

Lorain County, Ohio

Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2022 Report

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were far reaching and had significant impacts across the Country. Lorain County was no exception. With the SLFRF funding received by the County, the intended plan is to maximize the use of funds to have a wide-reaching effect on the general well being of the County and its residents. The County will be using plans spanning assistance to non-profit agencies, grants to community partners to further projects aimed to combat negative effects on the public caused by the pandemic, renovations to allow for better social distancing, aid to revitalize county tourism and revenue recovery to allow the County to continue to provide necessary and vital public services with the aim of getting the County back on the path to recovery.

Uses of Funds

In order to help support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn the County has put an emphasis on spreading the funds across a wide array of projects in order to maximize the impact of the funding towards recovery.

The pandemic had a traumatic effect on Public Health. Aside from the obvious physical health issues the pandemic also took a disastrous toll on the community's mental and psychological well-being. To that end, the County intends to use the funds to support not only promote resident's physical health but also to try to combat many of the other negative impacts to County health. The County has committed funding to cover Flu Shots for the residents, funding to area partners to address County food insecurities and funding to support the fight against substance abuse that was magnified during the pandemic.

Funding is also going to be used to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Grant programs have been implemented for both small businesses and non-profits to apply for financial support towards recovery. In addition, programs have been put in place to get financial assistance to veteran organizations who were hit particularly hard by the economic downturn. Another area of emphasis the County intends to address with funding is the severe economic impact the pandemic had on County tourism. There are a number of potential projects being considered to bolster tourism all around the County.

SLFRF funding will allow the County to address several areas within County Government to allow for better, more efficient and safer service to the residents. Some of these areas include renovations to public spaces to allow for social distancing and investments in equipment and technology to allow for more effective response to public emergency and security needs.

Yet another allowable use of SLFRF funding is towards the improvement of water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. The County is currently in the initial stages of assessing need and reviewing specific sewer, water and broadband plans.

Finally, the economic downturn caused by the Pandemic has had a serious effect on our local government revenue. The U.S. Treasury guidance provided calculation for how to determine a County's lost revenue over the period of 2020-2023 when compared to the base year of 2019. Based on this calculation, it has been determined that in 2020 and 2021, the County General

Fund has lost a total of \$8,759,493.59 in Revenue for those two years. It is projected that over the 4-year span of 2020-2023 that total will exceed \$30 million. To date the County has earmarked that \$8,759,493.59 in SLFRF funds towards General Fund revenue recovery, but has not yet moved those funds over to the General Fund. No specific plans have been determined yet on exactly how those funds will be specifically used, however once those funds are moved to the General Fund they will be used to supplement funding towards government services provided by the County.

Community Engagement

The County Commissioners have continued throughout the process to be open to outside suggestions and ideas for ways to best use the funding. Ideas and requests continue to come in from both County Leadership, County municipalities, County Partners, Business Leaders, residents, etc. Requests are taken and then reviewed against needs assessment, and run through the leadership team and Legal Counsel to determine the project meets allowable requirements for SLFRF Funds. Once, it is determined there is a need and it is allowable, the County Commissioners then determine if they have a desire to commit SLFRF funding towards the project and pass a Resolution should that be the case.

Labor Practices

As a general County practice for all applicable County projects, whether funded by SLFRF funds or not, the projects are geared towards using strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality projects. When applicable and allowable the County requires contractors to utilize prevailing wages for County financed projects and again when allowable, preference is always given to local providers.

PROJECT INVENTORY

- Project 21-468-2021002971: Architectural engineering for various county buildings

Funding amount: \$15,900.00

Project Expenditure Category: 14 – Prevention in Congregate Settings, Dense Work Sites

Project Overview

Review needs and design plans for renovations to various County spaces to better and more safely serve the public. Renovation to allow for proper Social Distancing for both public and staffing.

- Project 21-468-2021002970: Architectural engineering for Emergency Management Agency Building

Funding amount: \$60,675.00

Project Expenditure Category: 114 – Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

Review needs and design plans for renovations to the Emergency Management Agency Building to better and serve the public during times of emergency response. Renovation to allow for storage of additional equipment including, but not limited to vehicles used to respond to Public emergencies.

- Project 21-530: Neighborhood Alliance

Funding amount: \$500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 234 – Assistance to impacted nonprofit organizations impacted

Project Overview

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners for Lorain County, Ohio have determined that the negative economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need for food assistance within Lorain County; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Alliance intends to construct a Neighborhood Nutrition Kitchen, at 265 Washington Avenue, Elyria as part of the general renovations needed to conform this space to the needs of the Neighborhood Alliance. The estimated cost to construct this project is \$680,000; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Alliance is soliciting assistance from Ohio Development Services, private individual contributions, including individuals and foundations, as well as public support for assistance with this project; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Neighborhood Nutrition Kitchen for Lorain County residents would allow Neighborhood Alliance to;

- Eliminate the waitlist of home delivered meals;
- Provide 350,000 (or more) nutritious home delivered meals annually by 2026;
- Offer nutritious meals for seniors, children and shelter residents that encompasses dietary restrictions, food sensitivities and cultural diversity;
- Provide nutritious meals for adults under age 60 who are not eligible for funding from Older Americans Act;
- Provide nutritious meals for disabled, low income individuals ages 50 to 60;
- Pilot a summer child hunger program in which meals were provided to children in underserved neighborhoods or food deserts;
- Reestablish congregate meals for seniors 55+ which provides a nutritious, safe and appealing meal in a group setting that promotes socialization, health and wellbeing;
- Reduce the food costs by 40% per meal;
- Become self-sustainable.

