

Morris County, New Jersey

Recovery Plan Performance 2022 Report

Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Period Covered: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



Morris County

Recovery Plan Performance 2022 Report

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Morris County has developed recovery planning initiatives that meet specific U.S. Department of the Treasury 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 \$95,535,125.00 and has focused on the following three initiatives:

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

As of June 30, 2022, Morris County has obligated \$40,597,414.00 SLFRF funds. 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 composed 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 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.

The Morris County SLFRF Program is administered by the Morris County Administrator's Office. The County Administrator's Office provides direct oversight of the program on behalf of the County and is the primary point of contact for the County's seven commissioners on behalf of the SLFRF Program. Morris County has engaged the services of an SLFRF technical consultant to help supplement staff, assist the County in the program management and implementation of SLFRF Program-funded activities, and help ensure regulatory compliance. As of issuance of this report, the County is currently finalizing the County's SLFRF Policies and Procedures. The policies and procedures provide standardized guidance for the overall management and administration of the SLFRF Program.

This recovery plan performance 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 of July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022.



Uses of Funds

This recovery plan performance 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 personal protective equipment (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. As of May 6, 2022, \$23,814,792.55 has been allocated for rental assistance, of which \$20,862,498.51 has been disbursed 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, the County's priority has been to promote equitable outcomes, including the use of evidence-based reporting as encouraged in the SLFRF Final Rule. In the planning process of projects and programs, the County conducted continued outreach by promoting targeted messaging and communication to economically disadvantaged communities and used the following Treasury-suggested questions to measure equity at various stages of the program:

- a. Goals: Are there particular historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups that recipients intend to serve within their jurisdiction?*
- b. Awareness: How equitable and practical is the ability for residents or businesses to become aware of the services funded by the SLFRF?*
- c. Access and Distribution: Are there differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups? Are there administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria?*
- d. Outcomes: How are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps and/or reaching universal levels of service? How is the jurisdiction disaggregating outcomes by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective?*

Additionally, all executed grant agreements ensure grant recipients will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and promote targeted messaging and communication to economically disadvantaged communities. All grant recipients agree to providing evidence and statistics documenting their efforts.

As the County continues to obligate the remaining SLFRF funds, it will continue to consider the geographic and demographic distribution of funding. The County will continue to rely on community planning, public outreach to traditionally marginalized communities, and information provided by the U.S. Census Bureau to help with consideration. 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. The tables on the following pages reflect the population of Morris County by income, 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	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	2337	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



The County intends to ensure the overall equity strategy translates into specific services or programs allowed in the Expenditure Categories. The largest and most community impactful use of the SLFRF funds is the Morris County Small Business Grant Program. To date, the County has passed the following resolutions related to the program:

- On November 10, 2021, the County of Morris adopted RES-2021-958 to authorize the procurement of a consultant to create a web-based system and collect documents via that system to allow small businesses and nonprofits to apply for the available grant funds. On December 8, 2021, the County of Morris adopted the adopted RES-2021-1076, awarding Solix as the consultant for the Small Business Grant Program.
- On December 20, 2021, the County of Morris adopted RES-2021-1103, committing \$84,000 to be directed to the Morris County Chamber of Commerce to oversee and execute the community outreach and assist small businesses with grant applications.
- On November 10, 2021 (RES-2021-956) and on February 23, 2022 (RES-2022-20) the County of Morris funded the Small Business Grant Program with a total of \$10,000,000.00 combined.

While implementing the Small Business Grant Program, the County was able to keep equity in mind by considering the following:

- a. Goals and Targets: The County values the small business and nonprofit community that is the backbone of the local economy and recognizes the assets provided by this community during the pandemic and the contributions these entities will provide in the future. The County of Morris has directed \$10,000,000.00 to eligible small businesses and nonprofits. Grants for the small businesses are capped at \$15,000.00. The program will provide assistance to small businesses that experienced negative economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. Project Implementation: On December 20, 2021, the County of Morris adopted RES-2021-1103, committing \$84,000.00 to be directed to the Morris County Chamber of Commerce to oversee and execute the community outreach and assist small businesses with grant applications. The Chamber has hosted several town halls events, digital outreach, and grassroots efforts focused on Disproportionately Impacted Small Businesses, including Women-Owned Businesses, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Minority-Owned Businesses, and businesses in low-income communities. The level of community outreach provided by the County and the Chamber of Commerce has allowed for significant distribution of grant funds throughout the County to those negatively impacted businesses. The table on the following page shows the Small Business Grant Program funds distributed by municipality:



Morris County Small Business Grant Program Funds Distributed			
Municipality	Disbursed Amount	Municipality	Disbursed Amount
Boonton Town	\$222,676.08	Mine Hill Township	\$15,000.00
Butler Borough	\$107,739.17	Montville Township	\$182,111.32
Chatham Borough	\$45,000.00	Morris Plains Borough	\$116,082.63
Chatham Township	\$55,256.00	Morris Township	\$92,337.17
Chester Borough	\$150,000.00	Morristown Town	\$291,605.89
Chester Township	\$53,429.41	Mount Olive Township	\$103,323.34
Denville Township	\$277,385.97	Mountain Lakes Borough	\$74,590.83
Dover Town	\$361,739.74	Netcong Borough	\$15,000.00
East Hanover Township	\$89,191.22	Parsippany-Troy Hills Township	\$354,871.38
Florham Park Borough	\$98,344.34	Pequannock Township	\$134,659.18
Hanover Township	\$38,260.00	Randolph Township	\$197,461.37
Harding Township	\$37,256.64	Riverdale Borough	\$15,000.00
Jefferson Township	\$117,428.72	Rockaway Borough	\$137,479.17
Kinnelon Borough	\$46,327.00	Rockaway Township	\$114,228.26
Lincoln Park Borough	\$45,000.00	Roxbury Township	\$177,616.78
Long Hill Township	\$51,357.36	Victory Gardens Borough	\$45,000.00
Madison Borough	\$325,963.18	Washington Township	\$30,000.00
Mendham Borough	\$45,000.00	Wharton Borough	\$54,484.17
Mendham Township	\$10,800.00	Wharton Borough	\$54,484.17
Total			\$4,429,006.32

Community Engagement



Figure 1. SLFRF Grantee, Morris County Chamber of Commerce, holds a community outreach event to assist business owners with the Small Business Grant application.



