

Recovery Plan Performance Report



State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2021 Report

Lake County, Florida
2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....3
Uses of Funds3
Promoting Equitable Outcomes6
Community Engagement7
Labor Practices8
Use of Evidence9

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category9
Project Inventory9

Appendix10

Executive Summary

As a recipient of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF or 'Fiscal Recovery Funds') and with a population that exceeds 250,000 residents, Lake County Government ('County') is required to publish a Recovery Plan Performance Report ('Recovery Plan') for the U.S. Treasury and the residents of the County as part of its reporting requirements on how the County plans to utilize its share of the Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The county will receive a total of \$71,308,368 in two tranches, or installments, this year and next year. The Lake County Board of County Commissioners ('BCC') officially accepted the first half (\$35,654,184) of the total appropriated amount at the July 13, 2021, meeting via Resolution 2021-104, as required by Florida State Statutes.

This 2021 Recovery Plan is the first in a series of annual reports to be published by the County. The Recovery Plan is to provide a blueprint for the jurisdiction's intended use as well as the actual use of funding. The information in this initial report is limited in nature due to the novelty of the funding itself, the short reporting period, need to properly plan for expenditures, and pending final rules on allowable uses of funding.

As the development of this initial recovery plan progressed, so did the uncertainty surrounding the public health emergency and associated variants prolonging the public health crisis. Despite this uncertainty, County elected officials and staff have begun to identify some initial overall goals in the use of the Fiscal Recovery Funds. These include strategies to ensure continuity of services and operations of the County government, efforts to improve the health and well-being of residents, and infrastructure projects to provide for a more equitable recovery.

Following the Executive Summary is the eligible use categories and potential Use of Funds section. Included at the end of the section is additional information on the programs provided by the County as part of supplemental funding received through the American Rescue Plan. Thereafter are sections on Promoting Equitable Outcomes, Community Engagement, Labor Practices, Use of Evidence, and the Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category.

Uses of Funds

In planning for the long range and forward-looking nature of the Fiscal Recovery Funds, leadership and staff can simply look to our own Mission, Goals, and Objectives for guidance. In fact, the eligibility and allowable uses of Fiscal Recovery Funds align with the County's established Mission and Goals. Below is our mission statement and full list of goals.

Mission Statement

"To provide exceptional service; enhance and protect the quality of life for all Lake County citizens; facilitate a vibrant economy with an abundance of workforce opportunities; and exercise fiscal responsibility, while using innovative approaches and making well-planned decisions."

Goals

Goal 1: Provide exceptional public safety and emergency response services to achieve a safe and secure community.

Goal 2: Facilitate a strong and diversified economy.

Goal 3: Plan, develop and maintain a high-quality, safe, and reliable transportation network.

Goal 4: Deliver exceptional customer service in a friendly and professional manner and assure fiscal responsibility throughout the organization.

