

Morris County, New Jersey **Recovery Plan**

Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2021 Report



Morris County
2021 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Morris County has been developing recovery planning initiatives that meet specific U.S. Department of the Treasury's key objectives. The Commissioners of Morris County selected the following objectives for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF):

- Support the urgent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control.
- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses.
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the disparate impacts of the pandemic on certain populations.

Morris County is expected to receive a total of \$95,535,125 and will focus efforts on the following three initiatives:

- Supporting Public Health Response
- Addressing Negative Economic Impacts Due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- Investing in Certain Infrastructure

Morris County is currently in the process of obligating dollars and setting up a program of oversight for SLFRF funds to ensure compliance with the Treasury Interim Final Rule and any additional guidance issued. The County has brought on a full-time grants manager and is moving forward to put the SLFRF money into Morris County.

In March 2020, the then Morris County Freeholder Board created the COVID-19 Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) to help ensure the County is meeting residents' needs. SPAC serves as advisory counsel to the entire County governing body and is comprised of three County Commissioners: the County Administrator, the Deputy County Administrator, and the County's Chief Financial Officer. On March 10, 2021, the Board of Commissioners tasked the SPAC committee with reviewing the American Rescue Plan rules and recommending ways to invest the funds. The SPAC has undertaken the process of collecting suggested investment ideas of SLFRF funds for the most productive use of the dollars from county departments, county agencies, and partner entities like the Morris County Chamber of Commerce.

This recovery report will address Morris County's initiatives to (1) promote a response to the pandemic and economic recovery, (2) report key outcome goals, (3) determine progress to date on those outcomes, and (4) describe any noteworthy challenges or opportunities identified during the reporting period.

Uses of Funds

While Morris County is in the planning and obligation phase, various ideas and proposals have been brought to the County's attention. The following goals were presented to the Morris County Board of County Commissioners and to the general public at the board's public work-session meeting held on June 23, 2021. This recovery report details the County's focus on supporting a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn by addressing the following issues:

- 1) Support Public Health Response (*Treasury Expenditure Category 1*)



- Limiting High-Traffic Contact Areas
 - Automatic bathroom fixtures, disinfection/sanitization equipment
 - Living Facility Upgrades
 - Motion activated doors, laundry facility upgrades, generators
 - Emergency Services Storage
 - Storage facility for PPE, crisis supplies, specialized trailers
- 2) Address Negative Economic Impacts Due to COVID-19 Pandemic (*Treasury Expenditure Category 2*)
- Small Business Focused Support
 - Grant Program, outreach efforts to underserved populations
 - Tourism Reemergence
 - Marketing
 - Arts and Culture Revitalization
 - Downtown and local family-friendly events
- 3) Invest in Certain Infrastructure
- Wastewater Systems Improvements (*Treasury Expenditure Category 5*)
 - Septic system replacement or conversion to sewer
 - Indoor Air Quality Enhancements (*Treasury Expenditure Category 1*)
 - HVAC upgrades, air purification
 - Government Technology Effectiveness (*Treasury Expenditure Category 1*)
 - Installation of technology in conference rooms and offices to allow for more public integration

As noted above, the Treasury's expenditure categories and allowable expenses are a foundational part of the County's planning process.

Other Federal Funds: The U.S. Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance program funds designated to Morris County have been contracted to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for distribution and program administration on behalf of Morris County. Of the 1,721 applications submitted, 636 have been processed, with a total of \$5,015,257.92 distributed to Morris County residents. Morris County is committed to working with the community to promote the Emergency Rental Assistance program through print, virtual, and verbal communication methods with established partners within the County.