Morris County encourages and documents input and feedback from the County's diverse constituents and community-based organizations. 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 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 is ensuring community engagement is by requesting that 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 communities through community-based organizations. Major highlights of the outreach conducted:

- Partnership with the Morris County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Outreach table at churches and various small businesses throughout the County
- Outreach at Sabor Latino
- Grassroots door-knocking
- Town Hall event with members of the South Asian Community of Morris County
- Legislative luncheon
- Town hall events
- Entrepreneur round table
- Newsletter blasts in various formats
- Social media blasts in various formats

Labor Practices

At this time, Morris County has not initiated infrastructure projects within Expenditure Category (EC) 5: Infrastructure. Morris County intends to ensure robust labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects while also supporting economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers.

Through executed grant agreements and the SLFRF Policies & Procedures, 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).



Use of Evidence

Morris County is focused on strong evidence for all SLFRF projects and programs but will accept moderate evidence due to any constraints or challenges with accessing strong evidence. Per the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance, version 4.1 strong evidence and moderate evidence are defined as:

Strong evidence means that the evidence base can support causal conclusions for the specific program proposed by the applicant with the highest level of confidence. This consists of one or more well-designed and well-implemented experimental studies conducted on the proposed program with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes.

Moderate evidence means that there is a reasonably developed evidence base that can support causal conclusions. The evidence base consists of one or more quasi-experimental studies with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes OR two or more non-experimental studies with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes. Examples of research that meet the standards include: well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental studies that compare outcomes between the group receiving the intervention and a matched comparison group (i.e., a similar population that does not receive the intervention).

Morris County has engaged the services of an SLFRF technical consultant to help supplement staff, assist the County in the program management and implementation of SLFRF Program-funded activities, and help ensure regulatory compliance, including evaluating the evidence-based interventions. The cumulative expenditure of the Project [A02]: Grant Administration - Grant Contractor includes the evaluation of the evaluating the evidence-based interventions for the majority of the County's SLFRF funding.

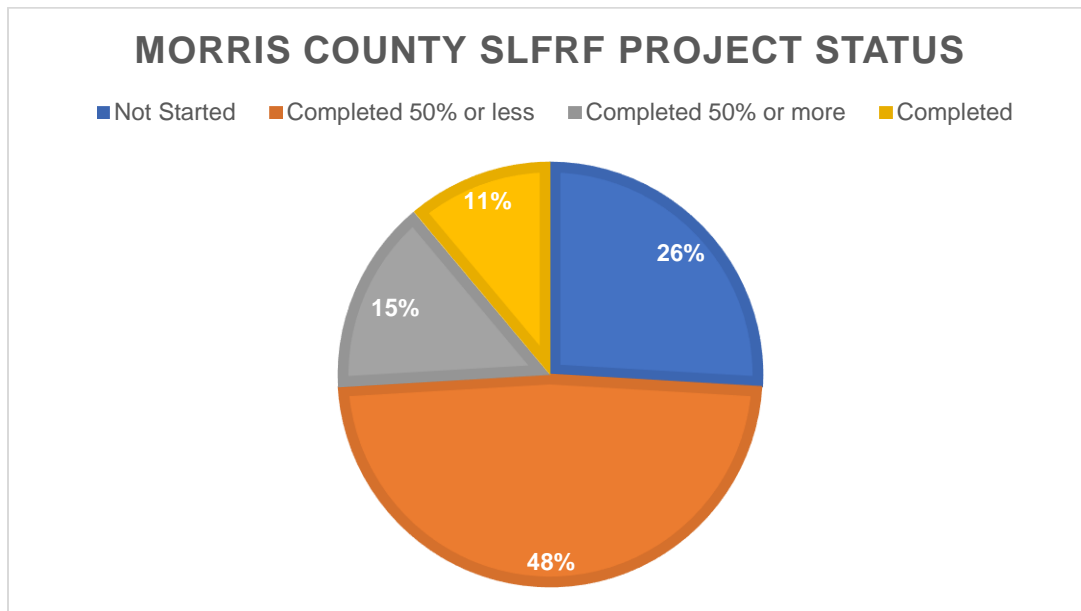
With funding requests, the Morris County Administrator's Office requests and discusses how a potential project or program can provide community assistance, the goals of the funds, ways to measure success, and evaluation tools for the goal of the funds.

For capital and non-capital expenditures, the County also works to research and find preliminary evidence prior to bringing projects to the SPAC and Commissioners. As stated in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance, version 4.1 "preliminary evidence means that the evidence base can support conclusions about the program's contribution to observed outcomes".

As the County continues to learn and incorporate more evidence-based interventions into policy making when necessary and appropriate, the County hopes to learn from the SLFRF Program ways to incorporate more evidence-based interventions into the annual budget process.



Performance Report



The County is managing project and program performance via tracking and oversight, along with standardized policies and procedures. As of issuance of this report, the County is currently finalizing the County's SLFRF Policies and Procedures. The document will provide the following guidance related to performance management:

Period of Performance. SLFRF regulations allow the funds to be used for costs incurred by the County beginning on March 3, 2021 through December 31, 2024. Funds obligated for costs incurred by December 31, 2024 must be expended by December 31, 2026. Any funds not obligated by December 31, 2024 or expended by December 31, 2026 must be returned to the Department of the Treasury.

Timely Expenditure of Funds. All funds must be fully expended by December 31, 2026. The County of Morris will review in-house expenditures and beneficiary expenditures to ensure that funds are spent on eligible costs and in a timely manner. Project funds and schedules will be monitored by the County Administrator's Office and the County's planning and management consultant(s) and are subject to an auditing process through the County's independent audit function.

