

Montgomery County, Texas
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

As of July 29, 2024 Report

Montgomery County, Texas

July 29, 2024

Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The Montgomery County Commissioners Court has allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) since its inception to address the impact and recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic and address opportunities needed to prepare for future such events in alignment with U.S. Treasury Rules. Of the \$117.96 Million received by the County \$111.2 Million has been encumbered or spent with \$6.76 Million left to be allocated to various strategies for recovery.

As of June 30, 2024, \$111.2 million have been spent or encumbered to address the immediate needs of the county to stop the spread of COVID-19 and respond to the needs of the public during the ongoing public health emergency.

As the county continues to recover from the major effects of COVID-19, the virus continues to be persistent and spread throughout the community exists as of the date of this report. As a result, the County Commissioners Court has methodically utilized SLFRF funds to ensure we have adequate resources to address the pandemic for the entirety of the performance period.

Current major challenges is the rapid spread of the Omicron variant and sub variants that are highly infections and transmissible. This requires constant adjustments to the County's response to help limit impact before additional recovery can move forward. As such, the county's plan for utilizing SLFRF funds in on track and on time.

Uses of Funds

Montgomery County's encumbrance of funds has provided direction to County staff on projects that need to be developed and implemented over the American Rescue Plan applicable period. Each category has specific projects to be developed. A general project identification for the allotments already approved by the Commissioners Court are:

Nursing Staff for Hospitals - \$10,758,719 (Completed Project)

The Delta Variant began to become the prevalent strain of COVID-19 in Montgomery during the Month of July 2021. As the surge of patients began to hit our county hospitals, the hospitals became stressed with the larger volume of patients. The need for temporary surge staffing was identified and approved by the Commissioners Court. Contracts with a staffing agency have been approved. As of July 2023 \$10.7 Million has been spent or encumbered on surge staffing at local hospitals. The project ended in December of 2021 and since such time hospital staffing has been adequate to address the number of COVID-19 patients. Currently a surge of cases is underway and the county will continue to monitor and evaluate the need for staffing within our communities hospitals. At this time surge staffing is not expected to be needed, but should a new variant or sub-variant emerge, surge staffing could be needed across Montgomery County.

Procurement of Medical Supplies and Protective Equipment- \$2,423,350.69

Montgomery County Commissioners Court has authorized the Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to procure any necessary medical supplies and protective equipment needed to address the ongoing pandemic throughout the county. MCOHSEM will identify any needs within the county at all of our first responder organizations both internal and external and support local healthcare facilities as needed on an emergency supply basis.

Behavioral Health Initiatives- \$28.4 million

Montgomery County Commissioners Court has made addressing the ongoing behavioral health crisis a top priority. The court has identified providing funding for our county's mental health authority and provider to increase staffing and provide additional treatment capabilities across the broad spectrum of behavioral health care. Additionally, the Court recognized the immediate need for additional crisis intervention officers to be able to respond to 911 calls for mental crisis.

Increased support staff for Sanitizing, Vaccine Distribution and Medical Facilities-
\$100,000

Montgomery County Commissioners Court has previously approved the use of overtime for additional custodial personnel to make additional cleaning rounds throughout county buildings during the business day. In addition to keeping, our buildings sanitized while the public are able to access them each operational day, the court has increased the use of traffic control and crowd control measures at our vaccine distribution events and ongoing Monoclonal Antibodies infusion center. These deputies are there to ensure the safety of patients and staff alike, while keeping traffic moving for ease of use.

Emergency Response Equipment- \$ 7,526,222.00

Montgomery County Commissioners Court recognizes the immediate needs of the county and first responder organizations to have adequate emergency response equipment to address the demands of our population. The Court has approved the County to facilitate the acquisition of specialized emergency response equipment and mobile emergency operations centers to better address the response capabilities of the county and our law enforcement, emergency medical services and fire agencies throughout the county.

Emergency Rental Assistance Administrative Cost- \$40,000

Commissioners Court identified an online application portal, which provides applicants easier access to ERA funds and quicker turnaround for application processing.

Revenue Replacement- \$10 Million

Montgomery County Commissioners Court elected to utilize the standard revenue replacement calculation afforded by ARPA Final Rule. To date the majority of these funds have been unspent and a portion of funds spent to date can be found in the Expenditure Table below.

