



American Rescue  
Plan Act –  
State And Local  
Fiscal Recovery  
Funds

# County of Loudoun, Virginia

Recovery Plan 2024 Report

# Loudoun County

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V I R G I N I A

## 2024 Recovery Plan

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### Executive Summary

The availability of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) has continued to provide Loudoun County the means to address resident needs in the short term as county leadership and partners focus on the long-term policy solutions that make this county a prosperous, inclusive, equitable and sustainable community where residents can “live, work, learn and play.” The county was awarded \$80,324,909 in SLFRF funds, which was received in two tranches; \$40,162,454.50 was received on June 1, 2021, and the remaining amount received on June 9, 2022. Many large initiatives were launched during this current reporting period and others are scheduled to begin during FY25. Previous reports have highlighted the foundation on which SLFRF programs and projects were selected, so it is the intention of this 2024 Performance Report to discuss activities and learning for this reporting period. Where applicable, references will be made to previous years’ reports as well as any existing policy documents, such as strategic plans, so that the reader may obtain further history and context if needed.

As we move beyond the public health emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic, partnerships with community organizations remain a valuable resource in keeping abreast of resident needs in real time. Regular communication and education allowed the county to address emergency needs throughout the community, while also giving nonprofit organizations the tools and training for grant seeking and data management. These organizations inform county staff of continued demands from residents even as they come out of this pandemic in order to meet those needs with urgency and compassion.

The county’s use of SLFRF funds is focused on residents who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic to allow for financial stability for residents. Initiatives to address immediate housing needs have launched in addition to other community support services that allows flexibility to provide financial assistance to households that will cover immediate expenses that pose a potential risk to housing stability. Loudoun County has witnessed an increase in homelessness, as many jurisdictions across the nation have, and it has been important to focus on the factors that lead to homelessness so that a household is more likely to remain housed.

Childcare has been another focus of this reporting period. As a larger needs assessment is currently underway, efforts to reduce the cost burden for families have begun through partnership with a nonprofit organization that reaches out to families and the community of childcare providers targeting families who may not qualify for subsidies, but who still face financial challenges for childcare. Initial findings of the needs assessment will be discussed later in this report along with the steps taken to alleviate some of the burdens associated with finding quality child care.

2024 has allowed an opportunity to assess how these SLFRF funds are working for Loudoun residents and businesses, and recent shifts in allocation will allow continued response to ongoing needs. As this report will illustrate, emergency needs remain the highest priority with continued support for broadband expansion and water/wastewater projects throughout the county.

Loudoun County spent several years prior to the pandemic working with community partners to develop a General Plan that directs county staff toward transformative goals for the way the

county responds to its rapid growth and changing needs. The strategic plans discussed throughout this report recognize areas of need and identified sustainable solutions that will build an equitable and prosperous future for all county residents:

- *Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan*: Defines how the county will address the unmet housing needs of households in a systematic and comprehensive way with integrated programs.
- *Linear Parks and Trails*: Connects county residents to each other, natural and cultural landscapes, and community nodes and destinations.
- *Visit Loudoun*<sup>1</sup>: Destination marketing to support a community that recognizes the economics and quality of life benefits that come from sharing Loudoun County with visitors.
- *Resolution of the Board of Supervisors Regarding Social and Racial Equity as Fundamental Values*<sup>2</sup>: Codifies the values of equity, diversity and inclusion for the county.
- *Equity Plan and Framework*: Identifies objectives for making and assessing progress on addressing social and racial inequalities.
- *Loudoun County Energy Strategy*<sup>3</sup>: The county's vision to ensure energy is clean, reliable and affordable for all residents and businesses in Loudoun County.
- *Loudoun County 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan*<sup>4</sup>: Provides policy foundation for the county's transportation network.
- *Loudoun County Transit Strategic Plan*<sup>5</sup>: Provides goals and objectives to promote access and mobility, protect health and safety, and promote high quality of life for Loudoun residents.

SLFRF-funded projects have been specifically selected for their alignment with Treasury's final rule, existing county goals and the greater vision for Loudoun County. This report will provide a brief background of these county goals as it pertains to the appropriate section, and how ARPA will help facilitate the county's vision of a prosperous, inclusive, equitable and sustainable community where residents can "live, work, learn and play."

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<sup>2</sup>[Visit Loudoun](#)

<sup>2</sup> [News Release: Board of Supervisors Adopts Social and Racial Equity as Fundamental Values, January 18, 2023](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Loudoun County Energy Strategy](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Loudoun County 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Loudoun County Transit Strategic Plan FY2025-FY2034](#)

## PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Loudoun County carefully selected projects within this SLFRF program that would assist in the equity goals established and support the values of equity and inclusion as identified in a January 2023 resolution<sup>6</sup> by the Board of Supervisors. The resolution calls for the county to promote fairness and justice as it develops and implements its priorities and programs and calls for a collaborative effort among community partners to intentionally promote equity. As these values and the equity framework were presented in Loudoun County's 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report, this section will discuss current progress toward equity goals and the continued connection and collaboration with the community to focus SLFRF programming on historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups as needed. Readers of this report are invited to view the 2023 Recovery Plan and Performance Report<sup>7</sup>, as well as the Resolution of the Board of Supervisors Regarding Social and Racial Equity as Fundamental Values<sup>8</sup> for more information. It is with this guidance that all projects and programs using SLFRF funding will be implemented to promote equitable outcomes.

The immediate needs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency and corresponding negative economic impacts were identified through early communication with community partners and nonprofit organizations. Quick response provided emergency relief for residents and small businesses, allowing for deeper analysis of any existing service gaps or underlying challenges that had made some of these services inaccessible, or even invisible, to some residents. The county will continue to evaluate these findings to provide much needed resources to residents and local business owners to minimize the impact of such an emergency in the future.

### Economic Development Programs

The Department of Economic Development (DED) has demonstrated its commitment to equity and inclusion through the creation of the *Launch Loudoun*<sup>9</sup> program, for which DED researched and reviewed specific impacts and needs of women- and minority-owned businesses. DED-committed staff provides one-on-one coaching, allowing small business owners an opportunity to talk through roadblocks they are experiencing, and identify the next best step and opportunities to learn new skills. Since its inception in 2023, Launch Loudoun has seen almost 2,000 attendees at programs and events, and directly served over 100 individual businesses with over 50 percent (50%) minority owned. The use of SLFRF funds in this small business and entrepreneurship program allows DED staff to target women- and minority-owned businesses, especially those negatively impacted by COVID, to provide technical assistance, support and training in multiple languages through translated materials and interpreter services. The structure of Launch Loudoun allows flexibility to address the unique needs of these small businesses. DED will bring in speakers, trainers and experts to specifically address needs and topics from this diverse business community through monthly lunch-and-learn sessions as well as larger events and networking opportunities.

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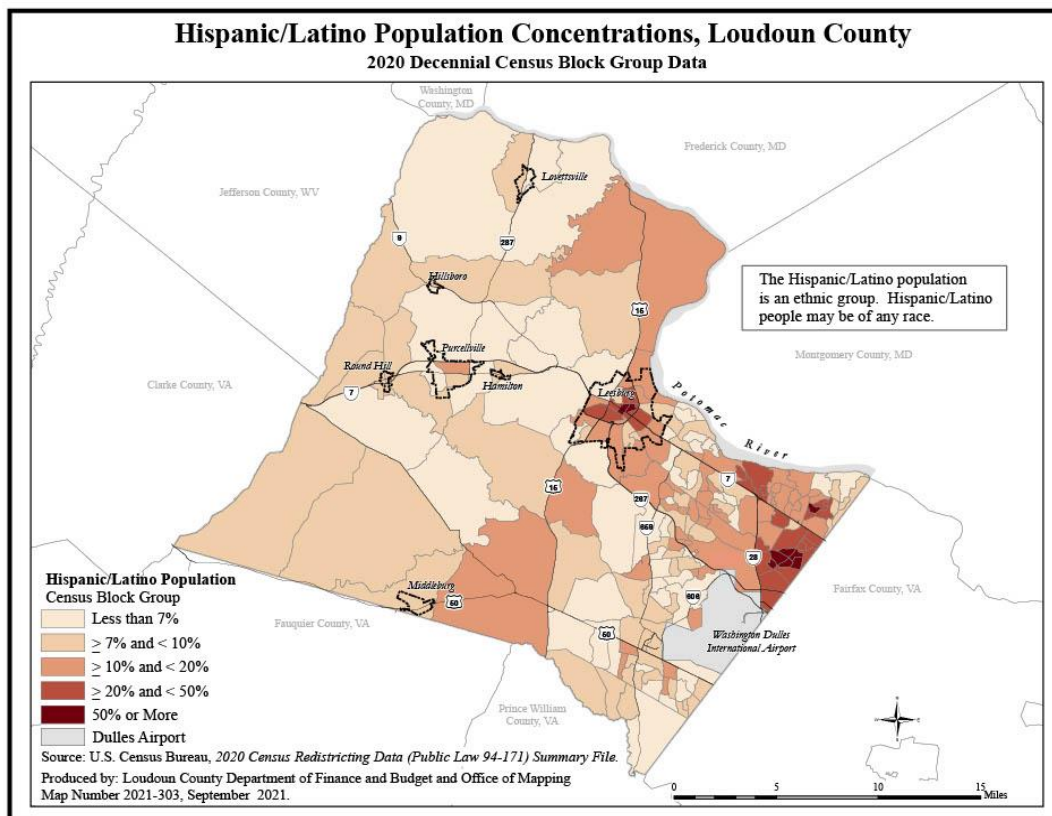
<sup>6</sup> [Board of Supervisors Adopts Social and Racial Equity as Fundamental Values](#), January 18, 2023

<sup>7</sup> [2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Resolution of the Board of Supervisors Regarding Social and Racial Equity as Fundamental Values](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Launch Loudoun website](#)

Launch Loudoun recently hosted the 2024 Small Business Summit<sup>10</sup> that focused on workforce; specifically, how to attract new hires in a county with 2 percent (2%) unemployment rate and strengthen a team that, quite likely, represents not only multiple cultures, but multiple generations. Guest speakers and panelists discussed topics ranging from understanding and maximizing characteristics of each generation, identifying personal barriers towards becoming a strong (and compassionate) leader, and expanding pathways to workforce success. By teaching new techniques and approaches to hiring, small business owners can find and retain quality employees that will give these businesses a stronger foundation for the long term. It also means that those seeking new or different opportunities will likely find a career path that may not have seemed open to them in the past.



The Hispanic/Latino population in Loudoun County is growing, and this community represents over 50% of the population within several census tracts. DED has taken several steps to engage this population, as well as provide resources for all small business owners to attract and retain employees of this demographic. DED has partnered with Virginia Cooperative Extension – Loudoun to source and provide ServSafe® classes in Spanish, at a subsidized cost to the student. ServSafe® offers Food Handler and Food Manager certifications that focus on food safety training for employees and management. While the cost of these certifications is typically \$170 for employees, DED is using SLFRF funds to offer the Spanish language class for only \$10. The response to this class has been overwhelming, confirming assumptions that the cost

<sup>10</sup> [Loudoun County 2024 Small Business Summit, April 30, 2024](#)

of this certification has been prohibitive to many low-income residents. DED and VCE-Loudoun hope to offer this class multiple times until 2026 with the use of SLFRF funds.

## Housing

The county's Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan (UHNSP) outlines the value of providing funding for specific housing initiatives such as maintaining and increasing the inventory of market affordable housing rental units, improving housing stability and access to rental housing, and reducing the cost burden (spending more than 30 percent of a household's monthly income on housing costs) to families<sup>11</sup>. Since the beginning of the pandemic, housing costs have continued to be a challenge for many families in Loudoun County, and additional external factors have made financial recovery more challenging for some households.

The Commonwealth of Virginia ended its eviction moratorium at the end of June 2022. While still monitoring eviction filings, Loudoun County's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) recently partnered with a local nonprofit organization to target low-to-moderate income renters (at or below 80 percent of Area Median Income) who are in receipt of an eviction filing notice, and find the most efficient and effective way to avert evictions, which may include activities such as housing assistance and legal counseling. This approach utilizes additional organizations that will provide additional services to low-to-moderate income households facing eviction, particularly for cases that may require rehousing. By cultivating partnerships and building these relationships, the county can proactively engage with local philanthropy and faith communities to support housing initiatives, facilitate training and education, and access underserved communities.