The County of Morris will hold all contractors accountable through the establishment of task orders. Contractors will be required to provide updated reports concerning expenditure of funds and project progress to the County upon request. Frequency of reporting will be established on a per project and per contractor basis, given the potential varied nature of activities and the different scope for each contractor. It is expected that the County may require contractors to provide activity reports; however, due to the varying nature of each project, specific project timelines will be defined on a case-by-case basis.

The County will directly administer portions of the SLFRF Program but will also allocate program funds to grant recipients who will be responsible for administering their own funds in compliance with the Grant Agreement and all Federal, State, and local regulations. The



County will use contractor augmentation to execute implementation of SLFRF activities administered by the County. When contracting with vendors, the County will establish certain tasks that must be achieved prior to the release of funding. As a part of their contractual obligations to the County, contractors may be required to present the County with a plan on how they will implement procedures to achieve the determined tasks, which will be set forth in task orders. Each contract with contractors contains provisions for termination of any contract if the contractor is found to be negligent in any aspect of the contract services. In addition to ensuring that contractors are meeting project timelines, these tasks and task orders will allow the County to project expenditures for each individual project task. County of Morris SLFRF grant recipients will also be required to meet all timeliness requirements and schedules defined and agreed upon in their SLFRF Grant Agreement.

Slow Performance - Projects which appear to be slow-performing will be evaluated and addressed on a case-by-case basis:

- The project may be provided technical assistance to remediate the slow progress state.*
- The project may be terminated if the policies and procedures and project contract allow for re-award to other eligible recipients.*
- The project scope and funding may be reduced. Recaptured funds would then be re-obligated to other eligible projects and recipients.*

Key performance indicators for each SLFRF project are contained in the Project Inventory section (below).



Project Inventory – Capital Projects

Project [BG02]: Air Quality and Public Health Improvements to County Buildings Engineering/Project Management

Funding Amount: \$750,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.4: Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

Project Overview: On September 22, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-791, which committed \$750,000.00 to the design of building upgrades to HVAC systems and incorporation of touchless mechanisms.

Use of Evidence:

Goal(s). The goal of the project is to use the findings from Project [BG01]: Professional Services for Industrial Hygienist for HVAC Review (below) to construct building upgrades of the HVAC systems and incorporate touchless mechanisms to ensure safer working conditions and help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Confirmation of SLFRF Funds for Evidence-based Intervention(s). Yes

The Role of the industrial hygienist in a pandemic. 2nd editionⁱ

The document provides a guideline to enhance and expand resources, information, and tools industrial hygienists need to protect the working public from pandemic risks. The book notes the important role industrial hygienists play in mitigation of COVID-19.

Practical Steps to Improve Air Flow in Long-Term Care Resident Rooms to Reduce COVID-19 Infection Riskⁱⁱ

The 2020 study showed five pragmatic steps that long-term care facilities can take to manage airflow within resident rooms to reduce the potential for spread of infectious airborne droplets into surrounding areas, including hallways and adjacent rooms, using strategies adapted from negative-pressure isolation rooms in acute care facilities. The study noted a Certified Industrial Hygienist can work with the HVAC contractor and facility manager to design these upgrades. Although these approaches may not reach the levels of prevention, they can reduce the risk for COVID-19 spread and transmission. The five steps are:

1. Estimate Total Room Volume, Ventilation, and Differential Pressure
2. Install Supplemental Exhaust Ventilation Through Dedicated Exhaust Portals
3. Increase Efficiency of Filtration
4. Keep Doors to Hallways Closed
5. Follow Infectious Disease Prevention Guidelines for Health Care Workers

As of June 30, 2022, the County has expended \$39,000.00 on the Professional Services for Industrial Hygienist for HVAC Review).

Performance Report: Not Started



Project [BG01]: Professional Services for Industrial Hygienist for HVAC Review

Funding Amount: \$39,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.4: Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

Project Overview: On September 22, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-791, which committed \$39,000.00 to Professional Services for Industrial Hygienist for HVAC Review. ESMCorp provided a draft model for building HVAC and supplemental air filtration/purification needs that can reduce COVID-19 transmission risks. The County of Morris intends to proceed within New Jersey State procurement guidelines to issue an RFP for HVAC updates.

Use of Evidence:

Goal(s). The goal of the project was to create a draft model for building HVAC and supplemental air filtration/purification needs that can reduce COVID-19 transmission risks.

Confirmation of SLFRF Funds for Evidence-based Intervention(s). Yes

Evidence Bases for the Intervention(s):

The Role of the industrial hygienist in a pandemic. 2nd editionⁱⁱⁱ

The document provides a guideline to enhance and expand resources, information, and tools industrial hygienists need to protect the working public from pandemic risks. The book notes the important role industrial hygienists play in mitigation of COVID-19.

Practical Steps to Improve Air Flow in Long-Term Care Resident Rooms to Reduce COVID-19 Infection Risk^{iv}

The 2020 study showed five pragmatic steps that long-term care facilities can take to manage airflow within resident rooms to reduce the potential for spread of infectious airborne droplets into surrounding areas, including hallways and adjacent rooms, using strategies adapted from negative-pressure isolation rooms in acute care facilities. The study noted a Certified Industrial Hygienist can work with the HVAC contractor and facility manager to design these upgrades. Although these approaches may not reach the levels of prevention, they can reduce the risk for COVID-19 spread and transmission. The five steps are:

1. Estimate Total Room Volume, Ventilation, and Differential Pressure
2. Install Supplemental Exhaust Ventilation Through Dedicated Exhaust Portals
3. Increase Efficiency of Filtration
4. Keep Doors to Hallways Closed
5. Follow Infectious Disease Prevention Guidelines for Health Care Workers

As of June 30, 2022, the County has expended \$129,273.01 on the Grant Administration - Grant Contractor (Project [A02]). Morris County has engaged the services of an SLFRF technical consultant to help supplement staff, assist the County in the program management and implementation of SLFRF Program-funded activities, and help ensure regulatory compliance,



including evaluating and finding the evidence-based interventions for Project [BG01]: Professional Services for Industrial Hygienist for HVAC Review.