Tamina Water and Sewer Project- \$21 Million (Encumbered)

Montgomery County recognizes the importance of clean water and sewer and the availability of ARPA funds to be utilized on these types of projects was made a priority in 2022. Historically the Tamina Community has had running water but no sanitary sewer. The water system became outdated and in severe need of replacement with the possibility of total failure. Due to Texas law, Montgomery County has had to collaborate with a municipality to provide the services required to complete this project. In 2022, the County Judge made the replacement of Tamina's water system and addition of the sanitary sewer a top priority. Shenandoah agreed to provide the services and act as the project manager to complete a total new water and sewer system to the historic community of Tamina. This project is expected to cost \$21 million and will be complete by the end of 2026.

Unallocated and Under Review - \$6.76 million

The county continues to review ongoing projects and considers mental health and storm water to be of high importance and expects to ensure projects in these categories to continue with the bulk of if not all of the unallocated and under review funds to be committed to these projects.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Commissioners Court has identified one major Clean Water and Sewer project that is in design and permitting phases at this time. This project would highly promote equitable outcomes and serve a large low to moderate income subset of the county. Community engagement occurred in most of 2022 with the project being out for procurement through our partners with the City of Shenandoah.

Community Engagement

The Tamina Community for years has been plagued with poor water quality and faulty water systems. In 2022, the County Judge identified utilizing ARPA funds to replace the water system and upgrade the community to have a working sewer system as a top priority. During the year community leaders and stakeholders were engaged on the feasibility of a water and sewer system being designed and built out with ARPA funds. Due to Texas laws Montgomery County cannot be in the water and sewer business and therefore the City of Shenandoah, the adjacent municipality to Tamina was engaged to be a partner on this project. As of December 31, 2022, \$21 million has been allocated to allow Shenandoah to build out a new water plant in Tamina, add sanitary sewer lines and connect every home at no cost to the homeowner to both new systems. Shenandoah will provide water and sewer in perpetuity at in-city rates to the community. This project is expected to be complete by the end of 2026.

Labor Practices

Projects for infrastructure will address labor practices in their plans if identified and awarded by Commissioners Court.

Use of Evidence

Projects in categories requiring an evidence based approach will be provided in the project plans during adoption by Commissioners Court.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category	Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1: Public Health	\$36,482,035.26	\$12,821,685.55
COVID-19 Vaccination^		
COVID-19 Testing^	\$36,790.80	\$0.00
COVID-19 Contact Tracing^		
Personal Protective Equipment^	\$287,872.66	\$67,206.35
Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)^	\$13,179,218.02	\$2,420,498.36
Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)^	\$171,217.50	\$0.00
Community Violence Interventions		
Community Violence Interventions*^	\$2,298,738.06	\$229,635.89
Behavioral Health		
Mental Health Services*^	\$18,288,370.96	\$8,218,509.38
Other		
Other Public Health Services^	\$2,219,827.26	\$1,885,835.57
2: Negative Economic Impacts		
Assistance to Households		
Household Assistance: Food Programs*^		
Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid*^		
Household Assistance: Cash Transfers*^		
Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs*^		
Household Assistance: Paid Sick and Medical Leave^		
Household Assistance: Health Insurance*^		
Household Assistance: Services for Un/Unbanked*^		
Household Assistance: Survivor's Benefits^		
Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers*^		
Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)*^		
Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care*^		
Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting*^		
Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System*^		
Healthy Childhood Environments: Early Learning*^		
Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing*^		

Category	Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^		
Housing Support: Housing Vouchers and Relocation Assistance for Disproportionately Impacted Communities*^		
Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance*^		
Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators*^		
Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation*^		
Medical Facilities for Disproportionately Impacted Communities^		
Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety^		
Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties^		
Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High-Poverty Districts^		
Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^		
Addressing Educational Disparities: Mental Health Services*^		
Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time^		
Contributions to UI Trust Funds^		
Assistance to Small Businesses		
Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship^		
Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^		
Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvements^		
Business Incubators and Start-Up or Expansion Assistance*^		
Enhanced Support to Microbusinesses*^		
Assistance to Non-Profits		
Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)^		
Aid to Impacted Industries		
Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality^		
Aid to Other Impacted Industries^		
Other		
Economic Impact Assistance: Other*^		
Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention*^		