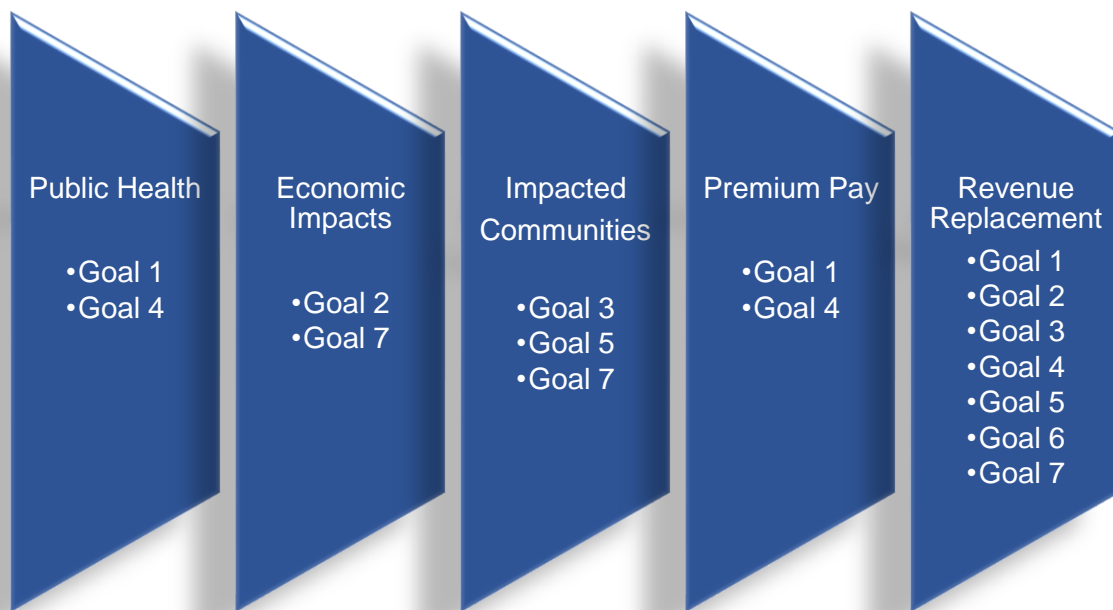
Goal 5: Enhance the quality of life of Lake County residents by providing active and passive recreational opportunities, library services and promoting conservation, preservation, and protection of natural resources.

Goal 6: Assure that new residential and commercial development is well-planned, attractive, and high-quality.

Goal 7: Facilitate and coordinate the delivery of services to those in need.

Eligible Use Categories

To ensure Fiscal Recovery Funds are utilized for their intended purpose, the U.S. Congress established eligible use categories and the U.S. Treasury has and will continue to provide further administrative rules. The visualization below couples the eligible use categories of the Fiscal Recovery Funds with the Lake County Board of County Commissioners goals. As evidenced, multiple goals fall within each of the eligible use categories accompanied by a brief explanation.



Public Health

The County seeks to address the continuing public health emergency through measures to counter the spread of COVID-19 in public facilities, expand communication efforts, address the impacts on public health-related expenses, and provide essential mental health services.

Negative Economic Impacts

The County seeks address the negative economic impacts of the continuing public health emergency on individuals, private businesses, and other public safety needs. To do so, the County is exploring job training programs and small business financial assistance.

Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The County seeks to provide services to disproportionately impacted communities primarily through other programs funded by the American Rescue Plan (addressed later in this section) and through affordable housing projects. In addition, the County may use funds in the category to improve the health of residents in these communities through investments in Parks and Trails.

Premium Pay

The County seeks to provide premium pay to first responders performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This includes those who are on the frontlines and critical to protecting the health and wellbeing of the community at large including firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.

Infrastructure

The County seeks to make critical investments in infrastructure. This may include replacement or upgrades to residential septic systems, stormwater systems, and providing access to high-quality broadband service, especially to those in unserved and underserved areas of the jurisdiction.

Revenue Replacement

Much like households and businesses, state and local governments have also faced financial impacts and revenue loss from the pandemic. As a result, local governments around the nation were forced to reduce services, reappropriate funds, and reduce staffing levels. To address this negative impact, the CSLFRF provides a provision for local governments to replace lost revenue to help pay for daily operational needs and capital improvements for the community. Decisions on the use of these 'replacement funds' is ongoing, yet these funds will allow the County to continue its critical mission towards each of the seven goals.

Additional Funding & Programs

In addition to the Fiscal Recovery Funds, Lake County has received other federal funding under the American Rescue Plan (ARP). This includes the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program funds through the U.S. Department of Treasury, and both HOME funds and Emergency Housing Voucher Administration Fees through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The County is currently administering the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA1) with funding received in early 2021, provided under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The total amount received was \$11,085,381 and the program is actively awarding eligible applicants, herein providing financial relief to both renters and landlords, while simultaneously preventing hundreds of evictions.

