

Metropolitan Government of Nashville &
Davidson County

Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2021 Report

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County has received a total allocation of \$259.8 million of SLFRF. We are grateful for these funds and our highest priority will be protecting our community from the coronavirus pandemic. We will prioritize investment in direct emergency response to COVID-19 and investment in our public facilities to prevent and mitigate community spread of the virus for the visiting public and our public employees.

In addition, we will mitigate the impacts of the pandemic by addressing the relief needs of adversely affected individuals, non-profits, and small businesses. Each have differing and unique needs, but all contribute to our community's equitable economic recovery, which is also a key focus for these funds.

Where possible, we will invest in evidence-based programs with proven successes to address fundamental equity disparities made more visible by our states of emergency in the past 18 months. These programs will optimize and align where possible to existing federal and state funding. We anticipate these programs will focus on the following areas:

- Health, including behavioral health
- Community safety
- Affordable housing
- Stormwater & sustainability

As of this reporting period of August 31, 2021, we have not completed a proposed plan of spending to our Metropolitan Council. We anticipate receiving the Final Rule from the US Treasury prior to proposing a spending plan to Council. However, after being notified of our total allocation and receiving the Interim Final Rule, we did request and receive authorization to obligate \$2.9 million of our SLFRF allocation. This initial obligation represented some critical funding needs that were identified during the budget process that could not be funded through our normal operating budget.

Uses of Funds

The \$2.9 million of funds that have been appropriated as of July 31, 2021 fall predominantly in the category of revenue replacement/government services (EC 6.1), with approximately \$560,000 falling into mental health services (EC1.10) and \$184,000 falling into public health services (EC 1.12).

While we anticipate that our lost revenue calculations per the Treasury guidance will account for a significant portion of our SLFRF allocation, we still anticipate expending the majority of our funds in support of public health, addressing negative economic impact of the pandemic, and services to disproportionately impacted communities.

Please note that the following statements are preliminary and pending additional community engagement and Metro Council authorization:

With the current spike in the spread of the virus, our expenses in category 1, Public Health, will include support for the operations of testing and vaccination sites, providing shelter and

quarantine space to vulnerable populations, PPE, signage, supplies, and investment in working equipment to improve public safety and response.

Also included in our public health response will be funds spent to improve HVAC, ventilation and filtration of Metro facilities, improved technology for social distancing, improved public health facilities and equipment, and investment in fleet for improved social distancing.

As we look to fill the immediate relief and equitable recovery needs of our community, we will focus our funds that fall in expense category 2 – Negative Economic Impacts – on our nonprofits and small businesses. The nonprofits not only need funding to rebuild their own operations, but also additional funds to meet the needs of the impacted individuals and small businesses in our community.

Another significant portion of our funds will be used to address longstanding fundamental equity disparities, specifically expenses that fall in expense category 3 – Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities. We will invest in physical and behavioral health, affordable housing, community safety, and sustainability infrastructure such as stormwater to increase equity in our community.

Promoting equitable outcomes, community engagement, and use of evidence

Please note that the following statements are preliminary and pending additional community engagement and Metro Council authorization:

The administration of Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson County will seek meaningful results in the use of the SLFRF funds, with a particular emphasis on using these funds to mitigate impacts of COVID-19 for our communities that have experienced disparities in both the pandemic itself and historically. Along with proposing guiding principles and priorities outlined above, which emphasize consideration of equity both in immediate relief and economic recovery support and in addressing structural inequality in systems such as health, safety, housing, and infrastructure, we are approaching our use of funds in the following ways:

- Utilizing a public process with a community-based COVID-19 Financial Oversight Committee. All meetings are noticed and open to the public, and the Oversight Committee is developing a public input process in collaboration with Public Health guidance and utilizing accessible tools such as Hub Nashville.
- Incorporating research studies such as the annual Community Needs Evaluation on community disparities, poverty, vulnerable populations and economic mobility sourced by the Metropolitan Government Department of Social Services Division of Strategic Planning & Research and utilizing source data such as the US Census, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, The Opportunity Atlas, Opportunity Insights, Pew Research Center, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth and the American Community Survey.
- Our Fair Share study conducted by The Equity Alliance, commissioned by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davison County to provide an overview of the pandemic's impact on Nashvillians, with a particular focus on the city's most vulnerable communities of color in the city's 12 hardest hit zip codes. This report released in fall 2020 used data from a representative survey of more than 8,505 Nashvillians.

Further, we will engage our Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer in the review of proposed relief and recovery programs and those addressing disparities to ensure they will be designed to promote equitable outcomes and meet the requirements following: community engagement, fair labor practices, and evidence-based interventions.

Labor Practices

There are no known infrastructure projects at this time, and thus no related labor practices to describe.

Expenses by Expenditure Category

As noted above, there have been no expenditures incurred as of July 31, 2021. A total of \$2.9 million has been appropriated by council for use in the following categories:

\$2,166,800 in EC 6.1 – Provision of Government Services
561,816 in EC 1.10 – Mental Health
184,000 in EC 1.12 – Other Public Health Services

Project Inventory

There are no projects underway to report an overview, use of evidence, or results for as of August 31, 2021.

Please note, updates to this report will be made when a plan is brought forth to and approved by the Metro Council.