

# BRING MONROE BACK

Monroe County, New York Recovery Plan



State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

## Reporting Deadlines

Recovery Plan funding is required to be reported regularly to the Treasury. Below is the timeline for funds to be reported.

Annual Report	Period Covered	Due Date
1	Award Date – July 31, 2021	August 31, 2021
2	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022	July 31, 2022
3	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	July 31, 2023
4	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	July 31, 2024
5	July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025	July 31, 2025
6	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	July 31, 2026
7	July 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026	March 31, 2027



# Bring Monroe Back

Monroe County, New York  
2021 Recovery Plan

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# General Overview

## Executive Summary

### A Plan to Bring Monroe Back

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law on March 11, 2021. ARPA allocated \$1.9 trillion in emergency relief and recovery, of which \$350 million is designated to support state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Monroe County, New York is the recipient of \$144,080,127 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the American Rescue Plan Act. These critical dollars will serve as the foundation of Monroe County's recovery; they present a historic opportunity to make deliberate and thoughtful investments in the community.

Monroe County's plan, Bring Monroe Back, will seek feedback directly from the community, engage and coordinate partnerships with local government partners to increase collective impact, and support currently existing plans, assessments, and reports. In doing so, Bring Monroe Back will be a multi-pronged approach providing a path forward for Monroe County that strengthens as it recovers and continues to support the County's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Federal guidance for funding has been provided through six expenditure categories:



Through thoughtful planning and conservative budgeting Monroe County finds itself in a stronger financial position than many of its peer communities. This will result in a decreased emphasis on the expenditure category Revenue Replacement.



# Bring Monroe Back

## Plan Development

The Monroe County region has a significant number of current public and private plans, reports, and assessments, all of which have thematic and actionable recommendations. These reports rely on research by and testimony from subject matter experts and have been supported by direct community feedback. Given the tremendous amount of unfinished work these reports represent, Monroe County has elected to use them as the foundation of Bring Monroe Back.

The County has reviewed a dozen public and community reports to synthesize and categorize their recommendations. The documents included in this review are below.

- The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council State of the Region Finger Lakes 2021 Annual Report (2021)
- The Commission on Racial and Structural Equity Report (2021)
- Lifespan's Poverty in Later Life Report (2021)
- Monroe County's Adopted 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Program (2021)
- Monroe County Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder 90-Day Task Force Priorities and Action Plan (2021)
- Common Ground Health's The Color of Health: The Devastating Toll of Racism on Black Lives (2021)
- ROC 2025's A Foundation for Growth: Building, Innovating, Accelerating, Creating Greater (2021)
- Monroe County's Executive Team Transition Report (2020)
- Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative Community Concerns Assessment (2020)
- ROC the Future Equity and Education: The Next Horizon Report Card (2020)
- Monroe County Community Health Needs Assessment 2019-2021 (2019)
- Rochester, USA, IBM Smarter Cities Challenge Report (2015)



The recommendations from these reports have been synthesized and it has been determined that there were many instances of duplicative recommendations, which demonstrates a consistency and alignment among the community's needs. From the review, six (6) Priority Focus Areas were identified:

- a. Public Safety**
- b. Public Health and Wellness**
- c. Economic Recovery**
- d. Workforce Development**
- e. Infrastructure Improvements**
- f. Sustainability**

These broad Priority Focus Areas are further broken down into sub-topics that articulate more focused areas for investment. These areas are also supported by recommendations outlined in the various plans, reports, and assessments.



## Feedback and Prioritization

Having utilized a dozen community-supported documents to identify Monroe County's six (6) Priority Focus Areas, the County is now ready to solicit feedback from the community to help prioritize and identify funding general funding allocations for each Priority Focus Area. Feedback will be solicited utilizing three separate processes, and working in conjunction with Monroe County's Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to eliminate barriers to access for residents.

# 1

## Live Public Feedback Sessions – (TBD: In Person / Virtual / Hybrid)

Monroe County will conduct live public feedback sessions that will consist of:



In person feedback options will be dependent on guidance from the Monroe County Department of Public Health. Should in-person public feedback sessions be appropriate, they will take place in diverse geographic locations around Monroe County, make available sign language interpretation, and where possible, will be live-streamed to allow participation that is more inclusive. Any sessions that take place virtually, will have a call in option for individuals to dial in and listen, and will include sign language interpretation. Digital versions of live community feedback sessions will remain online as a resource.

