

# RECOVERY PLAN - STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

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Lancaster County,  
Nebraska FY2024 Report



# CONTENTS

**2**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**3**

USES OF FUNDS & PROJECT  
INVENTORY

**20**

PROMOTING EQUITABLE  
OUTCOMES & USE OF  
EVIDENCE

**27**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
& LABOR PRACTICES

**28**

PERFORMANCE REPORT

# Executive Summary



In Lancaster County, the state and local fiscal recovery funds through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) were received by the County in two installments. The first installment was received in May 2021 and the second was received in June 2022. Prior to receiving the ARPA funds, the Board of Commissioners and other County officials were strategizing a plan for the funds to promote a response of economic recovery from the pandemic. This included engaging community members and key stakeholders to determine the best way to utilize these funds to meet the needs of the community in the wake of COVID-19.

The County has reviewed the allowable uses of ARPA funds and has strategically planned with other local government agencies to maximize the available ARPA dollars. Priorities were developed based on existing County plans, programs, processes, and new community engagement (i.e., council meetings, surveys, County departments, community outreach).

Reports, Surveys, and Commissions consulted include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Lincoln / Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan
- ◆ Lancaster County Board of Commissioners Survey
- ◆ Joint Budget Committee Priorities
- ◆ Visitor's Promotion Committee Information
- ◆ Lincoln / Lancaster County Board of Health Workforce
- ◆ Innovation and Opportunity Act Local Plan

Directors of the County departments worked with their staff and community stakeholders to determine specific needs they and community members had experienced during the pandemic and submitted proposals for the Board of Commissioners to review.

It has been determined that the selected projects are supporting public health, addressing negative economic impacts, promoting equity focused services, and building up County infrastructure.

Immediate needs had emerged from the onset of COVID-19, these included construction to County facilities to ensure social distancing, proper air ventilation and isolation. The identified construction projects are necessary to make certain the individuals the County serves and employs are safe and protected.



# Uses of Funds & Project Inventory

In this section, the description of each project is outlined. Lancaster County will continue to monitor this list of projects and provide updates to this list, as appropriate. The current listing of projects is subject to change. To date, these are the projects that have been identified as a need in our community. The projects listed are to support the community with a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposals are organized based on their promotion of each expenditure category (as defined by the federal government).

## **I. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)**

### **LCAT - 001 - CVB:**

**Funding amount:** \$6,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.35 - Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** Expanded project

**Project overview:** Lancaster County experienced negative economic impacts from COVID-19 throughout the County and specifically in the areas of tourism, travel, and hospitality, including substantial reductions in the County's Lodging Tax revenues received in the County's Visitor's Improvement Fund and the Visitor's Promotion Fund ("Visitor's Funds"). The County typically utilizes the Visitor's Funds to support the promotional activities of the Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau ("CVB"), which has had to curtail its promotional activities in support of tourism, travel, and hospitality due to reductions in funding. The County will invest ARPA funds to expand the CVB's promotional activities in support of tourism, travel, and hospitality to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency throughout the County.

### **LCAT - 002 – Youth Sports Complex:**

**Funding amount:** \$4,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.35 - Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** Lancaster County experienced negative economic impacts from COVID-19 throughout the County and specifically in the areas of tourism, travel, and hospitality. In an effort to increase tourism and respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency throughout the County, Lancaster County will partially fund the construction of a new sports complex. The complex consists of eight turf fields which will be used for softball, baseball, flag football, soccer, lacrosse, and more. It will allow for greater opportunities for youth sports throughout the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County and will draw many individuals to the complex.

### **LCAT - 003 – Tourism Grants:**

**Funding amount:** \$667,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.35 - Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The County has worked with the City to establish the Tourism Support Grants. The program allows Lincoln-Lancaster County based non-profit business in the tourism industry to apply for ARPA funds. The eligible businesses will be able to get up to 6 months of their average monthly operating costs paid for through these grants. The most any business can receive is 1M.

**LCAT - 004 – Lincoln Airport Authority:**

**Funding amount:** \$1,500,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.35 - Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** Due to the FAA Revenue Diversion restrictions, Lincoln Airport generated revenue can't be used for Minimum Revenue Guarantees (MRG). The purpose of these funds is to help the Lincoln Airport Authority is to establish MRGs. Minimum Revenue Guarantees helps entice airlines to come to an airport of Lincoln's size.

**LCHS – 001- Community Action Partnership:**

**Funding amount:** \$869,500

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to the Community Action Partnership of Saunders and Lancaster County will be used to purchase and renovate a Community Action Partnership facility to increase the number of youths served in Head Start and provide funding for the Gathering Place to upgrade and improve their meal program due to the increased need in the community.

**LCHS – 002 – RFK:**

**Funding amount:** \$69,139.20

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 – Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to RFK will examine, assess, and analyze the facility design to serve respite and/or shelter care development for Lancaster County, the development of administrative oversight and management procedures, and the identification of research-informed resources.

**LCHS – 003 – Cedars Youth Services:**

**Funding amount:** \$813,835

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Cedars Youth Services will be used to renovating and repurposing administrative space, hire a HR consultant to create a more inclusive workplace, and to purchase transportation vehicles.

