



American Rescue
Plan Act –
State And Local
Fiscal Recovery
Funds

County of Loudoun, Virginia

Recovery Plan 2022 Report

Loudoun County



VIRGINIA

2022 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Loudoun County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was efficient and effective. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds along with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements supported the County's local public health response and addressed acute economic situations. As a result of the strong relationships between community leaders and Loudoun County staff, the community waged a rapid collective response to the human service needs brought to light by the pandemic. Weekly virtual meetings hosted by County Administration between County and community human services partners were crucial in identifying and responding to emergent needs in the community and sharing resources among agencies.

Success was found in Loudoun's high vaccination rate, with of 76% of total population fully vaccinated as of July 19, 2022¹. According to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), when adjusted for population, Loudoun lost fewer residents to the COVID-19 pandemic than any other health district in the state of Virginia. County staff facilitated community COVID-19 vaccination outreach and events for Loudoun County residents who had difficulty gaining access to vaccines, who were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, or who were hesitant to receive the vaccine. The county took multiple measures to lower barriers including providing vaccines for free regardless of immigration or health insurance status, offering evening and weekend hours, and holding vaccination events in neighborhoods with limited access to transportation, specifically targeting census tracts with lowest vaccination rates and planning events there, and tailoring specific outreach in communities, targeting myths and misinformation.

From March to September 2021, Loudoun County helped organize more than 30 community vaccination events. Each event was organized to support communities within the County to include (but not limited to): Black/African-American, South Asian, Middle Eastern, and Latinx/Hispanic populations, as well as individuals with disabilities, older adults, and individuals who are homebound. More than 7,500 individuals were served through targeted events. Vaccination outreach continues to be supported by the Health Department with events planned in key locations throughout the County to address issues of access, and targeted outreach planned for specific communities of vaccination-hesitant residents.

Wider benefits of the coordinated response have included:

- A better sense of the number of families living in or on the edge of financial insecurity including many who had never received services before,
- More clarity about the areas with highest needs,
- Demonstration of the capacity of nonprofits to respond to emergency situations,
- And, partnerships and networks created or strengthened during the pandemic response, which can be utilized to respond to service gaps in the future.

As the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allows for continued response to the public health emergency of COVID-19, it provides additional opportunity to leverage its allowable uses to make

¹ Virginia Dept of Health: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/see-the-numbers/COVID-19-in-virginia/COVID-19-vaccine-summary/>, last viewed July 25, 2022

transformative investments in the County, and the County will build on this recovery to strengthen the foundations that make this County a great place to live. The first tranche of State and Local Fiscal Recovery (SLFRF) funds awarded to Loudoun County were allocated for revenue replacement and short-term uses and were indicative of the need the County had to program those funds quickly for use to mitigate the impact on the County's budget and economy. These uses and outcomes are described below. Remaining SLFRF funds due to enter the County in June of 2022 will be focused on broader and longer-term community needs and the County has taken additional time to evaluate how to spend the rest of this allotment.

Loudoun County spent several years prior to the pandemic working with community partners to develop a general plan that directs County staff towards transformative goals for the way the County responds to its rapid growth and changing needs. There are several strategic plans already in place in Loudoun County that recognized areas of need and identified sustainable solutions that will build an equitable and prosperous future for all County residents. These plans are discussed often in this report, along with the years of research that went into them, as many of the desired outcomes align with the intent of the ARPA and eligible uses of SLFRF Funds detailed in the Final Rule. Future ARPA funded projects have been specifically selected for their alignment with existing County goals and initiatives and the greater vision for Loudoun County and how ARPA will help facilitate this vision will be described throughout this report.

USES OF FUNDS

Public Health

Access to health care has become imperative during the COVID-19 public health emergency and impacts to mental health have been an unfortunate side effect of the ongoing pandemic. Loudoun County supported residents by implementing a telehealth solution onto an existing web platform already in place in the County. This solution allowed the Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse & Developmental Services to continue their commitment to same day access by providing the means for new patients to virtually meet with County staff for assessment of their needs and determination of the appropriate care necessary. The telehealth solution also provided staff with a safe solution to see patients remotely when social distancing limited the number of people allowed within the physical office.

Negative Economic Impacts

Loudoun County is home to more wineries and breweries than any other jurisdiction in the state, some of which have been recognized with regional, national, and international awards, which has helped Loudoun become a tourist destination. Second to the beverage industry in the western part of the County is agriculture and agri-tourism, both of which are important parts of the overall economic impact for Loudoun. The county leads the Commonwealth of Virginia in farms owned by women, Latinx, Hispanic, Asian, and military veterans. During the pandemic, many of these businesses experienced a significant impact with the decrease in travel, tourism, and hospitality industries, which are dependent on visitors for revenue.

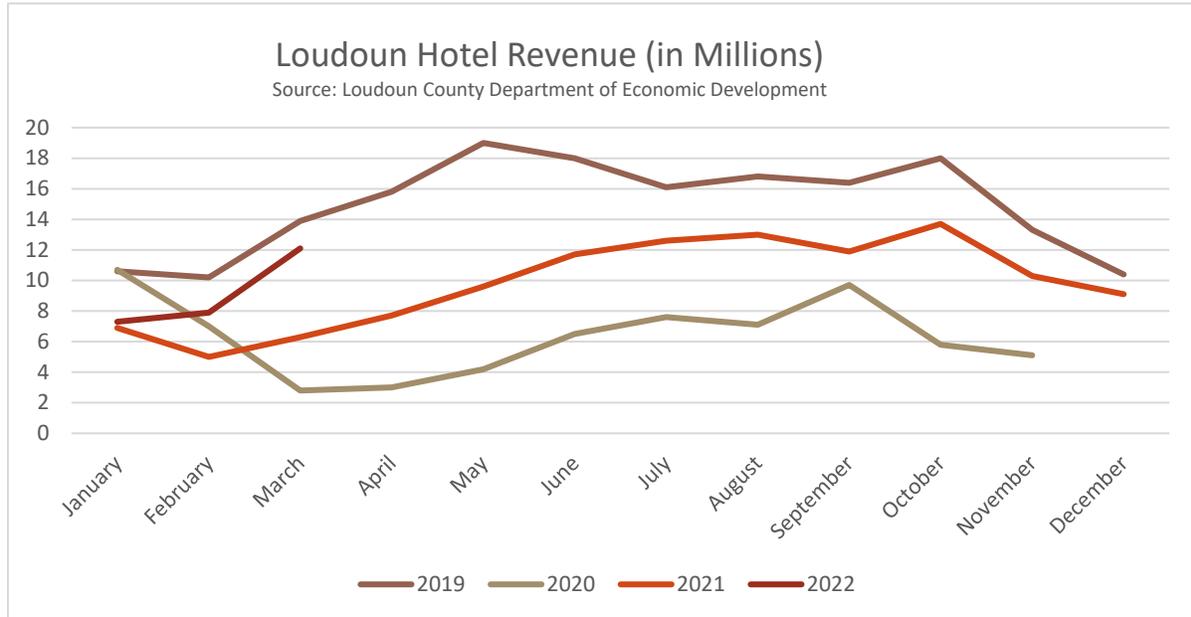


Tourism, as an industry, employs a high percentage of women, minorities, and low-income workers, which compounds the negative effects of the pandemic. Prior to facilitating opportunities through ARPA's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, the Loudoun Department of Economic Development (DED) helped ensure that businesses throughout the County had access to pandemic relief opportunities such as the Restaurant Revitalization

Fund, Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loans, Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, and the US Department of Agriculture Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, as well as links to charitable organizations that provided direct financial support for individuals workers in Loudoun tourism and hospitality businesses facing hardship. Loudoun's Economic Development Authority (EDA) provided grant opportunities through the *Business Interruption Fund* and *Loudoun Is Ready Outdoor Seating Grant*, both available using CARES Act funding.

When Loudoun County received its first tranche of SLFRF funds, \$6 million was allocated to funding the *Hotel Relief Grant Fund* through the EDA. This provided grants to eligible applicants for general operating expenses such as rent, payroll, job training, and COVID-19 related costs, such as Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) sanitation services or equipment. Given the limited audience for this grant, targeted outreach both 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, 28 hotels were provided grants ranging from \$80,000 to a 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 is on track to match the high of \$19 million reached in

May of 2019, which was \$19 million. In fact, in March 2022, the 2019 occupancy levels were met for the first time since the pandemic.