And;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lorain County Board of Commissioners that we find the construction of the Neighborhood Nutrition Kitchen will assist Lorain County residents as they recover from the economic and social disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we authorize a contribution from the American Rescue Plan Funds, Acct#1060.0000.100.000.01.7070.0000 in the total amount of \$500,000 to Neighborhood Alliance, Lorain, Ohio. Said funds to be used for the construction of said Neighborhood Nutrition Kitchen.

- Project 21-531: Lorain County Health District – Flu Shots

Funding amount: \$95,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 16 – Medical Expenses

Project Overview

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing concern for the health and wellness of Lorain County residents, particularly as flu season draws closer and this concern has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Lorain County Public Health desires to help combat the spread of communicable diseases such as the flu by holding flu shot clinics for Lorain County residents; and

WHEREAS, the flu shot will be available to all residents at no cost for the flu season 2021/2022.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lorain County Board of Commissioners, do hereby authorize the payment of \$95,000 to the Lorain County Public Health from the Acct#1060.0000.100.000.01.7070.0000 American Rescue Plan funding

- Project 21-567: County Veteran Organizations

Funding amount: \$250,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 234 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations
Impacted

Project Overview

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented difficulties for veterans across Lorain County; and

WHEREAS, while the resources of various Veterans Services Organizations throughout Lorain County are being taxed by assisting veterans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of these organizations have suffered significant losses of income and damage to durable equipment experienced caused in part by the federal and state led efforts to combat the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these organizations will continue to face challenging circumstances throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Lorain County Board of Commissioners seeks to dedicate funds in an amount up to \$250,000.00 to assist veterans service organizations throughout Lorain County under the authority of R.C. 307.85, in furtherance of its administration of federal financial assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the funds herein dedicated will consist of funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act, to assist in managing after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Lorain County Veterans Service Commission is uniquely positioned to determine which veterans service organizations have been most impacted by the pandemic, and therefore the Veterans Service Commission is asked to prepare recommendations to the Board of Commissioners to assist the Board in determining how to allocate the identified funds;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lorain County Board of Commissioners hereby dedicates funds in an amount up to \$250,000.00 from American Rescue Plan Act funds, for the purpose of providing financial assistance to certain Lorain County veterans service organizations suffering losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we hereby authorize payment to be made from American Rescue Plan Fund (Fund 1060).

- Project 21-569: Road To Hope

Funding amount: \$500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 234 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations Impacted

Project Overview

WHEREAS, mental health and recovery services are crucial to the well-being of the residents of Lorain County; and

WHEREAS, in large part because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant increases in both addiction and poor mental health outcomes in Lorain County and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Road to Hope is striving to meet the need to assist individuals and families who have been adversely affected by addiction by repurposing existing structures to be used as recovery housing for women, children and families called the Village Project; and

WHEREAS The Road to Hope is seeking and has received funding for this project from a number of governmental entities and private foundations; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with ORC 307.85, the Lorain County Commissioners authorize a commitment of funds in the amount of \$500,000 toward the construction of the Village Project. The Board intends to use funds made available through the American Rescue Plan and funds that will be made available as a result of the recently executed Opioid Settlement Agreement to satisfy its pledge.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lorain County Commissioners authorize a commitment of funds in the amount of \$500,000 to Road to Hope for use in establishing the Village Project.

- Project 21-778: Lost Revenue Replacement

Funding amount: \$1,449,753.59

Project Expenditure Category: 61 – Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in State, Local, and Tribal governments experiencing significant budget shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, Lorain County has similarly experienced budget shortfalls due to decreased revenues as a result of the COVID pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act contains provisions permitting such State, Local, and Tribal governments to reimburse their respective budget shortfalls with funds provided under the act; and

WHEREAS, it will greatly benefit Lorain County to use of American Rescue Plan Funds to reimburse COVID-related shortfalls to its General Fund; and

WHEREAS, through consultation with the county's budget director, the Lorain County Board of Commissioners has determined the appropriate calculation of the amount of funds needed to adequately reimburse Lorain County's COVID-related shortfalls to its General Fund, in accordance with enacted regulations promulgated in association with the American Rescue Plan Act;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lorain County Board of Commissioners shall use American Rescue Plan Act funds to reimburse its COVID-related shortfalls to its General Fund, as determined by the Lorain County budget director, in the amount of \$1,449,753.59.