**LCHS – 004 – Child Advocacy Center:**

**Funding amount:** \$500,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Child Advocacy Center will be used to provide funding for renovations to provide forensic interviews, advocacy, and comprehensive medical exam for child victims of abuse under one roof to reduce the trauma experience.

**LCHS – 005 – Yazda:**

**Funding amount:** \$75,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Yazda - Yezidi Cultural Center will be used to fund the purchase of equipment and administrative costs.

**LCHS – 006 – Boys & Girls Club:**

**Funding amount:** \$30,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to the Boys & Girls Club will be used to replace the current soft covered furniture with new furniture to help maintain a clean environment for their members and staff.

**LCHS – 007 – Catholic Social Services:**

**Funding amount:** \$226,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Catholic Social Services will be used to renovate the office space for the behavioral health and immigration services and purchase office furniture and equipment for these programs.

**LCHS – 008 – CenterPointe:**

**Funding amount:** \$3,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to CenterPointe is to provide funding for renovation of the Health & Well-being Center to provide integrated medical and behavioral health care.

**LCHS – 030 – Cultural Centers of Lincoln:**

**Funding amount:** \$3,500,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to the Cultural Centers of Lincoln will be used to provide funding for the renovation of the Multicultural Community Center for various local cultural-community groups to enable cross-cultural communication and planning.

**LCHS – 010 – Educare:**

**Funding amount:** \$200,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Educare of Lincoln, Inc. will be used to provide funding for outdoor learning upgrades and new classroom furnishings.

**LCHS – 011 – Family Services of Lincoln:**

**Funding amount:** \$500,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Family Service Lincoln will be used to provide funding to create a mixed-use program that provides a STEM activity center for school aged youth.

**LCHS – 012 – Foundation for LPS:**

**Funding amount:** \$100,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools will be used to provide direct financial assistance for students/families facing homelessness

**LCHS – 013 – Fresh Start:**

**Funding amount:** \$274,350

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Fresh Start will be used to provide funding to complete renovations and provide additional programming and housing for women experiencing homelessness.

**LCHS – 014 – Friendship Home:**

**Funding amount:** \$250,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Friendship Home will be used to provide funding for domestic violence client services costs, food/household supplies & administrative costs.

**LCHS – 015 – Good Neighbor:**

**Funding amount:** \$355,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Good Neighbor Community Center will be used to provide funding for building improvements internally & externally, vehicle maintenance, technological upgrades, and provide funding for direct financial assistance to clients.

**LCHS – 016 – HopeSpoke:**

**Funding amount:** \$70,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to HopeSpoke will be used to provide funding for interior building improvements.

**LCHS – 017 – The HUB:**

**Funding amount:** \$142,315

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to The HUB will be used to provide funding for building improvements and personnel/administrative costs.

**LCHS – 018 – Karen Society:**

**Funding amount:** \$100,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to the Karen Society of Nebraska will be used to provide funding for video equipment, contractual services costs, and administration costs to help with prevention and educational presentations.

**LCHS – 032 – Lincoln Community Foundation:**

**Funding amount:** \$250,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Lincoln Community Foundation-Lincoln Littles will be used to provide direct assistance through grants to childcare centers.

**LCHS – 232 – Lincoln Literacy:**

**Funding amount:** \$700,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Lincoln Literacy will be used to provide funding for capital outlay, equipment costs, and the comprehensive assessment described under contractual services.

**LCHS – 021 – Malone Center:**

**Funding amount:** \$1,500,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Malone Center will be used to provide funding for capital outlay for demolitions and architecture.

**LCHS – 022 – Matt Talbot:**

**Funding amount:** \$250,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach will be used to provide funding for the renovation of a north addition to the current facility to include offices and meeting/training space to accommodate social distancing.

**LCHS – 33 – Mental Health Association:**

**Funding amount:** \$230,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Mental Health Association of Nebraska will be used to provide funding for renovations for the Keya House and to purchase land for Honu Home.

**LCHS – 024 – Mourning Hope:**

**Funding amount:** \$100,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Mourning Hope Grief Center will be used to provide funding to renovate the remainder of their facility construction cost.

**LCHS – 025 – Rabble Mill:**

**Funding amount:** \$75,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Rabble Mill will be used to fund the purchase of equipment the Bay Out of School Program.

**LCHS – 34 – St. Monica’s:**

**Funding amount:** \$1,100,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to St. Monica's Home will be used to provide funding for capital outlay for the Therapeutic Community and Project Mother Child Programs. The funds will be used spilt between the two projects and only to be used for construction cost.

**LCHS – 027 – Voices of Hope:**

**Funding amount:** \$167,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Voices of Hope will be used to provide funding for equipment and capital outlay expenses.

**LCHS – 028 – Willard Community Center:**

**Funding amount:** \$150,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Willard Community Center to provide funding for office equipment, capital outlay expenses, purchase of a van and ongoing program expenses.

**LCHS – 029 – Center for Legal Immigration:**

**Funding amount:** \$25,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to Center for Legal Immigration Assistance will be used to purchase office equipment and databases for finance and client tracking.

**LCHS – 231 – Center for People in Need:**

**Funding amount:** \$130,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to the Center for People in Need will be used to purchase and outfit a mobile diaper distribution van to serve low-income families.