Assistance to Small Businesses

Supporting local businesses through the toughest times of the pandemic was key to recovery, but strengthening businesses was even more important for sustained growth post-recovery and business sustainability. The Loudoun County Business Recovery & Reinvention Grant (BRRG) provided over \$4 million in funding to small businesses that will 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. Response to this opportunity was great, and DED received over 768 applications, showing the dedication of the Loudoun Business community to resiliency, recovery, and growth. A large proportion of applicants demonstrated motivation to address challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic through innovation and reinvention. Many of these recipients are also multipliers who will use the grant awards to purchase services and products from other Loudoun businesses.

Assistance to Nonprofits

In addition to supporting economic recovery from the pandemic’s impacts, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors also recognized that support of nonprofit organizations has been vital to meeting residents’ needs for continued and new services. Loudoun County allocated nearly \$2.5 million of tranche one SLFRF funds to nonprofit and faith-based organizations within the community to mitigate the negative impacts residents were experiencing as a result of the pandemic. Nonprofit supports funded four categories:

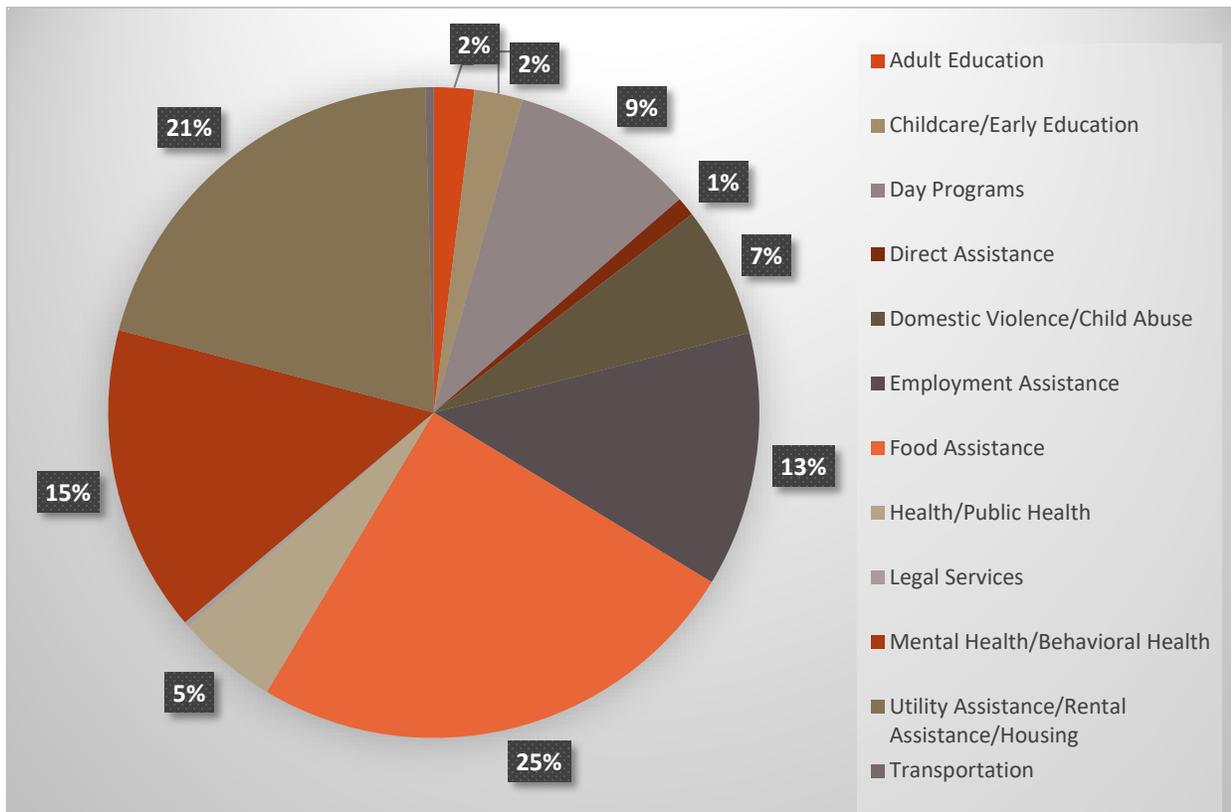
Emergency Food Assistance – This funding supported local food banks, food pantries and faith-based organizations to increase the amount of food and delivery services they were able to provide to their increasing number of clients.

COVID-19 Service Expansion – This program provided funds to organizations that demonstrated they have significantly expanded their services due to COVID-19. For example, programs that supported family services and expanded to additionally provide rental assistance for those families.

Service Interruption Program – This program provided funds to organizations that demonstrated an interruption in providing services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recipients provided a plan for adapting their service model delivery, ultimately lessening the need for continued federal assistance.

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

Data from the first tranche of emergency spending indicates that nearly 17,500 residents have received life-sustaining services such as rental relief, utility assistance, food assistance, or direct mental health services.



The next phase of nonprofit support will continue to focus on these areas of emergency services, as this community continues to experience increases in the number of clients because of the ongoing negative economic impacts of the pandemic. Nonprofit organizations noted that many residents most affected by the pandemic remain in need of sustainable programs to support their continued recovery. To support programs providing evidence of long-term effects, the County will provide an additional \$2.25 million in support of emergency services through grants to nonprofit organizations who continue to directly support residents recovering from the pandemic. These emergency services consist of food assistance, assistance to victims of domestic violence and

child abuse, employment assistance, disability services, rental and utility services, transportation assistance to disproportionately impacted communities, early childhood education, and health and mental health support. An additional \$250,000 is being used to fund a childcare needs assessment, and County staff is currently determining its scope. Nonprofit funding will complement the county-provided services that support affordable housing and comprehensive community services. The application process for this funding opportunity will begin in August of 2022.

Public Sector Capacity

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and state stay-at-home orders, Virginia's Courts experienced a significant increase in workload resulting in the change in protocol related to evidence management for the Clerk of the Circuit Court. A temporary position was created to assist with the new covid-related protocols.

Two temporary positions within the County's Department of Finance and Budget 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.

Funds were also used to purchase a subscription to the Polco ARPA Engagement Package which enables the County to measure stakeholder needs and prioritize ARPA-funded initiatives, monitor changes to assess the effectiveness of the initiatives, and provide data driven evidence of program efficacy for audits and reporting. Staff is currently preparing for the first ARPA Resident Survey for deployment, which will inform recommendations for the funds that remain to be allocated from tranche two.

Premium Pay

Funds were used for a one-time hazard bonus to compensate 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 and where there are no reasonable options for social distancing. Bonus tiers were determined based on how many hours eligible staff are scheduled to work and included positions such as medical/healthcare workers in a healthcare setting, public safety positions, care and protective service positions, and human service client care positions.

Water/Wastewater Infrastructure (to begin FY23)

Two historic villages in western Loudoun County are the focus of water and wastewater infrastructure projects:

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 wastewater treatment facilities such as septic systems, alternative on-site sewage, pump and haul, and privy systems. 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 finalize the project scope. Construction funding will be incorporated into a future capital budget development process.

The Village of Saint Louis also has no public water distribution system. It has yet to be determined if a public water distribution system is an appropriate solution for this village due to a Village Area Plan currently underway. Many of the private drinking water wells are very old and shallow and SLFRF funds may be used to facilitate an inquiry into the status of many of these wells on private property in the Village with the intent to address immediate needs, while the greater effort of the

Village Area Plan takes place. More information about the Village of Saint Louis can be found in the spotlight in the Community Engagement Section of this report.

Funding was set aside for Aldie Water Company (AWC) to provide additional financial assistance to replace its water storage tank (reservoir). The County, along with the VDH Office of Drinking Water, and AWC developed a funding partnership that would not only provide funding for the critical infrastructure replacement but would also provide funding for four recommended plans to support the long-term fiscal sustainability and safety of AWC's infrastructure.

Broadband²

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 a grant match provided by SLFRF funds, will support construction of Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) in areas currently not served by a wired provider. 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 (Blue Ridge and Catoctin electoral districts) with the support of the Board of Supervisors' Communications Commission. These districts are the largest geographic electoral districts in Loudoun County and represent the remaining unserved locations.

Revenue Replacement

As stated in the 2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report, stay-at-home and social distancing orders were put in place during 2020, and certain government services were reduced resulting in a loss of County government revenue. Activities such as after-school programs, youth and adult sports, daycare services, and youth reading programs, were canceled and program fees were refunded to residents. Services such as issuing permits and licenses by front counter operations were significantly reduced while new on-line and socially distanced processes were created to ensure the safety of staff and residents. As a result, the County saw a 1.1% decrease in revenue (or \$25.9 million). The average annual growth rate of the three previous fiscal years was 7.3%, for comparison. It is the practice of the County to produce manageable budget surpluses at the end of each fiscal year. In practice, these surpluses are used to fund many large, one-time costs, particularly in the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). As Loudoun County remains one of the fastest growing communities in the United States, unanticipated revenue declines have the potential to jeopardize the County's ability to respond to the impacts of growth through carefully planned government services and capital projects.

