary housing assistance while they weather the current

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[14] https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html
[15] http://www.evidenceonhomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/evidence-page-chronic-homelessness-April-2018.pdf
[16] https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5787/coc-analysis-tool-race-and-ethnicity/

economic crisis. Shelter residents are then referred to permanent housing, which is the most effective tool to reduce a return to homelessness in the future and provides the best condition for future economic stability.

The individuals we serve are presumed low/moderate income per HUD standards because they are experiencing homelessness. This is confirmed at intake prior to placement in the shelter program. Confirmation of homelessness is done via third-party confirmation if possible. Otherwise, case manager interviews and the client self-attestation are used to verify homelessness.

Performance Report

This project was completed in July 2024.

Organization	CRF Code	Category	Metric	Value
PADS Lake County	CRF2104	Non-congregate Shelter	Individuals Sheltered (Undup)	597
PADS Lake County	CRF2104	Non-congregate Shelter	Hotel/motel stays (nights)	53,730

PROJECT [210003] »

Services to Unhoused Persons

Funding Allocated: $50,000

Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

- The population being served are homeless clients, meaning they are in shelter or living in a place not meant for human habitation. They have access to housing resources, but limited eligible costs to eliminate the last barriers to moving (e.g., security deposit, application fees, and utility arrears). This fund provides a critical intervention during the final steps prior to move-in for clients without the means to pay for these costs themselves. In 2021, 44 clients were served and 65 requests were processed. The average request amount was $650 and the most common request was a security deposit followed by an application fee. This program is a vehicle to permanently house homeless families and promote a virtuous cycle where housing insecurity is reduced in Lake County.

- The Finish Line Funds exists to remove one-time barriers to housing for homeless clients in the Lake County Coordinated Entry System. This fund is operated by Catholic Charities in partnership with Lake County Community Development. Catholic Charities provides financial management of this fund while the Lake County Community Development provides assistance and communication with housing and shelter providers when creating applications. Housing providers supply fundamental housing resources necessary before seeking additional Finish Line Funds to eliminate clients' barriers to housing. Shelter providers are a vital partner in working on Finish Line Fund applications for clients that do not need a subsidy to exit shelter and can sustain rent on their own with the security deposit paid for by the Finish Line Funds. Catholic Charities processes requests that are created by housing and shelter providers with the assistance of the Lake County Community Development.

Use of Evidence

- » We served 41 clients from April 1, 2022 to November 30th, 2022. Catholic Charities will process applications and distribute funds directly to landlords, utility companies, and other vendors partnering to housing literally homeless clients. Applications are monitored by Lake County Community Development to ensure clients are eligible before funds are distributed. Program efficacy is monitored by Lake County Community Development.

- » The Finish Line Fund model implemented with Catholic Charities, Lake County Coalition for the Homeless and Lake County Community Development combines case management and immediate short-term housing assistance. Studies have shown that subsidies that assist with move-in costs help people leave homelessness quickly [17].

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

- » Catholic Charities' partnership with the Lake County Coalition for the Homeless leads with equity and understands housing challenges disproportionately affect low-income, residents of color. Providing assistance to clients will promote equity by reducing the risk of homelessness among low-income people of color.

- » Catholic Charities participates in a unified cloud-based referral network facilitated by Lake County Community Development that also engages agencies serving various locations across the county with different constituencies. This process ensures a diverse pool of clients are considered and agencies targeting underserved communities have greater success in connecting clients with eligible needs to available assistance.

- » The Finish Line Fund reaches an underserved population that has been living in shelter and living in a place not meant for habitation. This program fills a crucial gap identified in our homeless services system. Clients that have access to subsidies or have the ability to maintain housing on their own, no longer face the barrier of a security deposit or application fees.

- » Lake County's population of literally homeless clients has increased due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. With these funds eliminating barriers to move-in, we are able to continue housing some of the most vulnerable residents of Lake County that do not have access to a security deposit through their own means.

Performance Report

This project was completed in November 2022.

Catholic Charities	CRF2102	Services for Unhoused Persons - Emergency Assistance Program	Individuals Assisted (Undup)	44
Catholic Charities	CRF2102	Services for Unhoused Persons - Emergency Assistance Program	Individuals Housed	40

- » Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation): 54

[17] Khadduri, Jill. *Rental Housing Subsidies and Homelessness*. Center for Evidence-based Solutions to Homelessness. http://www.evidenceonhomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/evidence-page-rental-housing-subsidies-December-2017.pdf. Dec 2017.

- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed: 0

PROJECT [220029/210015] »

Support for Lake County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Funding Allocated: $6,192,892.64

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

Project Overview

In 2021, Lake County received $36 million from the U.S. Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program to support low-income renters and landlords, adding two full-time employees and six staff from staffing agencies to administer the program. The Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (FERA) provided up to 12 months of assistance for rent, utilities, and internet, with applications open until June 30, 2022. In late 2022 and early 2023, an additional $530,000 in reallocated ERA funds was granted. The county also staffed an Eviction Court Help Desk to assist with FERA and state applications, directing tenants to legal aid when necessary. Learning from FERA, Lake County launched the Lake County Eviction Prevention Program (LCEPP) for renters facing eviction and the Lake County Rental Assistance (LCRA) Program, providing up to six months of rental assistance, supported by ARPA funds.

Use of Evidence

The goal of the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance (FERA), Lake County Eviction Prevention Program (LCEPP), and Lake County Rental Assistance (LCRA) Program was to keep families in their homes. The Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program was developed to assist households that were unable to pay their rent or utilities due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lake County Community Development worked to direct funds to those families that were hardest hit by the pandemic: families living at or below 80% of the Area Median Income and families with at least one household member that was unemployed in the 90 days preceding the application.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

As of 6/30/2024, 31% of those served by the rental assistance programs (FERA, LCRA, LCEPP) are Hispanic or Latinx, and 43% are African American. Additionally, 72% of the heads of households served are female. To best serve the diverse needs of the community, Lake County Community Development partnered with 15 trusted community partners:

*LCRA Provider
+LCEPP Provider

- Avon Township
- Catholic Charities*
- Community Action Partnership of Lake County (CAP)*
- Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH)*+
- Cuba Township
- Lake County Housing Authority (LCHA)*
- Lake Villa Township
- Mano a Mano Family Resource Center*+
- Moraine Township
- Shields Township
- Vernon Township
- Waukegan Township*
- West Deerfield Township
- YWCA

» Zion Township

This model allows residents to be served by a trusted partner in their community. In many cases, these are agencies that residents have accessed before for previous services and trust the staff to guide them through the process of accessing these services. The applications were available in both English and Spanish, and all community partners and some townships have bilingual staff to support these applications.

Performance Report

The three rental assistance programs tracked the success of the programs with the total amount of funds distributed. As of June 30, 2024, over $37.9 million in assistance for rent and utilities on behalf of over 5,200 Lake County households was provided through the three programs. Of those households, 67% are living at or below 30% of the Average Median Income, which is approximately $31,250 annual income for a family of four. Additionally, 43% of households are Black or African American, and 31% are Hispanic or Latinx. The Lake County Eviction Prevention Program (LCEPP) has provided over $590,000 in assistance to 65 households, with 69% of those households living at or below 30% of the Average Median Income. These 65 households were able to avoid eviction, and most were able to stay in their current homes. In some cases, the tenant did move to new housing but was not evicted. These projects were completed in June 2024.

PROJECT [240005] »

Lake County Eviction Prevention Program (LCEPP)

Funding Allocated: $845,189

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

Project Overview

The Lake County Eviction Prevention Program (LCEPP) was created to continue to support low-income Lake County renters who faced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Households facing eviction were able to apply for LCEEP for up to 12 months of assistance with the intention of preventing eviction and keeping families safe. LCEPP began in June 2022, just as Lake County's Federal Emergency Rental Assistance (FERA) program ended and continued to review applications on a rolling basis through January 2025. All applications were reviewed by one of two community partners, Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) or Mano a Mano Family Resource Center. Additionally, this program partnered with the 19th Judicial Circuit Court ensuring that anyone in court was made aware and had access to his program.

As applicants needed to have a pending eviction case within the 19th Judicial Circuit Court there was not website for this program. There was an online application made available to those in court.

Use of Evidence

The Lake County Eviction Prevention Program (LCEPP) adopted the following strongly encouraged best practices from the US Treasury from the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program: Application includes a mobile-friendly option to facilitate submitting an application with a smartphone; Ensures all application methods adopted by the grantee area are available in languages other than English (Spanish); Prioritizes applications from households at high risk of eviction or facing other immediate threats to housing stability; Relies on a tenant's self-attestation for purpose of determining whether an application has experienced a qualifying hardship, is a risk of housing instability or homelessness and determination of applicant's income eligibility; Provides tenants the opportunity to apply and receive funds directly when a landlord declines to participate in the application processes.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Households served by the Lake County Eviction Prevention Program (LCEPP) were 51% Black, African American or African and 39% White. Additionally, 25% of the households served were Hispanic.

Performance Report

Performance Measure	Current Output/Outcome
Number of Households Served	93
Total Assistance Provided	$790,045.68
Percent of households served at or below 30% AMI, 50% AMI and 80% AMI	30% AMI – 51.6% 50% AMI – 32.3% 80% AMI – 16.1%

PROJECT [220003] »

PADS Lake County – Fixed-Site Shelter

Funding Allocated: $ 7,060,000

Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

- PADS Lake County – Fixed Site Shelter - The project includes the construction of an approximately 25,000 sq. ft. building to serve both as a homeless shelter and a central resource center, providing housing, food and case management services for individuals and families in need. The ongoing community need for a dedicated fixed-site shelter has deepened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The reliance on volunteers and non-dedicated buildings (i.e. churches, community centers) has limited access for those unhoused, lacks control over health concerns relating to social distancing/ventilation, and restricts PADS from having control over best locations and practices. Lake County and PADS need a location in which health and safety can more easily be guaranteed, especially as the pandemic has restricted spaces to use.

Use of Evidence

- » The goal for this development is to construct a shelter. Achieving this goal will reduce the length of time individuals and families experience homelessness, increase the quality of services to those experiencing homelessness, create a better living situation for families, provide better health and social outcomes, and increase each person's ability to efficiently move to stable housing options. The proposed facility will serve approximately 1750 people experiencing housing crisis annually. Services being offered under one roof will enable even more resources to be deployed, thus potentially serving more clients with a deeper impact. The development of a fixed-site shelter is cited as the first recommendation in the Lake County Gaps Analysis of the Homeless Crisis Response System (CSH, 2019).

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

- » PADS conducts outreach presentations to community providers, groups and police departments. Their services are listed in the 211 database to ensure that people calling, texting or searching for shelter will be referred. PADS also distributes materials to library, service providers and government offices and attend community resource fairs.

- » The Lake County Coalition for the Homeless also assists in PADS outreach to reach people experiencing homelessness through referrals and community presentations

- » The project will serve individuals and families experiencing and at-risk of homelessness. Homelessness disproportionally affects communities of color. Most, if not all, are low income.

Performance Report

- » The KPI for the projects includes:
  - Construction of one (1) fixed site shelter.
  - Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)
  - Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed
- » The site has been acquired and permitting for construction is in process.

PROJECT [210007] »

Eviction Mediation Program

Funding Allocated: $130,000

Expenditure Category: 2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

Project Overview

In se of mediation to help resolve matters and provide for better outcomes for those involved have been encouraged by the Courts, federal and state governments.

The 19th Judicial Circuit Court Eviction Mediation program has been in place for several years and has a consistently high resolution/success rate. However, the mediators were volunteer attorneys who would previously come in person on days when Self-Represented Litigant (SRL) cases (both the plaintiff and defendant) were scheduled to conduct mediation between the parties in a conference room. One mediator typically completes two or three mediations per court session. Oftentimes, the mediation would result in a payment plan allowing the tenant to remain in the unit. With the pandemic exacerbating evictions, the courts have responded by providing several resources, including funding help desks and mediation opportunities to support all litigants and landlords with eviction cases. With the Governor's Moratorium ending in October 2021, two or three mediations per court session was not enough. With the increase in workload that now includes cases where only one party may be an SRL and the other is represented by an attorney, the Court added additional mediators and increased compensation.

After the Eviction case is filed in court, the Judge will continue the case for 30 days, which allows the parties to contact a mediator and schedule a mediation before their next court date. This system will allow the mediators to conduct far more mediations. With the initial award of $20,000, we have been able to provide a small monetary compensation to the mediator per session ($50.00). As the number of mediations has continued to increase along with the time and effort required for each case, we recognized the need to increase mediators' compensation to retain experienced mediators and continue to have a high percentage of cases come to an agreement through mediation. With the additional award of $110,000, we have been able to increase the compensation as of June 1, 2023, to $125.00 for completed mediations and $50.00 for cases that do not make it to mediation; to acknowledge the effort it takes to schedule mediations. This funding has supported the Eviction Mediation program's work by transforming eviction court into a problem-solving court that emphasizes holistic solutions by providing litigants with resources and resolutions to housing problems and utilizing locally trained attorneys to serve as mediators.

Use of Evidence

The consequences of evictions can negatively impact many aspects of the tenant's life (ability to find home, homelessness, lost wages/job loss, health). It can negatively impact children and their schooling. It also impacts the landlord (court costs, time losing rent). Eviction Mediation Programs are an Alternative Dispute Resolution service that can be considered a best practice, that creates an opportunity for landlords and tenants to mediate before trial. It provides a greater sense of voice for the tenant, broader remedial options, and increased flexibility. Mediation provides an opportunity for both parties to tell their side of the story, addressing relational issues along the way. With our 80% Agreement Rate, a high rate of cases are avoiding potential evictions thus likely reducing the negative impacts associated with evictions. https://www.networkforphl.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Fact-Sheet-Eviction-Diversion.pdf

Performance Report

From October 2022 to June 2025:

- Total cases referred to Eviction Mediation: 1,724
- Total mediation sessions held: 1,431
- Mediation sessions that reached an agreement: 1,178
- This results in an 82% agreement rate, exceeding the goal of a 70-80% agreement rate

PROJECT [240002] »

Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program

Funding Allocated: $ 356,000

Expenditure Category: 2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

Project Overview

The 19th Judicial Circuit Court provides a Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program. The purpose of the Residential Real Estate Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program is to (1) alleviate the financial burden on Lenders, Homeowners, and taxpayers caused by residential mortgage foreclosures; (2) foster direct and meaningful communication between Lenders and Homeowners; (3) provide an expeditious means of resolving residential mortgage foreclosure disputes, where reasonable and possible, as an alternative to foreclosure litigation under the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law; (4) reduce the backlog of residential mortgage foreclosure cases pending in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit; (5) keep families in their homes, where reasonable and possible, or provide families that are unable to remain in their homes with a reasonable means and timeframe for vacating their homes; and (6) reduce the negative impact of foreclosures on Lake County neighborhoods and communities and on the values of properties located therein.

The following services are provided to participants (Lender, Homeowner, Third Party or any attorney representing an of those parties) who wishes to participate in the program:

- Housing counseling: a session with a HUD-certified housing counselor provided by our partner agency (Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) for the purpose of assessing the feasibility of loan modification, informing Homeowners of their options, and preparing the loss mitigation packet. The first 45-days of the program involves Housing counseling and the next 45 days of the program involves Lenders providing the program with a checklist about the home.
- Mediation conference: The mediation program coordinator, a 19th Judicial Circuit employee, schedules a mediation conference with the Homeowner, the Homeowner's Attorney, if any, and the Lender's attorney. The third and final part of the program is up to 90 days for mediation and up to three sessions of mediations.
- Mediators: Our mediators are approved by the Supervising Judge for Mediation of Mortgage Foreclosure Cases and appointed by the mediation program coordinator to conduct mediation.

Use of Evidence

The goal of the program is to have cases reach an agreement upon the conclusion of the housing counseling session or at the time of mediation. Agreements result in homes being saved through retention during the program. If the home cannot be saved, the program provides the homeowners with resources through the housing agency to assist with services such as relocation, support, employment and funding.

Housing counselors through Community Partners for Affordable Housing are HUD-Certified. A HUD-certified housing counselor has successfully passed the HUD Housing Counselor Certification Exam and works for a HUD-approved housing counseling agency. These counselors provide services to individuals and families on various housing-related matters, including home buying, foreclosure prevention, and credit issues. They also assist with completion of loss-mitigation packets and send them directly to the lender and lender's attorney.

Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Programs are an Alternative Dispute Resolution service that can be considered a best practice, that creates an opportunity for Lenders and Homeowners to mediate before a court appearance. It provides a greater sense of voice for the Homeowner, education and increased flexibility. This program is supported by data that show its effectiveness in facilitating loan modifications, repayment plans, and other alternatives to foreclosure.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

This is a voluntary program. As a result, the court does not control who enters the program and only services those homeowners who voluntarily enroll in the program.

CPAH does record Area Median Income (AMI) for homeowners entering and participating in the program. According to their data, as of May 2025, 77% of homeowners enrolled in the program have an AMI below 80.