**LCHS – 031 – Family Resource Center:**

**Funding amount:** \$5,930,860.80

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 – Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** Youth Crisis Stabilization and Recovery Services was distinguished as a priority area for Lancaster County. This has been an ongoing need in our community that was exacerbated by the pandemic. Work is being completed with community non-profits and community stakeholders in developing crisis stabilization and recovering support services to assist youth and their families with behavioral health needs.

**LCHS – 233 – UNL Board of Regents:**

**Funding amount:** \$40,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to UNL will be used to have UNL work with the Non-profit agencies to determine outcome measures for ARPA reporting.

**Additional Project Overview for LCHS Non-Profit Projects:**

Lancaster County has recognized the need of community-based services for residents disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Since Lancaster County’s non-profit agencies are currently providing services to individuals disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, ARPA funding should go directly to these agencies to enhance community-based services. For several years, we have been able to assist these agencies through limited funding for operating expenses. ARPA funding allows us to build on our human services infrastructure and provide for the next generation. For ARPA funding, agencies were asked to identify how their agency and the population they serve were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding will be tied directly to a project that addresses the impact of the pandemic on their agency.

**LCHS – 35 – Social Detox Project:**

**Funding amount:** \$2,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.13 – Substance Use Services\*^

**Funding Source(s):** Depending on the project and adherence to the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care and the Division of Behavioral Health’s service definitions this could be mixed funding (i.e., state, federal, ARPA).

**New or Expanded Project:** The project will be additional beds at new community non-profits for the services of adult social detox/civil protective custody services. **Use of Evidence:** Outcomes and the use of evidence-based practices will be encouraged and promoted. The report will be updated when the outcomes are developed, and evidence-based practices are identified.

**Project overview:** Lancaster County is looking to repurpose their social detox services to be more person centered and trauma informed. The County would rely on non-profit organization partnerships within the community to bring up and run the service, as well as provide wrap around services in the community once the individuals need a lower level of care. The County will fund the startup cost with the service provided being refundable by the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care, the Division of Behavioral Health and other insurance companies.



**LCCC – 4 – Community Corrections Mental Health Project:**

**Funding amount:** \$2,300,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.12 - Mental Health Services\*^

**Funding Source(s):** Depending on the project and adherence to the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care and the Division of Behavioral Health's service definitions this could be mixed funding (i.e., state, federal, ARPA).

**New or Expanded Project:** New Project

**Use of Evidence:** Outcomes and the use of evidence-based practices will be encouraged and promoted. The report will be updated when the outcomes are developed, and evidence-based practices are identified.

**Project overview:** In Lancaster County, only one community-based hospital provides the level of care of psychiatric acute and subacute hospitalization for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. The population of Lancaster County is over 315,000 individuals. The County, and surrounding counties rely on the level of care of crisis stabilization at the Mental Health Crisis Center for individuals that are placed on an Emergency Protective Custody hold. The Mental Health Crisis Center is only a 16-bed facility, and the County has discovered it is essential to have additional crisis stabilization beds to help with the growing need. During the pandemic the need for additional mental health services was even more pronounced with Law Enforcement responding to additional mental health calls. The Enhanced Assisted Outpatient Treatment would be an additional 8-10 crisis stabilization beds in Lancaster County. The County would rely on non-profit organization partnerships within the community to bring up and run the service, as well as provide wrap around services in the community once the individuals need a lower level of care. The County will fund the startup cost.

## II. Infrastructure (EC 5)

### **LCIT – 001 – Rural Broadband Project:**

**Funding amount:** \$10,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.16 - Broadband: “Last Mile” project or 5.17,

**Broadband:** Other projects

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** Work with rural districts in Lancaster County on expanding broadband services. The service will be expanded and will be funded by ARPA funds.

### **LCIT – 2 – Rural Water Project:**

**Funding amount:** \$2,000,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.11 - Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** Lancaster County will be utilizing ARPA funds to enter an interlocal agreement with Rural Water District No.1, within Lancaster County, to fund a rural water project. The project would be for the construction of two new water wells and upgraded water distribution lines to those in the District experiencing water availability shortages.

### **LCEC – 22-28, LCEC – 22-29, LCEC – 22-30, & LCEC – 22-31 – Culvert Replacement Project:**

**Funding amount:** \$2,400,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.18 – Water and Seward: Other

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** Lancaster County will be utilizing ARPA funds for Lancaster County Engineering Department to be used to design and replacement culverts in need of repair throughout the County.

### III. Revenue Replacement (EC 6)

#### **LCRR – 007 – Public Health Projects:**

**Funding amount:** \$1,908,000.00

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA

**New or Expanded Project:** The local Public Health Department will submit proposals based on identified community needs. The services may be new or to help fund existing services.

**Project overview:** Lancaster County is working with the City of Lincoln to prioritize public health activities.

#### **LCRR – 006, LCRR – 006-2, & LCRR 006-3 – HVAC Projects:**

**Funding amount:** \$785,883.00

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The HVAC systems at three County properties need to be replaced. The new HVAC systems will improve the air ventilation at these facilities which enhances the exchange and filtering of the air. These updates are critical for infectious disease control and essential when serving individuals and the public. The new systems will also allow for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **LCRR - 004 - Body Scanners:**

**Funding amount:** \$409,367.37

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** Lancaster County will be purchasing three body scanners. Two will be for Lancaster County Corrections and one will be for Lancaster County Youth Services Center. The use of these body scanners will help staff and individuals served remain safe and allow for social distancing while maintaining security in both facilities. It will reduce the number of body searches and reduces the introduction and sharing of contraband. The scanners have thermal sensors that read body temperature and are regulated by the FDA.