During 2020, the County did not lay off employees. Instead, employees were reassigned to other jobs and tasks where possible, new programs were implemented that promoted resident and employee safety, and employees who could not be reassigned to other tasks or who could not telework continued to receive pay. Continuing to provide services without the associated revenue resulted in a decline in resources that were anticipated through the budget process to fund capital

² <https://www.loudoun.gov/5658/Broadband-Expansion>

improvements such as roads and government facilities. Using this influx of cash to help fund government services ensures the integrity of the County's capital project program.

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 \$22,992,500 for the provision of government services. These services include Parks and Recreation and Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, all of whom provide services directly to the residents of Loudoun County.

No additional revenue loss has been incurred for FY22, in addition the County did not use any of the ARPA funding to offset any non-federal cost share or matching requirements of other federal programs at this juncture.

Aligning with County Priorities for Future Projects

As mentioned in the Executive Summary, many hours of research, collaboration, and outreach will inform the approach for allocation and use for SLFRF funds. The purpose of the ARPA and eligible uses of SLFRF funds aligns with many of the priorities established to forge a prosperous and equitable future for Loudoun residents.

Loudoun Human Services Network and the Human Services Strategic Plan

The County's Human Services Strategic Plan (HSSP)³ was developed to realize the vision of a healthy, thriving, safe, and inclusive Loudoun community through partnership and collaboration and create an innovative system and influence positive social change. This five-year plan, 2019-2024, used a structure of needs assessments, community conversations, community surveys, and targeted workgroups that inform a steering committee. The Steering Committee and Workgroup were made up of organizations ranging from government, nonprofit, philanthropy, and business sectors. Members brought their own extensive expertise and experience to the process, and frequently shared best practices and research with one another.

By using the findings from the September 2017 Loudoun Nonprofit Needs Assessment Summary Report, conducted by Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance, the HSSP became an important source of data to better guide the approach to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a tool that could assist in directing resources to underlying vulnerabilities in the community which may have led to disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on particular populations. Using these assessments, the HSSP names specific goals and action steps, as well as metrics associated with these steps, support for data collection and analysis, and develop a comprehensive and cohesive process for identifying/collecting baseline data, setting targets and adjustments as the County moves forward.

In finalizing the funding allocation for tranche two of SLFRF funds, the HSSP became a source of ideas and inspiration for long-term transformative initiatives. Guidance received from Human Services for potential ARPA funding revolves around service access, children and youth services, workforce development, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and emergency response. Upcoming resident and nonprofit surveys will inform these decisions and guide the next steps.

³ Loudoun County Human Service Strategic Plan <https://www.loudoun.gov/5228/Human-Services-Strategic-Plan>

Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan

In 2021, Loudoun County published the Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan (UHNSP)⁴ which defines how the County will address the unmet housing needs in a systematic and comprehensive way. The plan sets objectives, strategies, and actions, recognizing that it will take multiple approaches applied in combination to address the issue of housing affordability. Affordable housing sustains families, enables economic security, can accommodate for aging residents, provide commuting, and traffic advantages, and promotes an inclusive and equitable community. The goals and strategies of this plan continue to inform the approach to utilizing the funds provided through SLFRF and allow the County to begin more advanced planning for the initiatives that can be acted on quickly that will have a profound impact.

Preservation of Attainable Housing Initiative – Projects in planning phase

- Improvements to manufactured home parks - focus on health and safety, infrastructure, green space, recreation, and esthetics.
- Focused financial strategies to mitigate the impact of displacement to families caused by the loss of affordable housing due to the sale of the complex or the expiration of the covenants protecting affordability.
- Establish ways to keep rents affordable – working with property-owners to reduce rent payments to help preserve housing stability.
- Financial Literacy – partner with counseling organizations to offer programs intended to improve access to rental properties and homeownership.

As the preservation of affordable housing moves forward using SLFRF funding, services for those most impacted by the pandemic will be addressed as well. Within this funding category, the County will expand the focus on children and families as a key priority to address the comprehensive impacts of the economic challenges residents continue to face during the pandemic. The following emerging areas of focus provide a foundation for ensuring healthy children and families; 1) safe, stable, and affordable places to live; 2) access to high quality, affordable childcare; 3) expanded programs to combat childhood obesity exacerbated by the pandemic; and 4) expanded wraparound services to assist youth and family members affected by mental health or substance use disorder. These services will complement nonprofit efforts to create sustainable supports for healthy families and communities far into the future.

⁴ Loudoun County Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan: <https://www.loudoun.gov/5278/Unmet-Housing-Needs-Strategic-Plan>

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Developing an Equitable Loudoun through Training and Action (DELTA)

Loudoun County government has developed an equity framework that will help achieve the Board’s vision of a prosperous, inclusive, equitable and sustainable community where residents feel free to live, work, learn, and play. This Developing and Equitable Loudoun through Training and Action (DELTA) framework seeks to create a shared understanding, knowledge, and terminology around racial and social equity; to provide tools that will put equity at the forefront; and embed principles for advancing racial and social equity into every part of local government. These questions are asked to be deliberately inclusive as an organization to understand whether and where there are inequities existing, being created, or being exacerbated in a policy, procedure, practice, or program, whether they are developed or modified by the County:

Developing an Equitable Loudoun through Training and Action (DELTA)



While the COVID-19 public health emergency revealed inequities that created disproportionate impacts for Loudoun residents, much of what was revealed confirmed many of the findings of the Unmet Housing Needs Assessment and Human Services Needs Assessment produced a few years prior to the pandemic. With long-term goals established, the immediate needs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency and corresponding negative economic impacts were quickly identified through early communication with community partners and nonprofit organizations. These partnerships allowed for quick response and relief for residents and allowed for greater analysis of any existing service gaps or underlying challenges that had made some of these services inaccessible, or even invisible, to some residents. It is hoped that deeper analysis of the data obtained through nonprofit organizations would help identify if the new clients served throughout this pandemic needed help long before the crisis began, and what barriers had kept them from receiving help in the past.

Economic Development Programs

As discussed in Loudoun County's 2021 Interim Recovery Plan, each program administered by the Loudoun DED was promoted in advance using traditional advertising in local news, social media, direct mail, and direct outreach. DED has already demonstrated its practice of inclusion when, realizing that many of the minority and women-owned businesses in Loudoun were not taking advantage of the federal relief offered at the beginning of the pandemic, they reached out to these business owners directly. Using ARPA funds, the *Business Reinvention and Recover Grant* was able to fund 124 applicants. Of those, over half of the grants went to support minority owned businesses, with 38 percent to support women-owned enterprises, 14 percent to veteran owned, six (6) recipient businesses identifying as LGBTQ+, and five (5) identifying as disability-owned.

Housing

To move toward the goal of equitable housing, the attainable housing initiative that will use SLFRF funds includes the provision of temporary financial counseling services to support renter households. County staff are in communication with US Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-approved housing counseling organizations in the region and are working to set up formal agreements to provide housing credit counseling and financial literacy services virtually and/or in-person at the Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) or other locations in the County. The intent of this program is to improve housing stability and increase access to homeownership and rental housing.

DHCD is researching how to best target resources through a rent "buy down" program, considering a geographic approach and data collection in terms of the greatest need in the County based on census tracts with lowest median incomes and how that overlaps with minority concentration areas. The County is researching how renter groups and partner organizations can incorporate their needs into program design, utilizing Low-Income Housing Tax Credit properties as a potential area of focus.

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 low-income families, those with physical, intellectual, or developmental 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 status, a common issue for residents seeking rent or utility assistance. It is notable that many of the job sectors affected by stay-at-home orders and social distancing requirements employ a high percentage of women, minorities, and low-income workers, including workers whose legal status made it difficult to receive assistance. Nonprofit organizations supported by Loudoun's SLFRF funds were able to provide crucial services to residents that 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.

The Human Service Strategic Plan previously identified several areas of capacity-building potential; and it is the County's intent to utilize ARPA funding to tackle areas that have the greatest impact on equitable outcomes in the community. Equity and inclusion goals include additional training for human services staff and community members in diversity, equity, and inclusion promoting/ increasing health equity among people of color; building capacity for small

organizations serving marginalized/vulnerable communities; and establishing trust and connection with immigrant communities. The County intends to promote these goals within the Human Services Network and the greater Loudoun nonprofit community, and fund programs that advance these objectives.