## Homeless Prevention and Diversion

These county projects are designed with a commitment to promoting equitable outcomes and addressing the unique needs of our diverse community. At the forefront of this approach is the recognition that individuals experiencing homelessness are often among the most vulnerable members of our society, and, as such, our interventions are specifically tailored to prioritize their needs while also acknowledging and respecting the intersectionality of poverty and diversity within Loudoun County.

Efforts to promote equitable outcomes are woven into the project design in several key ways:

- **Inclusive Service Delivery:** Services are designed to be culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate, ensuring that barriers to access are minimized for marginalized communities.
- **Targeted Outreach:** Implement strategies to engage populations that may face additional barriers to accessing services, such as racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.
- **Holistic Support Services:** Offer comprehensive support services that address the multifaceted needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Culturally Competent Care:** Recruit staff members who reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and provide ongoing training to enhance cultural competency among team members.

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<sup>11</sup> [Loudoun County Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan, page 12](#)

- **Data-informed Decision Making:** Utilize data-driven approaches to identify disparities and inequities within our programs and inform targeted interventions aimed at addressing those disparities.

By embedding principles of equity and inclusivity into every aspect of project design and implementation, the county strives to create a more just and compassionate system of support for individuals experiencing homelessness. This commitment to equity not only enhances the effectiveness of our interventions but also fosters a sense of dignity, respect, and belonging for all members of our community.

### Nonprofit Assistance

Funding for nonprofit organizations using SLFRF funds allowed the continued, or in some cases, expanded service for at-risk populations. Many of these organizations serve those most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic including low-income families, people with disabilities, victims of abuse, at-risk youth, and black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) populations, among others. For example, during the pandemic, many residents could not obtain benefits through standard county or state programs due to their legal residency status, a common issue for residents seeking rent or utility assistance. Nonprofit organizations supported by Loudoun's SLFRF funds were able to provide critical services to residents who did not have a traditional lease or a legal status that would have allowed them to access other county assistance programs, expanding the county's reach to those disproportionately affected populations.

### Digital Inclusion<sup>12</sup>

Achieving universal broadband access has been a long-term objective and the county is poised to act on the priorities of digital inclusion, which are (1) raise awareness of digital inclusion, (2) increase digital inclusion and, (3) empower citizens to take advantage of digital technologies.

Loudoun County is addressing digital inclusion by driving western Loudoun broadband deployment, educating personnel through online methods, continued expansion of online county services and increasing the community's awareness and access to online information. Loudoun County's partner to expand broadband through western Loudoun, All Points Broadband, will offer its first-time users a Digital Inclusion Academy through Google for Education. All Points will offer free access to this academy and all related courses to all locations within the proposed SLFRF project area as well as county residents who may also be new to using internet resources. As more residents have the access and knowledge to use online tools, continual progress can be made toward online county services as they can be made available, providing the greatest impact when residents have the advantage of reliable broadband service.

### Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Preliminary Studies

SLFRF funds will support preliminary studies that advance equity in transportation and maximize potential for IIJA grant funding. County leadership reviewed many planned projects in relation to the implementation of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Linear Parks and Trails (LPAT) initiative to determine whether the project would improve access to services, areas of commerce and/or transportation for historically marginalized or disadvantaged

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<sup>12</sup> [Loudoun County Digital Inclusion Strategy](#), Virginia Telecommunications Initiative application, page 125

residents. Funding these studies with SLFRF funds will better position the county to support historically marginalized communities when applying for IIJA grant programs.

The Board-approved LPAT and CIP create an enormous benefit for the entire county, by addressing concerns of equity, environmental and public engagement needs. Preliminary studies using SLFRF funds are intended to maximize IIJA funding for a particular project to connect existing sections of multi-use trails to communities north and south of state Route 7. The census tract to the south is identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a historically disadvantaged community, and both census tracts are considered high or highest vulnerability on the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index. Continued public engagement will inform any special design considerations to be made as progress continues throughout the LPAT initiative.

In the development of the LPAT initiative, county staff used a mapping methodology that considers socio-economic, demographic, and environmental data at the census tract level, creating a composite map that identifies high-priority census tracts from an equitable planning standpoint. Refining the mapping methodology with county and stakeholder input, LPAT projects that fall within or connect to the high-priority census tracts will be given greater priority as one criterion within the county's project prioritization criteria, which considers other factors such as current access-based level of service and project feasibility. SLFRF funds are now used to focus on readying high priority projects for additional funding requests.

The Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure (DTCI) will be using SLFRF funds to support preliminary studies and community outreach for proposed shared-use paths to connect several Loudoun communities to the Innovation Silver Line Metrorail Station, making travel throughout the Washington metropolitan region accessible. The communities adjacent to or within the vicinity of these shared-use path projects are considered historically disadvantaged, making these projects a good fit for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant or Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program, and thorough public outreach and preliminary studies are intended to increase the likelihood of receiving grant awards for design and construction.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement remains important to encourage inclusion and open dialogue and continues to be part of the county's approach to building trust with residents and community partners. Strong relationships between community leaders and Loudoun County staff not only allowed for efficient response to the public health emergency, but it will continue to play a part in the ongoing improvement of service delivery through county programs and services offered through community partners. The 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report discusses previous opportunities that the county used to engage the public, so this section will focus on activities during the current reporting period.

### Small Business

During the COVID-19 pandemic, DED was responsible for distributing business assistance grants. The rate of participation by women- and minority-owned businesses lagged in comparison to the overall number of those businesses in the county, and across all applicants many were found ineligible for grants due to a lack of basic business and financial information to justify the grant. After increased marketing and direct outreach, the DED was able to increase participation in subsequent grants by women- and minority-owned and rural businesses. During this outreach, DED learned that the needs of these businesses continued to be tactical and technical support, as well as educational opportunities for continued support, far beyond just needing assistance with grant writing. As discussed previously in this report, Launch Loudoun was created with the help of a diverse and dedicated group of local business owners and community partners, to provide services across the whole community and in various formats to be accessible and welcoming to all. The county approved and DED hired a Business Development Manager specifically to meet the needs of the minority-owned business community.

DED continues to seek ways to support the business community and advocate for the resources to educate our small business owners so that they can navigate any hardship. The *Launch Loudoun* program offers more ways to reach minority-, veteran-, and women-owned businesses in person and online. Technical assistance, tools, training and counseling will be available to small business owners in a variety of formats and languages so that it is accessible to all.

### Housing

Loudoun's DHCD launched two large initiatives targeted at renters still struggling with the cost of housing, specifically those of low-to-moderate income who are either at risk of eviction or experiencing a cost burden of over 30 percent. The two programs initiated during this reporting period take advantage of the partnerships among the nonprofit community so that households in need can receive the emergency support that they need as well as case management to develop long-term solutions for housing stability. These programs were promoted through Loudoun County's communication channels, including the county's website and social media channels, as well as outreach to and by the nonprofit partners. As demonstrated by the community engagement thus far, these community partners will continue to be a source of input regarding the needs for housing assistance programs.

### Child Care Needs Assessment

In late 2023, Loudoun County obtained the services of Public Consulting Group (PCG) to administer a needs assessment to determine what barriers exist for Loudoun families and child

care providers to meet the needs for both parties and what areas are most urgent for the county to address. As part of the scope of work, PCG conducted surveys, key informant interviews, and focus groups.

All families in Loudoun County with children ages 0-5 were invited to participate in the survey, which was distributed via a Qualtrics link. Notice and distribution of the survey occurred across multiple channels, including news press releases from Loudoun County, announcements in Board of Supervisors' newsletters, social media and, communication to and from early childhood education providers (ECE) and community-based organizations.

Initial findings show that affordability of child care is vitally important to a significant number of respondents and nearly half of respondents indicated needing assistance paying for child care. Unfortunately, many respondents are not familiar with the Child Care Subsidy program, overseen by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and administered by Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), that provides assistance for families earning below 85 percent (85%) of State Median Income. This initial survey has provided valuable information about potential outreach to educate families about child care resources available at the state and county level.

To address immediate concerns related to childcare costs while the Needs Assessment determines next steps, the county established a Child Care Fee Reduction Program to assist families who earn more than 85% State Median Income but equal or less than 80% of Area Median Income. This program recently launched, and the county's nonprofit partner has notified child care providers about the program and will be reaching out to families who may need this assistance. This outreach, combined with the Child Care Needs Assessment, will provide valuable information about current needs within the county and what service gaps can be addressed for long-term solutions.

## USES OF FUNDS

This section describes how SLFRF funds have been used during this reporting period to address immediate needs and provide support for future initiatives. A summary of all projects, completed and active, can be found in the Project Inventory section of this report. Details of completed projects can be found in Loudoun County's 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report. Loudoun County continues to allocate SLFRF funds to emergency services to alleviate some of the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, focusing on supporting lower income residents and populations most negatively impacted by the pandemic. These funds also provide the opportunity to invest in larger initiatives that support the county's goal of promoting a more prosperous, accessible, livable, sustainable, and equitable future for all county residents.

### Public Health

No projects are in progress in this expenditure category during this reporting period. Please see the Project Inventory section of this report for a summary of completed projects.

### Negative Economic Impacts

#### Assistance to Small Businesses

Supporting local businesses through the pandemic was key to recovery, but strengthening businesses is even more important for sustainability and post-recovery growth. In 2023, DED built and announced the *Launch Loudoun*<sup>13</sup> program that will reach the county's small business community and be inclusive and accessible to all. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge on sound financial management and teach small business owners how to effectively use suitable financial tools, source their vendors, and build and retain a quality team. Within the first year of the *Launch Loudoun* program, DED has successfully launched several initiatives:

- Annual Small Business Summit; Designed to bring together Loudoun entrepreneurs and small business owners to gain inspiration and learn essential business concepts directly from industry leaders.
- Monthly Lunch and Learn Educational Seminars: Providing a platform for engaging discussions, a stage for insightful speakers, and fostering networking opportunities, learning and community building<sup>14</sup>.
- 1 Million Cups meetups: These meetings are part of a national, licensed entrepreneur support program that provides connections, new knowledge and a forum to problem-solve<sup>15</sup>.
- Basic Financial Management Training using QuickBooks: Providing three, two-hour classes at no cost to the businesses, scheduled at different times of the day and evening, at different locations in the county to accommodate small business hours and locations. Training will help small businesses understand the importance of sound financial management and teach businesses how to effectively use QuickBooks as an affordable tool. Each business that attends will be eligible to receive a one-year subscription to QuickBooks as well as one-on-one support by the program facilitator to get the business' chart of accounts established.

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<sup>13</sup> [Launch Loudoun website](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Launch Loudoun Lunch and Learns a Beacon for Entrepreneurs in Loudoun County, blog post January 26, 2024](#)

<sup>15</sup> [2024 1 Million Cups initiative](#)

- ServSafe® Certification: Offering ServSafe® certification courses and exams in Spanish at a deeply reduced price.

#### Assistance to Nonprofits

Loudoun County spent over \$2.6 million of Tranche 1 SLFRF funds to assist nonprofit and faith-based organizations within the community to mitigate the negative impacts residents were experiencing because of the pandemic. Nonprofit supports funded four categories; emergency food assistance, COVID-19 service expansion, service interruption and service continuity. This program is completed. Further details can be found in the county's 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report.

Emergency services for low-to-moderate income residents continues in the ARPA Tranche 2 Nonprofit Grant Program<sup>16</sup>. The county has provided \$2.6 million of Tranche 2 funds in support of direct support to residents recovering from the pandemic. These emergency services consist of food assistance, assistance to victims of domestic violence and child abuse, employment assistance, utility services and mental health support. Nonprofit funding complements the county-provided services that support comprehensive community services. Awards were granted to 13 organizations and these grant funds are available to grantees from July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2024. All organizations have started spending, several have completed their emergency program and have provided final reports. Details of spending per category can be found in the Project Inventory section of this report

#### Community Support Services

As residents continue to struggle to recover from the pandemic amidst rising costs for food, utilities, rent and services, the Board of Supervisors allocated \$483,000 toward a nonprofit grant program intended to serve residents in need of utility assistance and/or other financial supports. Grants have been awarded to two organizations that have a history of working with the Loudoun County community and who assist residents at or below 80 percent Area Median Income (AMI). Other financial support includes, but is not limited to, payments that support health, mental health, transportation, insurance or other short-term needs by residents who are experiencing disproportionate impacts of the pandemic. Case management provided by the nonprofit grantee will consider appropriate short-term financial needs for each household and long-term supports that will promote future financial stability.