# 2

## Public Survey

To assist residents that may not be available to make live public feedback sessions, a survey will be developed whereby residents will be able to provide feedback and prioritization on the use of the American Rescue Plan funds. Surveys will be sent virtually to community partners and will be available online in both English and Spanish. A hard copy of the survey, in both English and Spanish, will be available for the public as well. Monroe County will work with government partners to place hard copies of the survey in public buildings. Individuals will also be able to call the County Executive's office to have a hard copy survey mailed to their address, or to complete a survey over the phone. All hard copy surveys will be collected and their data input for later review.

### 3

## Community Partner Testimony

Recognizing the importance of collaboration in the use of Monroe County’s American Rescue Plan funds, the County will also accept written testimony from community partners. This testimony should articulate directed need and potential usage for funding that supports the Priority Focus Areas identified from various public and community reports, plans, and assessments. This feedback will be utilized in final decision-making. While this feedback will be targeted to organizations and community partners, any resident will be able to submit direct testimony. This testimony will be able to be provided electronically at a dedicated email address or delivered in hard copy. Community Partners will also be invited to participate in live public feedback sessions as well.

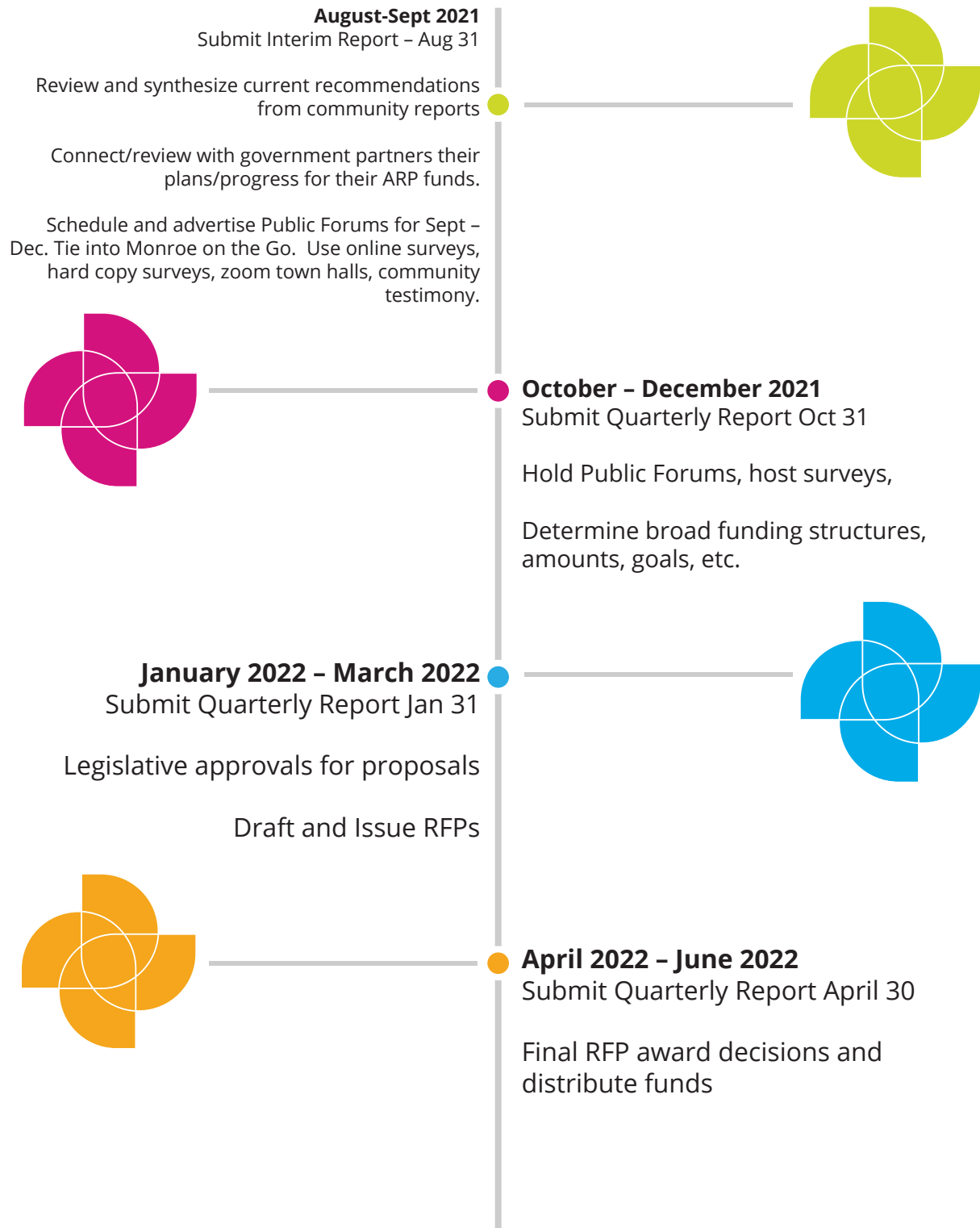


## Post Feedback Allocations

Once community feedback is gathered and reviewed, a more detailed Bring Monroe Back Plan will be developed. This plan will include funding allocations based on community priorities as identified from the live community feedback sessions, public survey, and community partner testimony. This plan will be made available to the public both online and in print format, by request.



# Timeline





## Usage of Funds

Treasury guidelines require the use of American Rescue Plan funds to be used to promote the following Expenditure Categories:

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

As noted, Monroe County’s plan for use of funds will be dependent upon community feedback, with one exception. Pending legislative approval, \$20 million will be earmarked for Public Health efforts related directly to Monroe County’s ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response and community vaccination efforts.



## Promoting Equitable Outcomes

### A Foundation of Equity

Equity is at the foundation of Bring Monroe Back. Working with the Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Monroe County will create an inclusive framework for gathering community feedback as further detailed in the Feedback and Prioritization section of this report. A number of methods will be used to solicit feedback including: geographically diverse locations for live in-person feedback (subject to change based on Department of Public Health recommendations), virtual feedback sessions with phone in options, and surveying for individuals who cannot make meeting times that are available online, in hard copy, or with assistance by phone.

By using a process that focuses on equity, Monroe County will be able to gather a larger sample of opinions from the community population and receive feedback from traditionally underserved communities as part of the prioritization process. The inclusion of a diverse array of voices during the prioritization phase will help create more equity in funding allocations.