Performance Report: Completed

Project [T01]: Meeting Room Technology Upgrades for Virtual Interface

Funding Amount: \$1,484,900.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.7: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

Project Overview: On October 6, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-856, which committed funds for technology upgrades in conference rooms to allow for virtual meetings and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The resolution approved \$220,400.93 for the first phase of upgrades. Phase 1 includes upgrades to the following rooms:

- Administration Building Room 555 - Commissioners' Public Meeting Room
- Administration Building Room 547 - Administrative Conference Room
- Administration Building Room 525 - Knox Room
- Schuyler Annex Room 424 - OIT Meeting Room

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Not started

Project [LPS01]: Warehouse/Shelter Design

Funding Amount: \$500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.7: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

Project Overview: The County of Morris is building a warehouse (up to 50,000 square feet) to house personal protective equipment (PPE) and other equipment used to respond to public health emergencies and other large-scale emergency events. On September 9, 2021, the County of Morris adopted the resolution R2021-724 authorizing the Request for Proposals process for the design professional services for the warehouse. On October 27, 2021, the County of Morris adopted RES-2021-882 amended R2021-724 to authorize the procurement through the competitive contract process in accord with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 et seq.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%



Project [LPS02]: Emergency Response and Sanitization Equipment

Funding Amount: \$200,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.5: Personal Protective Equipment

Project Overview: On September 22, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-791, which committed \$200,000.00 to acquisition of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other response equipment that can be used by County agencies and local municipalities during public health incidents.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Not started

Project [LPS03]: Refrigerated Morgue Trailer

Funding Amount: \$60,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.6: Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)

Project Overview: The COVID-19 public health emergency continues to have devastating effects on public health, including the overwhelming number of lost lives in hospitals. On September 22, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-791, which committed \$60,000.00 to the replacement of one trailer at a minimum for AHS-Chilton.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Not started

Project [LPS04]: Morgue Transport Vehicle

Funding Amount: \$63,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.6: Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)

Project Overview: The COVID-19 public health emergency continues to have devastating effects on public health, including the overwhelming number of lost lives in hospitals. On September 22, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-791, which committed \$63,000.00 to the acquisition of a Chevrolet Suburban for daily transport of decedents to the morgue.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Not started



Project [LPS05]: Five Emergency Response Vehicles

Funding Amount: \$2,050,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.7: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

Project Overview: On September 22, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-791, which committed \$2,050,000.00 to the acquisition of five emergency response vehicles.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Not started

Project [LPS09]: Back-up 911 Center Project on County College of Morris (CCM) Campus

Funding Amount: \$5,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.7: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

Project Overview: The County of Morris has committed to \$5,000,000.00 for a new Back-up 911 Call Center at the County College of Morris. On November 10, 2021, County Commissioners adopted resolution RES-2021-957 authorizing the procurement through the competitive contract process in accord with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 et seq. for the design of a Back-up 911 Call Center.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%

Project [PC01]: Park Commission Sites Public Health Upgrades

Funding Amount: \$6,000,537.50

Project Expenditure Category 1.4: Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

Project Overview: The County of Morris values the County Park System and recognizes the asset it provided during the pandemic and will provide into the future for people to gather safely and enjoy the natural and recreational resources that the County of Morris has to offer. On September 22, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-791, which committed \$6,000,537.50 to the acquisition of manual hand driers converted to touchless hand driers, towel dispensers converted to touchless hand driers, and replacement faucets in each restroom with a touchless fixture in various parks throughout the County. The County of Morris is investing in Park Commission Sites Public Health Upgrades to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Use of Evidence:

Goal(s). The goal of the Park Commission Sites Public Health Upgrades is to provide safe and clean public spaces for Morris County to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.



Confirmation of SLFRF Funds for Evidence-based Intervention(s). Yes

Evidence Bases for the Intervention(s):

Ergonomic Criteria for Bathroom and Toilet Design with Consideration to Potential Health and Hygiene Hazards for Users^v

Objectives: The aim of the study was to (1) investigate the risks associated with the use of bathrooms, taking into account the potential risk of coronavirus infection, and (2) analyze and indicate the possibilities of protection as well as the application of design solutions in order to maintain appropriate hygienic and healthy conditions in these spaces.

Conclusions: The ergonomic criteria for designing bathrooms and toilets, taking into account potential health and hygiene hazards to users, include:

1. Providing safe and easy access to bathrooms and toilets in the context of open and closed spaces
2. Ensuring the free, safe, and hygienic use of sanitary facilities, taking into account the diverse needs of different users
3. The use of material, installation, and equipment solutions that enhance hygiene and safety in bathrooms and toilets
4. The use of material, installation, and equipment solutions that facilitate safe cleaning and maintenance of bathrooms and toilets
5. The use of available knowledge and modern technological achievements in the field of technical installations, sanitary devices, and finishing materials in the process of designing and building hygiene and sanitation facilities
6. Taking into account the characteristics of water and solutions ensuring its treatment for healthy and hygienic use
7. Ensuring the sustainable architecture of hygiene and sanitation facilities
8. Ensuring durability and aesthetics of hygiene and sanitation facilities

As of June 30, 2022, the County has expended \$129,273.01 on the Grant Administration - Grant Contractor (Project [A02]). Morris County has engaged the services of an SLFRF technical consultant to help supplement staff, assist the County in the program management and implementation of SLFRF Program-funded activities, and help ensure regulatory compliance, including evaluating the evidence-based interventions for Project [PC01]: Park Commission Sites Public Health Upgrades.