#### Homeless Prevention and Diversion/Emergency Shelter and Case Management

The Homeless Prevention and Diversion (HPD) services prevent episodes of homelessness for individuals and households currently housed and who are at imminent risk of eviction. HPD services are available to assist households with maintaining and preserving their current housing situation. The Emergency Shelter and Case Management services aim to offer secure and stable environments where homeless individuals and families can find temporary accommodation, including hotel stays.

These services are integral components of Loudoun County's response to homelessness. A single contract arrangement with a local organization encompasses a spectrum of critical services, including, but not limited to, homeless prevention initiatives, housing stabilization efforts, provision of emergency shelter (hoteling) services, housing relocation support, comprehensive case management, and administrative and staffing expenses necessary for

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<sup>16</sup> [ARPA Tranche 2 Nonprofit Grant Program](#)

effective program management. This engagement with the single vendor signifies a strategic partnership aimed at addressing the multifaceted challenges of homelessness through a comprehensive array of services and supports.

This project not only aligns with eligible uses of SLFRF funds as described in the final rule but is also intrinsically linked to and aligned with the strategic objectives outlined in the Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan, approved in September 2021. Specifically, this project directly contributes to the realization of key priorities articulated within the strategic plan, notably the goal of sustaining families. This objective underscores the critical importance of ensuring that all individuals and families within our community have access to stable, affordable housing options that meet their diverse needs. By addressing the root causes of homelessness and housing insecurity, the county aims to create an environment where families can remain rooted in the community, children can thrive academically and socially, and parents can fully participate in the workforce, thereby enhancing overall community resilience and prosperity.

#### Behavioral Health Searchable Directory

This project includes a searchable electronic database for mental health and developmental disability service providers at the state and local level. This directory will be available in multiple languages and customizable by the end user and include resources for the public and private service providers. The goal of this project is to increase access to information for the entire community. It will provide educational resources to anyone that is interested and include information about mental health care providers for people of various backgrounds, primary languages and insurance statuses.

#### Affordable Housing – Housing Preservation

The end of federal and state eviction moratoria has meant rising eviction rates, and though rates may not have reached pre-pandemic levels, sharp multi-month increases during 2023 were a cause for concern. As a more efficient use of SLFRF funds, Loudoun County provided funding to a local nonprofit organization to administer an assistance program for households facing eviction, to keep families housed instead of facing the additional cost of re-housing them after eviction. This program specifically targets low-to-moderate income renters (at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income who are in receipt of an eviction filing notice. Eligible activities include financial support to resolve rent in arrears and any subsequent legal fees.

An emergency eviction assistance program was initiated in October 2023 to focus \$500,000 to address households at risk of being displaced during hypothermia season. This short-term immediate disbursement of funds was initiated in accordance with the county's small purchase process, while the subsequent \$1,000,000 Request for Proposals (RFP) continued through the procurement process. In all, 75 households remained in their homes with assistance through this emergency program. The final \$1 million contract has been awarded, which not only secures financial assistance for rent arrears, but households will also receive the housing and legal and employment counseling support they need to find long-term solutions to stable housing. To assist as many families as possible, eviction assistance is provided once as an emergency measure, with resources from this and other programs to help navigate other benefits and/or employment programs to maintain housing stability.

### Affordable Housing – Rental Assistance

Loudoun County has contracted the services of a local nonprofit organization to develop a rental assistance program that relieves the cost burden for households earning no more than 80 percent (80%) AMI and demonstrate a housing cost burden of more than 30 percent (30%). This organization provides outreach to households and assesses each household for income eligibility and make necessary rental related payments directly to landlords and any vendors engaged for alternate housing stability. Eligible households may receive up to six (6) months of rental assistance, and upon case management support, may be eligible for an additional three (3) months of rental assistance.

Additional case management will assess a household's ability for self-sufficiency to determine if an additional three (3) months of assistance would assist the household to become stabilized. For households with recurring housing instability, case management would examine the best transition plans to identify attainable housing. In certain cases, the case manager will assist the household to identify alternative housing when housing stability cannot be demonstrated, and additional housing navigation and relocation services would be required.

### Healthy Childhood Environments

Though child care centers and schools have since reopened in many communities, there remains a persistent shortage of affordable, quality child care. To further complicate the search for child care for low- and moderate-income households, the VDSS reports that only 17 percent (17%) of child care providers in the county accept child care subsidy payments. In Loudoun County, that equates to 71 private child care centers and homes outside of the school system. In order to learn more about the needs of families and child care providers, SLFRF funds (\$250,000) will be used to conduct a needs assessment to inform strategies which the county can execute through a sustainable plan.

To address more immediate needs, the county allocated \$1,000,000 to support families who do not meet income requirements for child care subsidy but may need financial assistance with child care needs as a significant portion of their monthly income is spent on child care. SLFRF funds may be used to expand child care fee reductions to families whose income is greater than 85 percent (85%) State Median Income but at or below 80% Area Median Income. The intent is a 50% fee reduction for qualifying families of children enrolled in private child care until SLFRF funds are expended.

### Maximizing Potential – IJA Preliminary Studies

Nearly all Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grant programs will require, at a minimum, environmental studies, community outreach data that supports the project, benefit-cost analysis and census-level data for the specific project. The Board of Supervisors approved the use of \$1 million of ARPA funding to support preliminary studies that would focus on transportation and infrastructure projects that assist more disadvantaged areas. For these IIJA opportunities, staff will use a planning strategy for grants that will support the county's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Linear Parks and Trails (LPAT) and the county's Energy Strategy. County staff met with department leadership to explore preliminary studies required to maximize potential for IIJA funding and selected the following studies:

- Route 7 Connection/Linear Parks and Trail: This project includes design for a trail along the east and west bank of Broad Run stream underneath the Route 7 bridge. This section of the proposed trail is part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail as well as the Linear Parks and Trails Signature Project. This crossing will help communities that are divided by a controlled access highway. All communities connected to this project are listed as medium-high to high on the CDC social vulnerability index.
- Old Ox Road/Rock Hill Road Sidewalk: This study includes a design concept for pedestrian facilities on Old Ox Road and Rock Hill Road and will include components necessary for better “project readiness” scores in federal grant applications. This study will comply with the Countywide Transportation Plan’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for enhancing quality of life by providing mobility, connections, access to public transportation, employment and activity centers.
- Cascades Parkway: This study focuses on the development of a shared-use path along the west side of Cascades Parkway, to include pedestrian facilities on the bridge over Route 7. This study will provide preliminary studies, such as National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document preparation and processing, to better position this project for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant and/or Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program.

### Public Sector Capacity

SLFRF funds continue to support two temporary positions within the county’s DFP that were created to support the compliance and reporting effort for the county’s SLFRF award. These roles will monitor subrecipient reporting and their compliance with the Uniform Guidance and Treasury’s Final Rule.

In 2024, the DHCD will begin a transition to a new housing management software system to replace a sunseting software system. This system is essential for compliance-driven management and tracking of programmatic data. The goal for this new software is to improve the public delivery of the county’s housing programs by increasing data management capabilities and creating efficiency in processing requests for information about the county’s housing programs and the households they serve.

### Premium Pay

Following the termination of the National Emergency concerning COVID-19 on March 29, 2023, no SLFRF funds have been used to provide premium pay to essential workers. Please see the Project Inventory section of this report for details on previous premium pay programming.

### Water/Wastewater Infrastructure

The Village of Paeonian Springs currently has no public water distribution system or sanitary sewer system. Lots are served by individual wells for drinking water and on-site sewage disposal systems such as septic systems, alternative on-site sewage systems, pump and hauls, and privies. SLFRF funding will support pre-construction and design work to allow staff and Loudoun Water to continue to explore the technical requirements of the improvements and develop the project scope for public water and wastewater systems. Construction funding will be incorporated into a future capital budget development process.

The Village of Saint Louis also has no public water distribution system. A Village Area Plan has been drafted with the help of county staff and village residents which will be incorporated into the Loudoun County 2019 Comprehensive Plan<sup>17</sup>. Village residents will need to determine if a public water distribution system is an appropriate solution for them. Many of the private drinking water wells are old and shallow, so while village residents consider options for their future, SLFRF funds were used to allow residents the opportunity to test the health of their private wells in the village so that homeowners are informed and may address any immediate needs.

Funding was provided for Aldie Water Company (AWC) to provide additional financial assistance to replace its water storage tank (reservoir). Loudoun County, along with the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water, and AWC developed a funding partnership that provides funding for the critical infrastructure replacement long term sustainability plans.

### Broadband<sup>18</sup>

On December 13, 2021, Loudoun County was awarded a broadband grant through the 2022 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI), which included an award of more than \$17.5 million. The goal of the grant is to provide universal broadband in the county. The VATI grant, along with a grant match of \$12.425 million, provided by SLFRF funds, will support construction of Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) in areas currently not served by a wired provider for a total of approximately 8,600 unserved residents and businesses. Loudoun County will serve as the grant administrator and All Points Broadband (APB) will be responsible for constructing the network and providing service to individual addresses.

Since the VATI project launch, the focus has been on utility pole attachment application approval and middle mile construction by Dominion Energy Virginia (DEV) and Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC). These utility pole application approvals are what provides APB the authorization to install the last mile fiber to reach individual homes and businesses. The middle mile fiber is critical to the success of the project and is the technology highway for APB's broadband solution.

As some sites are still considered "unserved" in Western Loudoun and were not included in the VATI grant, Loudoun County procured the services of All Points Broadband for an additional \$1 million to provide FTTH broadband access to an additional 176 addresses (and up to 200 addresses) in Western Loudoun that lack access to wireline service of at least 10/1 Mbps.

Both initiatives will provide access to services that will meet or exceed 100 Mbps download speeds and between 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps upload speed and will be scalable to 100/100 Mbps.

### Revenue Replacement

The final rule allows recipients to calculate revenue loss on a fiscal year or calendar year basis and, as such, the county has changed the calculation to a fiscal year basis. Of the \$40,288,042 of calculated revenue loss for fiscal year 2020, the county has used \$23,500,000 for the provision of government services as of fiscal year 2023. These include services provided by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and the Loudoun County Sheriff's

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<sup>17</sup> [Planning Commission Public Hearing Staff Report March 26, 2024](#)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.loudoun.gov/5658/Broadband-Expansion>

Office, both of which provide services directly to the residents of Loudoun County. The county did not use any of the ARPA funding to offset any non-federal cost share or matching requirements of other federal programs.

## LABOR PRACTICES

As of the date of this report, infrastructure projects (water, sewer, broadband) have not yet reached construction phase and some SLFRF funds intend to cover the design phase of some projects. All projects will use local contracts to the extent possible with the intent to strengthen local economy, will utilize a competitive bidding process, and will require that contractors adhere to prevailing wage requirements consistent with the National Labor Relations Act.