**LCRR – 005 & LCCC – 002 – Indian Center Match:**

**Funding amount:** \$49,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** To support the Indian Center, a non-profit, to obtain funding from the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority.

**LCRR – 001 - Isolation Rooms**

**Funding amount:** \$12,353.50

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA

**New or Expanded Project:** New

**Project overview:** The Mental Health Crisis Center & Youth Center each serve individuals under legal holds at their facilities. It was and still is imperative for Lancaster County to ensure the safety of these individuals while they are in our care. During the pandemic it became crucial for both facilities to have isolation rooms constructed to isolate individuals that appeared to have COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19. The County utilized ARPA funds to accomplish these projects.

**LCRR – 003 & LCRR – 10 – Vaccine Incentive:**

**Funding amount:** \$191,484.58

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA

**New or Expanded Project:** New

**Project overview:** Lancaster County allocated ARPA funding to help incentivize county employees to get vaccinated.

**LCRR – 008 – Bridges & Roads Projects:**

**Funding amount:** \$2,700,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.2 – Non-federal Match for Other Federal Programs

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA

**New or Expanded Project:** New

**Project overview:** Lancaster County will be utilizing ARPA funds for Lancaster County Engineering Department to be used for road/bridge projects throughout the County.

**LCRR – 009 – Waverly Pool:**

**Funding amount:** \$250,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA

**New or Expanded Project:** New

**Project overview:** Lancaster County will be utilizing ARPA funds for some of the financing of the City of Waverly Aquatic Center. The increase in the population of Waverly and existing problems with current pool have moved the City of Waverly to move forward with this project.

**LCRR – 002 - Administrative Expenses:**

**Funding amount:** \$500,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** Lancaster County is utilizing most of the ARPA funds toward community-based plans and services. The only administration cost will be 1 FTE for a grant coordinator. The role of the grant coordinator is to make sure the funds are being used appropriately; programs are following federal guidelines/regulations and to complete the required reporting. Other administrative cost will be absorbed in the County budget to maximize the ARPA funds in the community with community-based projects.

**LCRR - 8 - Indian Center Project:**

**Funding amount:** \$250,000

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA funds

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** The Lancaster County ARPA funds awarded to the Indian Center will be used to update their current building with necessary projects such as new electrical, windows and doors.

**LCEC – 22-26 – Culvert Replacement Project:**

**Funding amount:** \$100,000.00

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

**Funding Source(s):** ARPA

**New or Expanded Project:** New project

**Project overview:** Lancaster County will be utilizing ARPA funds for Lancaster County Engineering Department to be used to design and replacement culverts in need of repair throughout the County. This project will cover the house planning payroll.



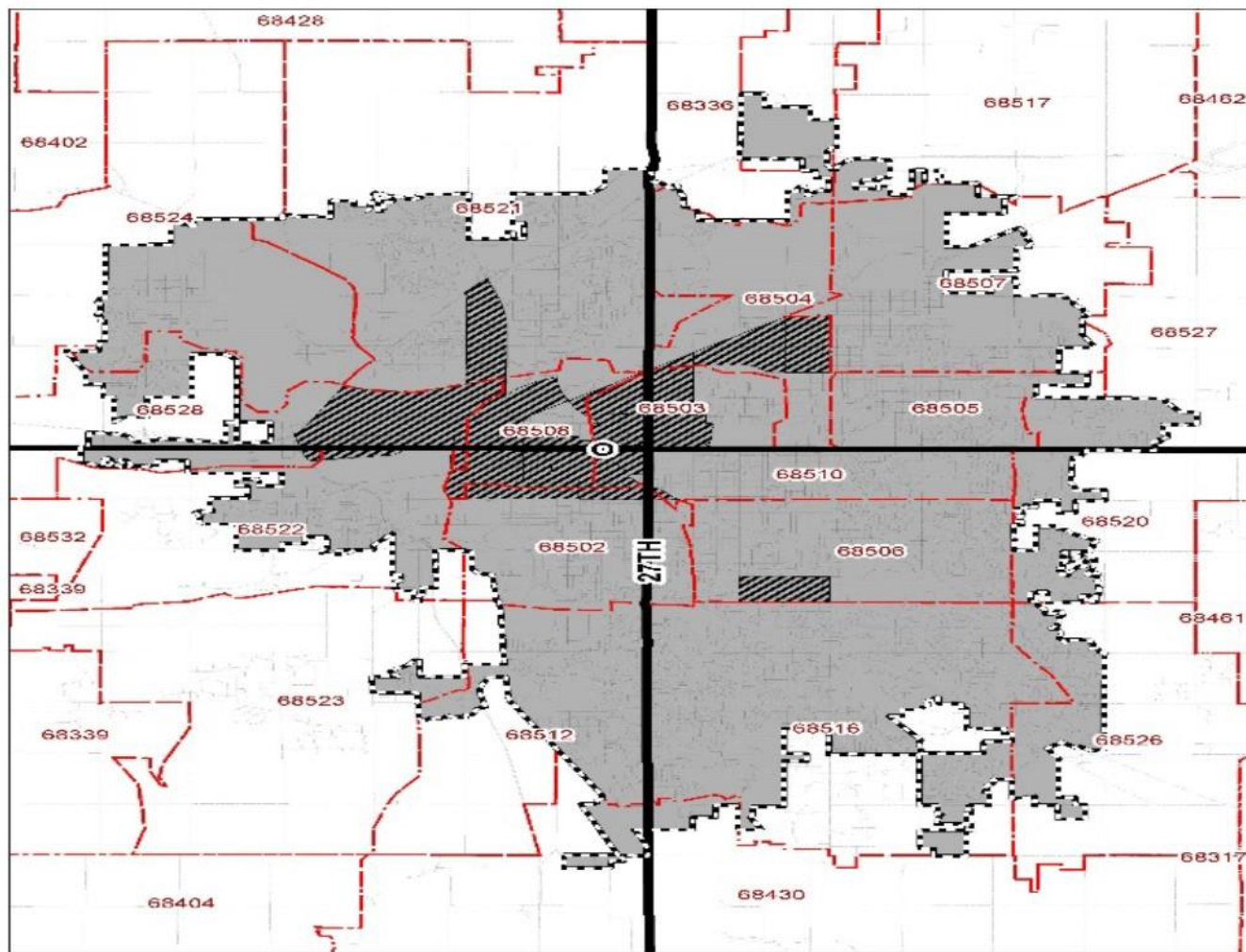
# Promoting Equitable Outcomes & Use of Evidence