- Project 22-34: Treasurer Office Alterations

Funding amount: \$30,630.00

Project Expenditure Category: 34 – Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

Review needs, design plans and renovations to Lorain County Treasurer office to better and more safely serve the public. Renovation to allow for proper Social Distancing for both public and staffing.

- Project 22-48: Battenhouse Lateral Ditch #2

Funding amount: \$84,889.17

Project Expenditure Category: 518 – Water and Sewer Other

Project Overview

WHEREAS, Lorain County has received numerous complaints of flooding and damages incurred as a result around Lorain County Airport and residences along Albrecht Rd; and

WHEREAS, Residents in the area petitioned Lorain County to restore drainage in the area resulting in the Board of Commissioners granting the petition through Resolution 21-640A; and

WHEREAS, within Res#21-640A, adopted October 19, 2021 stated the cost will be paid using 2/3 from Stormwater and 1/3 from American Rescue Plan Act; and

WHEREAS, the County put out a public bid notice for improvements to the Battenhouse Lateral #2 ditch on November 18 and 29, 2021 in the Morning Journal; and

WHEREAS, seven bids were received and reviewed on January 4, 2022

Company	Bid Price
State Highway Clearing	\$382,404.00
Cole Excavating	\$375,315.00
Garza Dirtworks, LLC	\$254,827.50
Narone & Sons	\$550,855.00
A Miller Excavating	\$340,401.50
Decliffs Company	\$454,389.15
Great Lakes Demolition Co.	\$427,962.00

and

WHEREAS, Garza Dirt Works, LLC. is the lowest and most responsive bidder and will invoice the county for said services; and

WHEREAS, Garza Dirt Works LLC bids amount will reflect the minor correction to the arithmetic extension of the unit cost bid for Item #15 (in the net amount of -\$160). The bidder furnished the required bid guarantee and performance bond per ORC 153.51.

WHEREAS, we hereby Issue a Notice to Proceed on or before February 21, 2022 and complete within 90 days; and

WHEREAS, we hereby notify the County Administrator to notify the County Auditor to release retainage at completion of project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lorain County Board of Commissioners that we hereby award a contract to Garza Dirt Works, LLC., Clyde in the amount of \$254,667.50 for the Battenhouse Lateral No. #2 ditch and authorize payments of two-thirds of costs from Stormwater account #7100.7118.300.304.11.6200.0000 and one-third from American Rescue Plan Act account #1060.0000.100.000.01.6200.0000

- Project 22-209: Children Family First Council

Funding amount: \$600,000

Project Expenditure Category: 114 – Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

WHEREAS, the Lorain County Family and Children First Council seeks to help elevate negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Lorain County children and families by supporting services it currently offers to families with children displaying certain disadvantageous criteria that qualify them for services from the Council; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has created deleterious effects on families and children, particularly children with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, the Lorain County Family and Children First Council has also experienced direct and ancillary negative effects of the pandemic through increased workloads and employee turnover; and

WHEREAS, the funding will allow the Lorain County Family and Children First Council to decrease its waitlist for serving families with multisystem needs, increase its own proficiency to pursue other funding streams and additional administrative tasks, and increase education and communication throughout Lorain County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lorain County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize a grant to the Lorain County Family and Children First Council in the amount of \$600,000.00 over a three-year period, to put toward the Council's goals and objectives, for the purpose of serving Lorain County families and children in need of its services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that grant payments will be made on an annual basis in the amount of \$200,000.00 from Acct#1060.0000.100.000.01.7070.0000 (ARP - Other Expenses)

- Project 22-320: EMA Homeland Security

Funding amount: \$600,000

Project Expenditure Category: 34 – Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

WHEREAS, the Lorain County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security includes Specialized Response Teams, which provide a variety of emergency responses including several options to effect rescues under challenging circumstances; and

WHEREAS, various Lorain County communities are required to contribute to a special rescue fund established to provide funds for this beneficial Lorain County program; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has created deleterious effects on communities by creating unforeseen expenses in their own communities, which in turn has given communities less income to contribute to the County's Specialized Response Teams and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has similarly created catastrophic consequences for first responders, emergency, and safety services through increased demand for services, overworking of individual personnel, and increased anxiety over contracting COVID-19 due to the necessary close proximity to people required during rescue operations; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies have also experienced direct and ancillary negative effects of the pandemic through increased workloads and employee turnover; and

WHEREAS, the funding will allow the Lorain County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to be able to procure additional trainings, materials and supplies, as well as contributions toward the replacement of ageing vehicles and trailers. Without this funding, the SRT's would be seriously disadvantaged in operational ability.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lorain County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize a grant to the Lorain County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in the amount of \$600,000.00 over a three-year period, to put toward the Office's goals and objectives, for the purpose of serving Lorain County communities in need of rescuing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that grant payments will be made on an annual basis in the amount of \$200,000.00 from Acct# 1060.0000.100.000.01.7070.0000 – Other Expenses