## USE OF EVIDENCE

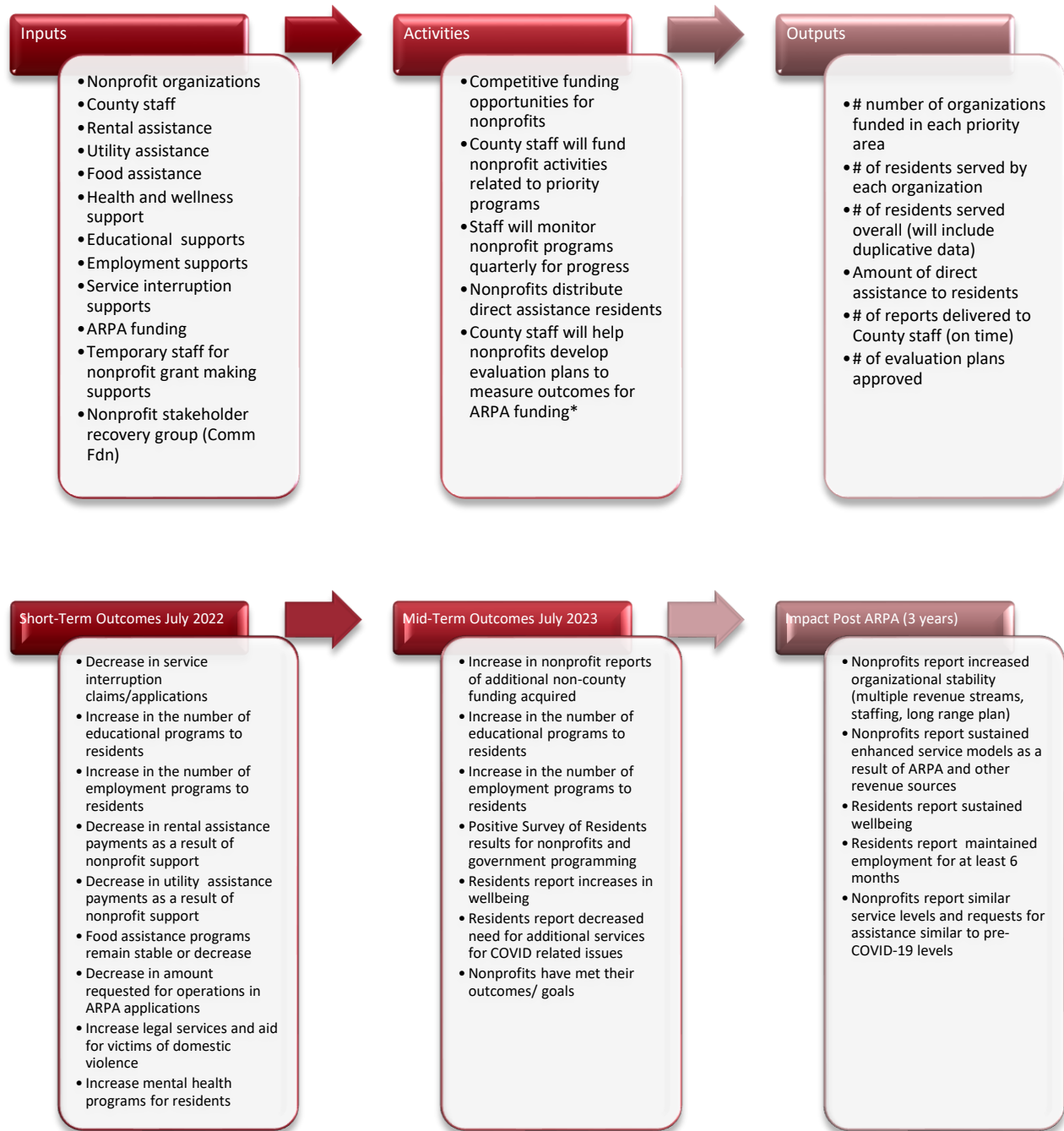
### Nonprofit Support

The assistance provided during this reporting period to nonprofit organizations continue to support several evidence-based and research-informed programs, such as music therapy (defined by American Music Therapy Association), and trauma-informed therapy, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Services that provided emergency rent and utility assistance to support residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic utilized the research and findings from the National Low Income Housing Coalition published in “Learnings from Emergency Rental Assistance Programs.”<sup>19</sup>

In addition to the emphasis on evidence-based programming, nonprofit organizations utilize a Logic Model to develop an evaluation plan that demonstrates program outcomes specifically related to the addition of SLFRF funding and its subsequent impact. As many of these nonprofit organizations continue to seek funding from new sources (federal, state, local, private), this model will help them prepare for more robust reporting requirements.

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<sup>19</sup> [Learnings from Emergency Rental Assistance Programs: Lessons from Fifteen Case Studies, National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)



The experience of Loudoun’s nonprofit partners can provide insight into populations in the county that are not easily represented in census, economic, or survey data. It is important that the nonprofit community has the tools to collect this data and use it to demonstrate needs within the community and illustrate the short- and long-term outcomes of their programs and assistance.

As highlighted in the 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report, the role of the ARPA Nonprofit Support Specialist has provided training opportunities for nonprofit organizations. These

trainings highlight resources and tools and provide information about best practices at the organization and programmatic level to bolster capacity in grant seeking and management efforts. Participating nonprofits heard from Loudoun County staff, peer organizations and other data professionals throughout the series. Not all organizations currently utilize an evidence-based program, and it is important to know how to illustrate a program's success, which is what this series stresses through its curriculum. 2023's Data Management Best Practices was the beginning of a professional development series that continues into 2024 with a Spring Professional Development Grant Cohort which explores the various facets of government grant seeking and proposal development. Participants will develop proposals in response to relevant funding notices and training sessions over a six-week period with intended outcomes including:

- Identify mission-aligned government grant opportunities,
- Use appropriate budget development and budget justification aligned with allowable expenses, and
- Articulate outcomes, objectives and activities that can be evaluated by a third-party.

It is the intent of this professional development that nonprofit organizations come out of this pandemic not only better suited to serve the community during an emergency, but to develop the tools to sustain and grow their organization through any economic environment.

### Housing and Homeless Services

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research has documented the high costs associated with homelessness, which makes it of significant importance to focus attainable housing initiatives towards the low-income households that are severely cost-burdened and "housing insecure." It is more efficient to use county resources to keep families housed than to re-house them after an eviction. The predominant housing problem affecting both renter- and owner-occupied households in Loudoun County is the cost burden.

As of 2019, more than 35,000 county households (roughly 7 percent of the population) pay more than 30 percent (30%) of their income for housing. Of the 35,000 cost-burdened households in the county, 86 percent (86%) have low incomes; of that number, more than one-in-three, or 36 percent (36%) are severely cost-burdened, paying more than 50 percent (50%) of their income for housing<sup>20</sup>.

The county's Homeless Prevention and Diversion Project, as well as the Emergency Shelter and Case Management Project, is linked to and aligned with the strategic objectives in the Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan, which was introduced in the 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report, most notably the goal of sustaining families through rapid rehousing approach and prevention services. By addressing the root causes of homelessness and housing insecurity, this initiative aims to create an environment where families can remain rooted in the community.

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<sup>20</sup> [Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan, page 13](#)

## PERFORMANCE REPORT

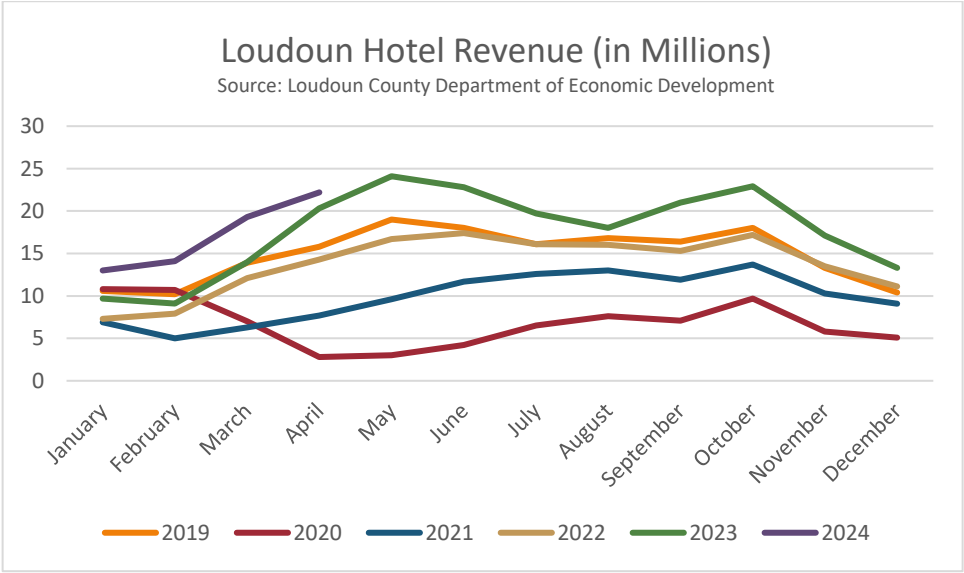
Projects funded by SLFRF have aligned with the current county vision and Board of Supervisors priorities and are often part of larger goals and initiatives, such as the Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan, Equity Framework, Linear Parks and Trails or Capital Improvement Program. It is the intent in managing the performance of these SLFRF-funded projects to measure progress toward these larger goals. Several questions will be answered throughout the period of performance:

- Does the SLFRF project align with county priorities AND meet eligibility requirements as stated in the Treasury Final Rule?
- Does the project allow for progress toward a specific target/objective of an existing plan?
- How will progress be measured toward project and county goals?

As of the timing of this report, all SLFRF funds have been allocated to approved projects through the action of the Board of Supervisors. All approved projects are on track to obligate funds by December 31, 2024, as described by the US Treasury in the Obligation Interim Final Rule and will be expended prior to the December 31, 2026, deadline. This section of the Performance Report will discuss projects that are complete or have reached milestones that allow for analysis of results.

### Recovery of Small Businesses and Hospitality Industry

In total, 39 hotels were provided grants in 2021 ranging from \$80,000 to the maximum \$250,000 to increase hotel revenues and employment back to pre-pandemic levels. As a result, the hotel revenues in Loudoun County have rebounded with revenues reporting year-over-year increases surpassing pre-pandemic levels.



A total of 124 Business Reinvention and Recovery Grants were awarded in March 2022. County staff has successfully closed out 85 percent of these projects and will conduct a program review that will determine the impact these awards have on these businesses and the local economy. Those results will be discussed in future reports.

Loudoun Economic Development began the Launch Loudoun program with the first annual Small Business Summit in May 2023, which introduced the portfolio of events that will be held throughout the year to cover the core areas of entrepreneurial business growth including finance, legal, human resources/workforce, sales/marketing, and ownership/leadership. Since its inception, Launch Loudoun has seen close to 2,000 attendees at large-scale events, targeted programs, partner counseling, and personalized one-on-one services with industry specialists. Funding through the SLFRF program allows the Department of Economic Development to initiate several programs in support of Launch Loudoun with an emphasis on supporting and increasing participation by women, minority-owned, and rural businesses. Of the 100 individual businesses served through Launch Loudoun, over 50 percent (50%) are minority-owned. To measure the success of Launch Loudoun programs, the department tracks metrics such as event attendance, industry of participating business, changes in investments by business, total number of registered businesses in the county, job creation associated with businesses supported, as well as anecdotal information provided by the clients directly. Continuous feedback from clients will help the department to respond in a timely manner to the ever-changing needs of the small business community, especially minority and women owned businesses.

### Broadband Access and Digital Inclusion Strategy

By the end of 2025 Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) service will become available to nearly 9,000 discrete locations in western Loudoun County. The progress of this initiative during this reporting period has focused on utility pole attachment application approvals and middle mile construction by local energy partners, Dominion Energy Virginia (DEV) and Northern Virginia Energy Cooperative (NOVEC). These application approvals provide All Points Broadband (APB) with the authorization to install the last mile fiber to reach individual homes and businesses. The middle mile fiber is critical to the success of the project and is the technology highway for APB's broadband solution.

As discussed in this report, SLFRF funds provided a grant match for Loudoun County's broadband initiative through the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant award as well as an additional \$1 million to provide access to service to addresses not identified within the VATI project scope. With ARPA funding in 2022, Virginia's Department of Housing and Community Development was able to offer significant funding through its VATI program, resulting in a marked increase in broadband expansion projects across the state. The volume of make-ready related design, engineering, and construction activity throughout Virginia is several orders of magnitude greater than in typical years and this volume has stressed the industry. Based on the increased statewide activity related to middle mile requests, DEV has increased resources focused on make-ready progress and the Loudoun County VATI project has already experienced an increase in utility pole application throughput. However, adjustments to project timelines were still necessary and with approval from VA DHCD, service availability to the final resident within the VATI project scope will be no later than fall of 2025.

### Nonprofit Support

Partnership with the Loudoun nonprofit community has been valuable in identifying household needs and how residents have responded to the emergency support provided throughout the pandemic. SLFRF funds continue to support these emergency services, specifically rent and

utility assistance, eviction prevention services, and homeless diversion and case management. Emphasis has been supporting programs that provide case management to isolate the underlying causes to household instability, with the goal of self-sufficiency and/or reduced dependence on financial assistance from nonprofit organizations.

Continued funding for the Tranche 2 Nonprofit Grant Program through December 2024 will support emergency services with direct focus on specific programs such as food assistance, utility assistance, mental health support, employment services, and benefits navigation. Organizations report their expenses and performance on a quarterly basis, including activities and outcomes in the short term, demographic information about the clients they serve, and progress toward long-term goals for their clients and the organization. Of the organizations that have begun using this second round of SLFRF-funded grants, three have completed spending and produced their final report.

<i>Services Provided</i>	<i>Total Funds Spent</i>	<i>Unduplicated Residents Served</i>
<i>Employment Assistance</i>	\$14,361.30	35
<i>Mental Health</i>	\$610,547.81	1,752
<i>Food Assistance</i>	\$858,795.79	86,569
<i>Case Management</i>	\$265,547.76	98
<i>Utility Assistance</i>	\$243,042.12	454

Support also continues in the form of Nonprofit Professional Development, beginning in 2023 with the Grants Management Best Practices Series and Data Management Best Practices Series, which combined offered 10 training sessions. The intended outcomes of these series were for nonprofit organizations who serve Loudoun County residents to build capacity to apply for government grants and to build capacity to collect, manage, and present data for grant seeking, management, and compliance. Local nonprofits showed a high level of interest in the Nonprofit Professional Development Series, with 125 people from 82 organizations attending these training sessions, 54 percent of participants attended 2 or more training sessions.