Performance Report

Performance Measure	Current Output
Number of Filings (Residential Mortgage Foreclosure)	969 cases
Enrolled Cases	77 cases
Mediations held for how many cases	28 mediation sessions held for 19 cases
Resolved/Terminated Pre-Mediation (in Housing Counseling)	45 cases
Resolved/Terminated at Mediation (in Mediation)	32 cases

PROJECT [240009] »

Regional Office of Education Career Connect

Funding Allocated: $805,000

Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview

The Lake County Regional Office of Education (ROE) launched a county-wide initiative to expand equitable access to career and college readiness tools through the implementation of **SchooLinks**, a web-based platform that supports exploration, planning, and tracking of work-based learning (WBL) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) experiences for students in grades 6–12.

Main Activities

- **Access to SchooLinks:**
  Participating school districts across Lake County now have access to the SchooLinks platform, which allows students to explore career interests, build 4-year course plans, track college applications, and engage with local employers for work-based learning experiences.

- **Tech Campus Intermediary Account:**
  Tech Campus, which serves as the central CTE provider for many Lake County high schools, created an intermediary account within SchooLinks to efficiently track and share CTE program completion data with partner schools. This streamlines data collection and eliminates the need for students to manage multiple accounts.

- **ROE Intermediary Account & Countywide Industry Partner Database:**
  The ROE established a central database of verified business and industry partners. This shared resource:

  - Minimizes duplication of outreach to the same employers.
  - Reduces the onboarding burden for local businesses.
  - Tracks partner activity and engagement levels.
  - Enables educators to book guest speakers, internships, and other WBL opportunities more efficiently.

- **CTE Tracking Across All Districts:**
  Both Tech Campus and individual districts with their own CTE programs can now use the system to monitor student progress toward program completion and credential attainment.

Timeline

- **Project Duration:** July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027
- **Implementation Phases:** Initial rollout in 2024–25, continued district onboarding through 2025 and beyond.

Primary Delivery Mechanisms and Partners

- **SchooLinks Software** serves as the backbone of the initiative.
- **Tech Campus** supports centralized CTE tracking and collaboration.
- **Lake County ROE** coordinates implementation, oversees the employer database, and provides training support.
- **Local School Districts** participate voluntarily and are responsible for local implementation and student engagement.

Intended Outcomes

- Ensure all Lake County students in grades 6–12 have access to high-quality career exploration tools.
- Build a shared infrastructure for work-based learning that makes it easier for districts and employers to connect.
- Support students in building actionable post-secondary plans through personalized tools and exposure to local industries.
- Track student progress in CTE pathways and work-based learning experiences in a unified and transparent way.

Use of Evidence

1. **Equip students and educators with tools to track work-based learning experiences** and assess student progress toward post-secondary readiness.
2. **Centralize access to local employer contacts**, supporting districts as they build real-world learning experiences for students.
3. **Empower students to identify and plan for career pathways**, including necessary training programs, certifications, or degrees aligned to their interests.

Rigorous Program Evaluation

SchooLinks assigns a **Success Manager** to support implementation and ensure that each district maximizes the platform's potential. These Success Managers:

- Monitor analytics, including student engagement metrics, WBL placements, college applications, and employer interactions.
- Provide district-specific training and implementation support.
- Review district performance data to guide progress toward intended outcomes.

As the project evolves, ongoing usage reports will become a key component in evaluating the success of the program and in identifying areas for further support.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

While this program serves all students in grades 6–12 across Lake County, many of the participating schools represent **economically and socially disadvantaged communities**. Because the platform is available at no cost to the schools or students, it removes a significant barrier to high-quality post-secondary planning tools. Additionally, the ROE's focus on building shared infrastructure ensures that **smaller or under-resourced districts benefit** from the same employer access and training supports as larger ones.

Performance Report

- Participation Snapshot
- **58** total schools/districts invited to participate
- **11** began implementation in 2024–2025
- **17** enrolled in an implementation cohort (13 in fall, 4 in spring)
- **4** opted out
- **26** are still reviewing or have not yet responded
- SchooLinks continues outreach every 10 days
- **27** districts have completed student rostering

Note: Broader usage data will become available in Fall 2025 as schools resume. The following early metrics are based on initial implementation in select high schools.

PROJECT [240003] »

ROE CareLink Program

Funding Allocated: $300,000

Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities

Project Overview

The Lake County CareLink program, funded originally by the Department of Justice, provides comprehensive mental health support by seamlessly connecting adolescents and their families to mental health treatment. In addition, when warranted, the program offers financial assistance to ensure equitable access to care. Spearheaded by the Lake County Regional Office of Education, the program is available to all families, students and educators of the county who attend a Lake County School district. With the financial assistance portion of the program specifically targeting low-income families or those facing financial hardships overcome barriers like costs, transportation, and long wait times exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program collaborates with all school districts (covering 162,000 Lake County students) to offer a mental health database of area resources, provides care triage and navigation services in multiple languages, and facilitate appointments with licensed local mental health providers.

Use of Evidence

The Lake County CareLink program addresses several pandemic-related harms by offering comprehensive mental health support and financial assistance for adolescents needing outpatient mental health treatments. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly exacerbated mental health issues among adolescents, with a 25% global increase in anxiety and depression, as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO). In the U.S., about 20% of adolescents experienced major depressive disorder during the pandemic, yet only 20% received adequate treatment, highlighting substantial disparities in mental health care access (WHO).

The program specifically targets harms such as increased mental health issues and the resultant need for enhanced mental health services. By collaborating with all school districts, CareLink ensures that low-income families and those facing financial hardships can access necessary mental health care without financial burdens, transportation barriers, or long wait times, all of which were intensified during the pandemic (according to the CDC).

In addition to providing equitable access to mental health resources by providing financial assistance, as a long-term strategy, the program also addresses critical social determinants of health by providing benefits navigators to assist families in obtaining health insurance coverage.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

- The CDC noted that the closure of schools and the shift to remote learning had profound effects on the mental health of students. The loss of routine, social isolation, and increased stress from adapting to new learning environments contributed to worsening mental health conditions among adolescents (World Health Organization (WHO)).
- Research from the American Psychological Association (APA) showed that students in high-poverty districts were disproportionately affected, experiencing greater educational disruptions and associated mental health challenges due to limited access to resources and support systems.

Performance Report

Performance Measure	Current Output/Outcome	Expected Output/Outcome
Establish and maintain a network of qualified mental health providers serving Lake County residents.	116 clinical practices were interviewed, vetted, and onboarded to participate in the CareLink Program. These practices include over 120 licensed Illinois clinicians actively offering services.	The original target was 100 participating clinicians, which has been exceeded.
Deliver CareLink navigation and triage support through ReferralGPS to connect students and families with mental health services.	The ARPA CareLink initiative has created access to search for treatment resources to 127,145 individuals under the guidance of the Lake County ROE, supported by over 40 virtual and on-site district trainings. Staff and parents conducted 21,556 treatment searches. Additionally, 729 families requested enhanced Care Navigation appointment support. These navigation sessions resulted in 181 individuals engaging in treatment.	The goal is to perform Care Navigation appointment support services to over 1,000 students.
Provide direct access to therapy and psychiatry for eligible participants using allocated treatment funds.	The CareLink Program has funded 1,110 treatment visits (therapy and/or psychiatric medication management) for 181 Lake County residents.	The goal is to exceed 1,500 total treatment visits. This is partially met. Six districts are using separate funding for similar programs with ReferralGPS, reducing draw on CareLink funds.

Infrastructure Projects

PROJECT [220020] »

Ultraviolet Disinfection – Des Plaines River Water Reclamation Facility

Funding Allocated: $5,790,989.66

Expenditure Category: 5.1 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Project Overview

Construction of an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system at the Des Plaines River Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). Disinfection is used to reduce the concentration of fecal coliform and E.coli entering the receiving stream. Chemicals are currently in use at the plant for disinfection.

Construction of a UV disinfection system to enhance permit compliance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and reduce chemicals used in the wastewater treatment process. A UV disinfection system would also eliminate secondary testing equipment, testing labor, and reduce chemicals to the receiving stream. The project also contains resiliency components by providing a different treatment process. LCPW would keep chlorine tanks as a backup to the UV treatment process, therefore providing crucial redundancy to the treatment operation.

The project improves the removal of pollutants from the plant's effluent, thus reducing some of the impairments to the Des Plaines River. This is a high priority pursuant to section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Project Schedule: Construction has begun and is expected to be complete by April 30, 2026.

Labor Practices

This project will be constructed using Federal, State, and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Prospective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and laborers.

Performance Report

Goals	Data Tracking
Effluent Quality	Monitor effluent quality per NPDES permit.
Impact on Receiving Stream	Continue to monitor receiving stream – Des Plaines River. Compare and contrast micronutrients and metal concentration.

Operational Cost	Monitor and compare operational cost with UV System in use vs Chemical Disinfection.
System Reliability & Support	The replaced UV system will provide reliability and support for growth and continued economic development in the service areas. Monitor new service connections and accounts.
Energy Efficiency	Monitor the electrical use of the UV system.

PROJECT [220018] »

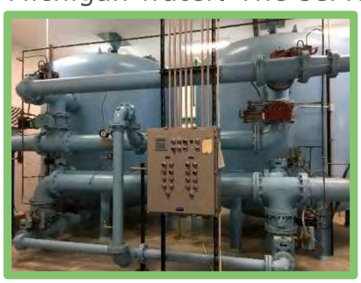
Pekara Water System – Lake Michigan Interconnect

Funding Allocated: $1,169,429.20

Expenditure Category: 5.13 Drinking Water: Source

Project Overview

To transition the Pekara service area from groundwater (wells) to the more sustainable Lake Michigan water. The service area has over 1,000 total connections.



The existing ~250,000 Gallon Per Day Pekara water system is supplied with well water which is not a sustainable long-term solution. This project will provide Lake Michigan water to the area through an interconnect by way of a local Village. A transmission main and delivery structure will be constructed.

The project will result in compliance with secondary maximum contaminant levels as set forth in 40 CFR 143.3 (2018) by reducing water hardness, sulfur, and iron for 1k+ connections. The project contains resiliency components, as LCPW will keep existing wells as a backup water supply for system redundancy.

Project Schedule: Design is complete, community outreach conducted, and contract award approved on June 11, 2024. Expected construction completion November 1, 2025.

Labor Practices

This project will be constructed using Federal, State, and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Prospective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and laborers.

Performance Report

Goals	Data Tracking
Water Quality	Develop lead/copper, minerals, and bacteriological monitoring for the new water system. Provide customers with a copy of updated Consumer Confidence Report.
System Maintenance	Monitor the frequency of system disruption caused by main breaks and other potential failures.

Customer Support	Monitor volume of calls/complaints from this new system and response time. Need to reduce customer complaints (per population served) to 75th percentile level of industry reporting in AWWA survey.
System Reliability	Monthly monitoring of water storage and appurtenances at delivery structure/throughout system.
System Management	Track reporting and IEPA compliance.

PROJECT [220017] »

Disc Filter Installation – Des Plaines River Water Reclamation Facility

Funding Allocated: $6,015,022.47

Expenditure Category: 5.1 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Project Overview

The Replacement of sand filters with disc filters at the Des Plaines River Water Reclamation Facility and addition of Clarifier Covers to improve the efficiency of Disc Filters at all three WRFs by reducing algal growth. Both sand and disc filters are used for tertiary treatment. Tertiary treatment is the next wastewater treatment process after secondary treatment and is intended to meet specific discharge requirements. This step removes stubborn contaminants that secondary treatment was not able to clean up. Disc filters are new technology and use a smaller footprint to treat a larger volume of secondary effluent.

Replacement of sand filters with new modern disc filters to enhance permit compliance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and streamline an aging process that currently requires significant staff time. LCPW uses 2 existing disc filters as a part of the treatment process and the 2 additional filters will provide resiliency for peak flow events (which are currently handled by the sand filters). The sand filters have been in place since the plant went online and require constant maintenance.

Adding the clarifier covers improves the efficiency of filtration by mitigating the algae growth in the clarifiers.

The project improves impairment to the Des Plaines River. This is identified as a high priority pursuant to section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The project will result in a reduction of phosphorous and nitrogen in the receiving water body and will reduce the use of internal plant water.

Project Schedule: Design is complete and construction is in progress with an expected completion of September 30, 2025.

Labor Practices

This project will be constructed using Federal, State, and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Prospective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and laborers.

Performance Report

Goals	Data Tracking
1) Effluent Quality	Monitor effluent quality per NPDES permit. Compare the effectiveness of tertiary treatment with the use of a full complement of disc filters.
2) Impact on Receiving Plains River	Continue to monitor receiving stream – Des Plaines River. Compare and contrast micronutrients and metal concentration.
3) Operational Cost	Monitor and compare operational cost with the disc filters in use vs old filters. Examine the buyback to staff time with the reduced maintenance.
4) System Reliability & Support	The new disc filters will provide reliability and support for growth and continued economic development in these areas. Monitor new service connections and accounts.
5) Energy Efficiency & Water Use	Monitor the electrical and water use in the filter building.

PROJECT [220016] »

Highland Lake Water System

Funding Allocated: $2,430,570.80

Expenditure Category: 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution

Project Overview

The Highland Lake Water System long-term improvements will consist of replacing water mains and providing a resilient long-term water source by bringing Lake Michigan water to the overall system. The short-term improvements will seek to improve water supply land storage and consolidate the County's Highland Lake Water System with the Highland Lake Water Company. This does address the strategic ONE WATER goal.

The County's Highland Lake Water System is currently supplied with ground water and has an underground tank that needs repair. In addition, the system is not able to sustain operation due to disruptions like a water main break. The long-term project will provide Lake Michigan water to the existing Highland Lake Water System, which currently serves 116 homes.

The Highland Lake Water Company is privately owned and serves approximately 18 customers. This system has a single well and a storage tank. Recently, it was served with a Compliance Commitment Agreement from the IEPA. Under this agreement, the water system will have to do the following:

- Secure the services of a certified Water Operator to manage the system
- Construct a second well
- Develop monitoring plans
- Start monthly, quarterly, and/or annual sampling
- Bring the system into full compliance to meet current IEPA standards

The Highland Lake Water Company has indicated that they cannot meet the new demands placed on them by the IEPA. To that end, they are seeking the County's assistance. The County water system is adjacent to this private system.

The project contains resiliency components as LCPW will keep existing wells as a backup water supply for system redundancy. The project will consolidate water systems and provide a sustainable water source for area residents.

Project Schedule:

- Phase 1: Interconnect complete
- Phase 2: Interconnection of systems is complete and construction is expected to be complete by December 1, 2025.

Labor Practices

This project will be constructed using Federal, State, and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Prospective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and laborers.

Performance Report

Goals	Data Tracking
1) Water Quality	Develop lead/copper, minerals, and bacteriological monitoring for the new water system. Provide customers with a copy of updated Consumer Confidence Report.
2) System Maintenance	Monitor the frequency of system disruption caused by main breaks and other potential failures.
3) Customer Support	Monitor volume of calls/complaints from the new system and response time. Need to reduce customer complaints (per population served) to 75th percentile level of industry reporting in AWWA survey.
4) System Reliability	Monthly monitoring of water storage and appurtenances at delivery structure/throughout system.
5) System Management	Track reporting and IEPA compliance.

PROJECT [220019] »
Oak Terrace Water System Replacement

Funding Allocated: $2,500,000

Expenditure Category: 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution

Project Overview

The Oak Terrace Water System replacement project will consolidate two water systems into a single community water supply and replace aging water main infrastructure.

The County owns, operates, and maintains two limited water systems – (a) Oak Terrace and (b) West Oak Middle School. The Oak Terrace Water system serves 15 residences. It has two wells that are aged and in need of repair, as well as two storage tanks that are beneath the ground. These storage tanks should be replaced and placed above ground with modern treatment technology. The West Oak Middle School has the capacity to serve approximately 400 students. It has a single well and a storage tank. There is no backup support for this system, and the storage tank and treatment system should be upgraded. Given the proximity of these two systems, it makes sense to consolidate and reconcile the outstanding treatment and operational issues.

The existing water systems for the subdivision and the school are decades old and are being replaced with new water main pipe, creating a more resilient system to meet modern water standards and provide a safeguard against public health issues. A new well system will also be constructed to provide water for West Oak Middle School and residents in the neighborhood.

The project consolidates two community water supplies into a single water supply. The homes in the area are modest in comparison to others in the area, and we are concerned that the homeowners' income may not be able to meet the financial long-term obligations related to system improvements, such as connection to the main and the installation of water meters, without added financial support. The project will consolidate water systems and provide a sustainable water source for area residents and the school. The project contains resiliency components as it will result in 2 LCPW wells with the potential to build another well in the future for additional redundancy.

Labor Practices

This project will be constructed using Federal, State, and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Prospective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and laborers.

Performance Report

Project Schedule: 3 Phases – Well Development, Water Main Replacement, and Well House Construction. Design and Phase 1 and 2 construction are complete. Phase 3 construction is underway and the project is expected to be complete by April 2026.