Promoting equitable outcomes

In obligating SLFRF funds, Morris County's priority will be to promote equitable outcomes, including the use of evidence-based reporting as encouraged in the SLFRF Interim Final Rule. The County will promote equitable outcomes by requesting grant recipients comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, promote targeted messaging and communication to economically disadvantaged communities, and share the Treasury-suggested questions of measuring equity at various stages of the program. The County intends to ensure the overall equity strategy translates into specific services or programs allowed in the following Expenditure Categories:

1. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)
2. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3)

As the County plans to obligate SLFRF funds it will consider the geographic and demographic distribution of funding. The County will rely on community planning, public outreach to traditionally



marginalized communities, and information provided by the U.S. Census Bureau to help with consideration. The following tables reflect the population of Morris County by income, and race and Hispanic origin.

Median Household and Family Income 2015 - 2019 (5-Year Estimates)					
Municipality	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Municipality	Median Household Income	Median Family Income
Boonton	\$87,027	\$107,235	Morris Twp.	\$151,776	\$183,964
Boonton Twp.	\$138,750	\$159,844	Morris Plains	\$128,438	\$147,083
Butler	\$95,446	\$115,451	Morristown	\$96,545	\$116,500
Chatham Boro.	\$192,321	\$222,679	Mountain Lakes	\$241,667	\$250,000+
Chatham Twp.	\$189,297	\$250,000+	Mount Arlington	\$77,043	\$86,875
Chester Boro.	\$105,500	\$145,208	Mount Olive	\$88,073	\$114,458
Chester Twp.	\$167,500	\$183,750	Netcong	\$69,375	\$86,711
Denville	\$125,655	\$166,464	Parsippany	\$102,408	\$125,063
Dover	\$71,903	\$72,949	Pequannock	\$105,316	\$134,356
East Hanover	\$136,016	\$148,516	Randolph	\$142,459	\$176,026
Florham Park	\$128,071	\$150,350	Riverdale	\$110,664	\$127,630
Hanover	\$126,658	\$146,512	Rockaway Boro.	\$96,602	\$108,275
Harding	\$141,196	\$212,188	Rockaway Twp.	\$111,026	\$135,711
Jefferson	\$106,892	\$131,168	Roxbury	\$113,957	\$131,621
Kinnelon	\$158,000	\$171,375	Victory Gardens	\$54,792	\$53,906
Lincoln Park	\$97,003	\$107,887	Washington	\$149,129	\$165,082
Long Hill	\$137,099	\$163,000	Wharton	\$80,000	\$73,125
Madison	\$146,157	\$185,156	Morris County	\$115,527	\$141,633
Mendham Boro.	\$151,875	\$190,405	New Jersey	\$82,545	\$102,260
Mendham Twp.	\$196,296	\$231,328	SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 - 2019 American Community Survey. Table Revised: January 2021		
Mine Hill	\$91,219	\$96,813			
Montville	\$145,292	\$172,944			

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin in 2010 and 2020 for Morris County						
	2010 Census		2020 Census		Numeric Change	Percent Change
	Persons	Percent of Total Population	Persons	Percent of Total Population		
Total population	492,276	100.0%	509,285	100.0%	17,009	3.5%
Not Hispanic or Latino						
White	369,551	75.1%	341,175	67.0%	-28,376	-7.7%
Black or African American	14,134	2.9%	15,586	3.1%	1,452	10.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	369	0.1%	373	0.1%	4	1.1%
Asian	43,862	8.9%	57,700	11.3%	13,838	31.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	70	0.0%	93	0.0%	23	32.9%
Some other race	806	0.2%	2,337	0.5%	1,531	190.0%
Two or more races	7,002	1.4%	15,360	3.0%	8,358	119.4%
Hispanic or Latino (may be of any race)	56,482	11.5%	76,661	15.1%	20,179	35.7%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census. Table Revised: August 2021