At the conclusion of each training session, attendees took a survey to measure if the training met their expectations, was relevant, clear, and concise, and if the training met the stated objectives. For the post-event survey overall, there was a 32 percent response rate, with 88 percent agreement that the training met expectations and stated objectives.

Beginning in spring 2024, county staff introduced the continuation to the “best practices” series by hosting the Spring Grant Cohort which allows participants to develop proposals in response to relevant funding notices over a series of

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## DATA GATHERING AND THE CENSUS

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County staff hosted two Interactive Trainings with U.S. Census Bureau Dissemination Specialist help nonprofits use data in their grant writing.

**Training #1: Census Tools**  
Learn how to use Census tools to bolster grant applications

**Training #2: Exploring Census Data**  
Utilize the Census data portal, [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov), to describe your community and your service population to describe community needs.

training sessions in a six-week period. Workshops focus on pre-proposal activities, critical review of funding opportunities, tailoring proposal narratives, developing program evaluation plans and developing a project budget. At the end of this six-week period, organizations will have a complete set of standard proposal components and a tailored application package for a relevant state or federal government funding opportunity for their organization. And while this cohort does not guarantee funding, it will serve as a place for organizations to work through any questions or barriers with county staff and other community partners.

Cohort members are a blend of large and small organizations that took advantage of the Professional Development Series in 2023. It is encouraging to see community organizations taking on new challenges and opportunities to grow. As county staff develop more training programs based on needs, the hope is to share the curriculum and experience with other local jurisdictions and continue to offer this series to organizations after SLFRF funds run out.

### Housing

Activities related to promoting housing stability during this reporting period focused on eviction prevention during the winter months to reduce the risk of homelessness. Though the eviction prevention program has a budget of \$1.5 million, \$500,000 was expedited to address the households who were in receipt of an eviction notice during November – March. This emergency program has ended, and eviction prevention, as a program, has now transitioned to the full program.

<i>Reporting Period</i>	<i>Households Served</i>	<i>Assistance Provided</i>	<i>Average</i>
<i>Oct – Dec 2023</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Rent Arrears</i>	<i>\$6,609.42</i>
<i>Jan – Mar 2024</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>Rent Arrears</i>	<i>\$5,368.98</i>

Of the households served during October 2023 – March 2024, 72 percent of the heads of households presented as female or non-binary, and over 67 percent of those households reporting having children living in the home. More information about the longer-term results of this assistance will come with subsequent surveys of clients.

The housing initiatives that have launched this year, rental assistance and homeless diversion and case management, have not reached their first quarterly reporting period, so performance reporting will be provided in future reports.

## PROJECT INVENTORY

Project inventory reflects approved projects and their associated budget.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

#### COVID-19 Vaccines – Loudoun County Public Schools/INOVA Vaccinators

Project Identification Number: 1-1.1

Funding Amount: \$77,096.25

Project Expenditure Category: 1 – Public Health (Sub-category 1.1 – COVID-19 Vaccinations)

Project Status: Complete

#### Project Overview:

Qualified medical staff that worked for Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) provided medical services after school hours to assist with administering vaccines at the temporary vaccination site located at closed department store within Dulles vaccination site. This location provided vaccines for the general population from January 2021 – February 2022. Much of the expense for this vaccination site was paid for through FEMA reimbursement, though this reimbursement of LCPS staff was paid using SLFRF funds. Qualified medical staff that worked for INOVA healthcare assisted in the administration of vaccines at other Loudoun County vaccine sites.

#### Telehealth – Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services

Project Identification Number: 1-1.10-1

Funding Amount: \$94,500.00

Project Expenditure Category: 1 – Public Health (Sub-category 1.12 – Mental Health Services)

Project Status: Complete

#### Project Overview:

Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services (MHSADS) promotes mental, behavioral and developmental health and wellness by connecting individuals and their families with person-centered, recovery-oriented services and supports in partnership with the Loudoun community. Nearly 80% of the individuals served by MHSADS are either uninsured or covered by Medicaid/Medicare, which suggests access to quality resources is already limited. Access became imperative during the COVID-19 public health emergency as mental health impacts were an unfortunate side effect of the pandemic. The department approached the need to reach their clients by implementing a telehealth solution (Cloverhound) onto the existing WebEx platform in place in Loudoun County. This allowed MHSADS to continue its commitment to rapid access to services during the pandemic by providing the means for new patients to virtually meet with all the county staff necessary to assess their needs and determine the appropriate care necessary. It also allowed staff to continue their work remotely when social distancing limited the number of people allowed within the physical office. This solution provided the tools to continue necessary care during the pandemic while county staff developed a long-term telehealth platform that integrated with existing county-wide technology that would be more appropriate for continued care.

In 2022, MHSADS was able to continue Same Day Access services by telehealth since the onset of the pandemic and has been able to return to in-person services. Same Day Access

allows a person who calls or appears at a clinic during its hours of operation to be assessed that same day instead of waiting for a scheduled appointment. The temporary Cloverhound contract ended in late 2022 as the department transitioned to a permanent telehealth service leveraging existing county-wide technology. Typical service levels for Same Day Access are about 1,400 residents screened each fiscal year. Of those individuals who are screened and have an intake into services, 93% attended an appointment within 10 days. It is notable that Same Day Access was able to maintain its service levels despite the pandemic, and this temporary platform allowed the county to provide an alternate method for clients during a time when it had been invaluable.

## NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS

### Hotel Relief Grant Program

Project Identification Number: 2-2.11-1

Funding Amount: \$4,060,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts (Sub-category 2.35 – Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality)

Project Status: Complete

#### Project Overview:

The Hotel Relief Grant Program provided funds to the Economic Development Authority of Loudoun County to provide grants to eligible applicants of \$1,000 per room up to \$250,000 for general operating expenses such as rent, payroll, job training, and COVID-19 related costs, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) sanitation services or equipment. Eligible applicants must have been in operations prior to March 1, 2020, and were required to show a reduction of at least 25% of revenue due to the pandemic from March 1, 2020. They were also required to be in operations prior to March 1, 2020, be licensed and operating in Loudoun County, and be a provider of accommodations as defined by Virginia code 58.1-3819 and subject to Loudoun Transient Occupancy Tax to be eligible. Applications were reviewed by an internal review team to determine eligibility.

Because of the limited audience for this grant, targeted outreach through email, social media, and direct phone calls were made to all businesses registered with the county as either a hotel or bed & breakfast. In total, 39 hotels were provided grants ranging from \$80,000 to the maximum of \$250,000 to increase hotel revenues and employment back to pre-pandemic levels. As a result, the hotel revenues in Loudoun County have rebounded and 2022 reached revenue levels that matched 2019, which was a record year.

### Business Reinvention and Recovery Program<sup>21</sup>

Project Identification Number: 2-2.29-3

Funding Amount: \$4,964,264.63

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts (Sub-category 2.29 – Assistance to Small Businesses: Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship)

Project Status: Complete

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<sup>21</sup> [Business Reinvention and Recovery Program Award Announcement](#), March 17, 2022

### Project Overview:

The Loudoun County Business Recovery & Reinvention Grant program was designed to fund innovative solutions to accelerate business growth for companies that have needed to pivot in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Loudoun DED administered the grant awards of up to \$50,000 provided by Economic Development Authority to help enable companies to make a change to their business model, adopt new technologies or practices, or otherwise reinvent their business to cope with the economic and/or public health requirements and challenges during the pandemic. All applicants demonstrated the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their business and how the requested funding responds to that impact. Scoring and awards were based on the highest impact to the business and to the county.

All awarded businesses provided detailed information regarding the impact of COVID-19 on their business, how the planned project addressed those impacts, proof of purchase prices and detailed receipts confirming the use of funds. Businesses also provided financial and workforce information that will be used to measure the impact and success of the program going forward.

All marketing for the program as well as the application was provided in multiple languages and formats. Dedicated translation services could be requested and utilized for any applicant. Partner organizations were also used to ensure marketing messages were distributed to underserved communities and additional efforts were made to utilize geotargeting and location services for all digital marketing.

124 Business Reinvention and Recovery Grants were awarded in March 2022. Future reports will detail the progress and impacts these awards have on these businesses and the local economy.

### Small Business Support (Launch Loudoun)

Project Identification Number: 2-2.30-1

Funding Amount: \$550,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts (Sub-category 2.30 – Assistance to Small Businesses: Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning)

Project Status: Less than 50% Complete

### Project Overview:

The Department of Economic Development (DED) is using ARPA funds to provide technical assistance, support and training to small businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing the importance of sound financial management. The events and programs offered through Launch Loudoun teach small business owners how to identify business needs, effectively use suitable financial tools, and vet vendors sourced to support their services and, ultimately, their growth. DED will provide the platform for getting these resources out to the community, with particular focus on minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses, offering both virtual and in-person services as well as maintaining online library of resources.

The program researched and reviewed specific impacts and needs of women and minority-owned businesses and will continue to adapt and adjust its methods to meet those needs by using community feedback sessions, surveys, and utilizing partners from the impacted communities both for feedback and as liaisons in the community.

A consistent need that Launch Loudoun wishes to address is a dedicated referral service at minimal cost to small businesses accessing critical technical support services. These services may include reviewing their first lease agreement, writing a business plan or preparing financial statements for their first loan or grant application, support for e-commerce platforms, or other professional services that fall within those core focus areas. As over 50 percent of those businesses being served by the Launch Loudoun events are minority-owned, it is important to connect these business owners with the resources that can improve their chances of success and growth.

ARPA funds will be used to create a pilot program for a dedicated technical assistance program whereby vetted Launch Loudoun clients with an identifiable need for professional services can access a pre-determined list of Loudoun-based service providers who will provide a set number of hours of support at a reduced rate to those clients. Each business will be allowed to apply for up to two projects in the core focus areas. Each project can be approved for up to five hours of service unless the approved project is for business plan assistance, which will be limited to three hours. Each business is then eligible for a maximum of ten hours of professional services assistance.

While DED coaching will help clients effectively vet a service provider, DED will contract with a third party to arrange meetings between service providers and clients as well as manage billing. All approved service providers will agree to work for the Small Business Administration's standard hourly rate offered to contractors under the Small Business Development Program for the approved project. After receiving the service, the client will be required to complete a survey to help DED understand the service offered and the benefit to the client.

#### Nonprofit Assistance Program

Project Identification Number: 2-2.34.2

Total Funding Amount: \$5,291,283.63

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts (Sub-category 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted))

Project Status: more than 50% complete

#### Nonprofit Assistance – Emergency Services (Tranche 1)

Funding Amount: \$2,658,363.33

Project Status: Complete

#### Project Overview:

This project provided funding to eligible nonprofit and faith-based organizations working to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic by allowing them to continue or enhance their services in the community. The program provided aid in the following categories:

**Emergency Food Assistance:** This funding supported local food banks, food pantries and faith-based organizations, enabling them to increase the amount of food and delivery services they could provide to their increasing number of clients.

**COVID-19 Service Expansion:** This program provided funds to organizations that demonstrated they had significantly expanded their services due to COVID-19. For example, programs who supported family services and expanded to support rental assistance for those families.

**Service Interruption Program:** This program provided funds to organizations that demonstrated they had to interrupt their service provision due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recipients provided a plan for adaptations to service model delivery, ultimately lessening the need for continued federal assistance.

**Service Continuity:** Provided funds to organizations that demonstrated their level of service and residents served had been maintained at a consistent, stable level but have had unexpected costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These recipients reported additional costs for adaptations or changes to their service delivery.

The program supported 36 organizations, with grant amounts ranging from \$2,520 - \$401,130.48. Eligible applicants are in good standing with Virginia State Corporation Commission and provided proof of 501(c)3 status, as well as other financial documentation. Applicants were also required to describe their long-term recovery plan, including steps taken to promote long-term stability as well as innovations and adaptations made in response to the pandemic and plans to enhance future service delivery.

Awards supported nonprofit organizations that provided services in the following areas:

- Medical care (including administration of COVID-19 and flu vaccines).
- Youth and adult preventative mental health and wellness.
- Day programs for neurodivergent, developmentally and intellectually disabled.
- Rent/mortgage assistance.
- Food assistance (including personal hygiene products).
- Emergency shelter and legal services for victims of domestic abuse.
- Literacy programs.
- Volunteer corps for caregiver programs for seniors and adults with disabilities.
- Mediation services and restorative justice.
- Mental health solutions and housing stability.
- Career navigation.
- Benefits counseling (referral resources).