Goals	Data Tracking
Water Quality	Develop lead/copper, minerals, and bacteriological monitoring for the new water system. Provide customers with a copy of updated Consumer Confidence Report.
System Maintenance	Monitor the frequency of system disruption caused by main breaks and other potential failures.
Customer Support	Monitor volume of calls/complaints from this new system and response time. Need to reduce customer complaints (per population served) to 75th percentile level of industry reporting in AWWA survey.
System Reliability	Monthly monitoring of water storage and appurtenances at delivery structure/throughout system.
System Management	Track reporting and IEPA compliance.

PROJECT [220008] »

Ultraviolet Disinfection – Mill Creek Water Reclamation Facility

Funding Allocated: $1,000,000

Expenditure Category: 5.1 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Project Overview

Replacement of the aging ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system at the Mill Creek Water Reclamation Facility. The current equipment has reached the end of its useful life and requires replacement. Replacement of a UV disinfection system to maintain permit compliance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The existing UV treatment system is original to the plant and replacement parts are no longer readily available.

The project improves the removal of pollutants from the plant's effluent, thus reducing some of the impairments to the Des Plaines River. This is a high priority pursuant to section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Labor Practices

This project will be constructed using Federal, State, and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Prospective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and laborers.

Performance Report

Project Schedule: Construction is complete.

Goals	Data Tracking
Effluent Quality	Monitor effluent quality per NPDES permit.
Impact on Receiving Stream	Continue to monitor receiving stream – Des Plaines River. Compare and contrast micronutrients and metal concentration.
Operational Cost	Monitor and compare operational cost with UV System in use vs Chemical Disinfection. Examine buyback of staff time with the reduced maintenance and testing.
System Reliability & Support	The replaced UV system will provide reliability and support for growth and continued economic development in the service areas. Monitor new service connections and accounts.
Energy Efficiency	Monitor the electrical use of the UV system.

PROJECT [220007] »

Blowers – Des Plaines River Water Reclamation Facility

Funding Allocated: $1,500,000

Expenditure Category: 5.7 Clean Water: Energy Conservation

Project Overview

This project will replace the older blowers at the Des Plaines facility with High Efficiency Blowers. Technological advancements in aeration blowers are providing new options for reducing energy consumption. Energy consumption and cost have been the key drivers behind the development of more efficient aeration blower systems. These systems can account for as much as 60 percent of the total energy consumption of a wastewater treatment plant. Therefore, the payback on greater energy efficiency is significant.

The project improves the removal of pollutants from the plant's effluent, thus reducing some of the impairments to the Des Plaines River. This is a high priority pursuant to section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The project will result in a reduction of phosphorous and nitrogen in the receiving water body and will reduce energy use. Additionally, the project contains resiliency components by providing additional blowers.

The older blowers currently provide this support. However, they use over 30% more energy. This project will replace the older blowers with high efficiency blowers.

Labor Practices

This project will be constructed using Federal, State, and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Prospective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and laborers.

Performance Report

Project Schedule: Design is complete, and construction is proceeding as expected. Construction is expected to be complete by April 2026.

KPIs

Goals	Data Tracking
Effluent Quality	Monitor effluent quality per NPDES permit. Compare the effectiveness of tertiary treatment with the use of additional blowers.
Impact on Receiving Stream	Continue to monitor receiving stream – Des Plaines River. Compare and contrast micronutrients and metal concentration.
Operational Cost	Monitor and compare operational cost with the new blowers in use vs old blowers.
System Reliability & Support	The new blowers will provide reliability and support for growth and continued economic development in the service areas. Monitor new service connections and accounts.
Energy Efficiency	Monitor the electrical use in the blower building.

PROJECT [230020] »

Sewer Collection System Design – Antioch Township Sanitary Sewer Collection System, Antioch

Funding Allocated: $996,110

Expenditure Category: 5.2 Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance

Project Overview

Replacement of inadequate/non-existent wastewater collection systems in the Chain of Lakes region, Antioch Township, Lake County, Illinois, with a collection system that supports sewer collection and transportation to an EPA-compliant Water Reclamation Facility (WRF).
The service area includes approximately 1,900 connections currently supported by septic systems. Many Antioch Township communities rely upon older and/or individual septic tank designs that often provide inadequate treatment and illegal surface discharges. The Lake County Health Department has issued several health advisories regarding toxic levels of algae in the "Chain of Lakes" which feeds into the Fox River. Site constraints on Antioch Township lake lots have resulted in the allowance of "Compliance Impossible" systems by the LCHD: 38 in 2019, 43 in 2020, and 31 in 2021. 80% of approvals are now for "Compliance Impossible" systems.
The system design project will provide construction design documents for the selected service type, pressure or gravity sewer, and connection to an existing WRF in the area.
The project improves impairment to the "Chain of Lakes" and Fox River. This is identified as a high priority pursuant to section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The project will result in a reduction of phosphorous and nitrogen in the receiving water body.

Labor Practices

This project will be constructed using Federal, State, and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Prospective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and laborers.

Performance Report

Project Schedule: Conceptual design, topographic survey, and evaluation of long term funding sources and options are in progress. Design complete by December 1, 2026. Construction would be funded separately.

KPIs

Goals	Data Tracking
Lake Water Quality	Monitor Lake water quality. Compare the current impairments with the historical collection system improvements.
Impact on Receiving Stream	Continue to monitor receiving stream – Fox River. Compare and contrast micronutrients and metal concentration.

PROJECT [230015/230016] »

Broadband Infrastructure and Plan Development

Funding Allocated: $6,304,188.38

Expenditure Category: 5.19 Broadband: Last Mile & 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

Lake County has hired contract staff members to implement a developed Broadband and Digital Equity Plan. Funding will be used to expand community Wi-Fi networks, disperse digital navigators throughout communities, and distribute devices to residents in underserved communities.

Labor Practices

This project will be constructed using Federal, State, and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Perspective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and labors.

Performance Report

Performance metrics will be based on the Broadband Plan of Action which will address high-speed internet access, digital equity, adoption, and the use of broadband for all residents of Lake County.

Performance Measure	Current Output/Outcome
Organizations Participating in the Digital Equity Coalition	114
Digital Literacy Programming Licenses Issued	1
Residents Served through Digital Navigator Programs	1556
Hours Spent Serving Residents through Digital Navigator Programs	2933
Digital Navigator Sessions Held	1574
Laptops Distributed to Residents	445
Number of Projects Implemented	7

PROJECT [230021] »

Lake County Tree Solution for Clean Water

Funding Allocated: $2,500,000

Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview

This program focuses on planting native trees on municipal and unincorporated lands in Lake County to address nutrient pollution from stormwater and reduce runoff, thereby increasing climate resilience, improving environmental, mental, and physical health, and enhancing wildlife habitat. Over three years, the project will tackle clean water concerns in all four watersheds of Lake County, following the Stormwater Management Commission's Watershed Plans. It will provide direct support to communities facing significant challenges and leverage the expertise of local and national organizations. Lake County staff, in partnership with contracted local organizations, will remove invasive species and plant trees. Progress will be tracked and analyzed for consistent feedback. The program aims to mitigate the impact of invasive species, increase tree canopy, and improve water quality, air quality, mental and physical health, reduce flooding and heat, and enhance wildlife habitat. The initiative will cover approximately 52 municipalities, 18 townships, and 18 park districts.

Community Engagement & Equitable Outcomes

This program will work across all disadvantaged communities in Lake County, improving living conditions and improving environmental services resulting in improved quality of life. It will work with under resourced communities as they historically have lower canopy and green space, and experience larger issues with stormwater as compared to more affluent communities.

Performance Report

- **Lake County Partner Engagement:**
  - Current: 18 partners
  - Expected: 100 partners
- **Site Preparation for Tree Plantings:**
  - Current: 261.21 acres
  - Expected: 1200 acres
- **New Plantings:**
  - Current: 1,042 trees
  - Expected: 4,000 trees
- **Community Engagement:**
  - Current: 52 municipalities, 18 townships, 18 park districts, and others
  - Expected: 52 municipalities, 18 townships, 18 park districts, and others
- **Progress and Next Steps**
- **Completed:**
  - Acquired services for arborist site visits and tree planting, with all funds encumbered through 2026.
  - An additional 12 awards have been granted for Spring 2025 and finished planting. This totals 18 awards. 9 sites have been selected for Fall 2025 plantings for an additional 100 acres and 524 trees requested. 4 tree planting events have been hosted by receiving communities this spring to celebrate the accomplishments of the program.
- **In Progress:**
  - **Reviewing Fall 2024 planting for any necessary replacements and conducting site analysis for new sites.**
- **Next Quarter:**
  - Begin the fall planting season across 9 sites, 8 recipients, 100 acres, and approximately 524 trees.

PROJECT [240007] »
Mill Creek Infrastructure

Funding Allocated: $817,233.66

Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Storm Water

Project Overview

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission received funding from the Lake County American Rescue Plan for the construction of a nature-based stormwater bioretention green infrastructure basin at the downstream end of Mill Creek to prevent excessive silting into Third Lake. The project site is located between Washington Street and Third Lake, within Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve. Nutrient and sediment-laden stormwater runoff from upstream drainage areas (through Grayslake) contribute to the surface water quality impairments in Mill Creek. SMC has developed a preliminary plan and cost estimate for this project located between Washington Street and Third Lake.

The objectives of this project include: 1) Floodplain excavation to increase flood storage. 2) Nature-based solutions and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce nutrients and sediment in the downstream waterways. 3) Cost-effective project implementation and 4) Operational cost savings by providing additional types of emergent aquatic plant species for Lake County Forest Preserve District restoration efforts.

The Mill Creek Water Quality Enhancement Project being constructed on the Lake County Forest Preserves Rollins Savanna Preserve is a multi-outcome restoration project aimed at addressing a range of issues within the Mill Creek watershed. In the existing condition this reach of Mill Creek is a straightened ditch-like system with exposed bare banks during winter pool conditions that flows through a homogeneous monotypical cattail marsh before its confluence with Third Lake, 5.6 where bank erosion is also occurring. The project area also has an excavated shallow basin that does not provide substantial ecological function.

Proposed improvements include bank shallowing and vegetative restoration, in-stream coarse wood and stone habitat features, a wetland scrape designed to function as a native plant nursery for Forest Preserve use, a second wetland scrape, a new diversion scrape aimed at dispersing flow within the marsh and providing heterogeneous habitat features, natural stream function restoration of the shallow basin area, and invasive brush and plant clearing and vegetative restoration. Project outcomes will result in the provision of enhanced flood storage from the scrapes, water quality improvements on-site and within Third Lake, enhanced hydrologic and geomorphologic stream function, and wildlife habitat.

Labor Practices

This project will be constructed using Federal, State, and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Prospective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and laborers.

Performance Report

Clearing the project site started April 2025; scraping started 4/21/2025 and has been completed as of July 2025. Habitat scraping and clearing of the site of invasive buckthorn stands is complete as of July 2025. Operations and Maintenance (O&M) plan is currently in development.

- Habitat Restoration
  - Current habitat consists of invasive cattail marsh that could be improved by wetland scraping and modification.
  - Operational cost savings by providing additional types of emergent aquatic plant species for Lake County Forest Preserve District restoration efforts. More than 1,000 feet of bank shallowing and native vegetative restoration will reduce sediment loads to Third Lake by several tons per year and enhance riparian habitat for a wide range of species. The 1-acre nursery scrape will provide the opportunity for the Lake County Forest Preserves to grow several nutrients and sediment in the downstream waterways.
- Flood Mitigation
  - Current floodplain storage is inadequate and flooding impacts Linden Ave.
  - More than 750,000 gallons of newly created flood storage will mitigate necessary fills to raise the adjacent Linden Avenue in the future the currently floods under some conditions and is the primary access for more than 30 residents.
- Equitable Outcomes
  - Flooding on Linden Avenue affects several residents
  - Increased flood storage capacity will alleviate flooding on Linden Avenue allowing all residents to access homes and properties.

Economic & Business

PROJECT [220010] »

Business Incentive Fund - Hospitality Organizations

Funding Allocated: $250,000

Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Project Overview

The Business Incentive program is designed to attract new meetings and events to Lake County. The program will be administered by Visit Lake County (VLC) and is intended to directly benefit hospitality-related businesses impacted by the pandemic by securing events that will utilize hotel rooms and attract new visitors who will also support other pandemic-impacted hospitality businesses such as neighborhood restaurants and stores. VLC will target corporate and association meetings, sports tournaments, reunions, and tour groups. The program is based on recruiting future groups who meet established criteria for using hotel rooms. Local hotels/venues will receive reimbursement after a pre-qualified event has taken place at their property and the number of hotel rooms used is verified by VLC.

The program is open to all customers who meet the criteria for a minimum number of guest rooms used at Lake County hotels (i.e., 100 rooms minimum for meetings). Groups will be pre-approved by VLC, and after the event is held, the client will be required to submit a copy of the final master bill. Upon verification, VLC will issue payment to the Lake County hotel/venue using a formula of $20 per hotel room generated, with a maximum payment of $10,000 per group. The VLC sales team will promote the program during their sales recruitment process at tradeshows and through their sales sourcing platform.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Our intent is to use the Business Incentive Program to attract new meetings and sports tournaments which will impact diverse hospitality businesses in underserved communities like Waukegan which has an attractive sports complex that can host large soccer and softball tournaments. Families will attend the tournaments and stay in nearby hotels in Waukegan and Zion and eat at local restaurants. Clients will make the decision on which facilities to use based on their event requirements, however, VLC will work to ensure the funds are distributed across the county.

Performance Report

The ARPA Business Incentive Fund has successfully allocated $200,720 to local hotels and venues, supporting a range of groups and events. This funding facilitated the utilization of 11,036 hotel rooms by 17,554 attendees, significantly benefiting the local hospitality sector. The total estimated economic impact of these activities is an impressive $4,426,890, highlighting the fund's effectiveness in stimulating local economic activity and promoting community engagement through various events and initiatives.

PROJECT [220009] »
Marketing campaign to support Lake County hospitality business

Funding Allocated: $149,999.66

Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Project Overview

The Marketing Campaign aims to support Lake County hospitality businesses by promoting community events and attractions. Visit Lake County (VLC) will design the campaign to encourage shorter, local trips, featuring seasonal events to inspire travel within Lake County. The campaign will use an integrated media mix including digital marketing (Facebook and Instagram ads and videos), radio, and print ads, directing people to VisitLakeCounty.org for information. The campaign will run from late summer 2022 through December 2022.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

VLC is committed to marketing the diversity, ethnicity, and multicultural activities throughout Lake County. The campaign will promote events and attractions in disproportionately impacted communities such as Waukegan, Zion, and the Round Lake area. These promotions will be featured on VisitLakeCounty.org and through social media posts and blogs to encourage visitations and boost the economic impact of tourism in underserved communities.

Performance Report

Hotel Occupancy: Up 17%
Fall Campaign Media Impressions: 3,044,052 impressions
Holiday Campaign Media Impressions: 2,784,920 impressions
This project was completed in December 2022.

PROJECT [220021] »
Workforce Development - Expanding Access to Jobs and Talent

Funding Allocated: $3,600,000

Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports, or incentives)

Project Overview

Lake County's ARPA funding for Workforce Development - Expanding Access to Jobs and Talent through an innovative hiring, training, and retention program will connect COVID-impacted unemployed and underemployed job seekers to small businesses with hiring needs. This innovative, subsidized internship and training program addresses both near and long-term talent needs and increases economic stability.

Workforce Development administers a high-quality work-based learning program that effectively advances employment opportunities for unemployed and underemployed job seekers and assists small businesses with near-term vacancy needs and long-term employee training and development plans. Through this multifaceted program, Workforce Development successfully engages both individual job seekers and small businesses, connecting the two through a subsidized 'internship' model. This model has proven to be effective and productive, allowing individuals to learn the technical and interpersonal skills needed in the workplace while helping small businesses attract a broader and more diverse pool of candidates.

Workforce Development maximizes partnerships and grant funding to help businesses address skill shortages and hiring needs while ensuring the unemployed and underemployed are prepared to re-enter and transition into the labor force with the right skills along a career pathway. Workforce Development leverages and enhances existing programs and systems to focus service delivery to a greater number of job seekers from historically marginalized communities and intentionally engages with small businesses across key industry sectors to deliver best practices with cost-saving and time-saving measures.

Community Engagement & Equitable Outcomes

Workforce Development has a strong commitment to ensuring that economic prosperity reaches underserved communities and creates opportunities across the County by working to remove barriers for economically disadvantaged populations. Workforce Development is implementing a mobile/remote job center – Job Center on the Move. The project plans for WDD to recruit 200 individuals whose households experienced unemployment, increased food or housing insecurity, are low or moderate income, or experienced a negative economic impact from the pandemic or workforce disruption.