Population by Race and Hispanic Origin - Municipalities 2020									
Municipality	Total Population	Not Hispanic or Latino							Hispanic or Latino (may be of any race)
		White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Some other race	Two or more races	
Boonton	8,815	5,600	444	6	953	1	40	362	1,409
Boonton Twp.	4,380	3,626	47	2	275	0	11	144	275
Butler	8,047	5,987	123	5	284	0	15	224	1,409
Chatham Boro.	9,212	7,159	89	0	847	0	52	390	675
Chatham Twp.	10,983	8,549	81	4	1,387	0	57	391	514
Chester Boro.	1,681	1,276	5	1	60	0	1	57	281
Chester Twp.	7,713	6,377	90	3	381	1	26	296	539
Denville	17,107	13,485	317	27	1,351	0	41	606	1,280
Dover	18,460	2,726	783	27	423	0	100	192	14,209
East Hanover	11,105	8,450	141	4	1,425	0	30	179	876
Florham Park	12,585	9,410	725	5	1,075	8	41	392	929
Hanover	14,677	10,880	325	10	1,948	5	40	423	1,046
Harding	3,871	3,305	41	1	180	0	10	155	179
Jefferson	20,538	16,605	356	18	860	7	128	566	1,998
Kinnelon	9,966	8,192	91	6	610	0	40	299	728
Lincoln Park	10,915	8,040	332	7	719	2	60	286	1,469
Long Hill	8,629	6,576	73	6	693	4	66	299	912
Madison	16,937	12,482	463	11	1,262	7	84	624	2,004
Mendham Boro.	4,981	4,321	29	2	161	0	29	146	293
Mendham Twp.	6,016	4,929	93	1	347	0	40	276	330
Mine Hill	4,015	2,178	191	3	210	1	29	120	1,283
Montville	22,450	15,009	319	18	4,811	6	101	608	1,578
Morris Twp.	22,974	17,253	1,019	9	1,368	9	117	821	2,378
Morris Plains	6,153	4,675	219	0	487	0	15	167	590
Morristown	20,180	9,198	1,961	28	961	11	128	526	7,367
Mountain Lakes	4,472	3,285	19	4	694	1	13	209	247
Mount Arlington	5,909	4,478	197	3	334	0	25	153	719
Mount Olive	28,886	18,399	1,807	12	3,025	3	141	1,039	4,460
Netcong	3,375	2,162	151	12	118	0	11	104	817
Parsippany	56,162	24,960	1,911	77	21,694	6	317	1,566	5,631
Pequannock	15,571	13,461	98	8	395	3	37	345	1,224
Randolph	26,504	17,750	740	15	3,185	1	117	905	3,791
Riverdale	4,107	3,269	88	0	219	1	9	110	411
Rockaway Boro.	6,598	4,273	187	7	553	1	33	189	1,355
Rockaway Twp.	25,341	17,804	731	10	1,918	10	83	790	3,995
Roxbury	22,950	16,865	647	8	1,292	2	109	687	3,340
Victory Gardens	1,582	177	142	4	41	0	10	23	1,185
Washington	18,197	15,209	286	2	760	2	80	499	1,359
Wharton	7,241	2,795	225	7	394	1	51	192	3,576
Morris County	509,285	341,175	15,586	373	57,700	93	2,337	15,360	76,661
New Jersey	9,288,994	4,816,381	1,154,142	11,206	942,921	1,944	70,354	289,471	2,002,575

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2020



Community Engagement

Morris County encourages input and feedback be regularly documented from the County's diverse constituents, community-based organizations, and the community. The County website provides a tool for all community members to find information about public meetings, financial information, and direct-contact information. As mentioned in the Executive Summary, the COVID-19 Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) makes recommendations to the Morris County Commissioners regarding SLFRF funding. Commissioners then hold a public meeting, consider and incorporate public opinion, and pass resolutions to formalize actions. The Board of County Commissioners, various commissions, boards, and authorities hold public meetings that allow constituents, community-based organizations, and the community to comment on planned or current use of funds via written, oral, and other forms of input.

Another way the County will ensure community engagement is requesting grant recipients and subrecipients promote targeted messaging and communication to community organizations serving people with significant barriers to services, including people of color, people with low incomes, limited English proficiency populations, and other traditionally underserved groups. The County is working with the Morris County Chamber of Commerce to connect with various historically underserved community organizations.