The nonprofit community addressed needs throughout the county but has seen the greatest need in the following zip codes: 20147 (Ashburn), 20164 (Sterling), 20175 and 20176 (Leesburg). Census data shows that these zip codes have large non-white populations, reporting 37%, 48%, 22%, and 30% respectively. Sterling also has a large Hispanic/Latinx population. Loudoun County has a high area median income which is evident at the zip code level. But even within individual zip codes, we see significant differences between census tracts. For example, 20147 (Ashburn) has a median household income of \$136,913.00, but there are two census tracts within that zip code with a median household income of \$88,000. As discussed elsewhere within this report, the high cost of living, low inventory of attainable housing and lack of transit options, a significant difference in income can lead to financial hardships. Our partnership with the nonprofit organizations will continue to inform decisions into the future to best address the needs of these communities.

### Use of Evidence:

The grant awards to nonprofit organizations provided financial support to continue or expand services due to the added pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic. These awards did not initiate a particular evidence-based intervention; however, many of the organizations have already been providing programs and services that are evidence based or backed by research. Narrative of this evidence, including any links to clearinghouses or research were provided in the quarterly reporting required for each nonprofit organization.

All nonprofit organizations were introduced to a Logic Model (see Use of Evidence Section) that can be used to develop an evaluation plan that demonstrates program outcomes related to the addition of SLFRF funding and its subsequent impact. As many of these nonprofit organizations continue to seek funding from new sources, this model will help them prepare for more robust reporting requirements.

As demonstrated by previous needs assessments and feedback from nonprofit partners, food assistance was a much-needed service throughout the program. As the program closes out at the end of FY22, further analysis can help determine areas of greatest need with potential to focus on long-term solutions for nonprofit organizations and the residents they serve.

#### *Nonprofit Assistance – Direct Programming (Tranche 2)*

Funding Amount: \$2,632,920.30

Project Status: More than 50% Complete

### Project Overview:

The purpose of the county's SLFRF Tranche 2 Nonprofit Grant program is to support sustainable recovery from the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for Loudoun's disproportionately impacted residents through Nonprofit community's emergency services that complement county programs and make long-term transformations in the lives of low-income, underserved and marginalized households. This program prioritizes investment in high-quality programs that address emergency needs as part of long-term sustainable outcomes for county residents.

Applicants must provide a program or service addressing one or more of the areas of need as established by county Board of Supervisors:

**Food Assistance:** Providing nutritious and culturally appropriate emergency food services as part of a comprehensive strategy for individuals and families to regain self-sufficiency.

**Utility Assistance:** Providing emergency utility assistance as part of a comprehensive strategy for individuals and families to regain self-sufficiency.

**Mental Health:** Providing support to affected residents in meeting their mental and behavioral health needs, with a focus on populations that have limited access to mental health services due to income or other factors.

**Other:** Providing support to individuals or households in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative economic impact. (Applicants selecting "other" must identify the need

with supporting evidence and demonstrate how established program provides emergency support for residents and provides programming for long-term solutions)

Unlike grant awards offered with SLFRF Tranche 1 funds, this funding opportunity will focus on established programs with demonstrated effectiveness of emergency services and programs that support the long-term success for the residents served. Priority given to organizations that coordinate with other nonprofits and/or county agencies that will contribute to residents’ long-term success. Applications were evaluated on the following criteria:

- Demonstrates the use of evidence-based interventions or that current evidence can support conclusions about the program’s contribution to observed outcomes.
- Demonstrates internal vetting to determine client eligibility for program and that targeted population is low-income, underserved, or otherwise marginalized.
- Demonstrated partnerships with county agencies and other nonprofit organizations.
- Demonstrate that the organization has the administrative resources to administer funds, and to implement and oversee the program.
- Sufficient internal audit controls and documentation retention procedures.
- Show that funding requested is realistic given the program impact, outcome, and service level, and that the organization does not rely predominantly on county grant funds.

Awards were granted with programming focused on the areas of need:

- Food Assistance Total Funding: \$927,512.55
- Mental Health Total Funding: \$702,009.45
  - Funding supports mental health programs for youth with disabilities, minority populations, and survivors of domestic violence
- Utility Assistance Total Funding: \$243,042.12
- Benefits Navigation Total Funding: \$358,372.89
- Employment Support Total Funding: \$14,361.30
- Additional Support for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grantees: \$387,621.99

Of the organizations that have begun using this second round of SLFRF-funded grants, six (6) have completed spending. The table below shows reporting from all organizations thus far:

<i>Services Provided</i>	<i>Total Funds Spent</i>	<i>Unduplicated Residents Served</i>
<i>Employment Assistance</i>	\$14,361.30	35
<i>Mental Health</i>	\$610,547.81	1,752
<i>Food Assistance</i>	\$858,795.79	86,569
<i>Case Management</i>	\$265,547.76	98
<i>Utility Assistance</i>	\$243,042.12	454

This grant allows for spending until December 31, 2024, and all organizations have begun to use their award funds. These organizations are reporting their continued focus on low-income residents and will provide updates throughout the grant program as well as long-term outcomes beyond the period of performance. Reporting requirements include client demographic information, services provided, short-term outcomes, and any referrals provided for services

intended to address underlying factors that has made recovery from the economic impacts of the pandemic more difficult. Organizations have provided their long-term goals of the program, how these results are measured, and what outreach they perform to reach clients as well as following up after a client rolls off the program. The county hopes to gain insight into referral procedures that these organizations utilize in seeking solutions for their client's self-sustainability and will shed light on any potential gaps in this human service network.

#### Affordable Housing – Housing Preservation

Project Identification Number: 2-2.17-1

Funding Amount: \$1,500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts (Sub-category 2.18 – Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance)

Project Status: Completed more than 50%

#### Project Overview:

The end of federal and state eviction moratoria has meant rising eviction rates, and though rates may not have reached pre-pandemic levels, sharp multi-month increases during 2023 were a cause for concern. As a more efficient use of SLFRF funds, Loudoun County provided funding to local non-profit organization to administer an assistance program for households facing eviction, to keep families housed instead of facing the additional cost of re-housing them after eviction. This program specifically targets low-income renters (at or below 80 percent AMI) who are in receipt of an eviction filing notice. Eligible activities include financial support to resolve rent in arrears and any subsequent legal fees.

An emergency eviction assistance program was initiated in October 2023 to focus \$500,000 of this program to address households at risk of being displaced during hypothermia season. This short-term immediate disbursement of funds was initiated in accordance with the county's small purchase process, while the subsequent \$1,000,000 Request for Proposals (RFP) continued through the procurement process. In all, 75 households remained in their homes with assistance through this emergency program. The final \$1 million contract has been awarded, which not only secures financial assistance for rent arrears, but households will also receive the housing and legal counseling support they need to find long-term solutions to stable housing. To assist as many families as possible, eviction assistance is provided once as an emergency measure, with resources from this and other programs to help navigate other benefits and/or employment programs to maintain housing stability.

#### Affordable Housing – Rental Assistance

Project Identification Number: 2-2.12-1

Funding Amount: \$6,808,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts (Sub-category 2.12 – Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid)

Project Status: Completed less than 50%

#### Project Overview:

Loudoun County has contracted the services of a local nonprofit organization to develop a rental assistance program that relieves the cost burden for households earning no more than 80

percent (80%) Area Median Income (AMI) and demonstrate a housing cost burden of more than 30 percent (30%). This organization provides outreach to households and assesses each household for income eligibility and make necessary rental related payments directly to landlords and any vendors engaged for alternate housing stability. Eligible households may receive up to six (6) months of rental assistance, and upon case management support, may be eligible for an additional three (3) months of rental assistance.

Additional case management will assess a household's ability for self-sufficiency to determine if an additional three (3) months of assistance would assist the household to become stabilized. For households with recurring housing instability, case management would examine the best transition plans to identify attainable housing. In certain cases, the case manager will assist the household to identify alternative housing when housing stability cannot be demonstrated, and additional housing navigation and relocation services would be required.

This program has only recently kicked off, so initial reporting is not currently available. Programmatic and demographic information will be collected and reported in the future.

#### Child Care Fee Reduction Grant

Project Identification Number: 2-2.11-2

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts (Sub-category 2.11 – Healthy Childhood Environment: Child Care)

Project Status: Completed less than 50%

#### Project Overview:

While the county awaits results of the Child Care Needs Assessment (project described within this report), the cost of child care is still a significant need identified by respondents of the 2022 pandemic-related survey. The county currently offers a child care fee reduction program through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) that supports families receiving free and reduced-priced lunches through Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS). ARPA funding will support the establishment of a similar program that does not establish the income requirements of the PRCS program but will assist families that need financial assistance with child care. ARPA funds will be used to expand child care fee reductions to families whose income is greater than the 85 percent State Median Income (SMI, \$8,080/month for a family of four) criteria for expanded child care subsidy and is at or below 80 percent Area Median Income (\$9,488/month for a family of four). The program will provide a 50 percent reduction for qualifying families of children enrolled in private child care until these ARPA funds are expended.

Loudoun County has partnered with a local nonprofit organization to administer these ARPA funds and pass them along to child care programs that can demonstrate that they serve families who do not qualify for the child care subsidy through Virginia's programming, and whose income is 80 percent AMI or below. Funds will be distributed to private child care providers, as well as publicly funded providers, who have qualifying families enrolled to decrease the burden on families while maintaining their revenue through December 31, 2026. Funds may also be used to support increasing the quality of child care in accordance with Virginia's Quality Measurement and Improvement System (VQB5).

### Child Care Needs Assessment

Project Identification Number: 2-2.11-3

Funding Amount: \$250,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts (Sub-category 2.11 – Healthy Childhood Environment: Child Care)

Project Status: Completed less than 50%

#### Project Overview:

In late 2023, Loudoun County obtained the services of Public Consulting Group (PCG) to administer a needs assessment to determine what barriers exist for Loudoun families and child care providers to meet the needs for both parties and what areas are most urgent for the county to address. As part of the scope of work, PCG conducted surveys, key informant interviews, and focus groups.

All families in Loudoun County with children ages 0-5 were invited to participate in the survey, which was distributed via a Qualtrics link. Notice and distribution of the survey occurred across multiple channels, including news press releases from Loudoun County, announcements in Board of Supervisors' newsletters, social media and, communication to and from early childhood education providers (ECE) and community-based organizations.

Initial findings show that affordability of child care is vitally important to a significant number of respondents and nearly half of respondents indicated needing assistance paying for child care. Unfortunately, many respondents are not familiar with the Child Care Subsidy program, overseen by the Virginia Department of Education (VDEO) and administered by Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), that provides assistance for families earning below 85 percent (85%) of State Median Income. This initial survey has provided valuable information about potential outreach to educate families about child care resources available at the state and county level.

To address immediate concerns related to childcare costs while the Needs Assessment determines next steps, the county established a Child Care Fee Reduction Program to assist families who earn more than 85% State Median Income but less than 80% of Area Median Income. This program recently launched, and the county's nonprofit partner has notified child care providers about the program and will be reaching out to families who may need this assistance. This outreach, combined with the Child Care Needs Assessment, will provide valuable information about current needs within the county and what service gaps can be addressed for long-term solutions.

### Community Support Services

Project Identification Number: 2-2.18-1

Funding Amount: \$483,333.34

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts (Sub-category 2.18 – Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance)

Project Status: Completed less than 50%

This Community Services Grant program is to support sustainable recovery from the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for Loudoun County's disproportionately impacted residents. This will be accomplished through emergency services provided by local nonprofit organizations who have a history of successful history of making long-term transformations in the lives of low-income, underserved, and marginalized households. Since the county has multiple nonprofit programs in progress that focus on housing needs (rental assistance, eviction prevention, and emergency shelter and homeless prevention), this grant provides other financial supports, as identified through case management, and utility assistance. Other financial supports are defined as necessary payments (capped at \$1,500 per year per household) to Loudoun County residents who are at or below 80 percent AMI that support health, mental health, transportation, insurance, or other short-term needs by residents who are experiencing disproportionate impacts of COVID-19. Examples may include, but are not limited to, health insurance payment, a mental health bill/co-pay, a vehicle payment, vehicle insurance, vehicle repair, hearing aids, eyeglasses, or other short-term needs to support the family's financial stability.

Utility assistance is provided through an organization who offers emergency utility assistance services as part of a comprehensive strategy for individuals and families to regain self-sufficiency. This funding is capped at \$2,000 per household per year, and households may request assistance for more than one utility. Payments are made directly to the utility provider on behalf of the household.