Further, Bring Monroe Back is comprised of recommendations of public and community reports, plans, and assessments, several that are entirely focused on equity, including the Commission on Racial and Structural Equity Report (2021); Common Ground Health's The Color of Health: The Devastating Toll of Racism on Black Lives (2021); and the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative Community Concerns Assessment (2020). A number of others have equity infused throughout their recommendations and reporting.



## Moving Forward

Further reporting around programing will include how programs were designed with equity in mind including: (1) Information that would outline goals for serving historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups; (2) Information related to efforts to educate residents or business about the availability of services funded by the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; (3) Information about access and distribution including differences in levels of access to benefits and an internal review of administrative requirements to determine if there are disparities in the ability of to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria; and (4) Information related to outcomes that focus on closing gaps and disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant.



## Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Monroe County was fortunate to receive federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds. These funds are required to be utilized by December 31, 2021. Given the immediate usage need for these funds, Monroe County has elected to ensure that all federal CARES Act dollars are spent prior to utilizing State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), made available through the American Rescue Plan Act to ensure the highest level of investment in the County.

Federal guidance for SLFRF funds is limited to six expenditure categories with an additional provision for administrative costs. Once utilized these expenses will be reported in the following categories.

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date(\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	\$0	\$0
1.2	COVID-19 Vaccination	\$0	\$0
1.3	COVID-19 Testing	\$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

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date(\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	\$0	\$0
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
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

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date(\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	\$0	\$0
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

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date(\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay		\$0
4.1	Public Sector Employees	\$0	\$0
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers	\$0	\$0
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	\$0	\$0
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment	\$0	\$0
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance	\$0	\$0
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
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

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date(\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		\$0
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$0	\$0
7	Administrative and Other	\$0	\$0
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