*Digital Inclusion*⁵

As the County works towards wider access to internet services through the Broadband initiative, outreach will occur through events, public spaces, etc. to inform residents how to use broadband access to improve their quality of life and access to economic opportunities. All Points Broadband will offer their Digital Inclusion Academy through Google for Education, which was developed based on best practices and recommendations from the National Digital Equity Center, the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, and NTIA's BroadbandUSA Toolkits. All Points will offer free access to this Academy and all related courses to all locations within the proposed SLFRF project area and all County residents. The desired outcome is for citizens to have affordable access, support, and skills to benefit from the advantages of being online. This will also include specific support for those in the community whose life challenges are adversely affected by the inability to readily use the internet.

SPOTLIGHT ON TELEHEALTH

The COVID-19 public health emergency changed the way many of us obtain health care. Unfortunately, it also severely restricted access for populations that may have already been experiencing challenges accessing the care they need. Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Development Services (MHSADS) approached the need to reach those they serve by implementing a telehealth solution (Cloverhound) onto the existing WebEx platform. Cloverhound Connect is easy to access on several devices, including desktop, tablet, and mobile devices. This allows individuals the flexibility to meet with their practitioner at a convenient place and time.

As more residents have the access and the knowledge to use online tools, continual progression can be made toward online County services as they can be made available. The direct benefit to Loudoun County and residents will be felt through concentrating on Connecting, Engaging, Including, Integrating and Coordinating with those who need services.

Loudoun County's existing HSSP involves optimizing access for residents seeking services and coordinating service delivery with the entire human services network which includes County agencies and nonprofit partners. The County's vision includes a technological solution to "co-location" so that customers can have access to a variety of organizations through a single gateway; and to provide a free, public, online, searchable database that connects people to resources in Loudoun County. These goals will have the greatest impact when residents have the advantage of reliable broadband service, and use of SLFRF can provide the assistance to laying that foundation.

⁵ [Loudoun County Digital Inclusion Strategy](#), Virginia Telecommunications Initiative application, page 125

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement is an important to encourage inclusion and open dialog and continues to be part of the County's approach to building trust with residents and community partners. Strong relationships with 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.

Human Services

Loudoun County has purposefully engaged with community partners over the last several years to gain a better understanding of the needs of Loudoun residents and the services that are available. This engagement informed the recent UHNSP and the HSSP. Having these lines of communication open allowed for quick action to address the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency and subsequent economic impacts.

To direct funds to the most acute needs, County staff administered a needs assessment in Spring 2021 with nonprofit partners to pinpoint the areas of greatest need and determine how the pandemic affected these organizations and their ability to serve their clients. Surveys were administered to two groups of nonprofit organizations and forty-nine (49) organizations responded. The questions contained in the survey allowed for multiple responses, including space for comments related to the response.

Based on the responses and comments provided, many of the organizations' revenue sources were less reliable, and the amounts were reduced from pre-pandemic times, while operating expenses were the same or increasing, and the residents' need for services was growing. The input provided by the survey also helped County staff tailor the application process for tranche one funding which would provide support in the form of grants to the nonprofit organizations so that nonprofit partners were able to continue their services.

Prior to launching the second phase of nonprofit support programs (scheduled for August 2022), County staff met with nonprofit leaders from the Loudoun Human Services Network to discuss tranche two funding allocation proposals. Staff hosted "listening sessions" and "office hours" during February and March of 2022 with the nonprofit community to understand their pandemic-related client needs. Feedback illustrated continued need for emergency services at higher-than-expected levels. A second needs assessment will provide additional details about the emergency services that continue to require resources⁶. The results of this survey will again allow County staff to focus the application process for the second tranche of funds towards these needed services.

Loudoun Tourism and Small Business

In the early months of the pandemic, Loudoun DED provided many resource links available to small businesses and their staff both online (Fundamentals of Financing) and through direct community engagement. It was important for the tourism and hospitality industry to know that options were available and Loudoun staff provided education and assistance. When realizing that minority and women-owned businesses were not accessing this one-time revenue stream from the

⁶ Invitation for Nonprofit Input: <https://www.loudoun.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=7661>

federal government, DED specifically reached out to those communities to ensure they were aware of grant opportunities. That effort resulted in approximately \$12 million in federal grant money being disbursed to minority and women-owned businesses. Over the last two years, DED assisted in disbursing COVID relief, CARES, and ARPA grant funds totaling \$21 million⁷. This outreach resulted in greater awareness of government offerings.

When Loudoun County received its first tranche of SLFRF funds, \$6 million was allocated to fund the Hotel Relief Grant Fund through the EDA. Targeted outreach both through email, social media, and direct phone calls were made to all businesses registered with the County as either a hotel or bed & breakfast. 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.

Housing

The Loudoun County UHNSP was the culmination of the 2017 Housing Summit and an 18-month effort that included input and consultations with County departments and agencies, advisory bodies, stakeholder groups and organizations, and the public through focus groups, community meetings, interviews, presentations, and in-person and online surveys. This community engagement process provided more than 40 opportunities for stakeholders and the public to contribute ideas and insights into the issue of unmet housing needs and propose solutions. This process yielded momentum and a network of partners to inform our approach to allocating the funds provided through SLFRF and allows the County to begin more advanced planning for the initiatives that we can act on quickly that will have a profound impact.

The Loudoun Department of Housing and Community Development conducted listening sessions in April 2022 with community partners that provide housing related services to get their input as to the needs of the residents that they serve. Their feedback has been integral to the focus and impact of the County's use of SLFRF funds for housing initiatives. While the UHNSP carries through long-term goals for all housing needs, it is clear from these listening sessions that immediate response remains with the disproportionately impacted population in Loudoun and that these families and individuals must be the focus of SLFRF funding.

As Housing continues to refine the scope of the initiatives funded through tranche two of SLFRF funds, engagement with community partners continues in the following ways:

- Site visits to Manufactured Home Parks began in June 2022 as will outreach to park owners to determine needs of parks and how County support can be most effective
- Meetings with renter groups will help establish how to incorporate their needs into any rent buy down program as well as meetings with partner organizations to get input and identify Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties as potential areas of focus

Community Survey

Loudoun County began using Polco and the National Research Center platform as one of the many tools used to engage the community, to gain insight into the needs of residents, and as a way for them to have a voice in the decision-making process as staff and the Board of Supervisors consider programs and projects that will be an effective use of SLFRF funds. The 2020 community survey provided valuable information about the quality of life in Loudoun and where residents would like to see improvements. The survey was sent to a random sample of residents, using

⁷ 2022 State of the County Address, May 25, 2022: [*"Telling Loudoun's Story"*](#)

Polco's sampling of zip codes, and while the survey will ask for demographic information, the sampling does not target particular populations within the County.

In 2021, SLFRF funds were used to purchase the ARPA Engagement Platform. This package contains three primary components: Engagement, including high quality standardized surveys of residents and business stakeholders, enabling collaboration among local government leaders, and on-line reporting dashboards that include key findings, benchmark comparisons, national indices, and demographic reports. The ARPA Resident Survey will employ the same random sampling as the 2020 community survey and will ask specific pandemic related questions to get the community input on their personal recovery from the pandemic and how they feel about proposed ARPA funded projects. After initial survey mailing, this will open to the public for responses. It will be these survey results, combined with the needs assessment from community nonprofit organizations, that will inform staff recommendations to the Board of Directors for uses of a portion of the second tranche of SLFRF funds.

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH: VILLAGE OF SAINT LOUIS

The Village of Saint Louis is one of the first African American villages in Loudoun County, deeded to freed slaves following the Civil War. It is among twelve Rural Historic Villages designated and mapped in the Loudoun County General Plan of 2019. The policies of this plan call for working with Rural Historic Villages to develop community plans to address issues related to land use and zoning; economic development; natural, environmental, and historic resources; community facilities and services; water and wastewater; and transportation to maintain the character of the villages.

There are two significant issues facing the St. Louis community: 1) land use planning/zoning issues that pose challenges to St. Louis' history, character, and historic settlement patterns, and 2) existing and projected water supply challenges facing village residents.

St. Louis' existing zoning generally allows for development at significant greater densities than the area's historic settlement pattern and the provision of a public water utility could trigger additional development in St. Louis. The hesitancy of St. Louis residents to apply for a Water and Wastewater Feasibility Study reflected the concern that addressing the water needs of the village could invite new, higher density development.

