



Recovery Plan Performance Report

as of July 31, 2021

Submitted to the U.S. Department of Treasury
Under the Requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act

Table of Contents

General Overview	1
Section 1.0 - Executive Summary	2-3
Section 2.0 - Uses of Funds.....	4-5
Section 3.0 - Promoting Equitable Outcomes.....	6-7
Section 4.0 - Community Engagement.....	7
Section 5.0 - Labor Practices	7
Section 6.0 - Use of Evidence.....	8
Section 7.0 - Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category	8
Project Inventory	9-12

SECTION 1.0 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Oakland County (the “County”) presents its Recovery Plan Performance Report (“Recovery Plan”) for the period ending July 31, 2021, as required by the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”).

The County was awarded \$ 244,278,949 in ARPA funds for the purposes of developing projects that address the immediate needs of the negative health and economic impacts experienced by residents, community organizations, and business owners from COVID-19. As of the reporting period ending July 31, 2021, the County does not have ARPA related expenses against the ARPA appropriations authorized by the Board of Commissioners.

The County’s goals are to create projects that are interconnected with the primary objective of ARPA funding, which is to address the pandemic’s economic fallout and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

The County Executive immediately convened a COVID-19 Community and Economic task force to gather input from a broad-range of county stakeholders. This task force, reviewed data, met in subcommittees and considered recommendations by the County Executive. In June and July, the Board of Commissioners approved the use of American Rescue Plan Funds to address the following acute needs:

MENTAL HEALTH: Funding was allocated to support non-profits providing mental health services and to address mental health concerns in our schools and emergency rooms.
HOUSING ASSISTANCE: Funding was allocated to provide legal assistance to residents facing foreclosure and eviction. Funds were also allocated for landlord mitigation assistance.
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Funding was allocated to provide wrap around services, including child care to residents transitioning back to work or looking for new jobs. Funds were also allocated to support residents seeking training and educational opportunities to upgrade their skills as a result of COVID-19.
BUSINESS ASSISTANCE: Funding was allocated to help businesses recovering from COVID, including professional services such as counseling and technical assistance.

SECTION 1.0 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

The above priorities are currently in the implementation stage. As the County starts these programs over the next 2-5 months, we are also awaiting State action on the \$5.7 billion of ARPA dollars they have received to determine if there are opportunities for county funds to match and leverage their efforts. We are talking with cities, villages, and townships to understand their priorities.

The County is now evaluating long-term community needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative impacts. The County has identified the following focus areas:

Health Care	Increase access to quality mental, physical, and behavioral health care and reduce health care disparities by addressing the social determinants of health.
Housing and Food Insecurity	Address the long-term need for quality public housing by creating a system that provides affordable housing options throughout the county and reduce homelessness.
Workforce Development	Advance the number of residents with a post-secondary degree or certification, eliminate barriers to employment, and ensure a pipeline of skilled workers for local businesses.
Economic Innovation	Establish an economic eco-system that supports advanced technologies and entrepreneurship. Recognizing the role of Foreign Direct Investment in our county economy, the county seeks to retain its ranking as a global destination while supporting increased opportunity for female and minority-owned businesses.
Environmental Sustainability	Address climate change and preserve our natural resources. Recognizing that our expansive park and trail system, thousands of lakes, and recreational opportunities contribute greatly to our quality of life, the county seeks to build on this and ensure all residents benefit.
Placemaking and Infrastructure	Partner with local governments to reinvest in critical water and sewer infrastructure. Invest in arts, culture, and other initiatives to promote vibrant and thriving communities.
Improving Government Operations	Fund direct efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within Oakland County using tools not eligible under other federal/state funding sources; facilitate more effective and efficient remote work by County employees under county and departmental remote/hybrid work policies; enable residents to access County services using online platforms, reducing the need for in-person interactions with County departments; and ensure residents are fully served by the county efficiently and equitably.

SECTION 2.0 - USES OF FUNDS

Oakland County intends to use these identified funds to support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn by employing the following strategies:

- Focus on programs that improve mental and physical well-being of individuals and the community.
- Focus on programs that support development of youth both inside and outside of a classroom setting.
- Focus on programs that support residents with housing challenges by providing assistance to residents facing eviction and other civil matters related to financial hardship caused by the pandemic.
- Focus on programs that support Small Businesses' recovery from the economic downturn.
- Focus on providing wraparound services to those seeking employment, training, and educational opportunities as they recover from the economic impact of COVID-19.

The County believes employing these strategies will maximize impact and provide effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes.

The strategies described above will support the communities, populations, and individuals in Oakland County by:

- Providing mental and behavioral health support necessary for individuals and families to recover.
- Mitigating the impact of uncertainties brought about by the pandemic and economic downturn.
- Providing individuals with the opportunity and the resources to upgrade their skills and gain employment.
- Supporting businesses and their employees by developing joint strategies to increase employee retention, provide supportive services, share best practices, and take advantage of opportunities funded through other programming.