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%

Project [HS04]: OTA Air Quality Improvements

Funding Amount: \$95,400.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.4: Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

Project Overview: The County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-1007 on November 22, 2021, to improve the air quality of government facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The cost for these air purifiers and ultraviolet devices, along with installation where necessary,



total \$95,400.00. On January 26, 2022, the County approved the procurement of UV sanitizers from Johnston Communications via Resolution # 2022-92 for \$84,700.00.

Use of Evidence:

Goal(s). The County intends to provide a safe environment for the community and staff within the County's Offices of Temporary Assistance in the Township of Morris and the Town of Dover. Mechanisms were investigated within the facilities at the County's Offices of Temporary Assistance in the Township of Morris and the Town of Dover, and it was resolved that air purifiers and ultraviolet devices are the best course of action.

Confirmation of SLFRF Funds for Evidence-based Intervention(s). Yes

Evidence Bases for the Intervention(s):

Study on Coronavirus (COVID-19) and how ultraviolet-C (UVC) Light helps to Destroy it and its Applications^{vi}

In this 2020 study, researchers reviewed the airborne transmission in the spread of coronavirus. UV light can destroy the novel coronavirus when exposure to UVC irradiation is stronger than 90 $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$. Devices using UV light, emits high-intensity rays could help to kill the novel coronavirus. In order to kill the novel coronavirus, very high levels of ultraviolet light are required, ranging from 200 to 300 nanometer. The study highlights the various application of UV light to kill the viruses and protect from disinfection areas contaminated with the novel coronavirus.

Using an air purifier as a supplementary protective measure in dental clinics during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic^{vii}

The 2020 study showed that it is highly advisable to use air purifiers as an easy-to-use, portable, inexpensive, and high-efficiency precaution measure, especially in situations where air purifiers are already available.

As of June 30, 2022, the County has expended \$129,273.01 on the Grant Administration - Grant Contractor (Project [A02]). Morris County has engaged the services of an SLFRF technical consultant to help supplement staff, assist the County in the program management and implementation of SLFRF Program-funded activities and help ensure regulatory compliance, including evaluating the evidence-based interventions for Project [HS04]: OTA Air Quality Improvements.

Performance Report: Completed



Project Inventory – Non-Capital Projects

Project [A01]: Grant Administration - County of Morris Grants Manager

Funding Amount: \$350,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 7.1: Administrative Expenses

Project Overview: The County of Morris has also hired a full-time Grants Manager for administration and compliance oversight of SLFRF funds. On October 6, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-859, committing \$350,000.00 for the County Grant Manager.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%

Project [A02]: Grant Administration - Grant Contractor

Funding Amount: \$350,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 3.4: Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview: Morris County has engaged the services of an SLFRF technical consultant to help supplement staff, assist the County in the program management and implementation of SLFRF Program-funded activities, and help ensure regulatory compliance, including evaluating the evidence-based.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%

Project [A03]: Grant Administration - Financial Auditing

Funding Amount: \$150,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 3.4: Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview: On October 6, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-859, committing \$150,000.00 for the SLFRF Financial Auditing from NW Financial Group. The County of Morris has hired NW Financial Group to audit the SLFRF funding and provide financial assistance related to the finds, including advising on revenue loss.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%



Project [HS01]: Veteran Behavioral Health Program - Veteran Mixer

Funding Amount: \$60,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.12: Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The Commissioners adopted an overall budget of \$350,000.00 for veteran-focused mental health services on September 9, 2021. The services consist of three programs: Veteran Mixer, Peer to Peer Support, and Family Services. On October 6, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-859, committing \$60,000.00 for the Veteran Mixer Gatherings project. The County has hosted several mixers.



Figure 2 Veteran Behavioral Health Program - Veteran Mixer held October 2021.

Use of Evidence:

Goal(s). The goal of the Veteran Behavioral Health Program - Veteran Mixer is to provide zero barrier psychotherapy services to veterans of Morris County.

Confirmation of SLFRF Funds for Evidence-based Intervention(s). Yes

Evidence Bases for the Intervention(s):

Prevalence, Comorbidity, and Prognosis of Mental Health Among U.S. Veterans^{viii}

Objective: Evaluate the association of mental illnesses with clinical outcomes among U.S. veterans and evaluate the effects of Primary Care–Mental Health Integration (PCMHI).

Results: A quarter of all Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) patients reported one or more mental illnesses. Depression, serious mental illness (SMI; i.e., schizophrenia or bipolar disorder), and substance use disorder (SUD) were associated with increased risk of hospitalization or death. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was associated with lower odds of emergency department (ED) visits and mortality. Having one or more contact with PCMHI was associated with better outcomes.

Conclusions: Mental illnesses are associated with poor outcomes but integrating mental health treatment in primary care may be associated with lower risk of those outcomes.

As of June 30, 2022, the County has expended \$129,273.01 on the Grant Administration - Grant Contractor (Project [A02]). Morris County has engaged the services of an SLFRF technical consultant to help supplement staff, assist the County in the program management and implementation of SLFRF Program-funded activities, and help ensure regulatory compliance,



including evaluating the evidence-based interventions for Project [HS01]: Veteran Behavioral Health Program - Veteran Mixer.

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%

Project [HS03]: Veteran Behavioral Health Program - Veteran and Family Support

Funding Amount: \$255,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.12: Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The Commissioners adopted an overall budget of \$350,000.00 for veteran-focused mental health services on September 9, 2021. The services consist of three programs: Veteran Mixer, Peer to Peer Support, and Family Services. On October 6, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-859, committing \$255,000.00 for the Veteran and Family Support project. The County of Morris solicited proposals for the provision of Clinical Support and Education for the Morris County veterans and their families, titled RFP# "P22-21 Veterans & Family Mental Health Support Service". The County awarded The Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, Inc., of Parsippany, NJ, the sole respondent, Resolution RES-2021-1061, December 8, 2021. Contract Term: January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.



Figure 3. Flyer for Veteran Behavioral Health Program - Veteran and Family Support

Use of Evidence:

Goal(s). The goal of the Veteran Behavioral Health Program - Veteran and Family Support is to provide zero barrier psychotherapy services to veterans, as well as support their family and friends.