Loudoun's Board of Supervisors directed staff to create a Village Plan Task Force, comprised of community representatives that would be engaged in the process of creating a Village Area Plan and assist in educating the village residents on the options available to them through this plan and any future community water feasibility study. The Board of Supervisors allocated SLFRF funds to facilitate outreach with the County Departments of Planning and Zoning, General Services, and the Office of Equity. Staff continues to be sensitive to the history of the Village while seeking to inform. Concurrently with the Village Area Plan, staff will also facilitate water quality testing for the private drinking water wells so that homeowners can determine the state of their wells and the County can support addressing any immediate needs while long term solutions are decided.

LABOR PRACTICES

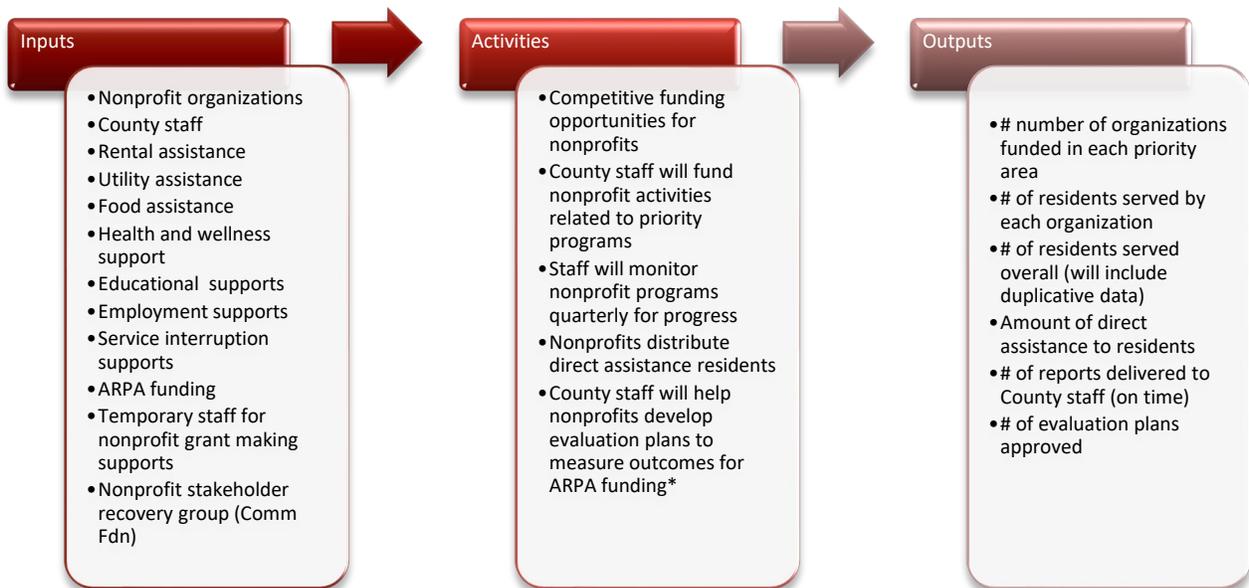
As of the timing of this report, infrastructure projects (water, sewer, broadband) have not yet started or are in their planning phase. All projects will be using local contracts to every extent possible with the intent to strengthen local economy, utilizing a competitive bidding process, and will require that contractors adhere to prevailing wage requirements consistent with the National Labor Relations Act.

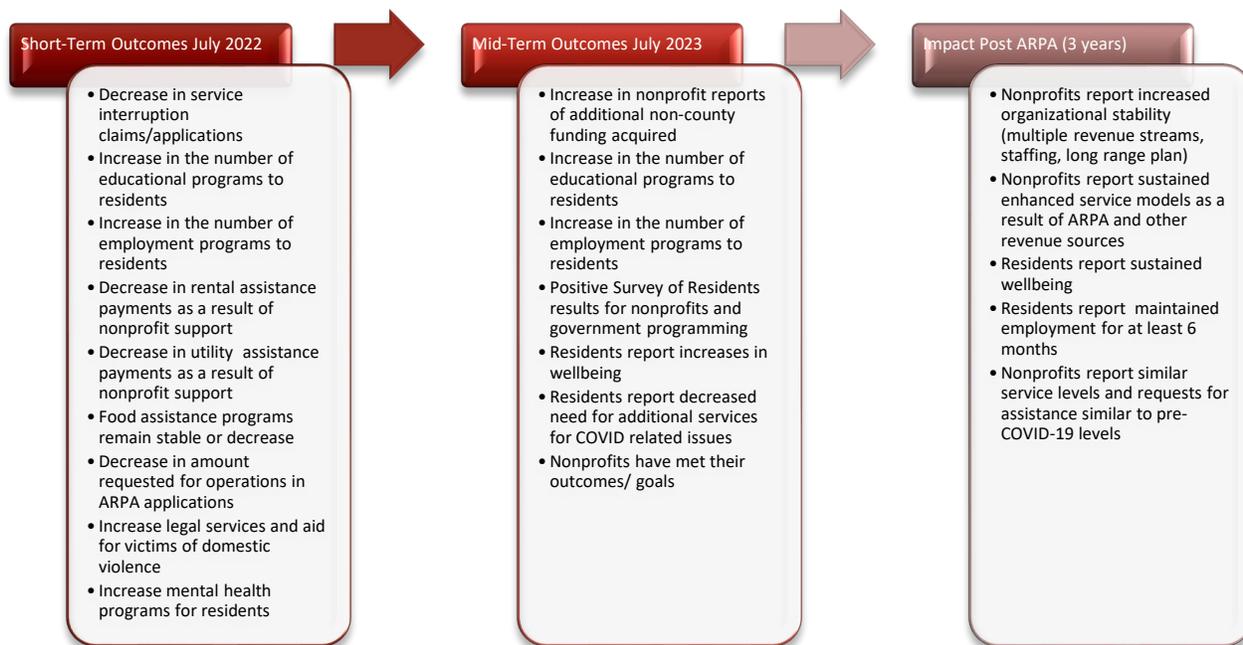
USE OF EVIDENCE

Nonprofit Support

The assistance provided to nonprofit organizations continued to support several evidence-based and research-informed interventions. For example, several organizations provide day programs for neurodivergent residents and those with intellectual and developmental disabilities using Applied Behavioral Analysis and Positive Behavioral Supports, provide housing support for mental health clients using a Housing First model for mental health solutions and housing stability, youth preventative mental health and wellness activities using programs highlighted in “What Works For Health” clearinghouse, trauma focused interventions for women and children that have been victims of abuse, among many other research-backed programs. Services that provided emergency rent and utility assistance to support residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic utilized much of the research and findings from the National Low Income Housing Coalition published in “Learnings from Emergency Rental Assistance Programs”. Of the \$2.5 million of SLFRF funds allocated to support Loudoun’s nonprofit organizations, \$1.9 million supported programs that used evidence-based interventions.

All nonprofit organizations were introduced to a Logic Model that can be used 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), this model will help them prepare for more robust reporting requirements.





Proposed nonprofit funding using SLFRF funds from tranche two may provide grants that evaluate the current human services landscape, the state of evidence-based human services in the County, and provide recommendations on transformative, sustainable programming that will better position nonprofits and the County’s human services departments to provide more seamless services to residents in need. This approach will provide the County with valuable data on nonprofit programs providing a sustainable, high-impact source of support for residents, and will complement the existing services provided by the County’s human services departments as well as the HSSP.

SPOTLIGHT ON NONPROFIT CAPACITY BUILDING

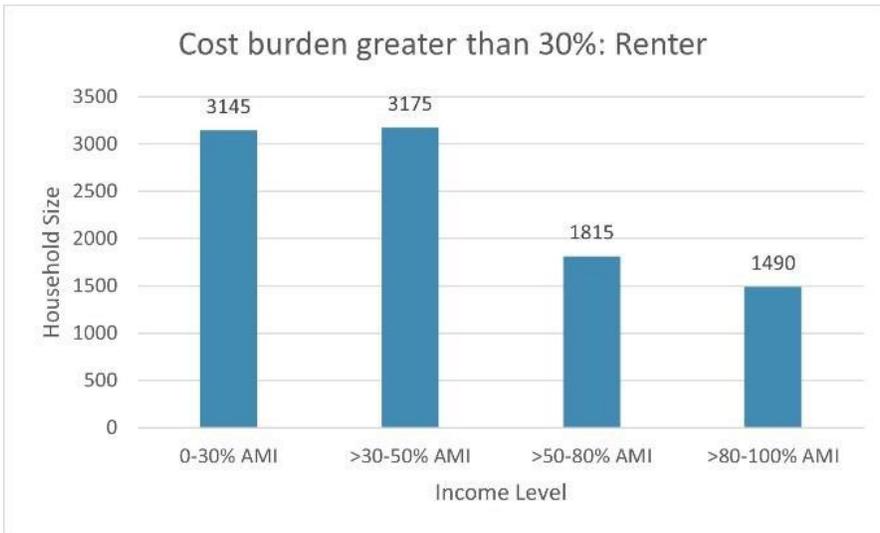
The growth of nonprofit organizations requires their introduction to funding sources that they may not have obtained in the past. SLFRF funds are used for the temporary position of ARPA Nonprofit Grants Support Specialist who will provide not only assistance to reporting requirements for SLFRF funds, but training and education in grants management best practices, finding the right source of funding, applying for and receiving federal grants, and managing performance and fiscal data for diverse funding sources. It is the County’s intention to strengthen relationships with nonprofit partners and support them as they become stronger as individual organizations and as a community to face challenges such as this pandemic and remain capable of servicing their clients to the extent that is needed.