As of January 2021, Lancaster County has 15 census tracts identified as being Qualified Census Tracts (QCT). These tracts encompass 8 different zip codes within the City of Lincoln. The Lancaster Community Corrections, Mental Health Crisis Center and most of the non-profits currently funded through the Lancaster County's Joint Budget Committee (JBC) are located in and actively providing services to residents within these QCT's.

Lancaster County is fortunate to have cultural and ethnic centers in our community. These centers are also located in our QCT's, where the percentage of people who identify as a member of a racial or ethnic minority group are more than double the average rates for the City of Lincoln.

The first map below depicts the areas within Lancaster County that are QCT's while the second map (created by Community Health Endowment of Lincoln) shows the areas of poverty and the minority population within our community. As seen between these two maps, the QCT's align with the poverty and the minority population tracts.

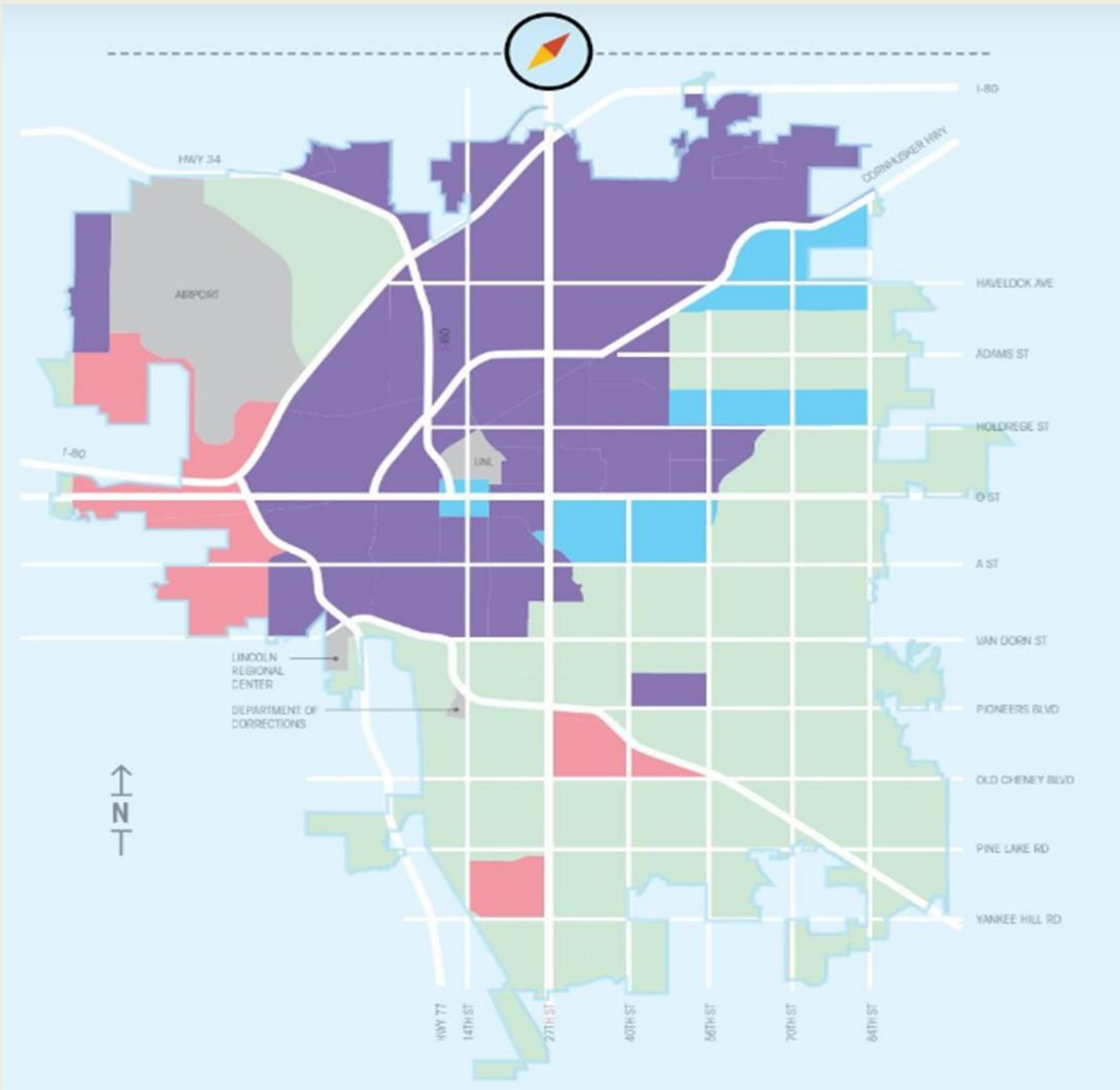


Area Review: HUD Qualified Census Tracts & Zip Codes

- City Limits (2020)
- 27th & O St
- Zip Code
- 2021 HUD Qualified Census Tracts

City of Lincoln Urban Development - Karl Elzer - 03-11-2024





- Poverty > Average
- Minority Population > Average
- Both Poverty and Minority Population > Average
- Excluded
- Current City Limits