Category	Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
Education Assistance: Other*^		
Healthy Childhood Environments: Other*^		
Social Determinants of Health: Other*^		
3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity		
General Provisions		
Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers		
Public Sector Workforce: Rehiring Public Sector Staff		
Public Sector Workforce: Other		
Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery		
Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs		
4: Premium Pay		
Public Sector Employees		
Private Sector: Grants to Other Employers		
5: Infrastructure	\$6,339,347.45	\$1,884,317.45
Water and Sewer		
Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment		
Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance		
Clean Water: Decentralized Wastewater		
Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows		
Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure		
Clean Water: Stormwater	\$1,827,998.71	\$1,827,998.71
Clean Water: Energy Conservation		
Clean Water: Water Conservation		
Clean Water: Nonpoint Source		
Drinking water: Treatment		
Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution		
Drinking water: Lead Remediation, including in Schools and Daycares		
Drinking water: Source		
Drinking water: Storage		
Drinking water: Other water infrastructure		
Water and Sewer: Private Wells		
Water and Sewer: IJJA Bureau of Reclamation Match		
Water and Sewer: Other	\$4,200,000.00	\$0.00

Category	Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
Broadband		
Broadband: "Last Mile" projects	\$311,348.74	\$56,318.74
Broadband: IIJA Match		
Broadband: Other projects		
6: Revenue Replacement	\$8,399,052.69	\$3,270,245.87
Provision of Government Services	\$8,399,052.69	\$3,270,245.87
7: Administrative	\$1,056,091.19	\$411,533.35
Administrative Expenses	\$1,056,091.19	\$411,533.35
Transfers to Other Units of Government		
Transfers to Non-entitlement Units (States and territories only)		
8: Natural Disasters	\$1,197,198.39	\$1,197,198.39
Temporary Emergency Housing		
Food Assistance		
Financial Assistance for Lost Wages		
Other Immediate Needs: Emergency Protective Measures	\$68,465.85	\$68,465.85
Other Immediate Needs: Debris Removal	\$633,902.75	\$633,902.75
Other Immediate Needs: Public Infrastructure Repair		
Other Immediate Needs: Home Repairs for Uninhabitable Primary Residences		
Other Immediate Needs: Cash Assistance for Uninsured or Uninsured Expenses		
Other Immediate Needs: Cash Assistance for Low Income Households		
Other Immediate Needs: Increased Operational and Payroll Costs		
Other Emergency Relief: natural Disaster that has Occurred/Expected to Occur Imminently		
Mitigation		
Other Emergency Relief: Natural Disaster that is Threatened to Occur in the Future	\$494,829.79	\$494,829.79
9: Surface Transportation		
Surface Transportation Projects Receiving Funding from DOT		
Surface Transportation Projects Not Receiving Funding from DOT (streamlined framework)		
Non-federal share requirements for a Surface Transportation Project or repaying a TIFIA loan		
10: Title I Projects		
Acquisition of real property		

Category	Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation of public works, sites, or other public purposes		
Code enforcement in deteriorated or deteriorating areas		
Clearance, demolition, removal, reconstruction, and rehabilitation		
Removal of barriers restricting mobility and accessibility of elderly and handicapped persons		
Payments to housing owners for losses of rental income for holding units for relocation of displaced persons		
Disposition of real property		
Provision of public services		
Payment of non-federal match or cost-share requirements of a federal financial assistance program in support of activities that would be eligible under CDBG or ICDBG		
Relocation payments and assistance for displaced individuals, families, businesses, organizations, and farm operations		
Community development plan or policy-planning-management capacity development		
Payment of reasonable administrative costs for establishing and administering federally approved enterprise zones, administering the HOME program, or planning and executing community development and housing activities		
Provision of assistance for activities carried out by public or private nonprofit entities		
Assistance to neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations and local development corporations and nonprofits serving the development needs of the communities in non-entitlement areas		
Development of energy use strategies		
Assistance to private, for-profit entities to carry out economic development projects		
Rehabilitation of Development Housing		
Technical assistance to public or nonprofit entities to increase their capacity to carry out neighborhood revitalization or economic development activities		
Housing services		
Assistance to institutions of higher education		
Assistance to public and private organizations, agencies, and other entities to facilitate economic development		
Activities necessary to make essential repairs and to pay operating expenses to maintain habitability of housing units acquired through tax foreclosure proceedings		

Category	Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
Direct assistance to facilitate and expand homeownership		
Construction or improvement of tornado-safe-shelters and assistance to nonprofit and for-profit entities for such construction or improvement		
Lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction		
Total ARPA Expenditures	\$53,473,724.98	\$19,584,980.61

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