Morris County achieved the highest response rate in the region during the 2020 United States decennial census. The County Complete Count Committee exerted great effort during the pandemic to successfully reach the "hard-to-count" populations and created new relationships that will support ongoing community engagement efforts.

Labor Practices

At this time, Morris County has not initiated infrastructure projects within Expenditure Category (EC) 5- water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. For the next reporting period, July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022, Morris County anticipates one wastewater infrastructure improvement (EC 5.1 and 5.2) and improvements to HVAC systems (EC 1.4) will be completed and included in the appropriate reporting period. Morris County intends to ensure robust labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects while also supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. The County will ensure the contracts for labor include provisions requiring compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and language stating that workers are paid the higher of the prevailing wage rates determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor and the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. These contracts will also include provisions requiring compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act and ensure that a contract award is not made to a party that has been debarred or suspended in the Federal System for Award Management (SAM).

With any grants provided to nonprofits (EC 2.10) or small businesses (EC 2.9), the County will execute a grant agreement that ensures fair labor practices, such as compliance with Davis-Bacon, evidence of an executed project labor agreement, prevailing wage requirements, and/or local hiring.



Use of Evidence

At this time, Morris County does not have evidence to report. As Morris County obligates and expends SLFRF funds, the County will ensure (where applicable) that SLFRF funds will be used for evidence-based interventions and/or that projects are evaluated through rigorous program evaluations designed to build evidence.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

The following table summarizes the amount of funds used in each Expenditure Category for the reporting period from March 3, 2021 to July 31, 2021.

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$13,952.92	\$13,952.92

Project Inventory

Project [2021-001]: Professional Services for Industrial Hygienist for HVAC Review

Funding amount: \$39,000.00

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: ESMCorp. has been providing COVID-19 reopening support to colleges, municipalities, county governments, school districts and private retail and medical facilities since the onset of the Pandemic. Under the COVID Reopening Certified Industrial Hygiene Support Professional Services Agreement, ESMCorp. is providing the following services to Morris County, which began on June 15, 2021:

1. Review of Morris County COVID facilities management and readiness procedures.
2. Preliminary planning and prioritization meetings with facilities and risk management personnel.
3. Walkthrough Inspections for work area distancing and workflow organization at up to 15 County office buildings representing typical variety of vintage building types.
4. HVAC system walkthrough assessments to determine typical HVAC equipment types, and potential adjustment of outdoor air introduction rates, filtration, and other means of reducing COVID-19 transmission risks,
5. Air monitoring for indicators of fresh air supply, volatile organic compounds (VOC), temperature, and humidity in a subset of inspected areas as appropriate to estimate HVAC performance.



Use of Evidence: Based on items 1-5 above, ESMCorp. will provide a draft model for building HVAC and supplemental air filtration/purification needs that can reduce COVID-19 transmission risks. Once completed, Morris County will then proceed within County and New Jersey State procurement guidelines to issue an RFP for HVAC updates.

- After receipt of the draft model, Morris County will conduct and provide the supporting data in future recovery plan reports.
- \$39,000.00 is obligated towards Public Health (EC 1).

Project [2021-002]: Administrative Expenses

Funding amount: \$91,040.73 annually

Project Expenditure Category 7.1: Administrative Expenses

Project overview: Morris County has hired a full-time Grants Manager to oversee the distribution of SLFRF funds and ensure compliance with Treasury Guidelines. A total of \$13,952.92 has been expended as of July 31, 2021 with an obligated annual salary of \$91,040.73.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable. This project is an administrative need; therefore, use of evidence is not required.

Performance Report

At this time, Morris County does not have key performance indicators; the County has not obligated funds toward major SLFRF projects.

At this time, Morris County does not have projects in the areas of Household Assistance (EC 2.2 and 2.5) and Housing Support (EC 3.10-3.12); Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2); Education Assistance (EC 3.1-3.5); and Healthy Childhood Environments (EC 3.6-3.9).