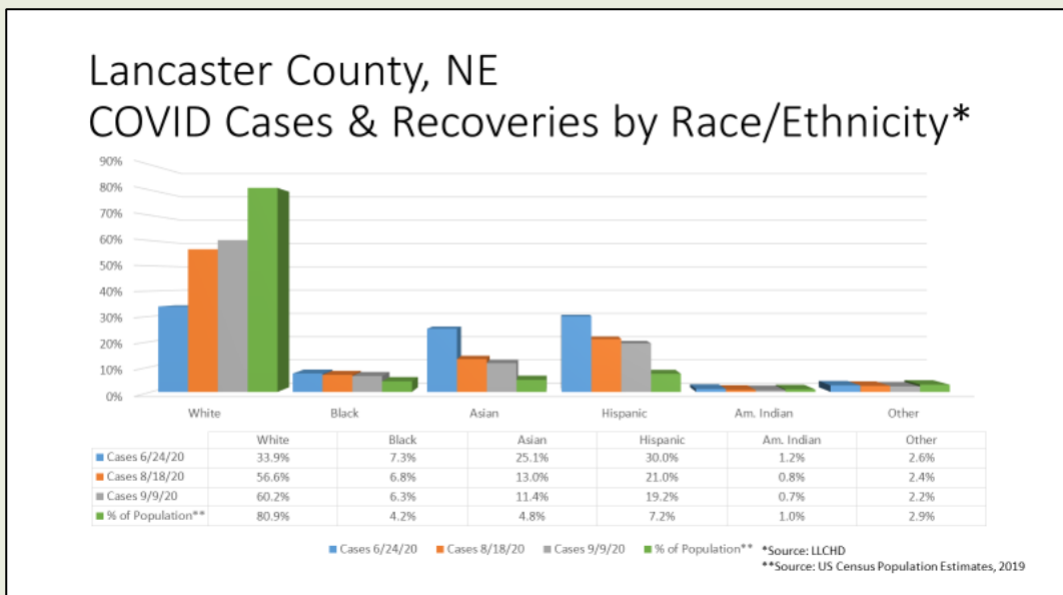
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau  
 Map: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD)

## Poverty\* and Minority Population\*\* 2018

There is a correlation between census tracts with higher poverty and a higher percentage of people who identify as a minority. Of the 31 census tracts with above average minority population, 80% also have a higher than average poverty rate. Of the 39 census tracts with below average minority population, only 18% have a higher than average poverty rate. The purple census tracts reveal where both factors exceed the average for the city of Lincoln.

\* Poverty is defined as 100% of the federal poverty threshold as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau  
 \*\* Includes all racial minorities and Hispanic population

The residents of Lancaster County who identify as a member of the minority population are also the same individuals that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The chart below depicts the overrepresentation of our minority population who suffered from COVID-19.



Community impact work to address the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on our minority population will be funded with the use of ARPA funds. Services in these areas will focus on needs in the community to address the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on this population.