More recently, the County was awarded additional funding as part of the American Rescue Plan to implement a second phase of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, or ERA2. The initial tranche of funds received this summer is close to \$3.5 million with the potential for additional funds based on need and eligibility. While the programs are structured very similarly, ERA2 expands eligibility and services slightly for residents to help prevent evictions and homelessness.

Also, Lake County received HOME funding this fiscal year for the first time in our history. The allocation is in the amount of \$568,429. Further, the American Rescue Plan included additional appropriations to the HOME program, to which Lake County received an extra \$2,060,197 to increase homeownership and affordable housing opportunities to low and very low-income residents.

Lastly, Emergency Housing Voucher Administration Fees totaling \$143,500 were also received as part of the larger American Rescue Plan package. Combined, these housing programs and funds are a significant boost to help those residents most at risk of facing eviction, hardships due to the pandemic, and helping to improve their living conditions. Currently, staff is awaiting further guidance from the awarding federal agencies and are in the early planning phases for these programs.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Within the previously covered eligible use categories section are some projects or programs that could help to promote equitable economic recovery from the pandemic. While no specific projects have begun at the time of this publication, certain projects do have the potential to make a transformative impact in underprivileged and disadvantaged communities across the county.

Some examples of projects that are eligible for funding and could help historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected groups would include Job Training Assistance, Affordable Housing, and Broadband. In addition, these projects would be targeted to Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) (areas that have 50% of households with incomes below 60% of the Area Median Gross Income or which have a poverty rate of 25% or greater), as much as possible. As of 2021, Lake County has five (5) designated QCT's in the county. Maps of these locations can be found in the Appendix of this report.

Community Engagement

Leadership and staff have sought a wide range of community input and will continue to engage a diverse group of stakeholders, including those who can reach traditionally underserved groups in the community. Stakeholders in this sense are those individuals who may be directly affected using the funds. Due to the comprehensive nature of the Fiscal Recovery Funds, staff understands that all residents and enterprises within the County are stakeholders and will in some fashion be affected by the decisions in using the recovery plan funds. Below is a table identifying the stakeholder(s) accompanied by a brief description.

Stakeholder	Description
Residents/Constituents	All persons within the jurisdiction
Constitutional Officers	Duly elected officials which are officers of the county under the Florida State Constitution
School Board	County public schools district
Municipalities	Fourteen (14) cities and towns
Non-Profits	Community service and charitable organizations
Businesses	Individual business owners
Chamber of Commerce and Business Groups	Private business-oriented membership groups
Post-Secondary Education Institution(s)	Local technical and workforce training institution(s)

Further, many stakeholders have been and/or will be informed and engaged through several formal and informal channels of communication and forums. These methods may be revisited in the future as needed. The table below identifies the types and methods/venues of communication for the recovery plan.

Type	Method/Venue
Formal	Board of County Commissioners Agenda Notices
Formal	Board of County Commissioners Meetings - Public Input and/or Public Hearing
Formal	Official County website
Formal	Official social media announcements
Informal	Communication with business groups and community social service organizations
Informal	Word of mouth

Labor Practices

This section describes the workforce practices and labor standards in place or instituted by the county to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects. These practices and standards were in place prior to receipt of the Fiscal Recovery Funds and will continue to be utilized as part of this plan.

Davis-Bacon and related Acts (DBRA)

As legally required for all federally funded projects, which will include any applicable infrastructure projects constructed using these Fiscal Recovery Funds, the County applies the Davis-Bacon and related Acts (DBRA) to all contracts and their subcontractors. This helps to ensure laborers and mechanics performing work on the site of projects using these funds are entitled to receive prevailing wage rates for their labor.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)

In general, Lake County encourages Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms to compete for professional services projects and encourages non-DBE consultants to use DBE firms as sub-consultants. However, use of DBE subconsultants is not mandatory and no preference points are given in the competitive bidding selection process for DBE participation.