Confirmation of SLFRF Funds for Evidence-based Intervention(s). Yes

Evidence Bases for the Intervention(s):



Veteran interest in family involvement in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment.^{ix}

The study examined interest in family involvement in treatment and preferences concerning the focus of family-oriented treatment for veterans participating in an outpatient Veterans Affairs outpatient PTSD program. Most veterans viewed PTSD as a source of family stress (86%) and expressed interest in greater family involvement in their treatment (79%). These results suggest the need to consider increasing family participation in the clinical care of individuals with PTSD and to develop specialized family educational and support services for this population.

As of June 30, 2022, the County has expended \$129,273.01 on the Grant Administration - Grant Contractor (Project [A02]). Morris County has engaged the services of an SLFRF technical consultant to help supplement staff, assist the County in the program management and implementation of SLFRF Program-funded activities, and help ensure regulatory compliance, including evaluating the evidence-based interventions for Project [HS03]: Veteran Behavioral Health Program - Veteran and Family Support.

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%

Project [LPS06]: Emergency Management Personnel (3)

Funding Amount: \$1,372,965.30

Project Expenditure Category 3.1: Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project Overview: On October 6, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-859, which included the \$1,372,965.30 for three Emergency Management personnel. The intention with these funds is to support the County's ability to deliver critical COVID-19 services. Three full-time employees are responding to COVID-19 supported under this authority.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%

Project [LPS07]: Public Health Personnel (5)

Funding Amount: \$1,797,930.75

Project Expenditure Category 3.1: Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project Overview: On October 6, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-859, which included the costs for five Public Health personnel. The intention with these funds is to support the County's ability to deliver critical COVID-19 services. 3 full-time employees are responding to COVID-19 supported under this authority.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%



Project [LPS08]: COVID-19 Testing

Funding Amount: \$500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.2: Covid-19 Testing

Project Overview: On January 12, 2022, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2022-88, which amended resolution RES-2021-859 to commit \$500,000.00 for COVID-19 testing. COVID-19 testing is a necessary service to contain, mitigate, and prevent COVID-19.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Not started

Project [A06]: Small Business Grant Program Administration - Chamber of Commerce

Funding Amount: \$84,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 2.29: Assistance to Small Business-Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Project Overview: The County of Morris is proceeding with a Small Business Grant Program directing \$10,000,000.00, to eligible small businesses and nonprofits. The program will provide assistance to small businesses that experienced negative economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. On December 20, 2021, the County of Morris adopted RES-2021-1103, committing \$84,000.00 to be directed to the Morris County Chamber of Commerce to oversee and execute the community outreach and assist small businesses with grant applications. The Chamber has hosted several town hall events, digital outreach, and grassroots efforts focused on Disproportionately Impacted Small Businesses, including Women-Owned Businesses, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Minority-Owned Businesses, and businesses in low-income communities.



Figure 4 SLFRF Grantee, Morris County Chamber of Commerce, organized a Small Business Town Hall in Morristown, NJ to promote the Small Business Grant Program.



Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%

Project [A07]: Small Business Grant Program Administration - Consultant

Funding Amount: \$316,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 2.29: Assistance to Small Business-Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Project Overview: The County values the small business and nonprofit community that is the backbone of the local economy and recognizes the assets provided by this community during the pandemic and the contributions these entities will provide in the future. On November 10, 2021, the County of Morris adopted RES-2021-958 to authorize the procurement of a consultant to create a web-based system and collect documents via that system to allow small businesses and nonprofits to apply for the available grant funds. On December 8, 2021, the County of Morris adopted the adopted RES-2021-1076, awarding Solix as the consultant for the Small Business Grant Program, which notes \$58,000.00 for initial setup, \$15,000.00 per month for defined services, and \$40.00 per hour for grant review and certification for services through October 6, 2026. The consultant has created an online platform for the County's use to access and review applications. The Consultant is also reviewing initial applications and assisting with applicant troubleshooting.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed 50% or more

Project [A08]: Small Business Grant Program - Phases 1 & 2



Figure 5. County Commissioner Shaw delivers Small Business Grant check to Four 3 Performance Laboratory.



Funding Amount: \$10,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 2.29: Assistance to Small Business-Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Project Overview: The County values the small business and nonprofit community that is the backbone of the local economy and recognizes the assets provided by this community during the pandemic and the contributions these entities will provide in the future. The County of Morris is proceeding with a Small Business Grant Program concept directing \$5,000,000.00, now \$10,000,000.00, to eligible small businesses and nonprofits. Grants for the small businesses will be capped at \$15,000.00. The program will provide assistance to small businesses that experienced negative economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. On November 10, 2021, RES-2021-956 and on February 23, 2022, RES-2022-20, the County of Morris funded the Small Business Grant Program. As of June 30, 2022, the program has issued checks to 330 small businesses and the following metrics of the program are applicable:

Morris County Small Business Grant Program Metrics as of June 30, 2022			
Total Applications	745	Top Business Category Applicants	Other, Retail/Store, Professional/Scientific/Technical Services, Restaurants
Total Expenses Requested	\$25.4M	Top Certifications	Woman-Owned, Minority-Owned
Total Capped Expenses Requested	\$9.4M	Highest Expense Type	Rent Expenses (28%)
Total Amount Denied due to ineligible expenses	\$1.4M	Application Statuses	64% recommend approval, 19% recommend denial, 8% pending follow up

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed 50% or more.