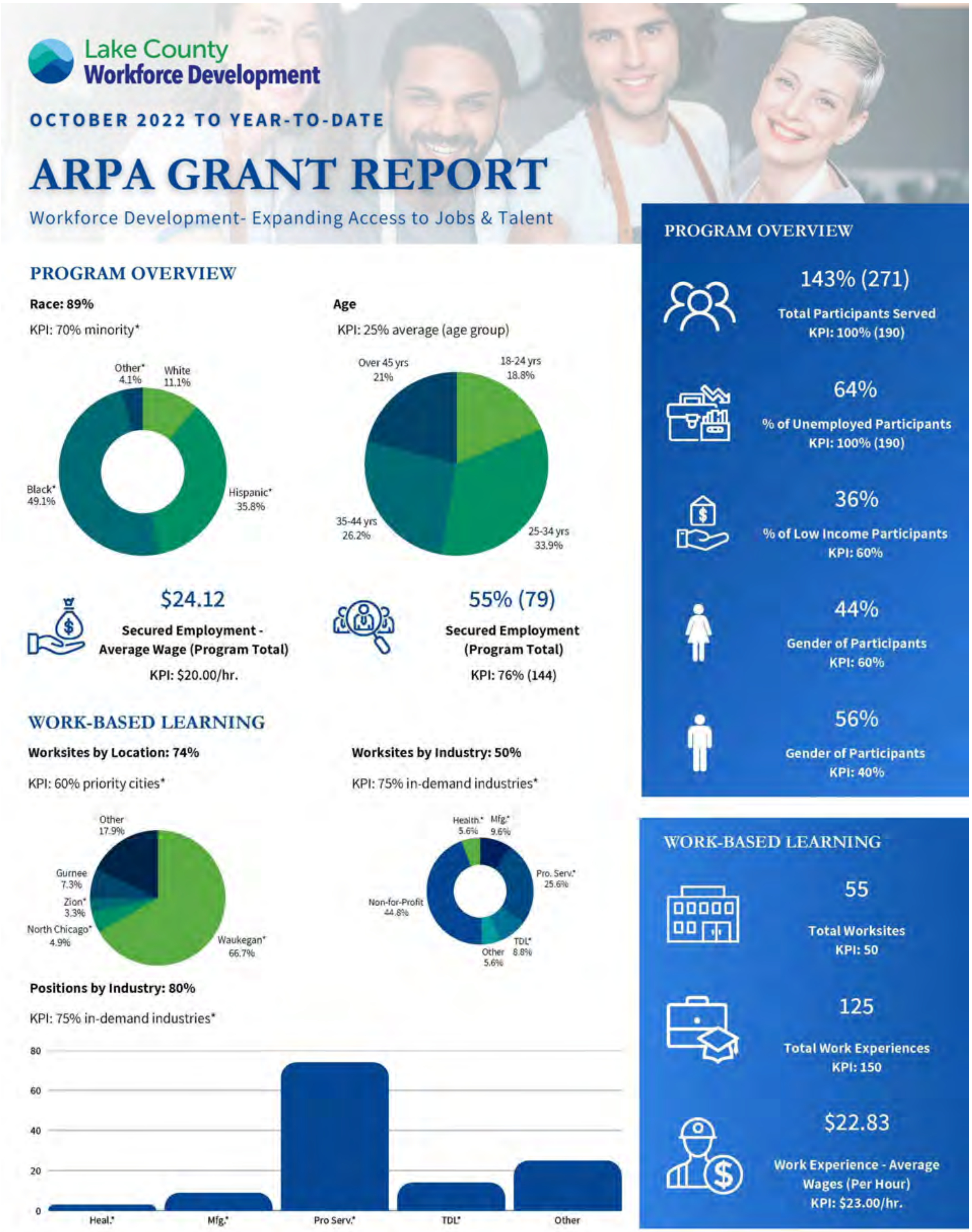
Use of Evidence

Small businesses are transitioning post-pandemic with significant challenges in employee recruitment and retention. According to the MetLife and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Index Q1 2022, a majority of small businesses are concerned about improving employee retention (57%) and recruiting enough employees to fill open positions (56%). Almost half (46%) of small businesses face a worker shortage, and competition for talent shows no signs of letting up.

Workforce Development will deliver a successful work-based learning program that addresses the recruitment concerns of small businesses while increasing diversity in their hiring practices. Workforce Development will provide pools of candidates recruited at the community level through existing programs and in collaboration with local and state workforce development agencies. WDD will work alongside small businesses to set up training plans, pay wages during the training period, and provide case management and coaching to further assist individuals on the job. As a high-performing workforce solution, work-based learning programs integrate education and training institutions, community, and workplace training to quickly bring the 'intern' up to speed through a concrete training plan while helping small businesses save money.

Work-based learning is the core component of this project – connecting small businesses with immediate hiring needs to active job seekers and setting up a subsidized work experience and training plan to address skills gaps, both technical and interpersonal. WDD plans to set up 150 work experiences with 80+ small businesses, using ARPA funds to pay the negotiated hourly wage. WDD will develop a customized training plan with the business and individual and monitor the hours and success.

Performance Report



Lake County
Workforce Development

OCTOBER 2022 TO YEAR-TO-DATE

ARPA GRANT REPORT

Workforce Development- Expanding Access to Jobs & Talent

Objectives	Actual	Goal	Percentage	Budget	Actual/ Obligated
Engage Small Businesses through Intentional Marketing	447	70	638%		
Post Employers to Job Board	600	100	600%		
Meeting with C Suite Executives	14	14	100%		
Job Seekers in Work Based Learning and Work Experiences	125	150	83%	$2,800,000.00	$3,147,528.83
Job Seekers Obtained Employment	79	144	55%		
Outreach to Job Seekers	71,504	6,000	1192%		
Enroll Job seekers in Occupational Training	146	40	365%	$300,000.00	$847,782.46
Engage Stakeholders through Intentional Marketing	12,000	7,000	213%		
Technology Support	19	23	83%	$30,000.00	$19,844.21
Transportation Asssistance	164	150	109%	$75,000.00	$82,000.00

Public Health

PROJECT [220011] »

Hybrid Meeting Architecture for LCHD Facilities

Funding Allocated: $32,036.64

Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic required the Health Department to migrate in part to a remote workforce. The transition included the mass adoption of the Microsoft Teams collaboration suite and several other digital components to support remote work. At the same time, the Health Department workforce has experienced incredible growth. Due to distancing requirements, this increase in the workforce would strain the Health Department's already limited physical space. This space requirement is also true of direct treatment services, specifically in behavioral healthcare, where there is a drastic need to support the provision of these services in a hybrid approach.

As both an infection control and fiscal control measure, the Health Department has also determined that a hybrid workforce model will continue in the foreseeable future. A hybrid work environment enables the Health Department to continue to meet its obligations to the community, provide excellent service, protect its staff from the further spread of COVID-19, and significantly reduce the need for additional capital investment in physical space. This project will equip each of the Health Department's sites with at least one hybrid meeting space to enable effective meetings between onsite and offsite workers and effective group behavioral health treatment sessions.

Performance Report

The hybrid meeting environment aims to increase collaboration by enabling staff from multiple sites (including offsite) to meet without physical contact or interruption. The hybrid environment will also increase efficiencies due to reduced travel needs for meeting at a central location. Finally, the hybrid meeting environment stands to reduce the need for physical space expansions substantially. The KPI target is to monitor and track usage to ensure the equipment is used at least weekly at all locations.

19
proposed locations

5
locations installed

1.4
uses per week for each installed unit

- » IT staff recently sent out a draft of a user/training guide for the hybrid systems to facilitate and encourage use of these units.
- » This project was closed out on 3/31/2024.

PROJECT [210008] »
Vaccination Orchestration Suite Software Licenses

Funding Allocated: $172,418

Expenditure Category: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination

Project Overview

In its ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health Department has administered approximately 120,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Lake County community members. This vaccination project involved both direct administration of vaccines and distribution to other medical community partners. Although these efforts have continued into 2022, they are now at a significantly reduced scale. The use of the orchestration system over other alternatives has helped reduce the risk of medical errors during vaccination operations and minimized the risk of lost vaccines through the VacVision inventory and delivery system. For more information, visit the AllVax Portal.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The AllVax portal provides features for displaying content in English and Spanish. To support disadvantaged communities, a call center was implemented, allowing residents to register and schedule vaccination appointments by phone.

Performance Report

- Percentage of Lake County residents vaccinated
  - Goal: 80% of residents vaccinated
  - Current Status:
    - 89.5% of residents have had at least one vaccine dose
    - 79.2% of residents are fully vaccinated
    - 53.4% of residents are fully vaccinated with a first booster dose
- In Q2 2022, the Vaccination Orchestration Suite and its supporting architecture were decommissioned.
  - Software licenses expired on December 31, 2022, and were not renewed.
- As of Q1 2023, all data has been archived to on-premises databases, with vaccine data accessible online.
- 2025 Update: No activity reported to date in 2025.

PROJECT [210009] »
COVID Call Center (Staffing and software)

Funding Allocated: $701,267.04

Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (e.g., Communications, Enforcement, Quarantine)

Project Overview

The COVID-19 Call Center was initiated in 2020 in response to the large volume of COVID-19-related calls at the Health Department. Initially funded by CARES Act dollars in early 2021, the need to continue this service remained even after that funding ended. The funds cover the cost of contractual staff and the software they need to perform their work. The project is coordinated by managers in the Health Department’s Prevention Services, with additional oversight from the agency’s Communicable Disease Program.

The call center improves community health by providing information and connecting people to necessary services such as vaccinations, disease screening/testing, primary medical care, and social support services. Operations are daily and ongoing and will continue as the need for information and vaccinations remains.

Functions conducted under the extended 2023 funding include handling inquiries about communicable diseases, linking individuals to vaccination resources, reporting notifiable diseases, assisting with outbreak investigations, and reconciling vaccination data with the State’s vaccine registry to improve data accuracy. Staffing is scaled in response to demand.

The overall goal of the project is to directly answer as close to 100% of incoming calls as possible, schedule as many people for vaccinations as possible, and provide vital information to the community.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

As the main method for registration and scheduling vaccinations in Lake County is via an online portal (AllVax), it presented potential obstacles for people in disadvantaged communities who may not have access. The call center provides a valuable bridge, allowing people in disadvantaged communities to phone in to register and schedule appointments for vaccinations and to obtain vital information related to communicable diseases. Call center staff also assisted in outgoing vaccination scheduling calls to patients at Lake County Health Department’s Federally Qualified Health Center and scheduling calls for individuals prioritized for specific vaccination efforts such as Mpox. The overwhelming majority of these patients are from disadvantaged and disproportionately affected communities.

Performance Report

This project was closed out on 12/31/2023.

PROJECT [210005] »

Lake County Children's Advocacy Center – Mental Health ARPA Funding

Funding Allocated: $246,274.75

Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview

The Lake County Children's Advocacy Center (LCCAC) conducts forensic interviews for children involved in allegations of sexual abuse, physical abuse, or as witnesses to major crimes. It also provides mental health support and advocacy for children in Lake County, coordinating investigations through a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach as required by the National Children's Alliance (NCA). The mental health team, a crucial part of the MDT, offers guidance and immediate intervention for children and families in distress.

Funded by ARPA starting in November 2021, the mental health program employed two full-time therapists and one part-time therapist through November 2023. During this time, 1,096 interviews were conducted, with therapists offering immediate support post-interview. The mental health team navigated delicate situations, assisted families in crisis, provided education and resources, and facilitated support groups and individual therapy. This comprehensive approach builds trust and ensures continuous support from the initial disclosure through the healing process, addressing the community's mental health needs effectively. For more information, visit www.friendsoflccac.org.

Evidence Basis

All clinicians are trained in Trauma Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), an evidence-based treatment model. All clinicians supervising or working in the program use this model with all clients and ensure it is an appropriate fit for them prior to beginning treatment. To evaluate the effectiveness of this treatment, clinicians administer the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Reaction Index with clients at the beginning of treatment and every three months after that, including at the time of discharge. This ensures the mental health team measures trauma reactions and symptoms in clients to test the effectiveness of treatment as well.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The mental health team at the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center (LCCAC) collaborates with the Executive Director and the multidisciplinary team (MDT) to provide culturally responsive services throughout each case. This approach is integral to the LCCAC's mission and philosophy, addressing the diverse needs of the community. Services include parent support groups in both English and Spanish to cater to the largely Spanish-speaking population, and individual services that do not require insurance, increasing accessibility and resulting in a higher demand.

The team includes a Spanish-fluent therapist and utilizes Heartland Alliance for other language needs. Virtual sessions are available for families facing transportation challenges, supported by a fully equipped telehealth room. The mental health team works closely with the LCCAC Board of Directors on strategic planning to address underserved populations, and collaborates with donors to provide clients with necessary items like iPads for virtual sessions and gas cards for transportation.

Monthly case management reviews ensure comprehensive care, and Outcome Performance Measures (OMS) data is collected and evaluated to continually improve services. Evening appointments are offered for client convenience. The LCCAC serves children from all areas of Lake County, addressing their diverse economic and racial backgrounds individually. The mental health team adheres to National Children's Alliance Accreditation standards, developing policies and best practices to reduce disparities in service access and consistently following these protocols in their work.

Performance Report

July 1, 2022 - November 30, 2023:

Achievements:

- Access: 100% of families/children had access to mental health services.
- Forensic Interviews: 1,096 scheduled; mental health team involved in 346, providing post-interview support.
- Therapy: 88 clients received ongoing therapy (TF-CBT), totaling 664 sessions (588 individual, 88 group).
- Therapy Hours: 440 total.
- Group Therapy:
    - Art Expression: 20 clients
    - Coping Skills: 24 clients
    - Parent Support: 15 parents
    - Each group ran for 4 weekly sessions.
- Inclusivity: Services accessible to all underserved Lake County populations; all Lake County cities served.

- **Information & Resources:**
    - All clients were provided details on group and individual counseling sessions.
    - Parents received resource flyers in English and Spanish with group times and additional support materials.
- **Service Accessibility:**
    - Counseling was available during days and evenings, with groups scheduled at various times.
    - Virtual sessions were offered, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and continued upon request to meet financial needs.
    - 100% of services were offered free of charge.
- **Service Demand:**
    - Despite high demand and a growing waitlist, the team significantly reduced the waitlist.
    - Group sessions were available to all children, often attended while awaiting individual therapy.
- **Effectiveness:**
    - The UCLA PTSD index was used to evaluate clients, showing a 72% reduction in symptoms over 4-6 months.
    - The LCCAC Mental Health Program has proven to be highly effective, building trust and providing comprehensive support under one roof.

PROJECT [240001] »
Children's Advocacy Center Medical Equipment

Funding Allocated: $76,000

Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Prevention

Project Overview

The Lake County Children's Advocacy Center (LCCAC) is where children are brought for a forensic interview when there has been an allegation of sexual abuse, physical abuse or a child has been a witness to a major crime. In addition, the LCCAC serves as a source for mental health support and advocacy for all potential child victims in Lake County. The LCCAC has a medical facility on-site which allows the opportunity for children to receive well-being exams in cases of physical abuse or specialized Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations (SANE) in cases of sexual abuse allegations. The LCCAC has utilized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support the launch of the medical facility through purchasing medical equipment specific to these exams in addition to other necessary medical supplies, clinic furniture, and printed resource materials.

The LCCAC partnered with Rosalind Franklin University Health Clinics and began to establish infrastructure for the pediatric sexual assault outpatient clinic in late 2023. Three staff members were hired to begin to create program-specific policies and procedures, acquire required medical and non-medical supplies and equipment, and initiated collaboration efforts with multiple agencies such as Law Enforcement, Department of Children and Family Services, Lake County Health Department, and local hospital systems to provide training and education regarding Forensic Medicine to ensure a successful launch and transition to seamless care within a children's advocacy center setting. The on-site medical clinic is headed by Rosalind Franklin University Health Clinics Medical Director and the on-site medical team consists of a SANE Manager and SANE Coordinator. Since the start of the program, the medical team has conducted numerous trainings for LCCAC staff and multidisciplinary team partners.

The Rosalind Franklin University Children's Advocacy Center Medical Clinic (RFU CAC MC) began seeing patients on June 2, 2025. The RFU CAC MC intends to consult with each victim and their family who presents to the LCCAC for a forensic interview for a disclosure of physical or sexual abuse to offer services or provide a referral for medical services or treatment. The RFU CAC MC will perform an exam and offer treatment to victims of sexual abuse and complete an evidence collection kit when necessary. RFU CAC MC staff will work with the multidisciplinary team on cases to provide feedback and expert opinion during the process of an investigation. www.friendsoflccac.org http://www.rfuclinics.com

Use of Evidence

The goal of the project is to launch a pilot site for medical evaluations of child victims of abuse on-site at the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center. The RFU CAC MC is the first of its' kind in the State of Illinois and programming is evaluated by the National Children's Alliance as part of the LCCAC's accreditation process. Programming is evaluated by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as the primary funding source for the launch of the pilot program- Trauma Informed Care for Youth Survivors. The RFU CAC MC is an approved pediatric health care facility through IDPH under the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act (SASETA).