Organizations that provide these support services will follow the logic model used with other ARPA funded nonprofit grant programs to measure outputs, short-term outcomes, and long-term impacts. Programmatic and demographic information will be provided with each quarterly report, with long-term impacts reported in future annual reports.

## PUBLIC SECTOR CAPACITY

### Polco Engagement Platform

Project Identification Number: 3-3.4-1

Funding Amount: \$8,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (Sub-category 3.4 – Effective Service Delivery)

Project Status: Complete

### Project Overview:

Funds were used to purchase a subscription to the Polco ARPA Engagement Package<sup>22</sup> that enables the county to measure stakeholder needs and prioritize ARPA-funded initiatives. As preparations for the survey began, County staff desired more flexibility than the ARPA Engagement survey would allow. Instead, the funds for this package subscription were rolled into the county's existing Polco contract which utilizes the National Research Center's data and survey experts. This contract allowed staff to create additional survey elements within the biennial Community Survey that specifically address pandemic recovery for residents. The

methods in this community survey provide accurate representation of the community, nationwide comparison reports, and professional data analysis.

The Community Survey and a separate pandemic-related survey were conducted in fall of 2022 and results were used to help inform staff recommendations for ARPA reallocations in 2024.

#### Emergency Management – After Action Report

Project Identification Number: 3-3.5-1

Funding Amount: \$237,013.60

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (Sub-category 3.5 – Public Sector Capacity – Administrative Needs)

Project Status: More than 50% complete

Loudoun County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic officially began on March 6, 2020, when the county activated its Emergency Operations Center (which remained mobilized until June 1, 2021) and continued through the end of the county's Declaration of Emergency in March 2022. The county's response was guided by the same processes followed during any other local declaration of emergency. During the response, the county encountered novel and unprecedented challenges in multiple areas.

Loudoun County obtained the services of a third party to complete an After-Action Report, modeled after the Federal Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidelines, to capture the county's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. When complete, the report will focus on best practices that were implemented by the organization, lessons learned that can be considered in similar situations, and areas of improvement that can enhance future responses to significant events.

This After-Action Report will focus on the following:

1. Development, enhancement, and revision of plans, policies, and programs.
2. Execution of the emergency procurement process.
3. Cooperative operations with external agencies.
4. Internal and external communication.

The county planned for a three- phased approach to developing an effective after-action report; (1) project initiation, (2) after-action interviews, surveys and document review, and (3) report development and finalization. As of the timing of this Performance Report, this effort is in phase 3, and a draft report is expected in August 2024.

#### Ongoing Covid Response – Administrative

Project Identification Number: 4-4.1-1

Funding Amount: \$1,896,903.59

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (Sub-category 3.5 – Public Sector Capacity – Administrative Needs)

Project Status: Less than 50% complete

## Project Overview

The Board of Supervisors set aside these funds from the first tranche of SLFRF for other potential immediate needs related to the pandemic. In FY22, temporary positions were created to support the ongoing changes to pandemic-related workload as well as the administration and compliance of ARPA funded projects.

The judicial emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic impeded the operation of Virginia's Courts and, as such, saw a major increase in workload and a change in protocol related to evidence management for the Clerk of the Circuit Court. A temporary position was created to assist with the covid-related protocols for the Clerk of the Circuit Court. As the court system was able to return to pre-covid procedures and catch up on workload, this temporary position was no longer needed and when the individual in that role left the position in September 2022, it was not refilled.

Two temporary positions were created within Loudoun County's Department of Finance and Procurement to coordinate and monitor the use of ARPA funding and its reporting. These roles will monitor subrecipient reporting and their compliance with Uniform Guidance, Treasury's Final Rule, and subsequent compliance and reporting guidance. The role of the ARPA Coordinator is to educate and train county departments who will utilize SLFRF funds as to the reporting and compliance requirements as well as prepare for the quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports and annual Recovery Plan Performance Report.

Much of the focus of the ARPA Nonprofit Grants Support Specialist will be to provide training and tools to strengthen the capabilities and, in turn, the capacity, of many nonprofit partners so that they are better positioned for service expansion and to seek new outside sources of funding. As we saw during the pandemic, nonprofit organizations were often overwhelmed by the emergency needs of residents, and some were not financially prepared for the continuation or expansion of services. The county is offering a Nonprofit Professional Development: Building Capacity for Diversified Funds training and cohort spring and summer of 2024<sup>23</sup>

## Hazard Bonuses

Project Identification Number: 4-4.1-4

Funding Amount: \$3,062,250.00

Project Expenditure Category: 4-Premium Pay (Sub-category 4.1 – Public Sector Employees)

Project Status: Complete

## Project Overview:

These funds provided a one-time hazard bonus to eligible staff who performed critical work for the public and whose jobs require them on a routine basis to be within six feet of other people, where there is no reasonable option for social distancing. Major categories of eligible positions include medical/healthcare workers in a healthcare setting, public safety positions, care and protective service positions, and human service client care positions. Bonus tiers were \$750, \$1,500, or \$3,000 depending on how many hours eligible staff are scheduled to work and included both regular and temporary employees.

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<sup>23</sup> [ARPA Nonprofit Professional Development: Building Capacity for Diversified Funds](#)

The county provided premium pay to 1,023 workers performing essential work during the public health emergency. For 93 of these essential workers, the addition of premium pay will increase the individual's total pay above \$115,815, which is 150% of the metropolitan statistical areas average annual wage for all occupations, as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics. Additionally, 108 of these essential workers are classified as exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act. Unlike many professions where premium pay may be unwarranted, most essential workers are comprised of low to moderate income workers, and those who do not earn more than this threshold regularly work side by side with and experience an equal or greater share of the extraordinary risks associated with COVID-19. Unlike the non-essential workforce, these essential workers do not have the routine ability to isolate themselves from public interactions through telework; rather, they had been called upon to fulfill their essential public duties at great personal risk throughout the pandemic. As such, disparate treatment of a comparatively small number of essential workers based on relatively small differences in earnings would create significant pay inequities whereby some would receive compensation reflective of the extraordinary risks they undertook and other, being denied this compensation, would not.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Village of Paeonian Springs Wastewater Modernization Project

Project Identification Number: 5-5.14-2

Funding Amount: \$3,500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure (Sub-category 5.18 Water and Sewer: Other)

Project Status: Less than 50% Complete

#### Project Overview:

In 2019, a Water and Wastewater Feasibility Study (Study) was completed for the Village of Paeonian Springs, after residents requested assistance through the county's Water and Wastewater Program. The Study was conducted by Loudoun Water through a 2015 Memorandum of Understanding with the county and outlined potential options for addressing the water and wastewater concerns in the Village. Staff and Loudoun Water subsequently completed a supplemental technical memorandum in 2022 that refined a more appropriate project boundary that recognizes public health need, provided updated project costs, and further explored alternative wastewater and water solutions.

To support the ultimate project scope recommendation, \$3,500,000 in ARPA funds has been allocated to support pre-construction and design work. This level of funding will allow staff and Loudoun Water to continue to explore the technical requirements of the improvements and finalize a project scope. Construction funding could then be incorporated into a future capital budget development process.

### Village of Saint Louis Community Outreach and Well Water Testing

Project Identification Number: 5-5.16-1

Funding Amount: \$2,700.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure (Sub-category 5.16 Private Wells)

Project Status: Complete

Project Overview:

Loudoun County's Board of Supervisors allocated these SLFRF funds to facilitate community outreach to facilitate an inquiry into the status of many of the drinking water wells on private property in the Village.

Since Treasury's Final Rule expanded the eligible use to include rehabilitation of private wells, testing initiatives to identify contaminants in wells, treatment activities, and remediation strategies that address contamination, the county's use of ARPA funding will facilitate outreach to the residents of Saint Louis and help them determine the needs of individual well owners and any escalation due to immediate concerns about the status of individual wells and align residents with other sources of funding to address any risks to human health and target households most in need.

30 households participated in a well testing program offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension – Loudoun. The results of the tests were sent directly to the homeowner and a summary of results - scrubbed of personal identifying information - was provided to the county.

Aldie Water Company Reservoir Replacement

Project Identification Number:5-5.14-1

Funding Amount: \$244,294.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure (subcategory 5.14 Drinking Water: Storage)

Project Status: More than 50% Complete

Project Overview:

The Aldie Water Company (AWC) provides water to 48 structures on 38 parcels, consisting of residential, businesses, non-profits, and churches, through a private utility. AWC has requested financial assistance to replace its water storage tank (reservoir). The reservoir is a vital part of the community's potable water system and is an aging 4,500-gallon concrete tank located on private property. A Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) suggests that a 10,000-gallon horizontal steel tank should be procured and secured on land leased or owned by the company and fenced. The estimated cost includes construction, administration and survey-plat work, and abandonment of the old storage tank. Failure to replace the tank could create a public health emergency in Aldie resulting from failure of the existing tank. Meetings with the Virginia Office of Drinking Water (ODW) and AWC in 2018 confirmed the challenges of the concrete tank and ODW's recommendation is to replace the aging infrastructure.

AWC has received funding in the form of an approved loan from ODW to support the replacement of the reservoir. The county, ODW and AWC have been working together since the request was received from AWC to develop a funding partnership that would not only provide funding for the critical infrastructure replacement but would also provide funding for four highly recommended plans to support the long-term fiscal sustainability and safety of the AWC's infrastructure, including a Waterworks Business Operations Plan, Asset Management Plan, Capital Improvement Program , and a Rate Study. Negotiations continue between ODW and AWC as well as between the county and AWC on timing and conditions; however, staff recommends the allocation of these funds for this purpose.

Based on ARPA guidance, the replacement of the reservoir aligns with the State’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) project eligibility requirements, as the primary use of DWSRF is to assist communities in making water infrastructure capital improvements, including the installation and replacement of failing systems.

#### Performance Report

AWC has hired and is working with an engineering firm on design, permitting and consulting, and selected a contractor to oversee the purchase and installation of the new water reservoir. Additional funding was approved in May of 2024 to address increases in project and consulting costs related to the county permitting and approval process.

#### Town of Hillsboro – Wastewater Treatment System Connections

Project Identification Number: 5-5.2-1

Funding Amount: \$495,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure (subcategory 5.5 Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure)

Project Status: Not Started

#### Project Overview:

The Town of Hillsboro completed construction of a wastewater treatment package plan in September 2023 with funding from multiple sources. To date, 23 properties are connected to the low-pressure system, with 30 remaining to be connected. Costs have increased for the last phase of the sanitary sewer project to connect each household to the main, though completion of construction was planned for spring 2024. The Board of Supervisors has approved a request from the Town’s mayor sent to the County Administrator for consideration for available Loudoun County SLFRF funds to support the Town’s timely completion of this project.

#### Broadband Expansion – VATI Grant Match

Project Identification Number: 5-5.19-1

Funding Amount: \$12,425,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure (subcategory 5.19 Broadband: “Last Mile” projects)

Project Status: Completed Less Than 50%

#### Project Overview:

On December 13, 2021, then-Governor Northam announced the recipients of broadband grants through the 2022 Virginia Telecommunications initiative (VATI), which included an award of more than \$17.5 million to a project involving Loudoun County Government and All Points Broadband (APB). The VATI grant, along with this grant match provided by SLFRF funds, will support construction of Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) in areas currently not served by a wired provider, bringing internet access to approximately 8,600 unserved residents and businesses in rural parts of Loudoun. Loudoun County will serve as the grant administrator and All Points Broadband will be responsible for constructing the network and providing service to individual addresses.

The county selected All Points Broadband (APB) and finalized the project area in western Loudoun) with the support of the Board of Supervisors-appointed Communications Commission. These districts are the largest geographic electoral districts in Loudoun County and represent the remaining unserved locations.

As of spring 2023, nearly half of the residents within the VATI project have registered on the APB website, the highest among Virginia counties awarded a 2021-2022 grant. Residents can track progress of the project on the Virginia DHCD VATI Dashboard by clicking Loudoun County on the map. More details about the project are also available at the official website<sup>24</sup>. Service availability is expected to take 24-30 months after the start of construction.

## REVENUE REPLACEMENT

### Revenue Replacement

Project Identification Number: 6-6.1-7

Funding Amount: \$23,500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6-Revenue Replacement (Sub-category 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

Project Status: Complete

### Project Overview:

The final rule allows recipients to calculate revenue loss on a fiscal year or calendar year basis and, as such, the county has changed the calculation to a fiscal year basis. Of the \$40,288,042 of calculated revenue loss, the county has used \$23,500,000 for the provision of government services as of fiscal year 2023. These include services provided by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, both of which provide services directly to the residents of Loudoun County. The county did not use any of the ARPA funding to offset any non-federal cost share or matching requirements of other federal programs.