Attainable Housing Initiative

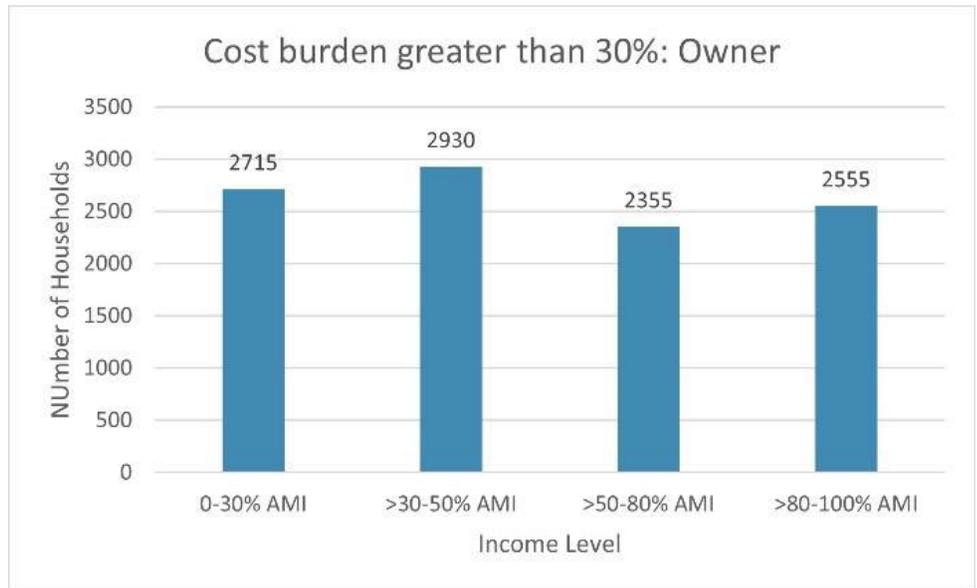
Developing the UHNSP included identifying best practices and pilot programs that have proven successful in other jurisdictions. This has informed plan objectives such as establishing a coordinated housing network, obtaining funding sources, securing land resources, and increasing access to affordable housing. When refining the use of SLFRF funds for the housing initiative, reaching out to other jurisdictions using SLFRF funds was a way to focus attention on the efforts that will be most effective in serving the residents that need immediate assistance and effective towards the long-term goals of the County.

The HUD 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

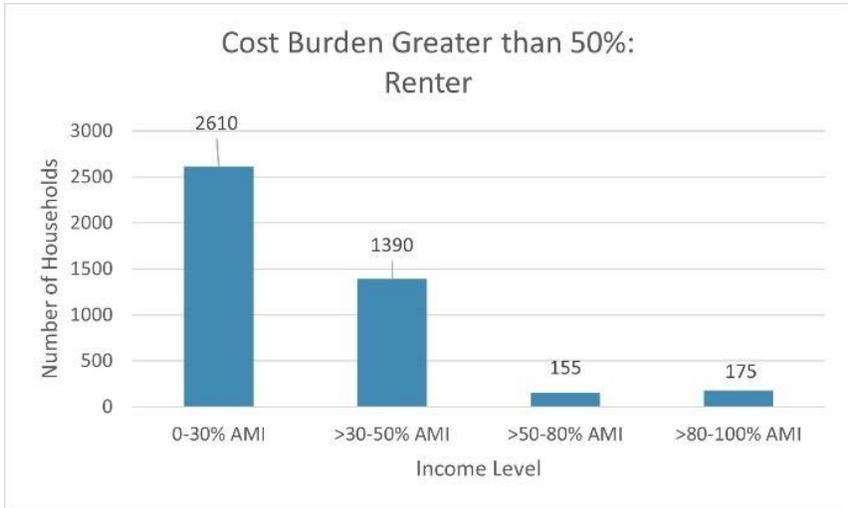
towards the low-income households that are severely cost-burdened and “housing insecure”. It is more efficient to use County resources to keep families housed than to re-house them after an eviction. The predominant housing problem affecting both renter and owner-occupied households in Loudoun County, is cost burden.



As of 2019, more than 35,000 County households (roughly 7% of the population) pay more than 30% of their income for housing. Of the 35,000 cost-burdened households in the County, 86% have low incomes, of that number, over one-in-three, or 36% are severely cost-burdened, paying more than 50% of their income for housing⁸.

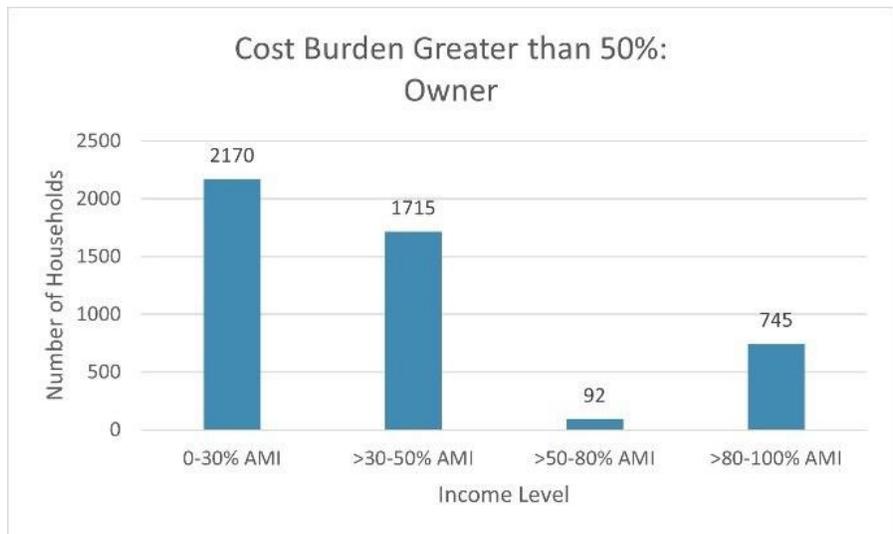


⁸ [Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan, page 13](#)



Low-income households are more likely to experience economic mobility and improve their financial situation when they have access to affordable housing and can save money, advance their education, and pay for the transportation needed to get better job opportunities.

As noted in the UHNSP, attainable housing is the benchmark for sustaining economic stability, and inclusive, equitable communities. The UHNSP includes a goal to achieve 16,000 attainable housing units by 2040, with 7,800 of those units to be comprised of existing homes made attainable through preservation and access strategies. Toward this goal, Loudoun County plans to utilize SLFRF funds to partner with property owners to reduce rents, fund capital improvement for existing attainable rental housing and manufactured home communities, and for provision of temporary financial counseling services to support renter households.



The County continues to receive information that monthly rents are being increased, negatively impacting many households and workers in essential occupations. Establishing a way to keep rents affordable, such as working with property owners to cover rent payments may help preserve housing stability for these families consistent with the objectives of the American Rescue Plan Act. Through 2027, there are five apartment complexes representing 890 units where the affordability commitments required by Low Income Housing Tax Credits will expire and the complexes could convert to market-rate rentals, potentially impacting many households depending on below-market rents to house their families. Strategies such as partnering with existing affordable apartment complex owners to “buy down” rent payments for existing affordable units for a specific period to preserve currently affordable units will be optimal. This strategy was successfully implemented with the use of Virginia Housing Amazon REACH funds in conjunction with the View at Broadlands apartments being developed by Flatiron Partners.

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PERFORMANCE REPORT

Projects funded by SLFRF have aligned with current County vision and Board of Supervisors priorities and are often part of larger goals and initiatives, such as the UHNSP and HSSP. 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 SLFRF project align with County priorities AND met eligibility requirements as stated in the Final Rule?
- Does project allow for progress toward a specific target/objective of existing plan?
- How will progress be measured toward project and county goals?