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The RFU CAC MC will serve all child victims in Lake County who present for a disclosure of physical or sexual abuse. The project is currently funded through grant funds and allows for all children and families to receive care at no cost. The LCCAC is accredited through the National Children's Alliance and guarantees all services are accessible to child victims of abuse at no cost. Each year, approximately 50% of clients served at the LCCAC are Hispanic and the highest number of cases come in from the Round Lake area, Waukegan, North Chicago, and Zion. According to the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County, residents in North Chicago and Waukegan are twice as likely to utilize the emergency room which can be reflective of a lack of primary care and/or inadequate insurance coverage. In 2022, the LCCAC served approximately 370 children (~47% of all LCCAC clients) within these geographical areas in Lake County. The 2022 Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County Community Needs Assessment illustrates low access and low income within the above population of residents. Their assessment also states lack of health insurance and high costs as the top reasons why residents do not access medical care. The LCCAC intends to relieve these burdens on families who have children experiencing abuse by providing immediate care at no cost to them. Providing services to victims of abuse assists in criminal investigations and the charging of criminal cases which results in detaining offenders and safer communities overall.

Performance Report

To measure the performance of the RFU CAC MC, data will be recorded to track all client demographics, the number of exams performed in the clinic, the number of consultations for services with victims/families, how many cases were referred for other services, and the number of times the Corexflo camera was utilized to document injuries during an exam. The Cortexflo camera was purchased with ARPA funds and is used to collect forensic evidence which is then shared with law enforcement at the time of an investigation. Since the RFU CAC MC soft launch on June 2, 2025, to date, the RFU CAC MC has seen 8 patients for exams and treatment and have consulted with 39 patients who presented to the LCCAC for a forensic interview. Since the opening of the medical clinic, the Cortexflo camera was utilized for 3 patient exams which resulted in photo evidence being utilized in the criminal investigation to obtain a warrant for the arrest of the offender.

PROJECT [240004] »

Court Clinician Psychological Services Training

Funding Allocated: $6,000

Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview

The project is to have court clinical staff of the Court Division of Psychological Services trained in the 40-hour Domestic Violence Victim/Survivor Training. This will be done through a 20-hour online training from Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence and 20 hours of in-person training through A Safe Place. Staff will then attend training in a Partner Abuse Intervention Program to learn how to effectively intervene with individuals who choose violence through Anew https://anewdv.org/

Use of Evidence

Staff are being trained in evidence-based practices to reduce domestic violence.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

This project will allow the clinical staff of the Court Division of Psychological Services to conduct Domestic Violence evaluations with Lake County court-involved individuals with Domestic Violence offenses at no charge, to provide services to survivors of domestic violence, and to provide treatment for individuals who choose violence.

Performance Report

Number of staff trained. To date, eight clinicians have completed the 20-hour online Domestic Violence Victim/Survivor Training through Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence. All eight clinical staff are currently registered to complete the 20-hour In-person Victim/Survivor Training the week of September 8, 2025. The Abuser intervention Training cannot occur until after the 40-hour training has been completed.

PROJECT [210019] »

Pandemic Health Navigator Technology Licensing

Funding Allocated: $169,959

Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (e.g., Communications, Enforcement, Quarantine) ^

Project Overview

The Lake County Health Department (LCHD) received a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for the year 2021. Per IDPH, the "COVID-19 Pandemic Health Navigator Program (PHNP) is an integral part of the State's response to COVID-19. This Program utilizes Pandemic Health Navigators (PHNs) to:

- Help prevent transmission of COVID-19 through education and outreach to vulnerable communities.
- Coordinate resources for those infected or exposed.
- Provide contact tracing support to the Illinois Contact Tracing Collaborative.
- Part of the outreach and coordination of services is working in vulnerable communities to register and schedule people for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Underserved communities have had lower vaccination rates and poorer health outcomes from COVID-19. The overwhelming majority of the efforts of the PHNs are in these communities. The PHN program is specifically designed and implemented to serve the underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected population groups in the County. These are primarily people of color in the economically disadvantaged areas of the County. The goal of facilitating vaccinations is to close the gap in vaccination rates that exists for disadvantaged populations. Vaccines reduce the risk for the vaccinated of becoming infected, infecting others, and also of hospitalization and serious health problems up to and including death, especially in the most vulnerable communities. PHN staff continue to register and schedule people in vulnerable communities for COVID-19 vaccinations. With the expansion of booster shots, there is more need and demand moving forward, plus there is still some degree of hesitancy and lower vaccination rates in vulnerable communities, so work is still needed there.

Performance Report

This project was closed out on 12/30/2022.

PROJECT [220031] »

Epidemiologist Support

Funding Allocated: $139,797.72

Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Project Overview

This position originally relieved and spread the burden of COVID-19 mitigation and control efforts within the CD unit, but with the increasing need for general disease control resources, it has taken on a broader role. For example, the recent measles outbreak required contact tracing and the follow-up for treatment of vaccination for around 200 people. Additionally, significant resources are currently being expended on the prevention of the spread of avian flu (H5N1), as there have been cases in the U.S. Vector-borne diseases (especially from ticks) like Lyme disease are increasing and are of significant concern. Other diseases like West Nile Virus and rabies remain a concern.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The burden of communicable disease is frequently borne most heavily by people in disadvantaged communities. The recent measles cases are an example.

Performance Report

Even with COVID still being a concern, and with emerging diseases like H5N1, and increases in other disease like Lyme disease, RSV and measles, with the expanded epidemiologist capacity provided by the funding, the Lake County Health Department Communicable Disease staff have been able to keep up with the workload and continue to provide a high level of disease surveillance and control services to the people of Lake County. Vital support was provided; exemplified by the amount of resources expended on the measles cases and avian flu (H5N1). COVID and mpox continue to be a concern. Vital support was provided and disease outbreaks were appropriately addressed. This project was completed in December 2024.

INVESTMENT IN COUNTY OPERATIONS

PROJECT [220015] »

Central Permit Facility (CPF) Large Conference Room Audio Visual (AV) Upgrade Project

Funding Allocated: $147,321.77

Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

The Central Permit Facility (CPF) Large Conference Room is frequently used by several Lake County departments for workshops, training, meetings, and administrative adjudication. The current technology running the audio-visual (A/V) system in the large conference room was installed in April 2010. The system is outdated, and meeting facilitators frequently need assistance starting the A/V system and troubleshooting issues. The CPF Large Conference Room (capacity 120) is a strategically positioned meeting room at the Libertyville Government Campus CPF, as well as being centrally located within Lake County.

Upgrading the current technology infrastructure to an up-to-date, user-friendly system adapted for in-person/virtual hybrid meetings would help ensure this room remains a cornerstone meeting location for all Lake County departments and will support all departments in holding meetings during the pandemic. Recent experience with hybrid in-person meetings with virtual attendance has not worked with the current technologies. User-friendly technology infrastructure improvements will enable efficient and more productive use of limited staffing capacity to effectively hold in-person/hybrid meetings, allowing for ease of use during the pandemic.

Investment in County Operations Equipment was ordered in late 2022. Expected operational improvements include a user-friendly system that is technologically current, fully functional, and easy to operate, eliminating the need to constantly troubleshoot, which pulls staff from other departments and causes meeting inefficiencies and delays. CPF building tenants will not have to travel to an alternate meeting location. Lake County residents and other stakeholders can choose to attend meetings virtually, eliminating the need to travel to the site, reducing traffic and emissions, and lessening exposure risks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Engagement

Although not specifically a community-identified need, the upgrade to the A/V system in the CPF Large Conference Room serves the public through a variety of publicly held in-person, virtual, or hybrid “in-person/virtual” meetings. We have seen public meeting attendance increase through virtual meetings. Lake County citizens who normally wouldn’t attend because of challenges/conflicts/the pandemic getting to the facility have been attending meetings they normally wouldn't attend if the meetings were in-person only.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups will have better access to publicly held meetings through collaboration technologies such as Zoom, Teams, GoToWebinar, etc. Upgrading the equipment allows better facilitation of meetings, especially with in-person/virtual attendance.

Performance Report

The project was initiated with ARPA funds. It was originally expected that the project would be successfully completed in late 2023/early 2024. Most of the work was successfully completed before May 10; however, there are several punch-list items that CTI needs to complete before the project can be considered 100% successfully completed. We are currently working with the vendor to get them back on-site to complete punch-list items and change order request items.

Updates:

- The project is expected to be complete by year end 2025.

PROJECT [210013 & 210014] »
SAO Violent Crimes Unit & Victim Witness Coordinator

Funding Allocated: $332,028.70

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services & 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview

The Gun Violence Prevention Initiative (GVPI) aims to reduce gun violence in Waukegan, North Chicago, and Zion by hiring violence interrupters through community-based organizations. These interrupters, trained under the Cure Violence Model (CVM), treat violence as a preventable behavior using public health techniques. The GVPI focuses on high-risk youth aged 14 to 25, providing conflict mediation, community mobilization, and connections to social services, job training, and mentoring. The initiative integrates with the State's Attorney's Office's restorative justice programs, employing a three-pronged approach: identification and detection of violence hotspots, intervention and risk reduction, and changing community norms around violence.

GVPI street outreach workers, selected for their credibility and influence in targeted neighborhoods, engage with high-risk individuals to prevent conflicts and retaliatory violence. They implement risk reduction plans, connecting participants with housing, counseling, and employment services. The initiative also involves community engagement through forums, public events, and rallies to prevent the normalization of violence. The GVPI collaborates with Lake County government units, including law enforcement, to share best practices and develop violence reduction programs. Training for staff includes programs like "A Way Out" and "The Living Room Wellness Center" to offer alternatives to formal arrest and charging. The initiative identifies at-risk individuals, including those released from correctional facilities, to refer them to the interrupter program, ensuring comprehensive support and intervention.

Use of Evidence

The goals of the project are to help provide opportunities for those most at risk in our communities, so they do not engage in any illegal activities. The GVPI will also integrate its comprehensive approach to addressing the short-term and long-term causes of gun violence with the State's Attorney's Office's restorative justice programs.

Street-outreach professionals will meet with high-risk individuals several times a week to implement individualized risk reduction plans. They will connect participants with needed services, such as housing, counseling, and employment assistance, and develop action plans for a positive future. The Program Manager and GVPI Director will work with street level staff and the program TTA Consultant to compile information regarding individual participants, mediations, and other data points to ensure proper quarterly reporting similar to that of any grant the SAO has secured. TTA Consultant will work with GVPI and selected CBO to ensure the program meets the necessary reporting requirements for spending on evidence-based interventions and rigorous program evaluations.

Performance Report

Number of (July 2022 thru June 2023):

» Police investigations reviewed for criminal charges by violent crime unit assistant state's attorneys – 39 (non-major crash investigations)
» Trainings conducted - 0
» Cases charged, indicted, and prosecuted by VCU ASAs – 18 (non-major crash investigations)

Number of (February 2022 thru June 2022):

» Police investigations reviewed for criminal charges by violent crime unit assistant state's attorneys – 25+ (non-major crash investigations)
» Trainings conducted - 1
» Cases charged, indicted, and prosecuted by VCU ASAs – 10 (non-major crash investigations)

2025 Update:

» No update for 2025

PROJECT [220023] »

SAO Video Conversion and Storage

Funding Allocated: $270,850

Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

During the pandemic, the State’s Attorney’s Office was prepared in many ways to become remote as needed; however, the pandemic did expose processes that anchored employees to the office. One of the main impediments to allow remote work is physical media, which the office relies upon, particularly video from law enforcement. Video evidence from body cameras, squad cameras, interview rooms, security cameras, etc., can be created in thousands of different formats of video, both proprietary and non-proprietary, and each format requires a unique player to view that specific video format. This situation is not manageable. Input-Ace and Evidence.com are vendors that offer a solution that allows for proprietary video to be converted to a non-proprietary format that can be viewed without the need for specialized video players, and then stored in the cloud for access from anywhere. Cloud storage will enable a continuity of operations should any emergency, event, or circumstances restrict physical access to SAO work sites.
Start Date: July 2022
End Date: August 2026

- **July 2022:** Purchase/Installation of software
- **June 2023:** Training of users
- **August 2022-August 2026:** Storage of video

Performance Report

- July 2022: Purchase/Installation of software – cooperative contract with vendor, Axon Enterprise, Inc. has been identified, and a quote has been issued
- June 2023: Training of users to begin
- August 2022-August 2026: Storage of video
- Reduction of proprietary players: Ongoing
- Total number of videos uploaded: 33,293 as of Q2 2024
- Amount of total storage: 60 TB as of Q2 2025

PROJECT [220022] »

SAO Document Scanning Digitization for ICMS

Funding Allocated: $260,000

Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

During the pandemic, the State’s Attorney’s Office was prepared in many ways to become remote as needed; however, the pandemic did expose processes that anchored employees to the office. One of the main impediments to allow remote work were physical paper files. With the implementation of ICMS, there is a chance to eliminate this barrier to remote work when needed. The problem is there are still many physical files with papers. To facilitate the transition from paper to paperless, current files, more specifically the paper within them, need to be scanned and uploaded to the new case management system.

The overall goals are: 1) enable a continuity of operations should any emergency, event, or circumstances restrict physical access to SAO work sites, and 2) eliminate the need for paper files, thus reducing our paper consumption and physical file storage per year to near zero.

Completed:

- » June 2022: Work with existing Lake County vendor, Excela, on Statement of Work (SOW).
- » June 2022: Test run of scanning to determine if both SAO and the vendor can handle the volume of files and timeline specified in the SOW.
- » Finalize SOW with Excela.
- » July 2022: Make sure Excela and ICMS vendor (JTI) have the technology in place to store and receive the scans.
- » August 2022: Test run of a subset of the case types to see if the process works from beginning to end.
- » Anticipated date for go-live is September 25, 2023: Start the digitization/scanning of files.

In Progress:

- » Anticipated date for go-live is September 25, 2023: Scan active files in increments determined by the testing (approximately 100-125 boxes every two weeks). Estimated completion by November 30, 2026.

Performance Report

- » SOW with Excela finalized – done July 2022
- » Testing subset of boxes to be scanned – done June and July 2022
- » All technology in place and test and set to begin scanning – done April 2023
- » Informed vendor of go-live date for ICMS so vendor will have resources available – July 2023
- » Scanning of 100-125 boxes every two weeks – started October 2023
- » Check to make sure the scans end up in the ICMS – started October 2023
- » In 2024, there should be a reduction in boxes sent to storage – estimated completion by November 30, 2026.
- » 217 boxes scanned as of June 2025
- » 1,784 boxes to be destroyed as of June 2025

PROJECT [220012] »

SAO Gun Violence Prevention Initiative

Funding Allocated: $559,809

Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview

The Gun Violence Prevention Initiative (GVPI) aims to reduce gun violence in Waukegan, North Chicago, and Zion by hiring violence interrupters through community-based organizations. These interrupters, trained under the Cure Violence Model (CVM), treat violence as a preventable behavior using public health techniques. The GVPI focuses on high-risk youth aged 14 to 25, providing conflict mediation, community mobilization, and connections to social services, job training, and mentoring. The initiative integrates with the State's Attorney's Office's restorative justice programs, employing a three-pronged approach: identification and detection of violence hotspots, intervention and risk reduction, and changing community norms around violence.

GVPI street outreach workers, selected for their credibility and influence in targeted neighborhoods, engage with high-risk individuals to prevent conflicts and retaliatory violence. They implement risk reduction plans, connecting participants with housing, counseling, and employment services. The initiative also involves community engagement through forums, public events, and rallies to prevent the normalization of violence. The GVPI collaborates with Lake County government units, including law enforcement, to share best practices and develop violence reduction programs. Training for staff includes programs like "A Way Out" and "The Living Room Wellness Center" to offer alternatives to formal arrest and charging. The initiative identifies at-risk individuals, including those released from correctional facilities, to refer them to the interrupter program, ensuring comprehensive support and intervention.

Task	Staff Position Responsible	Date Due
Release RFP seeking CBO Partner	GVPI Grant Team	Done
Select CBO Partner(s)	GVPI Grant Team	Done
Finalize Contract with CBO Partner(s)	GVPI Grant Team	Done
Hire Director of GVPI	SAO & GVPI Team	Done
Hire Program Manager	CBO Hiring Panel	Done
Identify Violence Interrupter Supervisors	CBO Hiring Panel	Done
Hire Violence Interrupters	CBO Hiring Panel	Done
Train Supervisor Staff & Interrupters	TTA Consultant	Done
Public Outreach Events Informing Public	GVPI Director & Program Manager	Ongoing
Violence Reduction Plan for 3 cities	GVPI Director & Program Manager	Done
Hire Additional Violence Interrupter Staff	CBO Hiring Panel	Done
30 Mediations Completed	VI Supervisors/VIs	Done
30 Participants Offered Services	VI Supervisors/VIs	Done
500 High Risk Contacts Made	VI Supervisors/VIs	Done
Secure Other Sustainable Funding	GVPI Director	Ongoing
50 Total Mediations Completed	VI Supervisors/VIs	Done
GVPI helps 75 total participants	VI Supervisors/VIs	Done
1000 Total High-Risk Contacts Made	VI Supervisors/VIs	In progress

A very short explainer is available on the website for the public this tab will be expanded and built out further with more information - https://lcsao.org/362/Gun-Violence-Prevention-Initiative-GVPI

Use of Evidence

The goals of the project are to help provide opportunities for those most at risk in our communities, so they do not engage in any illegal activities. The GVPI will also integrate its comprehensive approach to addressing the short-term and long-term causes of gun violence with the State's Attorney's Office's restorative justice programs.