E-Verify

Vendors are required to utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by a vendor during the term of the contract. Likewise, vendors must also require any contractor and subcontractors performing work or providing services under the contract to likewise utilize E-Verify to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the subcontractor during the contract term.

Local Vendor Preference

Lake County imposes a reciprocal match local vendor preference practice to ensure an equal procurement environment for all potential vendors. Under the reciprocal match local vendor preference practice, if the lowest price under a bid is received from a vendor that is classified as a local vendor by a county that maintains a local vendor preference program that discriminates against a Lake County vendor as defined below, then that county's preference percentage threshold is applied to the lowest priced Lake County local vendor. If such application causes the Lake County vendor to be eligible for award, the Lake County vendor may secure the award by matching the out-of-county vendor's original pricing.

Use of Evidence

Evidence-based interventions and program evaluations can be valuable components of any public program or service. These tools can provide a governmental unit or agency with the ability to apply scientifically tested and proven methods of service delivery or allow for the rigorous evaluation and measurement of intended program outcomes.

As the Fiscal Recovery Funds encourages the use of evidence and metrics to gauge the outcomes of program interventions, staff continues to evaluate the best potential use of funds and the associated Use of Evidence requirements. However, an initial approach that the County will be taking is requiring any subrecipients or contractors to describe the goals of the project and the evidence base for any evidence-based interventions with awarded project(s). Specified by Treasury guidance, these will include certain projects addressing needs within the ‘Public Health’, ‘Negative Economic Impacts’, and ‘Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities’ expenditure categories.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

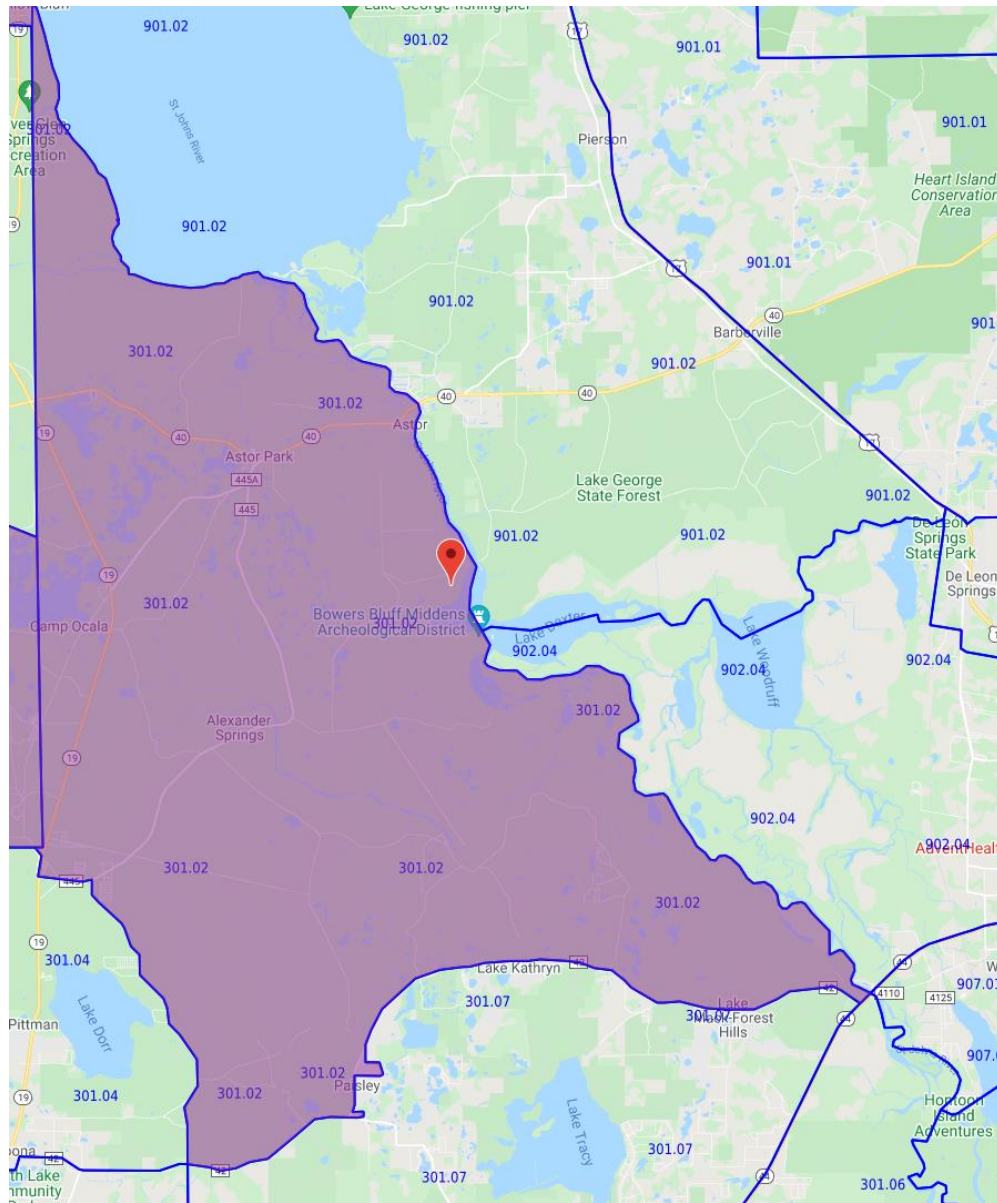
The County has no expenses as of July 31, 2021, to report in this initial, annual Recovery Plan Performance Report. However, all expenses will be provided in subsequent reports and will provide more level of detail.