Recovery of Small Businesses and Hospitality Industry

In total, 39 hotels were provided grants ranging from \$80,000 to \$250,000(max) to increase hotel revenues and employment back to pre-pandemic levels. As a result, the hotel revenues in Loudoun County have rebounded and 2022 is on track to match a high of \$19 million reached in May 2019. In March 2022 the 2019 occupancy levels were met for the first time since the pandemic.

A total of 124 Business Reinvention and Recovery Grants were awarded in March 2022. County staff is currently in the process of reviewing receipts that have been submitted and closing out those who have met the requirements. Future reports will detail the progress and impacts these awards have on these businesses and local economy.

Broadband Access and Digital Inclusion Strategy

Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) service will become available to 8,629 discrete locations in the Blue Ridge and Catocin districts, which represent the largest geographic districts and the remaining unserved locations in Loudoun County. The progress of this project will be continuously reported each calendar quarter, using details such as the miles of fiber deployed, number of locations served by speed and type. These are reporting requirements that will be submitted using the format provided by Treasury.

As locations are brought online, the County will also be capturing how many households qualify for and utilize affordability programs. All service offerings made available through this project will be eligible for the federal Emergency Broadband Benefit program and future affordability programs available to Low to Moderate-Income households in which All Points Broadband is a provider.

The duration of the broadband project is such that it will conclude near the end of the period of performance for SLFRF. However, tasks related to desired digital inclusion outcomes can correspond to each new section of access and will continue beyond project completion. Achieving universal broadband access has been a long-term objective and the County is poised to act on the following priorities for digital inclusion:

Priority	Desired Outcome:
Raise awareness of digital inclusion	Increased understanding of who is digitally excluded, and what interventions stand the best chance of making a real difference
	Availability of an accessible and comprehensive point of reference is for all activities that support digital inclusion
	Increased understanding by small businesses of how digital technologies can help improve their business.
Increase digital inclusion	Increased commitment to and awareness of digital inclusion and why it is important to ensure everyone can get online
	Aligned plans and coordinated activities of a wide range of stakeholders in the private, public, and voluntary sectors working together to maximize the benefits for the public.
	A closer working relationship between the voluntary sector and private sector
Empower citizens to take advantage of digital technologies	Affordable access, support, and skills benefiting citizens from the advantages of being online
	Specific support provided for those in the community whose life challenges are adversely affected by an inability to readily use or access the internet.

Loudoun County is proposing to address digital inclusion by:

- 1) Driving western Loudoun broadband deployment to increase internet connectivity and equity to achieve universal coverage of internet services in Loudoun County
- 2) Throughout the delivery timeframe, educate personnel through online methods, libraries, schools, parks and recreation classes and communication with APB and their partners
- 3) Continual progression for online County services as they can be made available:
 - a. Cost savings and increase efficiency and productivity – stemming from increasing use of online public services
 - b. Advocating and supporting processes moving online through automation for citizens
 - c. Concentration on Connecting, Engaging, Including, Integrating and Coordinating with those who need services
- 4) Improved health and wellbeing through increased awareness and access to information, which has been shown as an important channel during COVID-19 information sharing

Nonprofit Support

Funding for nonprofit organizations is intended to support organizations that are working to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the application process, priority was given to those organizations that experienced and demonstrated COVID-19 related changes in services that provide direct, life-sustaining assistance, with a focus on recovery and sustainability. Organizations also described 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.

As this funding program closes June 30, 2022, County staff will review data collected by these nonprofit organizations. For some, it is their first time collecting robust demographic and input-activity-outcome information with the intent to measure success. The program provided support so these organizations could continue to meet existing service levels considering the interruption of

the pandemic or meet growing service demands that were a direct result of the ongoing negative impacts of the pandemic.

The organizations receiving support already target populations that are at risk due to low-income (especially those below 30% AMI), developmental or intellectual disabilities, mental health needs, or as part of historically underserved communities. Close-out assessments will determine the extent to which services were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, what demographic changes, if any, were noted, and how the organization has adapted to ongoing service needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Continued funding for nonprofit organizations through FY23 will also support emergency services but will also begin to work toward established goals of the Loudoun County HSSP, including the goal of enhancing the quality, capacity, and delivery of services by strengthening the network of human services providers in the county. This is an effort that will continue beyond the period of performance of SLFRF funds, but through this continued communication and collaboration, gains will be made on the following targets:

- Increase the utilization of best practices in service delivery among public and private sector human services providers
- Increase in the number of nonprofit organizations participating in training events which will support capacity building and program evaluation
- Identify possible mechanism of system-wide public/private data collection

Housing

Currently, the Department of Housing and Community Development is in the process of determining the scope of projects within the Attainable Housing Initiative. As projects are defined, performance management processes will be initiated.

PROJECT INVENTORY

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 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 has become imperative during the COVID-19 public health emergency as mental health impacts have been an unfortunate side effect of the ongoing pandemic. The Department approached the need to reach their clients where they were by implementing a telehealth solution (Cloverhound) onto the existing WebEx platform in place in Loudoun County. This has allowed MHSADS to continue to their commitment to rapid access to services 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 access is also vital for continued care – clients can attend group/individual therapy sessions from their home, or they can use the private setting in the County office, should the client not have technological resources or a safe place to have these sessions. Cloverhound is easy to access on several devices, including desktop, tablet, and mobile devices, allowing for clients the flexibility to meet with their practitioner at a place and time that is most convenient for them.

Performance Report:

MHSADS has been offering Same Day Access services by telehealth since the onset of the pandemic and is now offering some 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.

In May 2022, MHSADS has resumed in-person Same Day Access services. In-person services are now available three days a week. Telehealth services are available two days a week, with a dedicated phone for clients to request a variety of behavioral health and developmental services. MHSADS also provides resource links to many national and local organizations, including many of the nonprofit organizations that have been supported with SLFRF funds and provide services for developmental issues, mental health, and substance abuse.

Typical service levels for Same Day Access are about 1,400 residents screened each fiscal year, with numbers reaching 1500 in FY22. 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 has been able to maintain its service levels despite the pandemic, meaning that providing alternate methods of service has been invaluable.

Hotel Relief Grant Program

Project Identification Number: 2-2.11-1

Funding Amount: \$4,060,000

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

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 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.

Performance Report:

In total, 39 hotels were provided grants ranging from \$80,000 to \$250,000(max) to increase hotel revenues and employment back to pre-pandemic levels. As a result, the hotel revenues in Loudoun County have rebounded and 2022 is on track to match the high of \$19 million reached in May of 2019. In March 2022 the County met the 2019 occupancy levels for the first time since the pandemic.

Business Reinvention and Recovery Program

Project Identification Number: 2-2.29-3

Funding Amount: \$4,935,998.33

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

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 ongoing 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.

Eligible applicants must be an appropriately licensed, for-profit business in Loudoun County, must have been in operation prior to March 1, 2020, must commit to maintain the funded project within Loudoun County for a minimum of two (2) years post award, must have between 0 and 250 employees, and must have had annual pre-Covid revenue between \$50,000 and \$8,000,000. As

part of the application process, all applicants must demonstrate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on their business and how the requested funding responds to that impact. An internal team composed of County employees and staff from Loudoun's incorporated towns reviewed all applications and eligibility requirements. Eligible applicants went through a second certification review and were scored based on highest impact to the business and county.

All awarded businesses provided detailed information on the impact of COVID-19 to 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 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.

Performance Report:

124 Business Reinvention and Recovery Grants were awarded in March 2022. County staff is currently in the process of reviewing receipts that have been submitted and closing out those who have met the requirements. Future reports will detail the progress and impacts these awards have on these businesses and local economy.

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL BUSINESS

Bright Yeast Labs: When local brewers began to pivot from in-person customers, they provided yeast optimized for canning. With grant funding, the labs will engineer new yeast strains to better meet the demands of Loudoun's vibrant craft brewery industry.

Sharp Lines Cut Barbershop: This Black-owned business saw a great need to help residents return to the workforce following COVID-19's interruption. The business will use BRRG to become accredited as a professional barber academy and expand its hybrid training facility.

Long Stone Farm: A woman-owned business pivoted from restaurant sales to direct-to-customer model, forging deeper connections with the community helping local shoppers avoid supply chain delays. Following the grant award, the farm will double its beef and chicken production for its customers.

Michelle Lindsay Photography: A woman-owned business pivoted from high-touch service of newborn photography to a flexible and private studio space. With the help of BRRG funding, the studio will expand to offer space to other creative Loudoun entrepreneurs.

Nonprofit Assistance Program

Project Identification Number: 2-2.34.2

Funding Amount: \$2,658,363

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

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 have 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 have 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 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 affordable 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.