Street-outreach professionals will meet with high-risk individuals several times a week to implement individualized risk reduction plans. They will connect participants with needed services, such as housing, counseling, and employment assistance, and develop action plans for a positive future. The Program Manager and GVPI Director will work with street level staff and the program TTA Consultant to compile information regarding individual participants, mediations, and other data points to ensure proper quarterly reporting similar to that of any grant the SAO has secured. TTA Consultant will work with GVPI and selected CBO to ensure the program meets the necessary reporting requirements for spending on evidence-based interventions and rigorous program evaluations.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The GVPI will call upon the principles of restorative justice. Restorative justice encourages outcomes that promote responsibility, reparation, and healing for all. The GVPI will recognize that the causes of crime in these impacted areas stem from systemic and long-standing failures of the educational, economic, and legal systems. Indeed, racially disparate sentences from the courthouse have disproportionately separated too many families from under-served communities. Family separation caused by unequal incarceration (and the systemic failures listed above) has destabilized the psychology and coherence of communities and individuals.

By serving these communities and working aggressively to reduce violence, the GVPI will be the State's Attorney's Office's reconciliation with a past that focused more on the sound bite of "getting tough on crime" rather than serving the community in a holistic and forward-thinking manner. The GVPI will not only include and collaborate with the community groups and community leaders listed above, the GVPI will be made up of these community building blocks. Through an evidence-based approach, the GVPI will deploy violence interrupters and service groups from the very communities that they live in. But we must also expressly expand the work of violence prevention into schools and faith-based organizations so that the entire community is messaging about the problem and pointing those in need toward the solutions. Regarding victims, it is critical to acknowledge that while most victims do not commit crimes, most offenders are victims themselves. This cycle is not discussed enough in government or community circles. Every GVPI effort will be directed at preventing gun violence, of course. But by preventing gun violence directly, we also reduce the risk that those harmed will suffer the destabilization that ripples outward to cause more crime.

This project primarily serves Waukegan, Zion, and North Chicago which are the most disproportionately impacted communities in the county and racially diverse. They also are the most underserved communities in Lake County. Bringing the focus of these efforts to these particular communities will build trust in the community and help to achieve our set KPIs.

Performance Report

Current status: The GVPI is currently revamping of the countywide Violence Prevention Plan, working on the development of new surveys to gain insight of community member's concerns related to gun violence, and continuing the Lake County Peacemaker's training on case management and data collection. The funds for this ARPA award have already been expended to support the Peacemaker's staff, all of whom are hired and have been doing the work for over two years now.

» Key Performance Indicators for GVPI

Performance Measure	Current	Goal
Reduction of firearm related homicides and firearm related non-fatal injuries	There has been a 60% reduction since 2022 in homicides and 63% reduction in non-fatal injuries	25% Reduction
Engagement of program participants with the Lake County Peacemakers with % not committing new offenses since joining the program.	There are a total of 86 program participants with 97% not committing new offenses	75 program participants with 60% not committing new offenses sense joining the program
Victim Services provided to at least survivors and their families within a year of the program's start date.	The Victim Services Team has served over 50 survivors and families this year	50 Survivors and families served by the GVPI
# of Mediations of incidents by the Lake County Peacemakers mitigating retaliation or the occurrence of gun violence.	41 mediations have taken place	50 Mediations
Community Response to at least % of shooting incidents in targeted areas led by GVPI or Lake County Peacemakers.	100% Response has occurred for shooting incidents that the Peacemakers have been notified of	75% Response to shootings in targeted areas

PROJECT [240008] »

Gun Violence Prevention Office Improvements

Funding Allocated: $425,400

Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview

With the inclusion of ARPA funds for Community Violence Interventions and the White House directive related to gun violence programs the SAO secured its initial funding for the GVPI through a County Board supported APRA award.

The purpose of the Gun Violence Prevention Initiative (GVPI) is to work with community-based organizations to identify and hire violence interrupters who will work to reduce gun violence, specifically in Waukegan, North Chicago, and Zion, as well as, to help provide opportunities for those most at risk in our communities so they do not engage in any gang related activities. The GVPI will also integrate its comprehensive approach to addressing the short-term and long-term causes of gun violence with the State's Attorney's Office's restorative justice programs. The GVPI, when it initially began, had 1 Director within the office and a subaward to Waukegan Township (Lake County Peacemakers). While the subaward still exists and the direct street outreach work is done by the Peacemakers the State's Attorney's Office services have expanded greatly and currently have several openings that will require space that is not currently available in the office. These staffers are critical to expanding services addressing victims needs and helping address the root issues of gun violence.

The Lake County State's Attorney's Office GVPI now includes the Director of the GVPI, 2 GVPI victim specialists, a Safe Storage Specialist, a Violence Prevention Coordinating Council (VPCC) Coordinator, and a Data Analyst. Some of the services that would be or are currently being provided by these staffers include, cognitive behavioral therapy, victim services support, education and support around gun safe storage and extreme risk protection orders (Firearm Restraining Orders & Clear and Present Danger Notifications), organizing our VPCC stakeholder meetings and other activities supporting our Office of Firearm Violence Prevention grants, and collecting and analyzing shooting data both to support the work within the State's Attorney's Office (including informing the public) and that of the Lake County Peacemakers.

The staff of the Lake County Peacemakers also continues to grow from the initial 1 program manager and some street outreach workers to the program manager, 3 supervisors, 9 outreach workers, and 2 case managers. The case managers are the most recent staffers to be hired and will allow the team to provide more in-depth case management services and risk reduction plans to participants of the program. Case Managers will meet with high-risk individuals several times a week to implement individualized risk reduction plans. They will connect participants with needed services, such as housing, counseling, and employment assistance, and develop action plans for a positive future. Case Managers will supplement the work already done by street outreach specialists to build rapport with participants and get them in the door and willing to explore more productive activities and less risky behavior. To date the Peacemakers have over 40 participants and have mediated over 40 conflicts in the communities of Waukegan, Zion, and North Chicago.

The LCSAO will be building offices for the remaining staff to be hired and who do not yet have offices so the GVPI can be fully operational within the State's Attorney's Office. Based on measurements throughout the 5th floor where the current GVPI staff members are located along with comparison of other space occupied by LCSAO victim services staff the State's Attorney's Office needs approximately 500 square feet of offices built to accommodate the existing and yet to be hired positions of the GVPI.

The LCSAO will also be seeking a satellite office for the Lake County Peacemakers to accommodate their growing staff and ensure that participants have more than one option given transportation issues high risk individuals face.

The Lake County State's Attorney's Office continues to work with Waukegan Township as a subaward agency for the direct street outreach work through the Lake County Peacemakers while the victim services, health services, and others are provided within the State's Attorney's Office through the Gun Violence Prevention Initiative. The Lake County Peacemakers currently consist of the program manager, 3 supervisors, 9 outreach specialists, and 2 case managers. These individuals are all employees of Waukegan Township. The Peacemakers work closely with the GVPI regarding programming, events, and strategies to increase services to the community. https://lcsao.org/362/Gun-Violence-Prevention-Initiative-GVPI

Use of Evidence

The main goal of the Lake County Peacemakers is to interrupt cycles of violence by building trust with the community, mediating disputes, preventing retaliation, and engaging with high-risk individuals. They work toward achieving these goals by:

- Intervening in circumstances in which gun violence is likely (including possible retaliation)
- Identifying and building strong rapport with high-risk individuals in and around the community
- Conducting community outreach by establishing relationships with residents, youth, businesses, and community stakeholders
- Detecting and mediating conflicts
- Providing intensive case management services to aid in diffusing and solving current issues as well as preventing future ones
- Collaborating with the GVPI and other community organizations to address the root causes of everyday gun violence

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

This project primarily serves disproportionately impacted communities.

Performance Report

Substantial completion is targeted for July 2025. Roughly 70% completed to date.

PROJECT [220024] »

Technology Upgrades to Host Hybrid Public Meetings in Lake County's 10th Floor Assembly Room

Funding Allocated: $132,665.22

Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

This project enabled Lake County to host large hybrid meetings in the 10th Floor Assembly Room at 18 N. County St., Waukegan, accommodating both in-person and remote attendance. During the COVID-19 pandemic, committee meetings were held remotely for the first time, allowing the public to watch live and provide comments from home, increasing participation and ensuring safety. To maximize accessibility, Lake County transitioned to hybrid meetings, enabling both public and staff to attend remotely, saving time and reducing travel needs.

The Assembly Room technology setup includes two video cameras, four display monitors, 12 microphones, and an electronic AV interface, supporting not only Board Committee meetings but also large meetings for other departments. A new desk for control equipment and staff support was installed. Electrical work, completed by the Facilities and Construction Services (FCS) Department using non-ARPA funds, supported the new equipment. Project planning and equipment acquisition began in August 2021, with completion in December 2022.

Performance Report

The project has been completed.

PROJECT [220013] »

ePollbook Upgrade and On Demand Ballot Printing

Funding Allocated: $1,529,480

Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Overview of Project

The Program Goal is to upgrade Election equipment to integrate new software which will increase processing time for voters at a polling site and mitigate the spread of COVID for all our polling sites. Election security will also be updated within this process as well.

Elections administration is designated critical federal infrastructure by the federal government. Our ePollbooks are a key component ensuring election security and integrity within the Lake County election process. Upgrading election hardware to integrate with current security updates are essential to Lake County Clerk election operations. It is important to recognize that as computers age, so does their capability to receive the newest software updates. Our current units, purchased in 2015, are moved around often, sustain damage over time and are nearing end of life.

In FY23 the Lake County Clerk's Office researched a variety of vendor partners to identify the proper ePollbook solution for Lake County. As part of that process, the County Clerk received an added appropriation of $1.5 million in ARPA funding to add on-demand ballot printing capabilities as part of the ePollbook upgrade. Under the prior election operational model, hundreds of thousands of ballots were pre-printed for Election Day. This involved a significant impact on resources to print, prepare, and ship ballots to election day sites. Additionally, under the law, ballots and election material, used or unused, are to be kept for a minimum of 22-months in storage following the election. This created an additional burden on resources.

In late FY23, Tenex was selected as the partner to provide the ePollbook and on-demand ballot printing solution in Lake County. This solution was implemented during the March 19, 2024 general primary election, creating more efficient voter processing, shorter wait times, decrease in the overall amount of election judges required for Election Day, and enhanced security with the newest technology being deployed.

Community Engagement & Equitable Outcomes

One of the goals of having quicker and more efficient processing is to process voters in a timely manner that will reduce overcrowding, which helps mitigate the spread of COVID in all our polling sites. Under the old operational model, the average check-in time for a regular voter would be about 5 minutes. With the Tenex solution that has been implemented, the average check-in time for regular voters is 89 seconds based on the March 19, 2024 general primary election.

Use of Evidence

One of the goals of having quicker and more efficient processing is to process voters in a timely manner that will reduce overcrowding, which helps mitigate the spread of COVID in all our polling sites. Under the old operational model, the average check-in time for a regular voter would be about 5 minutes. With the Tenex solution that has been implemented, the average check-in time for regular voters is 89 seconds based on the March 19, 2024 general primary election.

Program Performance

- 89-second average check-in time for regular voters from the March 19, 2024 general primary election
- Saved approximately 431,844 unused ballots from being pre-printed
- Minimum required election judge staffing reduced to 700 from 1,200
- The ePollbook upgrade is being done in concert with our On-Demand Ballot Printing project as the integration between the ePollbook and on-demand ballot printer is critical for program success. A vendor has been identified and selected for this project. The program has been implemented as of March 2024.

PROJECT [210010] »

Vote by Mail Automation Equipment

Funding Allocated: $3,102,957.01

Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Program Goal

On June 17, 2021, Governor JB Pritzker signed SB 825 into law expanding access to voting through a variety of avenues. One of the significant expansions was establishing permanent vote-by-mail registries, allowing voters who enroll to automatically receive a ballot by mail for all upcoming elections. This legislation built on the administration's previous actions, which expanded the state's vote-by-mail option during the pandemic. As a result, the option to vote by mail has grown exponentially. Its intention was to offer a more convenient and safer option to vote if one did not want to appear in person.

Program Summary

This program is still in development to ensure compliance with ARPA guidelines, and some funds have been spent at this time on the completion of the Vote by Mail Center and election automation machinery. It is anticipated that these new machines will be completely installed and tested for the November Election 2022.

The Lake County Clerk, Robin M. O'Connor, researched different automation possibilities as the demand for voting by mail would increase. The automation would include the creation, assembly, and receipt of returned ballots required by legal deadlines and the ability to process high volumes. After consulting with other election officials, it was evident that the acquisition of a solution with multiple software and hardware components was necessary to meet these needs. These components include six specialized functions: Ballot Management Software, Ballot on Demand Printer, Automated Outbound Ballot Mailing, Outbound Ballot Sorting, Inbound Ballot Envelope Processing, and a Mail Tracking Solution. Accuracy and accountability are expected components in this process.

The automation system was acquired after a thorough and competitive RFP process was completed in December 2021. Blue Crest was chosen as the vendor for this solution. It was critical to engage with a single

vendor who could supply and integrate these processes while also providing ongoing support. Communications, interactions, and dependencies are required between these six critical components. Lake County has always taken pride in having custody of their voters' ballots from the beginning to the end of the voting process, in person or by mail. Blue Crest was able to meet this "end to end" requirement for mail ballots. Lake County recognized that Blue Crest is seen as a leader in the industry of providing automated VBM solutions. Blue Crest was selected as a partner for Lake County's vote-by-mail needs now and for the future.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Full implementation and live use of the software are planned for the November 2022 General Election. Testing in advance is required as one of the final steps of implementation. This automation will absorb increased volumes of ballots requested by mail within statutory timelines, eliminate the printing and usage of pre-printed ballots, and eliminate manual assembly, insertion, and verification of outbound ballots. The Blue Crest solution also automates receipt, verification, sorting, and opening of ballot envelopes returned by voters. It also affords accessible visibility by poll watchers throughout the entire process.

Use of Evidence

In summary, Lake County, Illinois, has purchased automation that will successfully assemble all outbound VBM ballots with 100% accuracy and expeditiously process returned ballot envelopes while sorting and opening them for election judges to complete the final process before tabulation. Lake County will also see a reduction in postal costs to mail ballots and manual labor costs associated with mailing and receiving returned VBM ballots. The timeliness of response to voter inquiries regarding ballot status will tremendously improve as the receipt and verification of returned ballots daily will be seamless.

Performance Report

The new vote-by-mail automation equipment located in the new Vote by Mail Center will combine the six essential functions with accuracy, transparency, and accountability. It will process increased volumes as needed and demonstrate reduced production costs through time. The project has not yet been finalized with ARPA funds. Performance metrics are in the process of development and will be provided ongoing.

The Vote by Mail Center is currently under renovation, and the expected completion date is December 2023.

The Lake County Clerk's Office fully processed vote-by-mail ballots with the equipment for the consolidated primary election in February and the consolidated general election in April (over 40,000 ballots).

Additionally, we activated a feature with the equipment that allowed the County Clerk to sort outgoing vote-by-mail ballots by United States Postal Service designation, which allows for reduced postage and quicker processing by the USPS.

Project completed.

PROJECT [220025] »

Microsoft Teams Voice Sustainment

Funding Allocated: $780,309.84

Expenditure Category: 3.5 Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Project Overview

Microsoft Teams Voice system to support remote work and collaboration among County employees.

Performance Report

This project is complete, and users are now using Microsoft Teams with voice enabled features. This has resulted in high level security, easy administration, simplified team communication (unifying chat, messaging, video calls, and phone calls), and VoIP (Voice Over Internet Protocols) benefits including call management, screen sharing, call recording, all of which have enhanced and improved collaboration and accommodated work from any Lake County and/or remote location.

PROJECT [220026] »

Integrated Case Management System

Funding Allocated: $2,185,000

Expenditure Category: 3.5 Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Project Overview

Implementation of new system to replace an outdated case management system which provides judges, attorneys, and litigants with access to real-time case information and documents 24 hours a day and provides opportunities to enhance efficiencies within the justice system.

Performance Report

This project is complete as the system was implemented in October 2023. The system allows individuals to be able to obtain data and documents about court cases and court calls remotely, without the need to travel to the courthouse for basic services. The public can also pay court-ordered fines and fees online 24 hours a day.

PROJECT [210006/230017] »

Overall Program Compliance & Oversight of External Applications through 2026

Funding Allocated: $589,952.50

Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview

Ensures ARPA funds are used appropriately with thorough compliance, reporting, and oversight until 2026. Engaged to manage external applications that will be funded through public engagement processes.

Performance Report

Number of non-compliance findings: 0

PROJECT [210018] »

Grant Recipient Tracker Database

Funding Allocated: $110,739

Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview

Purchase of a web-based Grant Recipient Tracker specifically designed to accommodate ARPA reporting, to consolidate and report financial information, project activities, and results for external projects.

