

City of Lubbock, Texas  
**Recovery Plan**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery  
Funds**

2021 Report

**City of Lubbock, Texas**  
**2021 Recovery Plan**

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### **Executive Summary**

The City of Lubbock (City) recognizes the unprecedented and historical nature of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). The City's intention is to be prudent stewards of the funds available in order to provide the highest level of service and support to our residents and businesses who were, and continue to be, impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City also understands that our funding is more efficiently and effectively used when we are able to partner with other local governments, as well as the State of Texas.

Therefore, given the timeframe authorized to commit and expend these recovery funds, the City will take a deliberate approach to selecting and distributing funds either solely out of the City's allocation or through partnership efforts. The City will also focus our efforts on those parts of our communities where we witnessed shortfalls in our infrastructure and areas disproportionately affected by this pandemic.

The ARPA guidelines provide four broad categories for eligible spending: 1) COVID-19 or a negative economic impact; 2) premium pay for eligible workers; 3) for governmental services to the extent of the loss of revenue; or 4) investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The City's intent is to focus on all except premium pay for eligible workers. As of this report, the City has not committed funding to any program. The City identified six tentative funding categories, in which we will be pursuing opportunities to fund into programs and projects that fit within each category. Those City categories are as follows:

1. Public safety and preparedness;
2. Targeted critical infrastructure;
3. Neighborhood recovery and revitalization;
4. Community support services;
5. Job training and economic development; and
6. Arts, non-profit, and small business support.

As of this report, the City has identified two projects for use of these funds. First, the City will renovate a recently purchased building as the site of a new Public Health/Community Development building. Since the currently rented space occupied by Public Health and Community Development is retrofitted for health and community development services, the new building will be designed from the ground up to enhance the user experience, increase capabilities, and increase capacity. Second, the City's public safety personnel devoted a significant amount of time and resources on responding to the pandemic. For every call for service, our first responders grappled with providing support while also maintaining countermeasures to potential COVID-19 exposures. Therefore, the City will replace vehicles that have gone beyond their useful life in order to bring into our fleet new vehicles that are better equipped to keep our first responders and those they are providing response to as safe as possible.

## Uses of Funds

The City is dedicated to enabling our residents and businesses to enjoy a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. The City of Lubbock also understands that this recovery cannot happen in isolation. Therefore, we believe that the best way to provide a framework for a strong and equitable recovery from this pandemic is to maximize our partnerships when appropriate and to financially support existing programs that are already assisting areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and economic downturn within our community. Keeping in mind the temporary nature of these recovery funds, the City will make every effort to not start a new program that will require ongoing funding support once the SLFRF is expended.

The City's first funding category is aimed at the base level of the pandemic response, which is to establish a framework that enhances the public health and safety of our community (EC 1, EC 3). Within this category, the City will renovate a recently purchased building that will be the new home of Public Health and Community Development for the City of Lubbock. These two critical departments of the City are housed in a building that was not designed for public health or community development operations. The lacking of the facility was known for many years and the City adapted in order to make the rented building work. However, the surge of the pandemic made it abundantly clear that the current facility was not a viable long-term option. The City purchased a new, larger building and designed the space using funds received through the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF), and we will use SLFRF to build out the new joint Public Health/Community Development facility. The new facility is also located in an area that is more central to the area within our community that has the highest utilization of the Public Health and Community Development services. Therefore, the new location will be more convenient for patrons in need of these services. Furthermore, this pandemic brought to light the fact that public health needs do not stop at our jurisdictional limits. The needs expand out further into the local area, and therefore, we see this as an opportunity to partner with Lubbock County and potentially the school districts to expand our capacity and programs to meet the regional needs. With the expansion of this facility, the City will be able to expand our capacity to meet these demands and potentially add additional programs to expand the level and quality of services our community needs. Additionally, public health begins with our first responders, and thus, the City intends to replace police and fire vehicles that have exceeded their useful lives. By doing so, we are ensuring that our first responders have adequate and reliable transportation to assist the community in whatever way our residents and businesses need. The City will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation to address public health and safety concerns as they arise.