The County has created a stringent approval process to ensure control over the expenditure of American Recovery Plan Act funds. After project formation by County departments and committees, each project undergoes an internal program eligibility review to ensure the funds are an eligible use under the ARPA guidelines, incorporating review and recommendations from an independent consulting firm. Finally, the projects are submitted to the County Board of Commissioners for review and formal approval. Before incurring any obligations or expenses, the county generates full program documentation, which is reviewed by both legal counsel and the independent consultants.

SECTION 2.0 - USES OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

The County plans to leverage the use of other federal recovery funds to maximize coverage and success. As projects are considered, the County will look to leverage other potential Federal, State, Local and private funding opportunities.

The County's strategies will promote each designated expenditure category, in the following ways:

Public Health (EC 1) - The county will promote Public Health by putting multiple programs in place to support the mental and behavioral health and well-being of disproportionately impacted residents, as well as supporting youth programs and emergency room mental health services, among other programs.

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2) – The County will address Negative Economic Impacts from the pandemic by creating and implementing programs around job training assistance, small business economic assistance, housing assistance, and support for individuals facing barriers to access education and/or certifications.

Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3) - In partnership with local community organizations, the County plans to invest in housing support for disproportionately impacted communities, including homeless residents.

Premium Pay (EC4) – The County is not considering premium pay for employees at this time.

Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5) - The County is researching infrastructure planning programs to determine the best path to improve access to quality water, sewer, and broadband services.

Revenue Replacement (EC 6) – The County plans to improve current and future communications in times of crisis. County Management is confident this will have widespread and lasting impact to the County's residents.

SECTION 3.0 - PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

The County is committed to operationalizing equity. This year, with the support of the Board of Commissioners, an independent contractor was hired to conduct an equity audit of county services. A thorough analysis was done of county programs including outcomes. Stakeholder interviews were conducted and comparisons with peer counties were evaluated. The comprehensive data as well as recommendations for improving county services are nearing completion and will be presented in September. This equity audit will provide a comprehensive baseline on Equity Goals, Awareness, Access and Distribution, and Outcomes.

The County's acute spending programs are intended to improve equitable outcomes and address the following areas:

- Mental and Behavioral Health
- At-risk Youth
- Housing Insecurity
- Under and Unemployed individuals
- Small Business

The County is taking several approaches to ensure access to the first round of programs that are currently in the design phase. These measures include:

- Contracting with expert and trusted non-profits to deliver housing foreclosure and eviction assistance.
- Contracting with United Way for Southeastern Michigan to access its vast network of non-profits to ensure awareness of the mental health grants.
- Partnering with the county's mental health authority, Federal qualified health center and Intermediate School District to design the school mental health support system.
- Utilizing the county's six workforce offices to reach under-and unemployed individuals.
- Utilizing the county's economic development department, business liaisons and Main Street partnership staff to support the business navigators in reaching small businesses.

The County is establishing a Pandemic Response Ad Hoc Oversight Committee to provide oversight to the pandemic response efforts and ensure that levels of access to benefits are equitable, including removing administrative barriers to access. A similar framework was used by the County successfully to manage the distribution of CARES Act funding.

Finally, the County has established a new Department of Public Communications and community engagement to improve communication to the community regarding public health emergency-related information and resources that will be available through the County's SLFRF funds.

The first phase of the County's expenditure of funds targets acute or emergency needs that have been identified in the community including mental health services, workforce shortages and housing insecurity/threat of foreclosure or eviction. These programs are still in the planning stages, but equity and access to services is a top priority of the county. In addition, the comprehensive Equity Audit of all county services will provide a future roadmap.

SECTION 3.0 - PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES (CONTINUED)

Future submissions will share outcomes and address challenges. Project outcome data will be developed as projects are implemented and report criteria established. The County is evaluating the most effective approach(es) to ensuring that equitable outcomes are achieved under current federal guidance.

Larger projects approved to date are broad based geographically but targeted to groups disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Some future projects are likely to target specific geographic areas disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, but those determinations have not yet been made.

SECTION 4.0 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The County is committed to engaging the community to develop projects that are pivotal in shaping the strength, sustainability, and equity of The County's recovery from COVID-19 pandemic and future economic growth.

Community Engagement strategies that have been undertaken to date include:

County Executive COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force - The Task Force is comprised business, education, labor, health care, community and local government leaders. The work of the task force, and subgroups formed across specific priority policy areas, informed initial projects to address the acute County needs and guiding principles to be utilized in the development and presentation of proposals. The guiding principles require that proposed programs address equity, effectiveness, sustainability, efficiency, prioritization and are transformative.