Performance Report

For twenty external grant recipients, the system provides a user-friendly reporting system which ensure compliance with ARPA regulations.

PROJECT [220014] »
Coroner Storage

Funding Allocated: $33,615

Expenditure Category: 1.6 Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)

Project Overview

The Lake County Coroner's Office has been at risk of exceeding decedent storage capacity throughout the public health emergency due to the separation of decedents that had or are at risk of having had COVID-19. Additional space in the County's main morgue is required to ensure capacity is available and separation of COVID-19 positive decedents can be completed. Additional shelving (3 five-tier shelves) will be purchased with these ARPA funds for the Coroner's Office.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The Lake County Coroner's Office serves all of Lake County.

Performance Report

- Times in which capacity is exceeded in the County's morgue will be tracked.
- Times in which separation of COVID-19 decedents will be tracked.
- The shelves were purchased in October 2022 and installed in February 2023

PROJECT [220027] »
Public Engagement Related Costs

Funding Allocated: $13,843.85

Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview

Costs associated with holding two in-person public engagements, including venue rental fees, wireless microphones, interpreters and interpretation services, event materials, and other related expenses. the funding has also been used on provided interpretation services at other stakeholder and public meetings related to projects in the ARPA suite.

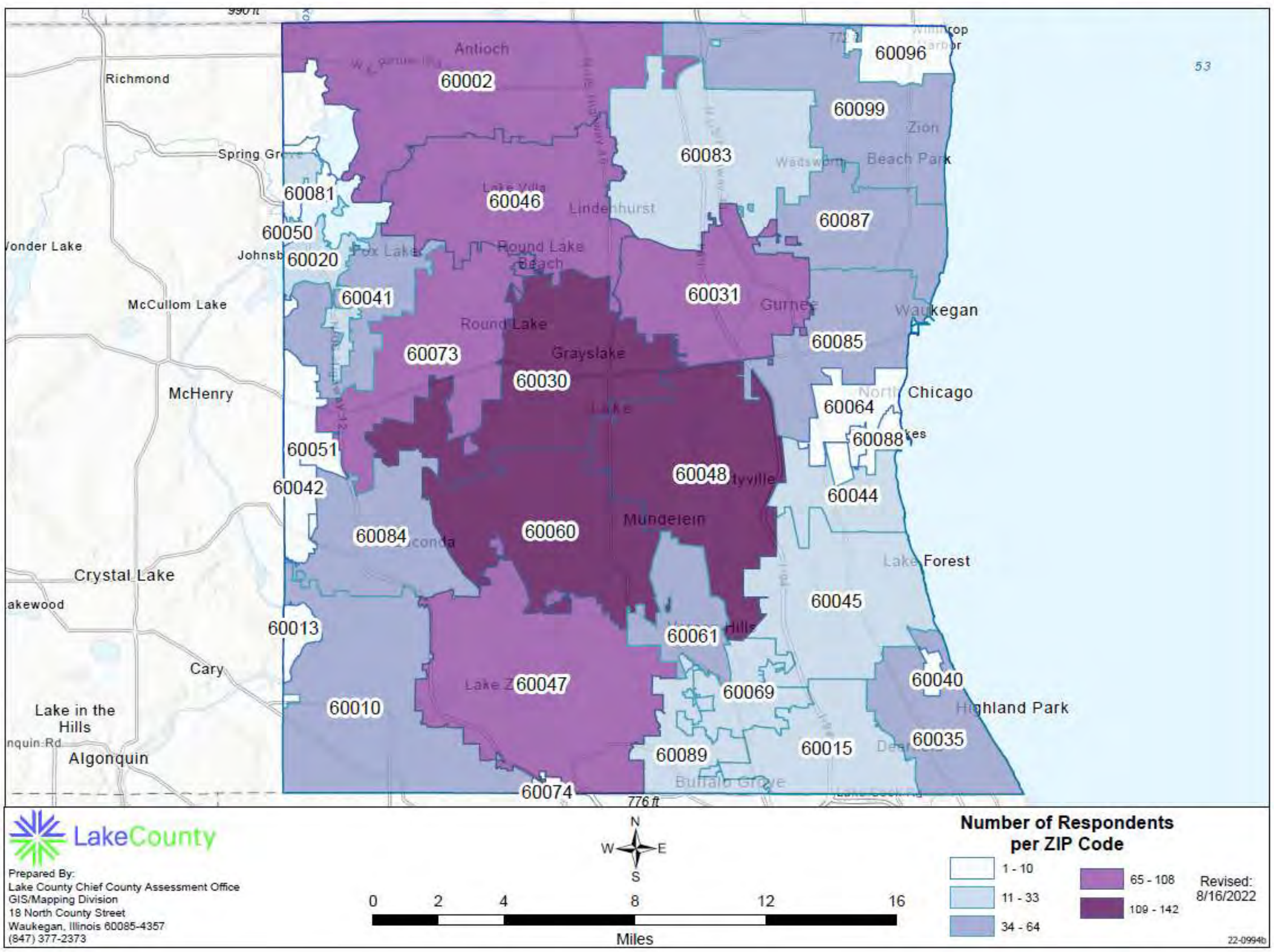
Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Events held in two areas on opposite sides of the County with translated materials and translators present.

Performance Report

Received 1,630 survey responses, 2,049 comments, 36 comment cards from in-person engagements, and 58 comments from a virtual engagement.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Survey Responses by ZIP Code



PROJECT [210004] »

PPE Storage & Distribution

Funding Allocated: $311,461.91

Expenditure Category: 1.5 Personal Protective Equipment

Program Goal and Intention:

The goal of this project is to distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies to partners in need in the community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure the storage of a stockpile of PPE and supplies in preparation for potential increased community spread.

The current allocation was provided to ensure that the program, started with CARES Act funds, is able to continue and be supported with ARPA funds due to the exhaustion of CARES Funds. Current funding is for

the storage of the PPE stockpile that the County purchased and assembled at the height of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The current intention is to ensure this program is supported and continues with the use of ARPA funds, which may require additional allocations of funding due to the rapidly changing environment with the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency as it relates to shifts in transmission rates due to variants.

Program Summary:

Starting in March 2020, the demand for PPE and other emergency supplies surged nationwide, including in Lake County. To combat COVID-19, PPE was sourced from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) warehouse, the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), donations, and internal purchases via CARES Funding. Over 5.8 million items have been distributed to more than 400 Lake County entities as of July 2023, including long-term care facilities, hospitals, vaccination and testing centers, group homes, health clinics, police and fire departments, schools, community partners, faith-based groups, and municipal entities. Funding ensures the safe storage and continuous distribution of the stockpile.

Distribution followed a tier system set by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the CDC's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). The tiers prioritized hospitals, health departments, and LTCFs (Tier 1), followed by first responders and counties (Tier 2), and so forth down to schools and other entities (Tier 5). This process, evolving with changing factors in PPE acquisition and distribution, currently uses ARPA funds to support ongoing storage and related costs, ensuring continued distribution to those most in need.

Community Engagement and Equitable Outcomes:

During the high demand for PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) prioritized distribution based on IDPH Tiers, focusing first on hospitals, nursing homes, health clinics, and direct patient care providers. Initially, outreach to Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) with active COVID cases was frequent, with facilities contacting LCHD for PPE as they struggled to procure supplies independently. As PPE availability increased, it was extended to other public entities and community-based groups according to their needs and burn rates. LCEMA collaborated with LCHD to distribute surplus items across congregate settings and agencies with daily patient contact. In summer 2020, a significant PPE push aimed at schools prioritized those most lacking resources, particularly Tier 1 schools identified by the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE), followed by Tier 2 and 3 schools, and then all remaining schools. Special needs and partnership schools were also included. Despite the offer, daycare facilities declined PPE from LCEMA.

LCEMA extended PPE distribution to community-based organizations and groups working on vaccine registration and community outreach. Recipients included PADS, Mano a Mano, HACES, NAACP, CERTs, Salvation Army, townships, municipal public works and park districts, YWCA, various religious institutions, A Safe Place, Reach Rescue, Chicago Worker's Collaborative, Roberti Community House, Center for Immigrant Progress, FOCUS, Community Action Partners, public libraries, RACES, and United Way of Lake County/211. These efforts aimed to ensure equity in PPE distribution and support community health and safety during the pandemic.

Performance of Program:

Key Milestones in PPE & Supply Distribution:

This project is completed as of March 2025.

Q1 2025 Update:

- Over 6.5 million PPE items and supplies distributed as of July 2025.
- Over 430 public entities received PPE from LCEMA.
- 6 internal Lake County departments received PPE and supplies from July 2022 to July 2023.
- 18 school entities and community organizations received over 52,000 items during a planned distribution between LCEMA and the Regional Office of Education.
- 4 College of Lake County Nursing Programs received over 50,000 PPE items and supplies in April 2023.
- Waukegan Airport received over 700 items of PPE and supplies in July 2023.

Internal Lake County Departments include:

- Lake County Coroner's Office
- Lake County Emergency Management Agency
- Lake County Public Defender's Office
- Lake County Sheriff's Office

College of Lake County Tech Campus: LCEMA distributed over 66,000 items of PPE and supplies to 4 programs at College of Lake County Tech Campus, including the Certified Nurse Assistant Program, Biomedical Program, CLC School Nursing Program, and the Medical Assisting Program.

Ongoing PPE and Supply Requests: The following entities continue to request PPE and supplies from LCEMA when needed:

- Long Term Care Facilities through Lake County Health Department (LCHD)

- Lake County Police and Fire Departments
- Internal County Departments
- Schools and School Districts, including College of Lake County – Tech Campus
- Community partners such as libraries, cooling and warming centers, and municipal entities

Proactive PPE Distribution: Proactive distribution pushes continue to draw down stock of surplus items, including gowns, face shields, coveralls, hand sanitizer, and surgical masks.

Maintaining Inventory: Utilize WASP inventory management system to maintain accurate location and quantity of PPE and supplies throughout the COVID-19 incident.

Maintaining Stockpile: Establish and maintain a monthly burn rate to keep a 30-day stockpile of PPE and supplies for Lake County.

Tracking Distribution: Maintain the current tracking distribution system of PPE and supplies for the COVID-19 response in Lake County to display on GIS mapping application throughout the COVID-19 incident.

Warehouse Demobilization and Closure: Commence demobilizing warehouse operations to include notification of closure of all contractual services and utilities, relocation of 30-day stockpile supply to EMA spaces, and disposal of expired PPE with no fair market value by the end of the lease date of July 2024. Complete final inspection

PROJECT [220030] »

Clerk / Recorder's Office System Implementation

Funding Allocated: $1,464,398.53

Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

In FY2023, Lake County consolidated the offices of the County Clerk and the Recorder of Deeds into one entity, reporting to the County Clerk/Recorder of Deeds. Currently, the Recorder of Deeds uses the COTTS system, while the Clerk's Office relies on various systems like Excel, Access databases, and Onbase. There are also manual processes and disconnections when interfacing with the Treasurer and Assessor's Offices. This project aims to procure a unified system for all offices, enhancing integration with other county departments and allowing residents to access services online from home. It includes the conversion, scanning, and preservation of historical records and microfilm.

The existing platforms do not support remote service provision or work by county staff, necessitating in-person interactions that increase COVID-19 transmission risks. Implementing a single integrated solution will enable remote transactions, reducing the need for in-person visits to County offices and thereby minimizing COVID-19 exposure for both residents and employees. This project will help Lake County adapt its operations to the COVID-19 pandemic, improve public access to government services, and align with ARPA funding guidelines. Additionally, the project will fund a needs assessment across relevant departments to develop a comprehensive RFP that meets the county's operational needs.

Performance Report

Project kick off was held April 16, 2024. All vital records and microfilm have been scanned. All vital records being housed in online storage and are being extracted. Land Records are in configuration phase. GOLIVE of LandRecords system will take place in August 2025. Vital Records digitization is complete. Work has started on the Vital Records portion of the project. The goal is GOLIVE of Vital Records by the end of 2025 calendar year.

PROJECT [230022] »

Premium Pay Program

Funding Allocated: $386,400

Expenditure Category: 4.1 Premium Pay: Public Sector Employees

Project Overview

A premium pay program was established in Lake County, focused on the County's frontline staff who completed essential work during the height of the pandemic. Eligible staff, who worked in-person and did not have the option for remote or idle work between March 16, 2020, and November 30, 2020, will receive a one-time bonus of $1,200.

Performance Report

Based on their eligibility, 486 employees received the premium pay.

PROJECT [230011] »

Program & Reporting Administrative Support

Funding Allocated: $372,512.81

Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview

The ARPA federal grant funding requires precise compliance, training, organization, compliance and reporting. Existing Lake County staff have been trying to absorb this additional work, but the program lacks the necessary organization and documentation to ensure that the program policies, program requirements, funding sources, budgets, data analysis, and reporting requirements are met. An additional staff person who is dedicated solely to the ARPA grant funds will assist with the administration of the project, especially as the external partner program is about to launch, reducing risk to Lake County and assisting with organization, data tracking, communication, record keeping, reporting, and compliance.

This position will assist all of Lake County ensure that ARPA dollars are used appropriately and in accordance with the Lake County Board's strategic tenets for the funding.

Performance Report

Temporary and part-time support has been acquired through the use of this contract.

PROJECT [220032] »

Depke Juvenile Complex Center and Women's Residential Services Renovation

Funding Allocated: $15,100,000

Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings

Project Overview

In 2012, the Lake County Board approved the construction of a new facility to house courtrooms, administrative offices, and support functions for the State's Attorney, Public Defender, Clerk of Courts, and Court Security. Additionally, Lake County plans to renovate the Depke Juvenile Justice Facility on the Vernon Hills campus to enhance rehabilitation services for youth and families. The project will proceed in phases, utilizing temporary work trailers and interior spaces to ensure continuous operations. The necessity of this facility was underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the need for resilient juvenile probation and rehabilitation services.

The renovation also includes expanding the Women's Residential Services (WRS) program, a Dual Diagnosis Capable (DDC) residential treatment program for women with substance use disorders, prioritizing pregnant and parenting women and intravenous drug users. The expansion will provide a dedicated nurse/exam room, washroom, administrative spaces, and a resident lounge within the WRS building. This facility aims to offer a safe, structured environment for intensive treatment and recovery support, occupying 1,500 square feet adjacent to the FACEIT Juvenile Residential Program in the Depke building. This investment will enhance Lake County's ability to provide comprehensive care and rehabilitation services.

Support to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

WRS has been providing services to the underserved women population for the last 36 years. WRS will continue to provide care to underserved women. The expected number of women to serve in 2023 is approximately 200. The average program occupancy for 2021 and 2022 was 86%.

Without treatment, these women would be at risk for overdose deaths, incarceration, ongoing criminal activity, and increased medical issues forcing them to use ERs for medical services. Without treatment, many of these women would engage in dangerous behaviors for themselves, children, and the community. These behaviors may result in increased numbers of sexually transmitted diseases, Hepatitis C, HIV, unwanted pregnancies, and criminal activity. The primary intended beneficiaries of the WRS program earn under 60% median income in Lake County.

Use of Evidence

Completion of treatment is predictive of long-term recovery. Treatment Episode Data Sets from the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, part of SAMHSA, tell us the completion rate for short-term residential treatment is 54.3%. WRS has a 75% completion rate.

Labor Practices

The Depke Juvenile Complex Center and Women's Residential Services Renovation project will be constructed using Federal and Lake County procurement law, ordinances, and procedures, which include the use of the Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements. Prospective contractors will be encouraged to maximize the use of local subcontractors and laborers.

Performance Report

Performance Measure	Current Output/Outcome
Architect/Engineering Services during construction.	$227,779.00, engineering services are completed to 35%
Contractor schedule of work and expensing per completed construction activities.	$3,183,849.22, construction Activities are completed to 24.4%
Improved heating, ventilation, and air conditioning to the entire facility. Increase of number of new duct work and variable air volume controllers. Over area increases by approximately 7,000 SF.	Substantially complete and final occupancy approved.
Increased area for Intake/Admissions providing improved security and control, greater social distancing, and shorter duration to process new detainees. Area increases by approximately 1,000 SF.	Work began July 1st, 2025 and phasing is expected to be complete by May 2026.
FACE-IT Juvenile Residential Program space allocation and number of beds increased following construction completion. Additional ability to support male, female, and non-gender specific juvenile residents. Number of rooms increases from 6 to 9 and adds an additional 1,600 SF of space.	None
Increased social distancing for Juvenile Probation Unit providing improved counseling services and client confidentiality. Area increases by approximately 2,600 SF.	None

Increased social distancing and separation of functions between Health Department Women's Residential Services staff and tenants and Courts Juvenile Detention FACE-IT program staff and participants. Total area increases is 1,500 sf to the WRS facility for conference, education, training, and socialization spaces, and a dedicated medical treatment room.	Site demolition and excavation activities have begun for new site utilities and foundation work. The concrete foundations and building shell are expected to be completed by December 2015.