The second category of support will address targeted critical infrastructure needs (EC 1, EC 2, EC 3, EC 5). This is a broad category that will allow the City to leverage our funds as needed to communities that have been adversely impacted by the pandemic. We see this a means to participate in neighborhood improvement opportunities, much of which can be accomplished through partnerships with organizations that have established support programs. Too, there are future infrastructure projects that the City is looking into that will improve the quality of life, address public health concerns, and avoid future debt burdens for our community. At this time, no specific programs and no specific projects are earmarked for funding. Second in this category, the City will look at partnering with Lubbock County, the school districts, and potentially higher education institutions to expand broadband throughout the Lubbock area.

During the pandemic, with stay-at-home orders in place, the City quickly realized the lacking broadband infrastructure within the City. With more people working remotely and students attending school virtually, a clear and pressing need was obvious. With the funds available, the City will work to develop a greater broadband infrastructure in the region. Finally, the City is aware of many targeted cyber-attacks on private and public entities. We are aware that our cyber security measures need to be updated and improved upon in order to defend the City and our community if cyber criminals target the City of Lubbock. The City will use an undetermined amount of the SLFRF allocation to boost our cyber security infrastructure.

Third, the City is looking to provide assistance for neighborhood recovery and revitalization (EC 1, EC 2, EC 3, EC 5). Through partnerships with local, statewide, and national organizations, the City is looking to invest in our neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by the pandemic through projects aimed at improving housing blighted by this pandemic. There are significant opportunities to improve housing, green spaces, amenities, etc. in and around specific impacted areas that will vastly improve the quality of life in those communities. No projects, partnerships, or programs are identified at this time.

The City's fourth funding category will go towards community support services (EC 1, EC 2, EC 3). The City understands that this pandemic has not only attacked the physical health of the community but has also taken a severe mental health toll on people. Therefore, the City has determined it prudent to help the mental recovery for our community in the same way we are caring for the physical aspect of our residents. Mental health, if not treated, can lead to many other issues, and so, it is vitally important to the City to enable the resources within our area to help address issues before they become larger, more complex problems. Too, the City sees this funding allocation as a chance to provide greater services and opportunities for recovery for those that are experiencing homelessness. There is a great need in our community to holistically address the unhoused. Using SLFRF for this is a prime opportunity to provide for a higher quality of life, health, and safety for those experiencing homelessness.

Through the City's fifth category, we will look to provide job training and capitalize on economic development efforts that will allow people in our community to better themselves in their trades and potentially provide opportunities to grow in their careers (EC 2, EC 3, EC 5). Since the City does not generally provide direct assistance for job training and economic development, the first step in this process will be to evaluate the needs and gaps within our community. The City will look for partnerships from experienced professionals to provide the necessary information in order to evaluate and determine the best use of the funds available. We will look to support and strengthen existing programs with a specific focus on disproportionately impacted communities. This category is primed for partnership opportunities through the various job training programs in the City as well as through job training efforts within the three school districts in our community. Along with encouraging existing businesses to flourish and to potentially bring on new businesses that will allow for more opportunity for our residents, the City will look to expand both critical infrastructure and broadband to help those businesses compete in the modern operating environment.

Finally, the City acknowledges that the economic recovery from this pandemic has not been equal amongst all sectors and industries. Thus, the City will work towards providing funding to support those businesses most adversely and disproportionately impacted by the pandemic (EC

2). Specifically, the City will look to provide assistance to the arts, non-profits, and small business within our community. Following the economic downturn, these are the portions of our community that have lagged behind during the recovery, and the City feels that assistance will give these people and businesses the boost they need to return to pre-pandemic operations. The City will look to channel this funding through a partnering agency in order to efficiently manage this process, evaluate what funding programs already exist that can be enhanced, and identify the gaps that currently exist. Through this partnership, we will identify all key stakeholders and partners that will make this program funding possible. Funding in this category may also be the “last dollar in” if funds are coming in through other national and state-level ARPA programs.