Project [PC02]: Park Commission Returned Staff

Funding Amount: \$8,363,680.20

Project Expenditure Category 3.1: Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project Overview: The County of Morris values the County Park System and recognizes the asset it provided during the pandemic and will provide into the future for people to gather safely and enjoy the natural and recreational resources that the County of Morris has to offer. Due to a severe reduction in revenues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Morris County Park Commission found it necessary to eliminate positions and furlough employees. Resumption of activities and programs requires an increase in staffing up to pre-pandemic levels as of January 27, 2020, of both full-time and part-time Morris County Park Commission employees. On October 27, 2021, the County of Morris adopted resolution RES-2021-912, allocating \$8,363,680.20 to



Morris County Park Commission payroll costs in order to bring employee levels to pre-pandemic numbers, beginning January 1, 2022.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%

Project [A04]: Morristown Partnership 2021 Festival on the Green

Funding Amount: \$100,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 2.35: Aid to Impacted Industries-Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Project Overview: The Festival on the Green by Morristown Partnership is a free event for all attendees, welcoming approximately 50,000 visitors to the County seat every fall. Morristown Partnership suffered a severe loss of revenue from the COVID-19 pandemic through the lack of multiple events, including the annual Festival on the Green. The Festival on the Green supports small businesses, particularly those that buy a package price for a table, tent, and chairs to attract customers during the festival. Morristown Partnership was going to raise the 2021 participation package rates because equipment rental costs increased. On November 10, 2021, the County of Morris adopted RES-2021-945, committing \$100,000.00 to keep costs to participating businesses the same as the 2019 costs. All reimbursements have been issued.



Figure 6 Kids Place at Festival on the Green



Figure 7 North Park Place at Festival on the Green

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed



Project [A05]: Mayo PAC Educational Programs

Funding Amount: \$600,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 2.34: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

Project Overview: The South Street Theater Company, Inc. doing business as the Mayo Performing Arts Center (“Mayo PAC”) experienced a shut-down and severe revenue loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayo PAC sought assistance from the County of Morris to minimize the financial repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and aid the institution in resuming programming. On October 6, 2021, the County of Morris adopted RES-2021-858, committing \$600,000.00 for the Performing Arts School and Education Programs, which provide equal access to 40,000 children and adults each year through classes, events, and other opportunities. The operations of Mayo PAC also contribute directly and indirectly to the small businesses in the region and the facility, and its programs serve as a central arts and culture beacon for the County of Morris.

Use of Evidence: Not Applicable

Performance Report: Completed 50% or more

Project [HS02]: Veteran Behavioral Health Program – Peer to Peer Support

Funding Amount: \$35,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.12: Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The Commissioners adopted an overall budget of \$350,000.00 for veteran-focused mental health services on September 9, 2021. The services consist of three programs: Veteran Mixer, Peer to Peer Support, and Family Services. County of Morris solicited quotations and received three quotes to provide and facilitate peer-to-peer Veterans Support groups for the Morris County Department of Human Services. NewBridge Services was selected due to cost and other factors to provide the most comprehensive counseling services. Resolution RES-2021-907, October 27, 2021. Contract Term: November 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022.

Use of Evidence:

Goal(s). The goal of the Veteran Behavioral Health Program – Peer to Peer Support is to provide zero barrier psychotherapy services to veterans of Morris County.

Confirmation of SLFRF Funds for Evidence-based Intervention(s). Yes

Evidence Bases for the Intervention(s):

Using peer support groups to enhance community integration of veterans in transition.^x

The 2018 study showed that peer support groups are a helpful tool in assisting veterans in the transition to civilian life and noted that combining peer support and clinical care produces better results than either alone.

Military veteran engagement with mental health and well-being services: a qualitative study of the role of the peer support worker^{xi}



Objective: To gain insight into the role of peer support in UK veteran engagement with mental health and well-being services.

Results: The Peer Support Worker (PSW)'s military connection, social and well-being support, and role in providing veterans with an easily accessible route to dis-engage and re-engage with the service over multiple engagement attempts were particularly crucial.

Conclusions: The Peer Support role enhanced veteran engagement in the majority of instances. Study findings mirrored existing peer support literature, provided new evidence in relation to engaging UK veterans, and made recommendations for future veteran research and service provision.

As of June 30, 2022, the County has expended \$129,273.01 on the Grant Administration - Grant Contractor (Project [A02]). Morris County has engaged the services of an SLFRF technical consultant to help supplement staff, assist the County in the program management and implementation of SLFRF Program-funded activities, and help ensure regulatory compliance, including evaluating the evidence-based interventions for Project [HS02]: Veteran Behavioral Health Program – Peer to Peer Support.

Performance Report: Completed less than 50%

Project [A10]: Gun Buyback Program

Funding Amount: \$20,000.00

Project Expenditure Category 1.11: Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview: The Commissioners recognize that there has been an increase in violent crime during the COVID-19 pandemic. From 2019 to 2020, gun deaths in New Jersey have increased by 43 percent. The Morris County Prosecutor's Office and Crimestoppers partnered with Morris County for the gun buyback program as one approach to reduce violent crimes and improve public safety.

Gun buybacks are planned and advertised events where citizens can turn in firearms to law enforcement with complete amnesty and receive compensation. Law enforcement then destroys the surrendered firearms. It is typical for law enforcement to pay a rate for each gun depending on its type, e.g. assault firearm, handgun, rifle, or shotgun. On February 23, 2022, the County of Morris adopted RES-2022-216 committing \$20,000.00 to the program.