PROJECT [240006] »

Courtroom Technology Enhancements

Funding Allocated: $144,785.49

Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview

Courtroom Technology enhancements started in 2022 to upgrade Courtroom Technology in the Center Courts, 1st – 4th floors; Babcox T-120, T-121. This project was funded by the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) through the Technology Modernization Grant. Unfortunately, there were unforeseen additional costs, and this funding was not sufficient to complete all courtrooms on the 4th floor. This project will enhance the remote and hybrid courtroom technologies that the Circuit Court continue to use since COVID-19.

Performance Report

Courtroom technology enhancements include audio integration, elimination of add-on speakers in the courtrooms, installation of microphones in the attorney tables on the 4th floor, main courts. There are seven (7) courtrooms completed, four (4) in progress and four (4) that have not started in the Criminal Court Tower. Additionally, there are five (5) courtrooms in the main courts that have not started and will be on schedule to start soon. The goal is to complete all courtrooms before the end of November 2025, if not sooner.

External Organization Projects Focused on Negative Economic Impact, Public Health, and Capital

Fund external organization projects addressing negative economic impacts, public health issues, and capital improvements:

Total Funding: $15,941,290

PADS Non-congregate Shelter Budget

- Subrecipient: PADS Lake County
- Project #230009
- Expenditure Category: 2.16
- Funding Allocated: $1,360,000
- Project Overview: These funds will help provide shelter in area hotels and motels for the unhoused population. This program aims to provide non-congregate shelter options to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and improve health outcomes for the homeless population.
- Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): More than 50% Complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Treasury Specific	Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed	177
Project Specific	# of vulnerable individuals utilizing hotel shelter accommodations	902
Project Specific	Exits to permanent destinations for people utilizing hotel shelter accommodations during the period	388
Project Specific	Households receiving eviction prevention services	461

Lake County Affordable Housing Hub

- Subrecipient: Community Partners for Affordable Housing
- Project #230023

» Expenditure Category: 2.18
» Funding Allocated: $500,000
» Project Overview: To expand the capacity of affordable housing services in Lake County. This project aims to increase the availability of affordable housing units and provide supportive services to residents to ensure long-term housing stability.
» Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): Less than 50%

Type	Indicator	
Treasury Specific	Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	96 by the organization; none specifically attributable to this grant.
Project Specific	# of affordable housing units preserved or developed	7; none specifically attributable to this grant.
Project Specific	# of households served	925; none specifically attributable to this grant.
Project Specific	# of distressed homes acquired, rehabilitated and resold	10; none specifically attributable to this grant.

McAlister Special Recreation Building Renovation

» Subrecipient: Waukegan Park District
» Project #230024
» Expenditure Category: 2.23
» Funding Allocated: $150,000
» Project Overview: This facility offers essential services and modern programming to promote healthy lifestyles for people with developmental disabilities in a low-income community, focusing on health and economic opportunities.
» Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): Complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	% building readiness	100%
Project Specific	# of persons with disabilities served	120
Project Specific	% of building occupied	100%

YBLC Affordable Housing Construction and Training

» Subrecipient: Youth Build Lake County
» Project #230028
» Expenditure Category: 2.15

- Funding Allocated: $477,500
- Project Overview: The project focuses on providing 3 units of affordable housing to address housing security needs, addressing learning loss by offering a high school diploma alternative for students affected by the pandemic, and offering a DOL-approved pre-apprenticeship training program with industry-recognized credentials and hands-on experience to prepare young adults for construction and trade jobs.
- Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): Less than 50%

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Treasury Specific	Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	NA
Treasury Specific	Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed	3
Project Specific	# of participants trained	96
Project Specific	# of HS diplomas attained	0 currently; in progress at this timeframe of the report.
Project Specific	# of industrial recognized credentials attained	91 (95%)

Care Coordination for Behavioral Health

- Subrecipient: Nicasa Behavioral Health Services
- Project #230004
- Expenditure Category: 1.12
- Funding Allocated: $600,000
- Project Overview: The Nicasa Care Coordination for Behavioral Health Program addresses mental health service needs, including substance abuse and problem gambling, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in Lake County. This program falls within the Public Health, Behavioral Healthcare category of Lake County's ARPA funds focus areas. It aims to mitigate the impact of substance use, mental health challenges, and problem gambling in underserved communities by providing comprehensive referral, linkage, and connections. These services help address complex stressors that hinder individuals from focusing on their behavioral health treatment, enabling them to engage in their care, improve symptoms, and achieve recovery.
- Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): Less than 50%

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of youth and adults to receive care coordination services	153

Project Specific	# of youth and adults who will remain engaged in clinical treatment for at least 60 days after admission	86
Project Specific	% of youth and adults who report abstinence from alcohol and/or drugs 30 days post successful discharge	97%

First Responder and Veteran Wellness Center

- Subrecipient: Nicasa Behavioral Health Services
- Project #230031
- Expenditure Category: 1.12
- Funding Allocated: $2,368,150
- Project Overview: In collaboration with the Greater Round Lake Fire District, a comfortable and inviting wellness center has been created to serve all Lake County first responders and veterans living with mental health challenges. This center provides essential and immediate mental health and wellness services in a safe, non-judgmental environment, staffed by trained professionals, most of whom have lived experience.
- Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): Less than 50%

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of first responders and veterans served	148
Project Specific	# of first responders and veterans that readmit to the program within 12 months of their last visit	53
Project Specific	% of first responders and veterans who report improvement in their symptoms and ability to manage a future mental health crisis	97%

Strengthening Recovery Support & Resources

- Subrecipient: Gateway Foundation, Inc.
- Project #230002
- Expenditure Category: 1.13
- Funding Allocated: $378,151
- Project Overview: The Gateway Foundation is actively engaged in a long-term support program for individuals in recovery in Lake County, operating from its centrally located facility in Aurora. The program, delivered by a Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS) and supported by an experienced team, focuses on harm reduction and long-term recovery support. It aims to expand access to evidence-based services for opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, addressing the need for increased recovery supports to help individuals maintain sobriety and reduce relapse risks. The Long-Term Recovery Support program includes motivational conversations and group sessions for clients nearing graduation from active

treatment, alumni, and individuals seeking recovery. These services assist in achieving treatment goals and understanding necessary actions for successful recovery. Gateway aids in the transition from treatment to community by exemplifying sober living and identifying resources. The program also involves planning for post-treatment case management, developing community partnerships, organizing employment workshops, creating a list of alumni ambassadors for outreach and mentoring, linking to resources addressing Social Determinants of Health, maintaining a database of recovery meeting participants, and coordinating recovery-focused activities throughout the year.

- Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): More than 50% Complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of recovery events hosted each quarter	2 per quarter, 6 total
Project Specific	# of contacts with clients that leave treatment without completion and/or against staff advice	55
Project Specific	# of clients receiving case management in after-care	48

Lake County Senior Residences

- Subrecipient: Community Partners for Affordable Housing
- Project #230026
- Expenditure Category: 2.15
- Funding Allocated: $3,000,000
- Project Overview: The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical need for safe, affordable housing, particularly for seniors. Numerous evidence-based studies have shown that affordable, healthy, and stable housing provides significant financial and health benefits. This underscores the importance of addressing housing needs to improve overall well-being and stability in communities.
- Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): In progress

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Treasury Specific	Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)	96; none specifically attributable to this grant.
Project Specific	# of affordable housing units preserved or developed	7; none specifically attributable to this grant.
Project Specific	# of seniors housed	None specifically attributable to this grant.
Project Specific	# of households served	10; none specifically attributable to this grant.

Cardiac Monitor & AEDs

- Subrecipient: Wauconda Fire Protection District
- Project #230030
- Expenditure Category: 1.14
- Funding Allocated: $51,600
- Project Overview: Funds to purchase cardiac monitors and AEDs for emergency response. This project aims to enhance the emergency response capabilities of first responders by equipping them with advanced cardiac monitoring and defibrillation equipment.
- Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): Complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of patients treated	3,424
Project Specific	# of patients to be defibrillated	23
Project Specific	% of successful outcomes	32%

Health Promotion and Navigation Services Program

- Subrecipient: YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
- Project #230001
- Expenditure Category: 2.19
- Funding Allocated: $418,203
- Project Overview: The Health Promotion and Navigation services empower underserved and low-income families by providing education, resources, and referrals to medical homes, as well as basic human needs such as groceries and clothing. By establishing a medical home and promoting basic healthcare knowledge, the program enhances self-efficacy, positive health outcomes, and timely disease management. It specifically supports individuals and families economically impacted by the pandemic, considered low-income, or falling under the 200% poverty guidelines, by offering access to health-promoting resources and basic needs that foster self-efficacy and behavior modifications.
- Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): More than 50% Complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of people accessing Women's Health Exchange website	24,398
Project Specific	# of people receiving assistance to address health and basic needs insecurities	5,456
Project Specific	% of individuals served with referrals to partner agencies	98%

COVID-19 Mental Health Capacity Building

- Subrecipient: The Josselyn Center, NFP
- Project #230032
- Expenditure Category: 1.12
- Funding Allocated: $3,000,000
- Project Overview: Funds to build capacity for mental health services related to COVID-19. This project aims to expand mental health services to address the increased demand for support due to the pandemic.
- Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): More than 50% complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of clients served:	86
Project Specific	Client Satisfaction: % agree that mental health has improved as result of treatment:	100%
Project Specific	PHQ-9 shows improvement in 75% of successfully discharged clients:	84.3%

Behavioral Health Supports for Lake County Families

- Subrecipient: Erie Family Health Centers, Inc.
- Project #230006
- Expenditure Category: 1.12
- Funding Allocated: $252,211
- Project Overview: Erie provides outpatient services within a patient-centered medical home, utilizing trained teams to screen for behavioral health conditions and connect patients to psychiatric care. This preventative care approach is cost-effective, with a projected cost per patient of $233.49 and a minimum cost savings of $9,059.51 if patients were hospitalized. Funding of $252,211 supports the salaries of Erie psychiatric providers practicing within an evidence-based model. This model, based on Cherokee Health Systems and endorsed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, integrates behavioral health and primary care using a tiered approach with primary care providers addressing low-level psychiatric concerns and specialists handling higher-level issues. Erie's commitment to continuous evaluation involves assessing staff and service performance provided to Erie HealthReach Waukegan patients using highly qualified staff and advanced tools. The Business Intelligence (BI) team at Erie refines and analyzes data in clinical quality metrics, patient access indicators, payor mix, patient satisfaction, and staff satisfaction to drive quality monitoring and business decision-making. The funding will expand mental health services at Erie HealthReach Waukegan, supporting behavioral health and psychiatric care for Lake County patients. Innovative features include trauma-informed care, telehealth services, and treatment for patients with substance use disorder, serving 250 patients annually.
- Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): More than 50% Complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of patients receiving behavioral health services at Erie Health Reach Waukegan	559
Project Specific	# of patients receiving psychiatry services at Erie HealthReach Waukegan	10
Project Specific	% of patients ages 12 and up who have been screened for depression	95%

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

- Subrecipient: CASA Lake County
- Project #230025
- Expenditure Category: 2.13
- Funding Allocated: $864,900
- Project Overview: The pandemic had considerable negative effects on childhood development, especially impacting vulnerable populations such as children in the child welfare system, who faced poorer educational development, greater mental health problems, less stable housing, and placement circumstances, and income loss of caregivers. Lake County saw an unprecedented rise in child welfare cases during the pandemic, with referrals increasing from 561 in 2019 to 782 in 2022, a 39% increase, overwhelming service providers. To address this surge, CASA added eight new staff positions supported by pandemic relief programs and other short-term funding sources, including four Advocate Managers, two recruiting and training staff, and two administrative staff. These positions helped provide services to the increased number of children, but some funding sources are depleting or expiring soon. With ARPA funds, CASA can maintain these staff positions through 2024, allowing the program to continue serving approximately 200 additional children in the child welfare system for an average case duration of 3-4 years starting in 2020.
- Project progress: (Not Started, Less than 50% Complete, More than 50% Complete, Complete): Complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of eligible children served	629
Project Specific	# of CASA volunteers trained	42
Project Specific	% of children achieving outcomes defined as "permanency"	97.1%

Family Safety Planning Legal Services

- Subrecipient: NSLAC
- Project #230007
- Expenditure Category: 2.34
- Funding Allocated: $200,000
- Project Overview: NSLAC will provide free legal services to families that have been affected by COVID via divorce, domestic violence or increased necessity for advanced directives. Power of

attorney and guardianship clinics will be hosted off-site in partnership with local community organizations. Guardian ad litem cases referred and accepted will involve an instance of domestic violence.

- Project progress: More than 50% Complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of unique advanced directive clinics offered	7
Project Specific	# of offsite clinics	9
Project Specific	# of guardian ad litem cases opened	16

Behavioral Health Mental Health and Wellness

- Subrecipient: Roberti Community House
- Project #230010
- Expenditure Category: 2.19
- Funding Allocated: $352,220
- Project Overview: Mental health and wellness support to families who are underserved and who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Culturally sensitive services will be provided free of charge to adults and seniors.
- Project progress: More than 50% Complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	Number of Community members served by health lifestyle engagement groups	591
Project Specific	Number of community members served by training sessions co-hosted with other community non-profit organizations	8150
Project Specific	Number of community members supported by general services	27,749

Hope and Healing Start Here

- Subrecipient: Allendale Association
- Project #230003
- Expenditure Category: 1.12
- Funding Allocated: $458,311
- Project Overview: The Family Support Specialist position provides advocacy and support to the parent or guardian as he/she navigates the system of care for the youth, including educational, healthcare, mental health, and more. This program expansion benefits families in need of support for their children yet carry private insurance. The program also includes Family Support

Specialist parent support and education free of charge to families using Circle of Security, which strengthens the parent-child attachment.

- The Family Support Specialist recently passed the IL exam to become a Certified Family Partnership Professional. Now that this certification is completed, she is identifying the training dates for the Circle of Security certification courses and will implement that work in her community groups.
- Project progress: Less than 50%

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of free community-based educational opportunities per month, in different townships/municipalities	70
Project Specific	# of clients/families with commercial insurance which does not cover the Therapeutic Mentoring service	8
Project Specific	# of clients demonstrating improved overall functioning by improving their scores on the Ohio Functioning Scales out of total participants (%)	33%

Boys & Girls Club of Lake County: Teen Innovation Lab

- Subrecipient: Boys & Girls Club
- Project #230027
- Expenditure Category: 2.25
- Funding Allocated: $ 1,050,000
- Project Overview: Deepens the scope and staffing of teen programming, develop a comprehensive trauma-informed care training system for non-clinical youth service providers, and improve the facilities' physical condition ensuring an innovative and inspiring space for Lake County teens.
- Project progress: More than 50% complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs	469
Project Specific	% completion of the Teen Innovation Lab	95%
Project Specific	# of teens receiving one-on-one counseling services	48

Mobile Integrated Healthcare

- Subrecipient: Wauconda Fire Protection District

- Project #230029
- Expenditure Category: 1.14
- Funding Allocated: $ 260,044
- Project Overview: Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) is a proactive, preventative, pre-hospital based program specifically aimed at proactive and preventative care for patients with chronic health morbidities.
- Project progress: Complete

Key Project Indicators

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	#of 911 High Utilizer patients with admission and readmission compared to the total (%)	-
Project Specific	For enrolled populations, we have achieved nearly 80% reductions in hospital utilization. # of mental and behavioral health outreach events and substance abuse outreach events	15
Project Specific	# of mental and behavioral health and opiate and Narcan emergencies responded to	0

Housing Legal Services for COVID impacted Clinics

- Subrecipient: NSLAC
- Project #230008
- Expenditure Category: 2.2
- Funding Allocated: $ 200,000
- Project Overview: NSLAC will provide free legal services to tenants with housing-related legal matters that have arisen from COVID-19 and the subsequent eviction moratorium and rising unaffordability of housing.
- Project progress: More than 50% complete

Type	Indicator	
Project Specific	# of unique cases opened by type of service provided	65
Project Specific	# of outreach presentations	4
Project Specific	# of evictions stopped	4

Projects Related to the Provision of Government Services

Lake County has elected to use some of the received ARPA funds to replace revenue lost due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The following is a list of projects that have been allocated funds using an expenditure category of 6.1 – Provision of Government Services:

1. County-wide Enterprise Resource Planning System Replacement
    a. Project #220028
    b. $13,538,986 in funds allocated
2. Mobile Command Center
    a. Project #210012
    b. $525,000 in funds allocated
3. Fire Fighting Foam Replacement
    a. Project #210017
    b. $66,362.75 in funds allocated
4. Security Hardening
    a. Project #240010
    b. $160,000 in funds allocated
5. Jail Padded Cell Replacement
    a. Project #240011
    b. $375,000 in funds allocated
6. County Clerk Space Reconfiguration
    a. Project #240012
    b. $70,220 in funds allocated
7. ROC Building
    a. Project#230019
    b. $17,400,000 in funds allocated

Lake County, IL
2025 Recovery Plan

NOTE: This document will be updated as additional decisions and allocations are provided by the Lake County Board.

Updated: July 31, 2025