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<sup>24</sup> [Broadband Expansion | Loudoun County, VA - Official Website.](#)

## APPROVED PROJECTS – FY2025<sup>25</sup>

### IJA Preliminary Studies: Building Healthy Communities

Project Identification Number: TBD

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts (sub-category 2.22 – Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Status: Not Started

#### *Route 7 Connection/Linear Parks and Trail:*

This project will design a trail along the east and west bank of Broad Run stream underneath the Route 7 bridge. This section of the proposed trail is part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail as well as the Linear Parks and Trails Signature Project. This crossing will help communities that are divided by a controlled access highway. All communities connected to this project are listed as medium-high to high on the CDC social vulnerability index.

#### *Old Ox Road/Rock Hill Road Sidewalk:*

This project will result in a study that provides a design concept for pedestrian facilities on Old Ox Road and Rock Hill Road and will include components necessary for better “project readiness” scores in federal grant applications. This study will comply with the County Transportation Plan’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for enhancing quality of life by providing mobility, connections, access to public transportation, employment and activity centers.

#### *Cascades Parkway:*

This study will focus on the development of a pedestrian facilities along Cascades Parkway, to include pedestrian facilities on the bridge over Route 7. This study will provide preliminary studies, such as NEPA document preparation and processing, to better position this project for future federal funding grant opportunities.

### Homeless Prevention/Diversion, Emergency Shelter and Case Management

Project Identification Number: TBD

Funding Amount: \$1,375,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts (Sub-category 2.16 – Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Status: Not Started

The Homeless Prevention and Diversion (HPD) services prevent episodes of homelessness for individuals and households currently housed and who are at imminent risk of eviction. HPD Services are available to assist households with maintaining and preserving their current housing situation. The Emergency Shelter and Case Management Services aim to offer secure and stable environments where homeless individuals and families can find temporary accommodation, including hotel stays.

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<sup>25</sup> [Board of Supervisors Business Meeting Action Item #7i: Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee Report: Update on American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Spending and FY 2025 Reallocation Recommendations, May 23, 2024](#)

The Homeless Prevention and Diversion, Emergency Shelter (Hoteling), and Case Management projects will be overseen by a third-party as integral components of our community's response to homelessness. This will be a contractual agreement that reimburses the organization for allowable expenditures essential to the successful execution of these projects.

The contractual arrangement will encompass a spectrum of critical services, including, but not limited to, homeless prevention initiatives, housing stabilization efforts, provision of emergency sheltering (hoteling) services, housing relocation support, comprehensive case management, and administrative and staffing expenses necessary for effective program management.

The success of these projects will be rigorously assessed through a multifaceted approach that integrates both quantitative data derived from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and qualitative insights garnered through quarterly reporting mechanisms. By leveraging these robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks, we aim to not only track progress against predetermined benchmarks but also derive actionable insights to enhance program efficacy and drive continuous improvement.

These projects launch in summer 2024 with programmatic and performance data available for future reports.

#### Housing Management System

Project Identification Number: TBD

Funding Amount: \$3,500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 3-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (Subcategory – 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery)

Project Status: Not Started

The county was notified that its existing housing management system will be sunsetting. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) must transition from this system to a new housing management system in accordance with federal reporting guidelines.

This application provides data to meet federal requirements, including coordination with the Inventory Management System/PIH Information Center (IMS/PIC) system through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The system also supports client eligibility and intake, calculates income and rent amounts, creates forms that are requirements of various housing programs, initiates the Zoning Ordinance-required ADU Annual Affidavit process, and provides data for monthly and annual reports to the Board of Supervisors and its advisory boards. The system also coordinates payments in conjunction with the county's Oracle software for several programs, such as the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Affordable Dwelling Unit Rental and Purchase Programs, Unmet Housing Needs Unit Rental and Purchase Programs, and the county's three homeownership loan programs.

The full system purchase, data conversion and implementation costs are estimated to be \$3.5 million. These one-time funds are needed to procure a new housing management software system. The procurement includes the vendor providing customizations, training, user documentation, data conversion, and implementation management services. Procuring and

implementing this new software will meet the Treasury's Final Rule in that this necessary upgrade will drastically improve the public delivery of the county's housing programs. Not only will this system increase data management capabilities but will ultimately lead to a more efficient system of processing requests for information about the county's housing programs and the households they serve.

#### Behavioral Health Searchable Directory

Project Identification Number: 3-3.4-2

Funding Amount: \$75,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (Sub-category 3.4 Public Sector Capacity – Effective Service Delivery)

Project Status: Not started

The project includes a searchable electronic database for mental health and developmental disability services. There will be a directory of service providers at the state and local level. It will be available in multiple languages and will be customizable by the end user. It will also include resources for the public and for service providers. This project aims to increase access to information for the entire community. It will provide educational resources to anyone that is interested and will include information about mental health providers for people of various backgrounds, primary languages, and insurance statuses.

#### Emergency Broadband Expansion

Project Identification Number: TBD

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure (subcategory 5.19 Broadband: "Last Mile" projects)

Project Status: Not Started

#### Project Overview:

These funds were allocated in fiscal year 2022 to address broadband needs that were not within the scope of the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant. There are instances where State Corporation Commission mapping and online tools indicated broadband availability, so homes were identified as being "served" when they are actually "unserved," eliminating them from the VATI grant project. This project will provide Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) high speed broadband access to 176 addresses in western Loudoun. Loudoun County has selected All Points Broadband to complete this work. This partnership was established in the spring of 2024.

#### Howardsville Stormwater Mitigation

Project Identification Number: TBD

Funding Amount: \$663,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure (subcategory 5.6 Clean Water: Storm Water)

Project Status: Not Started

#### Project Overview:

Located in southwestern Loudoun County, Howardsville is an historic African American community first settled around 1870. Howardsville has been evaluated by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and identified as eligible for listing on the National Register. In 2022, the county completed the construction of a wastewater collection system to address wastewater issues in the community, but ongoing water drainage concerns remained. Drainage has been an ongoing problem due to landscape positioning of the community, but concerns have increased over the years due to more recent topography changes from road and infrastructure improvements. In 2022, the county provided funds in the amount of \$105,000 to conduct a drainage study to evaluate existing conditions and propose sustainable solutions to solve causes found. The study scope was developed in coordination with residents following a January 19, 2023, community input meeting. The draft study completed in late 2023 was presented to the community on February 26, 2024, and finalized on March 06, 2024.

#### Project #1: Road Drainage

This project involves the design of drainage improvements to an existing ditch on the east side of Greengarden Road. Due to right of way restrictions, this drainage ditch has not been subject to needed maintenance and is inadequate to transfer stormwater volume from increasingly intense rainfall events. This project will provide a properly sized channel and design the extension of the ditch south of the discharge point into the stream south of Howardsville.

#### Project #2: Nature-based Solution Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design

This project involves exploring converting about 10 acres north of Howardsville to a nature-based solution to manage stormwater runoff into Howardsville. Part of the exploration will include survey, environmental assessments, geotechnical analysis, and preliminary engineering analysis. Potential solution(s) will be vetted and discussed with the community and property owners prior to preliminary design.

Treasury finds that water and sewer services provided broadly to the public as essential services and include the provision of drinking water and the removal, management, and treatment of wastewater and stormwater. The final rule, effective April 1, 2022, adds additional eligible water and sewer infrastructure investments by including a broad range of stormwater management projects.

#### Loudoun County Transit Travel Training Program

Project Identification Number: TBD

Funding Amount: 250,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: TBD

Project Status: Not started

#### Project Overview:

The Commuter Assistance Program Strategic Plan (CAPSP), spanning a five-year period (FY 2025 - FY 2029), has identified the necessity for implementing a Travel Training program as one of its key recommendations. A project survey was administered as part of the Comprehensive Assessment and Planning for the CAPSP, providing insight for the need for enhanced educational resources, training opportunities, and heightened awareness regarding the Loudoun

County Transit system: 32 percent (32%) of Respondents shared that they were, “unsure or did not understand how to ride Loudoun County transit”. 52 percent (52%) of respondents identified their top three priorities as access to training or instructional materials on transit usage, along with the availability of clear and comprehensive information regarding transit services. 57 percent (57%) of respondents shared that they were not at all or somewhat familiar with the Loudoun County bus service. These survey results demonstrate the need for implementation of a travel training program to support accessibility within Loudoun County.

The Travel Training program is a new program that would provide training to county residents, new and existing transit users, seniors, limited English proficiency (LEP) customers, and customers with disabilities on how to travel safely and independently using public transportation in Loudoun County. Participants in the program will learn a variety of travel skills that they can apply to their daily travel routine. One of the primary objectives would be to increase transportation accessibility in Loudoun County.

ARPA funds would be used for startup costs of the travel training program including utilizing hired consultants and trained educators to assist with creating training materials tailored to varying needs of the population, administering training, creating training curriculum, establishing program performance and monitoring, and outreach to key target populations.

#### Town of Round Hill – Airmont Water Storage Tank

Project Identification Number: TBD

Funding Amount: \$1,500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure (subcategory 5.14 Drinking Water: Storage)

Project Status: Not Started

#### Project Overview:

Round Hill Water System has requested funds to support the installation of a 500,000-gallon elevated water storage tank in the Round Hill Water Service Area that will serve approximately 1,826 households (a population of 4,600) and more than 20 businesses/organizations. The Round Hill Water System is unique due to 84 percent of its customers residing outside of town limits (located in the Loudoun County Joint Land Management Area). This project has completed the first several phases and is shovel ready. The Town is at the point to put the project out to bid and construct in the next 9 months.

In 2020, the Town began the design phase of the project. This critical capital project addresses the need for a second Main Zone tank, which reduces the risk associated with a single elevated tank and facilitates upcoming necessary maintenance on /rehabilitation of the existing Evening Star Water Storage Tank (located north). The existing tank is the only water storage tank serving the Main Zone and is Round Hill’s greatest risk of a “single source point of failure” because the existing tank is over 60 years old with multiple single point pipe vulnerabilities.

The new Airmont Water Storage Tank will help improve peak pressures and fire flows in the Westlake and Upper Lakes subdivisions and would allow the southern system to operate independently of the rest of the Main Zone on a temporary basis if necessary. Another benefit from this project (to the region) is the cellular service capabilities. The new tank will be

constructed with facilities, including an antenna corral and related cable trays/conduits to accommodate telecom antenna units and related equipment.

#### Launch Loudoun Expansion

Project Identification Number: TBD

Funding Amount: \$314,692.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts (subcategory: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning)

Project Status: Not Started

Launch Loudoun would use these ARPA funds as enhancements to existing programs and add additional support in areas where there are additional needs from the small business community. Funds would be added to the existing overarching support services that help DED manage programs such as the Small Business Summit and monthly Lunch and Learn programs, as well as an enhancement to the amount offered in technical services previously approved for \$100,000. Part of the technical services program that would be expanded includes a separate strategic support and consultation contract to further implement all of the Launch Loudoun programming around DED's strategy and the creation of an analytical report to explore how support for small businesses can continue post-ARPA funding, and a review of other communities and best practices in the area of small business support. Furthermore, these funds will include enhancements to the existing 1 Million Cups support program for monthly networking opportunities and financial support services for small businesses. DED is also exploring other sponsorships with strategic partners who can offer specific services to small businesses such as the funds already provided to Virginia Cooperative Extension for specific Spanish-language ServSafe classes. Since the creation of Launch Loudoun in 2023, DED has been approached by several organizations from across the region and additional funding would allow DED, after completing its vetting, to sponsor those programs and organizations who can offer direct support to Loudoun's business community.

New programming would include technical and marketing support to the Innovation Challenge.<sup>26</sup> In its fifth year, the Innovation Challenge in 2024 will pivot to more fully align with Launch Loudoun offering additional technical assistance to finalists and increasing participation by a more diverse group of businesses and business owners. DED is exploring opportunities for mentoring and accelerator programs that this funding will support. Funds would also go into multi-lingual marketing services for the Launch Loudoun program to continue to reach as many small businesses as possible and increase participation in all programming from those businesses and industries who were most impacted by COVID-19 and have seen the greatest necessary adaptations in a post-COVID-19 world.

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<sup>26</sup> [2023 Innovation Challenge, Loudoun County Economic Development Authority](#)



# Loudoun County

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