The collections were held on Saturday, May 14 and Sunday, May 15, 2022, at Budd Lake Fire Department, 378 Route 46, Budd Lake, N.J. and Parsippany Police Athletic League (PAL) Building, 33 Baldwin Road, Parsippany, N.J. The program resulted in the successful surrender of 674 firearms. A total of \$104,675.00 was paid out through funding for the program by the Morris County Crime Stoppers, New Jersey Attorney General's Office, Morris County Commissioners (County ARPA Funds), and the Morris County Prosecutor's Office Forfeiture Funds (CLETA). The Prosecutor's Office Press Release stated participating citizens shared that they were grateful for the opportunity to surrender firearms they had lying idle in their homes, as they had inherited the weapons or not used them in years. They expressed concerns about:

- Young children accessing them



- Having them stolen and possessed by criminals
- Safeguarding loved ones struggling with mental health issues, including suicidal ideations
- Keeping them out of the hands of those seeking to do harm to others

Morris County's tally reflects a higher collection rate than was experienced in Bergen, Camden, Cumberland, Mercer, Middlesex/Somerset, Monmouth, Salem, and Union counties during a similar buyback event held on October 23, 2021. Total types of firearms collected:


Firearm Type	Collected
Assault Weapon	6
Rifle/Shotgun	309
All Handguns	301
Inoperable Firearms	12
BB Guns	46
Total	674



Figure 8. Firearms surrendered during the gun buyback program



Use of Evidence:

Morris County Firearm related Crime Charges – 2019-2021					
	Charge	2019	2020	2021	Total
	<u>Poss. Weapon for Unlawful Purpose (2C:39-4)</u>	14	21	14	49
	B. Firearm	11	14	12	37
	E. Imitation Firearm	3	7	2	12
	<u>Poss. Firearm during CDS Crime (2C:39-4.1)</u>	11	7	7	25
	<u>Certain Persons not to Poss. Weapon (2C:39-7)</u>	17	14	35	66
	<u>Unlawful Poss. Weapon (2C:39-5)</u>	42	29	35	106
	B. Handgun	40	21	30	91
	C. Rifle/Shotgun	2	3	2	7
	F. Assault Firearm	0	5	3	8
	<u>Manufacture/Transport/Deface Weapon (2C:39-9)</u>	2	0	7	9
	<u>Leader of Firearm Trafficking Network (2C:39-16)</u>	0	0	0	0
	<u>Carjacking (2C:15-2)</u>	1	1	1	3
	<u>Robbery (2C:15-1A)</u>	14	31	26	71
	1. Inflicts bodily injury	7	12	22	41
	2. Threatens another or puts in fear of bodily injury	7	19	4	30
	3. Commits/threats to commit 1 st or 2 nd Degree crime	0	0	0	0
	<u>Burglary (2C:18-2A)</u>	263	112	160	535

Goal(s). The Morris County Prosecutor's Office (MCPO) determined in the wake of the region's increased gun violence; it is advisable for the MCPO to run a gun buyback in the spring of 2022 as a piece of the County's overall strategy to curb gun violence. These programs are aimed at promoting public safety with the specific goal of reducing the number of gun injuries and deaths in our community. A gun buyback program is a component of a broad law enforcement strategy to reduce the availability of firearms through voluntary surrender so that fewer firearms are available to be stolen or used in violent crimes. By providing amnesty for those in possession of illegal firearms, these programs offer an incentive to safely dispose of an illegally possessed firearm.

Confirmation of SLFRF Funds for Evidence-based Intervention(s). Yes

Evidence Bases for the Intervention(s):

A Review of Gun Buybacks^{xii}

Objective: The study reviews the history of gun buybacks and the literature to determine their impact and efficacy as well as highlighting salient critiques. The article also evaluates the potential avenues that would enhance our understanding of buybacks and methods to address gun violence.

Results: Gun buybacks have become more prominent since their inception in the 1970s and often come in response to a tragic local event. The largest scale buyback was in the mid-1990s in Australia, which collected over 650,000 guns. Buybacks are a cost-effective method of reducing the number of weapons in the general public.

Conclusions: Gun buybacks are a cost-effective means to reduce the number of unwanted firearms in the general public and also provide a means for education regarding injury



prevention. Buybacks in conjunction with other methods have been shown to be successful in reducing the number of firearms that could lead to injury and death.

Gun buyback programs^{xiii}

Objective: The United States has a high rate of death due to firearms, and gun buyback programs may mitigate these high death rates. Understanding the demographics, motivation, and geographic region of participants may improve program efficacy.

Results: Participants were predominantly male (73.5%), white (80.9%), and older than 55 years (59.0%). They lived an average of 19.0 miles from the event by zip codes and had an average median household income of \$65,731.00. More than half (54.5%) did not purchase the firearm, acquiring it through inheritance, gift, or random find. Most (74.8%) had previous firearms training and were relinquishing for safety reasons (68.3%). Those relinquishing firearms for safety reasons were less likely to have purchased the firearm (odds ratio [OR], 2.46, $p < 0.05$), less likely to have any formal training (OR, 5.92; $p < 0.01$), and less likely to keep the firearm locked (OR, 3.50; $p < 0.01$). Women were less likely to have purchased the firearm (OR, 0.50; $p < 0.05$). Fifty-three percent of those turning in firearms reported having at least one more firearm at home; designated themselves to be white, compared with all other groups combined (OR, 2.55; $p < 0.05$); more likely to report locking the firearm (OR, 0.11; $p < 0.001$); more interested in receiving a gun lock (OR, 0.15; $p < 0.001$); and more likely to know others who also own firearms (OR, 0.17; $p < 0.001$). In at least one of the cities participating in this study, as many as 30 percent of the weapons used in gun-wielding criminal acts were burglarized from the home of legal gun owners that had failed to secure them properly.

Results and Conclusions: The gun buyback program is solely one prong of a multipronged approach in reducing firearm-based interpersonal violence. Additional research is necessary to determine effective methods to target individuals who would have the greatest impact on gun violence if they relinquished their weapons. Through the forging of relationships and enhancement of firearm knowledge among medical, law enforcement, judicial, and school communities, the prevention of intentional and unintentional firearm-related injuries will be able to be managed more effectively.

As of June 30, 2022, the County has expended \$129,273.01 on the Grant Administration - Grant Contractor (Project [A02]). Morris County has engaged the services of an SLFRF technical consultant to help supplement staff, assist the County in the program management and implementation of SLFRF Program-funded activities, and help ensure regulatory compliance, including evaluating the evidence-based interventions for Project [A10]: Gun Buyback Program.

Performance Report: Completed 50% or more. Assistance to Unemployed or Under Employed Workers (EC 2.10) and Community Violence Interventions (EC 1.11):

- 0 = Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs
- 0 = Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs
- 0 = Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs



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