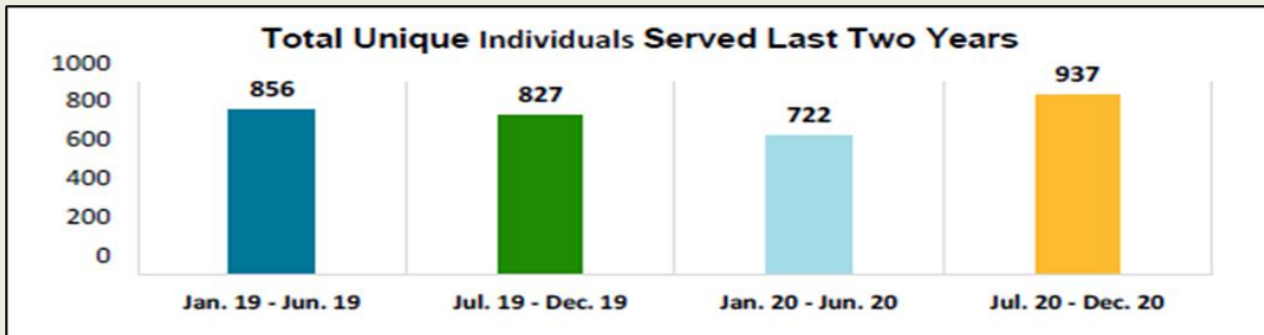
Women and children were disproportionately impacted during the pandemic as well. The US Department of Labor estimates 60% of jobs eliminated during the pandemic were held by women. Women also continue to be disproportionately impacted by domestic violence. During the pandemic, the Lincoln Police Department reported a 61% increase in protection order violation arrests.

Children’s social world collapsed as everything became restricted within our community. This meant less eyes were on children to ensure their safety. Lincoln Police Department reports child abuse cases dropped by 35% during the pandemic. This is related to children not being in school as teachers are the number one reporter for child abuse. As a result, children suffered as a silent victim of the pandemic.

Housing needs have also become a barrier to stability in the community. Community Corrections is finding difficulty with diversion and reentry programs in the community due the lack of safe and affordable housing. As stated earlier, our County is currently seeing, 36% of incarcerated women are homeless and an additional 25% of them have “not stable” living situations. The pandemic has only made the barriers to finding appropriate housing greater.

Lancaster County has always been dedicated to ensuring the well-being of all residents. This is evident by the continued support of non-profit agencies through JBC funding. The pandemic has taxed our current providers in a way they have never experienced. They had to rapidly transition to telehealth to serve clients. Many agencies ended up serving more clients than previous years while they experience a decrease in revenue as they were unable to hold their annual fundraising events. During this same period, the state migrated to Medicaid Expansion during the pandemic, which resulted in a more labor-intensive billing structure and reduced rates for some providers.

The CDC estimates 40% of adults suffered a mental health issue during the pandemic. Lancaster County is no exception to this. During the pandemic, Lincoln Police Department responded to 20% more mental health related calls than in the previous four years. The chart below is from a local non-profit, CenterPointe. The last column depicts a 10% increase in outpatient services during the pandemic.



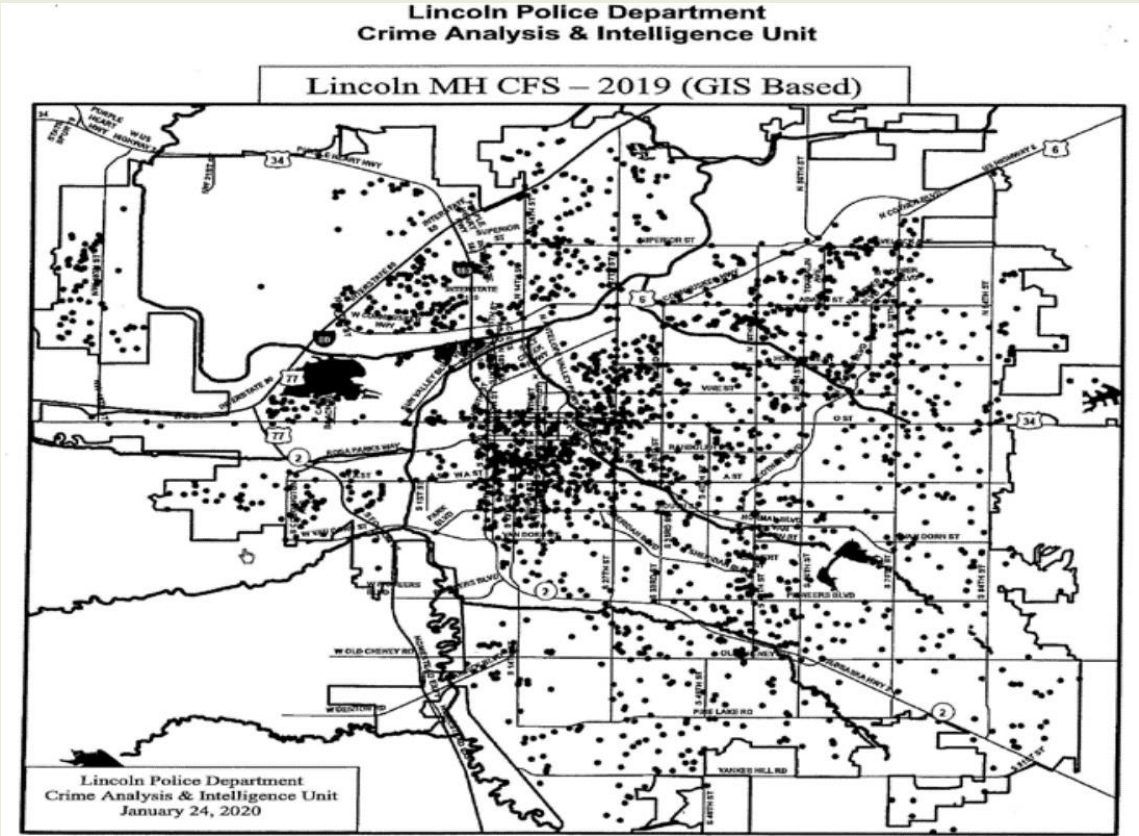
Non-profit agencies will be encouraged to submit proposals to address mental health issues brought on by the pandemic. The following proposed services encompass this focus area:

- Substance use disorder treatment
- Crisis intervention services
- Overdose prevention
- Behavioral/physical health primary care services



The City of Lincoln and Lancaster County had contracted with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center to evaluate the youth crisis response system. After a data analysis and several focus groups, the final recommendation included development of a crisis stabilization facility and wrap around services. A committee of stakeholders began work on this service (Division of Behavioral Health, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care, Region V Behavioral Health Systems, & service providers) but work on this project had stopped during the onset of COVID-19. While the evaluation showed a need in our youth behavioral health system, COVID-19 has exacerbated the gaps in our human services systems. This is especially true for children and families impacted by behavioral health. The lack of a supportive environment that fosters crisis stabilization and family support services for high-risk youth has been an ongoing need in our community for the last few decades.

During the pandemic, there was a 74% increase in the number of calls to the Nebraska Family Helpline. Of these calls, over 1,800 of them were new families who never reached out for support prior. During a year's time frame, 647 calls were placed to the Lincoln Police Department that were coded as "behavioral health" for youth ages 18 and under. Below depicts the areas of Lincoln where police responded to a bulk of mental health calls for children. These areas align perfectly with our QCT's.



Once police are called, youth can receive a myriad of different violations to get services to the families. This, in turn, disproportionality impacts our youth in detention. During the pandemic, the youth detention numbers decreased as more youth were supervised in the community. However, the youth who remained in detention were disproportionality minority youth (90%). Most of them were there waiting for behavioral health services. To date, despite significant efforts within the community, no new service providers have agreed to develop respite/shelter care and programming alternatives for a population of vulnerable, challenging and often marginalized youth.

As a result, Lancaster County is contracting with the RFK National Resource Center to examine, assess, and analyze a facility design to provide respite and/or shelter care development; support the development of administrative oversight and management procedures (including establishment of mission, goals, outcomes, target population, staffing, and operational policies, procedures, and practices); and identify research- informed resources. It has previously been decided this service needs to be in the area where a majority of the police calls originate. The Youth Crisis Stabilization & Recover Support Services Center will provide enhanced services for child welfare- involved families. Specific services include support and training on child development, positive parenting, coping skills and recovery for mental health and substance use disorder challenges.

Community stakeholders currently engaged with our youth crisis response system will be instrumental in the design of this service. These stakeholders include Lincoln Public Schools, Division of Behavioral Health, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care, Region V Behavioral Health Systems, Division of Children and Family Services, Nebraska Children & Families Foundation, Lincoln Police Department, Bryan Health, and Probation Administration.

Lancaster County has outlined many different areas of need within our community. Non-profit agencies will be asked to submit proposals that align with our areas of focus. Non-profit agencies will request ARPA funding under the existing Lincoln/Lancaster County grant guidelines. The Department of Justice recently approved these guidelines pertaining to subawards and subrecipient monitoring. This provides for a detailed guide on how to administer federal dollars to non-profit entities. The ARPA grant application drafted by the National Association of Counties (NACO) will be combined with our existing Joint Budget Committee (JBC) application to ensure ARPA requirements are included, as well as our community priorities. Subcommittees will be formed around each focus area to review the grant applications and make funding recommendations to the JBC.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LABOR PRACTICES

Lancaster County has employed multiple ways to engage the community stakeholders on the best approach to utilizing the ARPA funds. The Board of Commissioners have allowed the use of their public board meetings and staff meetings as an avenue to communicate with Lancaster County staff and the community on proposals for ARPA funds. The use of board and staff meetings also allows the community to review meeting minutes for more details. A survey was developed and distributed to the community to allow input on what they felt was an important way to use the funds. The survey also helped drive the Lancaster County staff on proposals and future uses. The Lancaster County Department heads have also reached out and provided trainings to the community they serve for feedback and are welcoming input and proposals. The City of Lincoln and Lancaster County have conducted press conferences and published information on their websites discussing ARPA funds and its allowable and potential uses of the dollars.

Lancaster County are requesting proposals from community partners. Once it is determined which proposals Lancaster County will pursue, we will utilize our established labor, contract, and procurement practices.



# Performance Report

A majority of Joint Budget Committee (JBC) funded agencies are currently working with University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) to identify performance indicators and objectives. They will continue to work with Dr. Richard Wiener from UNL for required data tracking and evaluation purposes.

Dr. Richard Wiener will work with agencies to ensure there is a system in place to track data required by the Department of Treasury for ARPA funds. Agencies will submit data directly to Dr. Richard Wiener. He will check the data for accuracy, summarize it, and submit it to the ARPA Grants Coordinator in a manner that is easily transferable to the required reporting system.

In addition to the required performance measures and objectives, Dr. Richard Wiener will work with agencies to measure how the program, service, or other intervention addresses the need or negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Progress reports will be submitted annually at the end of each calendar year through 2025. A final report will be submitted at the conclusion of 2026.