### **Promoting equitable outcomes**

To date, the City of Lubbock has taken no action on determining specific programs or projects for funding. In all six of the City’s internal funding categories, we are looking towards existing programs that have historically serviced the underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups and communities within our city. The City will make every effort through all channels available to ensure these communities are aware of the opportunities we are providing. The City will have staff available to assist those who need help in the same effective manner we operate today. As stated in the above section, the City’s intended outcome is to close gaps that exist today and to provide the entire community with the highest level and quality of service.

### **Community Engagement**

The City is currently soliciting feedback and input for programs and projects that fit within the six internal funding categories. The City Council and City Management have discussed the ARPA SLFRF in three open meetings. We have encouraged the public to voice their input in these meetings, and we specifically dedicated one meeting to simply be a listening session. Once the City is further into this process, we will use every available form of communication at our disposal. Those methods include, and are not limited to, the use of our local government public television channel, all social media channels, flyers, mail outs, messages on utility bills, listening sessions and town halls, and more. All of these methods of communication will be available in both English and Spanish.

### **Labor Practices**

Only one project is identified to date for funding, which is the new Public Health/Community Development joint building. As do all of our public works contracts here at the City, this project will require prevailing wages to be used. Additionally, this project will be built by a local developer.

The City will determine labor practices for other projects if they arise and are allocated funding.

## Use of Evidence

The City will use evidence-based interventions and/or program evaluation that will be designed to build evidence of the need for the program. The City will also use this this evidence or program evaluation to determine whether or not the funding resulted in the desired outcome for each program. It is premature to state specifically what will be done since no specific programs are recommended at this time.

**Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category**

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination	\$ 0	0
1.2	COVID-19 Testing	0	0
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing	0	0
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)	0	0
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment	0	0
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)	0	0
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency	0	0
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)	0	0
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19	0	0
1.10	Mental Health Services	0	0
1.11	Substance Use Services	0	0
1.12	Other Public Health Services	0	0
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts		
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs	0	0
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	0	0
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers	0	0
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs	0	0
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention	0	0
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers	0	0

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)	0	0
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*	0	0
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)	0	0
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations	0	0
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	0	0
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries	0	0
2.13	Other Economic Support	0	0
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff	0	0
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning	0	0
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts	0	0
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services	0	0
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services	0	0
3.5	Education Assistance: Other	0	0
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care	0	0
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting	0	0
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System	0	0
3.9.	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other	0	0
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing	0	0
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons	0	0
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance	0	0
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other	0	0
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators	0	0
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation	0	0
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions	0	0
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay		
4.1	Public Sector Employees	0	0
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers	0	0
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment	0	0
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance	0	0



Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater	0	0
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows	0	0
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure	0	0
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater	0	0
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation	0	0
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation	0	0
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source	0	0
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment	0	0
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution	0	0
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation	0	0
5.13	Drinking water: Source	0	0
5.14	Drinking water: Storage	0	0
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure	0	0
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects	0	0
5.17	Broadband: Other projects	0	0
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services	0	0
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses	0	0
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis	0	0
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government	0	0
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)	0	0

**Project Inventory**

Project Number TBD: Lubbock Public Health/Community Development Facility

Funding amount: \$8,111,342

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 – Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency

Project overview

- Renovation of approximately 21,712 square feet of an existing structure in Lubbock, Texas. The proposed work shall be designed with adequate space to accommodate 40 - 45 Public Health Facility staff and 15 - 20 Community Development Services staff. The personnel spaces will consist of enclosed offices and open office areas for systems furniture. Other spaces required include: laboratory, patient exam rooms, vaccine storage and pharmacy. Common areas include: vestibule, reception, break room, conference room, copy/work room, restrooms, storage and building systems support space.

- Timeline
  - a. Bid Date - Construction: 02/21/2022
  - b. Award Date for Bid - Construction: 05/10/2022
  - c. Project Start Date - Construction: 05/30/2022
  - d. Project End Date - Construction: 05/26/2023

Use of Evidence

- TBD

**Performance Report**

As the Public Health/Community Development Facility has not been formally approved into the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget, no performance report is available.