

Mecklenburg County, NC

Recovery Plan



State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2021 Report

Mecklenburg County
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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Mecklenburg County (The County) was awarded approximately \$215.67M in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The first tranche of \$107.8M has been received and will be resourced within an initial framework that offers an opportunity to support a more resilient post-pandemic community. In order to achieve equitable outcomes, the County will continue to engage the community through a variety of town halls and public surveys.

The *Proposed Framework 1.0* incorporates seven pillars for investment that will support a strong and equitable economic recovery that aligns with funding eligible uses.

Framework Pillars

- Access
- Child & Family Stability
- College & Career Readiness
- Environment
- Homelessness Services
- Mental Health
- Workforce Development

This report provides information on the developmental stage of the County's recovery plan. Additional phases (or modifications) of the framework will be developed, approved, and implemented while also being responsive to community needs.

Uses of Funds

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the *Proposed Framework 1.0* to guide ARPA funding investments. The framework is expected to address the specific needs of our community, while also ensuring alignment to the SLFRF eligible categories (to the extent applicable):

- Public Health
- Negative Economic Impacts
- Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
- Premium Pay
- Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure
- Revenue Replacement

Proposed Framework 1.0



An important component of the County's next steps in determining use of funds is the development of a proposed, comprehensive strategy to relief efforts. The approach will be designed over the next several months by a workgroup of County staff led by a Deputy County Manager and includes key personnel from Strategic Planning, Health and Human Services, Finance, Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Manager's Office. It is anticipated that the approach will engage the community, assess community needs, prioritize relief efforts, identify equitable outcomes, and align to evidenced-based interventions. The County Manager and Board of County Commissioners will provide final direction and approval.

Pending final guidance from Treasury, the County will determine if there are any allowable revenue losses.

Emergency Relief Assistance (ERA) Uses

In addition to resourcing SLFRF funds to address the negative impacts from COVID-19, Mecklenburg County is utilizing ERA funds to support the community's housing and utility needs.

The County received two direct ERA installments from the federal government for a total of approximately \$12.1M.

- The Federal ERA1 installment of \$6.7M has been expended, with \$6.1M directly supporting rent and utility costs for residents.
- The County received the Federal ERA 2 installment of \$5.4M and is continuing to work to distribute the funds, with \$4.9M set to directly support rent and utility relief costs.

The County has also finalized a contract with the State and expects to receive the first allocation of State ERA 1 funds in the next couple of weeks. The total amount for State ERA 1 funds is

\$27.7M. The State ERA 2 funding amount confirmation and allocation is anticipated after State ERA 1 funds are exhausted.

Promoting equitable outcomes

In respond to the COVID-19 crisis, the County has adjusted its standard operating procedures to counteract the historical inequalities that shape outcomes for people, remove the burdens and barriers of structural racism, and rebuild a resilient community. Part of the adjustment includes the development of a COVID-19 Response Guidebook that offers a Racial Equity Toolkit to apply in policy, program, and budget decision-making processes. The Toolkit is used in all actions and decisions made relating to COVID-19 response efforts to facilitate consideration of racial and economic equity, promoting equitable outcomes, and examining how communities will be affected, both short-term and long-term.

Additional details will be provided in future Recovery Plan updates.

Community Engagement

The Mecklenburg County [COVID-19 Renewal and Recovery Task Force](#) was created by the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on June 2, 2020. The Task Force was charged to develop a recovery and renewal plan that incorporated a series of virtual town halls to engage residents and solicit input on its proposed comprehensive Recovery and Renewal Plan of Action. The Plan of Action will be presented to the BOCC on September 7, 2021. Town Hall attendees had an opportunity to provide feedback on the recommendations, as well as learn about the process that led to the draft proposals.

In addition, the County residents are invited to share their perspectives and suggestions via the Mecklenburg County COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Task Force [Community Survey](#).

Task Force Next Steps

- Build awareness of draft recommendations through community participation.
- Review draft recommendations with experts and the community.
- Board of County Commissioners reviews draft recommendations on Sept 7.
- Approval of final recommendations on Sept 21.
- Timelines and progress indicators created for adopted recommendations.
- Implementation of adopted recommendations.

Overall community engagement efforts will continue, including collaborative efforts with the County's Business Roundtable and Nonprofit Executive Leadership Council.

The County will assess the information from the community engagement as part of the development of the next phase of relief program planning.

Labor Practices

The County will use strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality relief programs.

Use of Evidence

Use of evidence details are being developed and will be provided in future Recovery Plan reports.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Expenses by Expenditure Category will be provided in future Recovery Plan reports.

Project Inventory

Project Inventory and Performance Report details are being developed and will be provided in future Recovery Plan reports.