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	\$0	N/A
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	\$0	N/A
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	\$0	N/A
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay	\$0	N/A
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	\$0	N/A
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	\$0	N/A
7	Administrative and Other	\$0	N/A

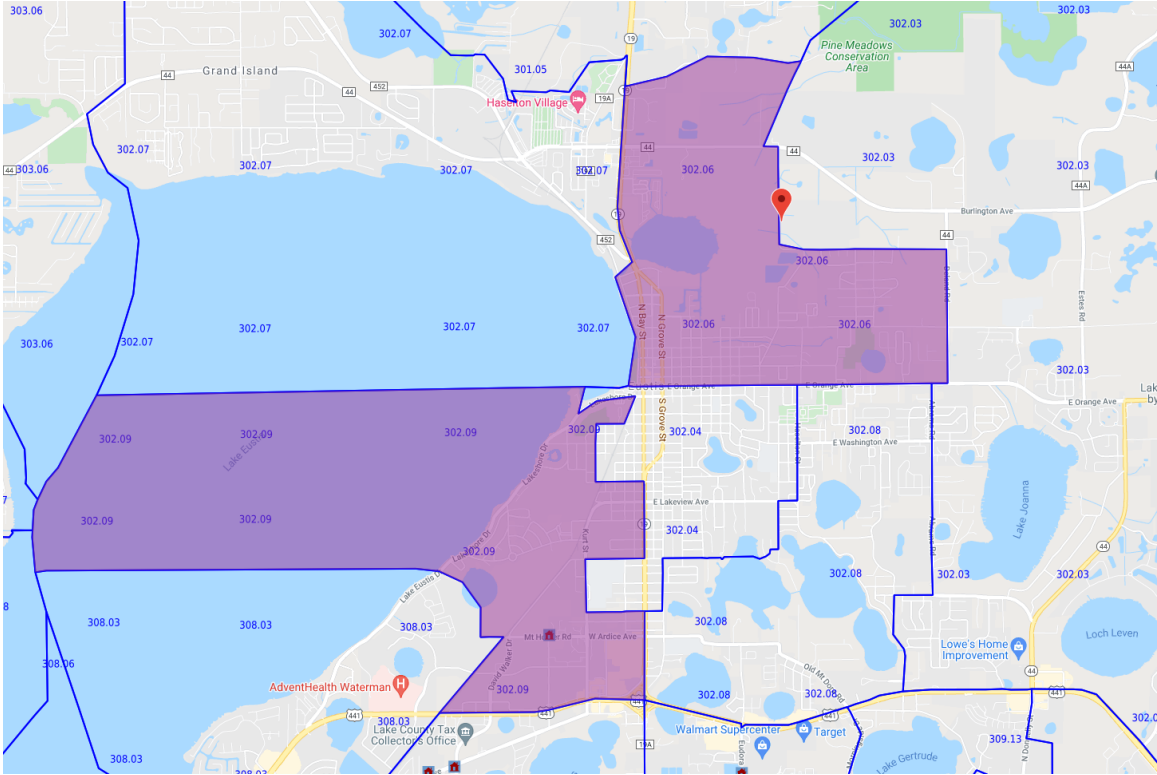
Project Inventory