Several organizations provide day programs for neurodivergent residents and those with intellectual and developmental disabilities using Applied Behavioral Analysis and Positive Behavioral Supports, provide housing support for mental health clients using a Housing First model for mental health solutions and housing stability, offer youth preventative mental health and wellness activities using programs highlighted in “What Works For Health” clearinghouse, use trauma focused interventions for women and children that have been victims of abuse, in addition to many other research-backed programs. Services that provided emergency rent and utility assistance utilized much of the research and findings from the National Low Income Housing Coalition published in “Learnings from Emergency Rental Assistance Programs”. Of the \$2.4 million of SLFRF funds allocated to support the nonprofit organizations, nearly \$1.8 million supported programs that used evidence-based interventions.

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.

Performance Report:

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.

Polco ARPA Engagement Platform

Project Identification Number: 3-3.4-1

Funding Amount: \$8,000

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

Project Overview:

Funds were used to purchase a subscription to the Polco ARPA Engagement Package⁹ that enables the County to measure stakeholder needs and prioritize ARPA-funded initiatives, monitor changes to assess the effectiveness of initiatives, and provide data driven evidence of program efficacy for audits and reporting. The package contains these primary components: Engagement, including high quality standardized surveys of residents and business stakeholders; the engagement platform enabling collaboration among local government leaders; and on-line reporting dashboards that include key findings, benchmark comparisons, national indices, and demographic reports.

Performance Report:

The first survey will be administered summer of 2022 with results and analysis expected in the fall. County staff is preparing for survey postcards to be sent as a random sample mailing. Survey will be open to the public two weeks after the mailing. Results from this survey will inform staff and their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for remaining ARPA funds allocation.

Ongoing Covid Response – Administrative

Project Identification Number: 4-4.1-1

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000

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

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.

Ongoing judicial emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impede the operation of Virginia's Courts and, as such, has seen a major increase in workload and change in protocol related to evidence management for the Clerk of the Circuit Court prepare and hold pre- and post-trial evidence. A temporary position was created to assist with the new covid-related protocols for the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Two temporary positions were created within Loudoun County's Office of Finance and Budget to coordinate and monitor the use of ARPA funding and its reporting. These roles will monitor subrecipient reporting and their compliance with Uniform Guidance and SLFRF Final Rule. 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. Much of the focus of the ARPA Nonprofit Grants Support Specialist will

⁹ Polco ARPA Engagement Package <https://info.polco.us/arpa-engagement-package>

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. In addition to the use of the County's SLFRF funds, these positions will seek other ARPA funds from outside agencies as a source of funding for eligible projects and programs.

Hazard Bonuses

Project Identification Number: 4-4.1-4

Funding Amount: \$3,062,250

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

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.

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 area's 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 have 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.

Revenue Replacement

Project Identification Number: 6-6.1-7

Funding Amount: \$22,992,500

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

Project Overview:

Of the \$40,288,042 of calculated revenue loss for fiscal year 2020, the County has used \$22,992,500 for the provision of government services. These services include Parks and Recreation and Law Enforcement, all of whom provide services directly to the residents of Loudoun County.

No additional revenue loss has been incurred yet for FY22, in addition the County did not use any of the ARPA funding to offset any non-federal cost share or matching requirements of other federal programs.

Approved Projects – FY2023

In preparation for receipt of tranche two of SLFRF funds, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors have approved the following projects for use of these funds¹⁰:

Village of Paeonian Springs Wastewater Modernization Project

Funding Amount: \$3,500,000

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

In 2019, a Water and Wastewater Feasibility 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 Memorandum of Understanding with the County and outlined potential options for addressing the water and wastewater concerns. Staff and Loudoun Water are currently conducting a supplemental technical memorandum that will identify an appropriate project boundary that recognizes public health needs and will further explore alternative wastewater and water solutions. Initial estimates indicate a combined water and wastewater project recommendation could cost \$31 million and a wastewater-only solution could cost over \$19 million.

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 Water Supply Feasibility Study

Funding Amount: \$500,000

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

At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Loudoun County staff will accept an application from the Village of Saint Louis for the County's Water and Wastewater Program outside of the regular application cycle to determine eligibility for the program based on the health and safety considerations. The recommendation was also made that the project move straight to a Feasibility Study, should the Village be eligible for the program. To date, an application has not been received for the Water and Wastewater Program and there is the possibility that the residents will choose not to apply.

The Board allocated \$150,000 of SLFRF funds to facilitate community outreach to determine what, if any, barriers exist to completing the application for the Water and Wastewater Program. Pending the application submission, \$350,000 of SLFRF funds could be used for the Feasibility Study. This effort will also facilitate an inquiry into the status of many of the drinking water wells on private property in the Village with the intent to address immediate needs.

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 intends to give residents of Saint Louis the tools to

¹⁰ Source: FGOEDC ARPA Updates and FY23 Funding Recommendations – Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Business Meeting, Item 14g

determine the health of their wells and the resources to address any concerns. VDH recently created the Septic and Well Assistance Program (SWAP) using ARPA funding to provide income-qualifying resident with private well repairs. The income criterion for this program is 200 percent above federal poverty level, or \$55,500 for a family of four. The VDH income threshold could be a barrier to supporting St. Louis residents in well upgrades. The County's use of ARPA funding will facilitate the outreach to the residents of Saint Louis and help them determine the needs of individual well owners. Further, it will identify any residents that may qualify for the state's program, or how to align residents with other sources of funding to address any risks to human health and target households most in need.

Aldie Water Company Reservoir Replacement

Funding Amount: \$150,000

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

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 (\$120,000) 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 reservoir replacement. 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 Plan, 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 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.

Preservation of Attainable Housing and Displacement Services

Funding Amount: \$12,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts (subcategory TBD)

As noted in the UHNSP, attainable housing is the benchmark for sustaining economic stability, families, and inclusive, equitable communities. The UHNSP includes a goal to achieve 16,000 attainable housing units by 2040, with 7,800 of those units to be comprised of existing homes made attainable through preservation and access strategies.

Funding for this purpose would complement the funding already identified for the County's affordable housing loan programs. ARPA funds are being recommended to develop and preserve affordable housing through new construction and acquisition loans, partnering with property owners to reduce rents, capital improvement funding for existing attainable rental housing and manufactured home communities, and the provision of temporary financial counseling services to support renter households.

As the preservation of affordable housing moves forward within ARPA, services for those most impacted by the pandemic will be addressed as well. Within this funding category, staff recommends the expansion of the focus on children and families as a key priority to address the comprehensive impacts of the economic challenges residents continue to face during the pandemic. Targeted community input sessions will be employed based on the recommendations housed within this item. The following emerging areas of focus provide a foundation for ensuring healthy children and families, based on ARPA guidance: 1) safe, stable, and affordable places to live; 2) access to high-quality, affordable childcare; 3) expanded programs to combat childhood obesity exacerbated by the pandemic; and 4) expanded wraparound services to assist youth and family members affected by mental health or substance use disorder. These services will complement nonprofit efforts to create sustainable supports for healthy families and communities far into the future.

A key principle of Treasury's Interim Final rule is building stronger communities through investments in housing and neighborhoods. Eligible uses of funding include: 1) housing navigation assistance which may be needed in the case of displacement; 2) assistance to increase residents' economic opportunities; 3) increased supply of high-quality affordable housing units; and 4) services to address homelessness and improve access to stable housing among unhoused individuals.

Nonprofit Support – Emergency Services

Funding Amount: \$2,500,000

The nonprofit community continues to experience increases in the number of clients because of ongoing negative economic impacts of the pandemic. Feedback from the nonprofit community has illustrated the continued need for emergency services at a higher-than-expected level. Nonprofit organizations noted that many residents most impacted by the pandemic remain in need of sustainable programs that will support their continued recovery. For the County to continue to support programs that have evidence of long-term effects, nonprofits believe funding should remain focused on emergency services on a larger scale. Therefore, the Board allocates \$2.5 million in support for emergency services through grants to nonprofit organizations who continue to

directly support residents recovering from the pandemic. The application process will be like the nonprofit application process administered through tranche one.

As a result of nonprofit feedback described above, staff recommends expansion of funding categories to focus the bulk of the \$2.5 million tranche to funding on emergency services such as food assistance, domestic violence and child abuse assistance, employment assistance, disability services, rental and utility assistance, transportation assistance to disproportionately impacted communities, early childhood education, health and mental health support. Nonprofit funding will complement the County services which support affordable housing and comprehensive community services.

Broadband

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000

These funds were allocated in FY22 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. These ARPA funds are being utilized by the County to partner with Franchisees to determine what barriers exist for resident(s) determined to be “unserved” in receiving broadband service. This analysis is ongoing and will continue to be refined in FY23.



Loudoun County



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