As noted under the preceding Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category section, there are no projects that have been specifically selected and developed during the reporting period. However, all projects that are undertaken will be described under this section of subsequent reports.

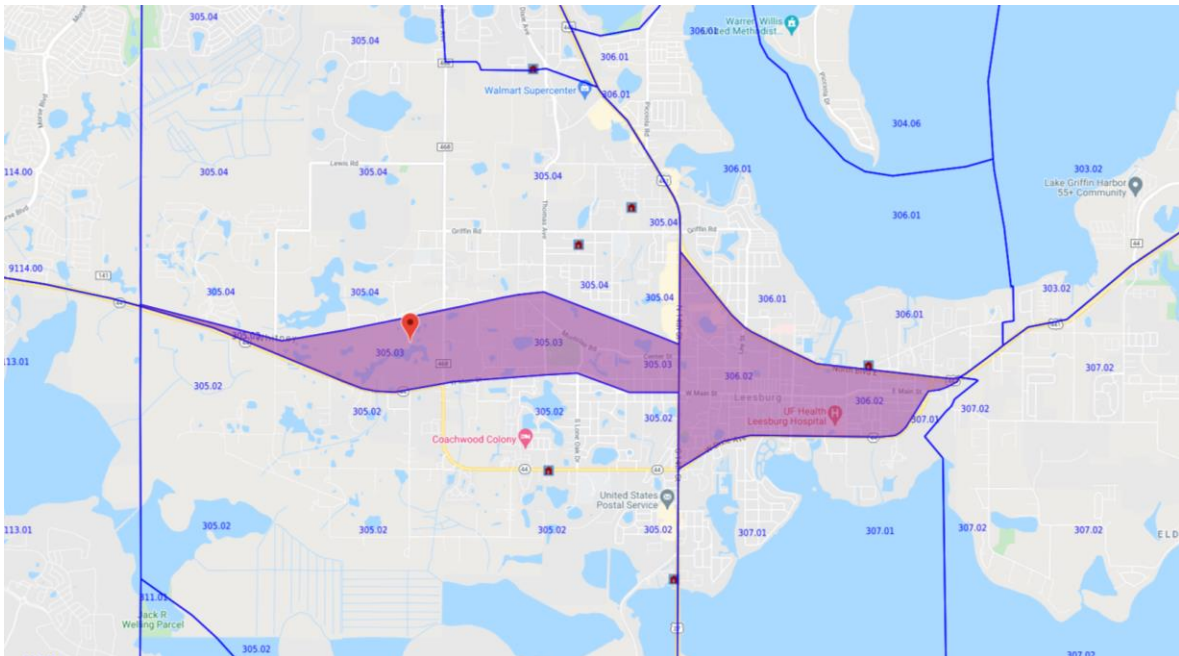
Appendix



Qualified Census Tract, 301.02



Qualified Census Tracts 302.06 & 302.09



Qualified Census Tracts 305.03 & 306.02



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