Department of Public Communications - The County recognized the need to improve communication with the Community. The Public Communication Department was created to centralize and improve overall effectiveness of public communication and community engagement.

Survey of Local Governments - The County is conducting a survey of all local units of government to understand their priorities and to identify areas where cooperation and resource leveraging make sense for all levels of government.

SECTION 5.0 - LABOR PRACTICES

No infrastructure projects have been approved to date. The County has experience in administering labor requirements as required by state and federal grants. Projects using federal funds will comply with all applicable federal labor requirements. The county has also instituted its own responsible contracting policy which focuses on elevating the importance of safety on the job.

SECTION 6.0 - USE OF EVIDENCE

The County will address use of evidence for the projects as listed below.

- The application process for the Mental and Behavioral Health expenditure of \$10 million requires interventions be evidence-based and delivered by State of Michigan licensed professionals in good standing. This competitive grant process will be administered by United Way for Southeastern Michigan, an agency deeply immersed in the social services and well versed in confirming such interventions. Funds allocated thus far are not directed toward evaluation as there is the expectation that they will be spent within a year to address acute mental and behavioral health needs of County residents, leaving inadequate time for evaluation design and implementation.
- Future awards will monitor the amount of funds allocated to evidence-based interventions for appropriate expenditure categories.

SECTION 7 - TABLE OF EXPENSES BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY

As of the reporting period ending July 31, 2021, the County does not have ARPA related expenses against the ARPA appropriations authorized by the Board of Commissioners.

OAKLAND COUNTY RECOVERY PLAN

PROJECT INVENTORY AND OVERVIEW

Project	Allocation	Project Number	Expenditure		Project
			Group	Category	Description
Oakland 80 Career Navigators MR# 21283 adopted on 06/23/2021	\$2,874,000	100000003457	2	2.7	Project will fund 6-12 Oakland80 Career Navigators, embedded in communities throughout Oakland County. Navigators will help individuals understand their skills and the potential education and training paths to gain access to high quality, in-demand jobs with pathways to advancement. Navigators, also known as success coaches, will ensure the positive outcome of the residents accepted into the Michigan Reconnect and Future for Frontliners program.
Oakland County Business Resource Network Success Coaches (in partnership with OLHSA) MR# 21283 adopted on 06/23/2021	\$1,050,000	100000003457	2	2.9	Project will build on an ongoing successful partnership with OLHSA to deploy three Success Coaches to support businesses and their employees with employee retention. Coaches guide the development of joint strategies to increase employee retention, provide supportive services, and share best practices. Topics include childcare, transportation, employee health and wellness, education/training, and other employee-focused needs.
Flexible financial assistance for individuals facing barriers to access education/certification MR# 21283 adopted on 06/23/2021	\$1,500,000	100000003457	2	2.3	Project will empower Michigan Works! to provide assistance to individuals facing financial barriers limiting access to career credential and higher education programs. This targeted assistance mirrors aid provided through federal funding for barriers to employment, including support for transportation, childcare, work clothing, books and supplies, housing, utilities and training/education opportunities. The County will establish six offices throughout Oakland County to services the community.

OAKLAND COUNTY RECOVERY PLAN

PROJECT INVENTORY AND OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

Project	Allocation	Project Number	Expenditure		Project
			Group	Category	Description
Enhanced services for child welfare-involved families facing negative economic impacts MR# 21283 adopted on 06/23/2021	\$1,200,000	100000003457	2	2.3	Project will provide an equitable recovery related to childcare for disproportionately impacted individuals and families seeking a return to work. The County will grant \$1,200 per household to families where childcare is a barrier to employment. The grant is limited to 1,000 households who qualify at up to 300% of the U.S. federal poverty guidelines or meet Oakland County Michigan Works! Agency's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Dislocated Worker, Adult, or Youth Program Eligibility guidelines. The childcare scholarship will support families with coverage costs which include co-pays, application fees, direct care costs, and more.
Mental Health and Wellbeing Non-Profit Grant Program MR #21284 adopted on 06/30/2021	\$10,000,000	100000003458	1	1.10	Project will support non-profits delivering mental health services in the community and build upon the success of the partnership between United Way of Southeastern Michigan and Oakland County established in 2020. In partnership with the County, United Way will administer the grant to provide assistance to non-profit organizations delivering mental health services.
Youth Assistance Grant (appropriated from \$2m assignment above) MR# 21316 adopted on 08/05/2021	\$50,000	100000003509	2	2.3	Project will support services to youth. The county will contract Oakland County Youth Assistance Coordinating Council to administer the Youth Assistance Grant program and to distribute funding for eligible expenses. This project allows the County to provide assistance to at-risk youth and their families impacted by the pandemic. The project initiatives or support fall into three categories: emergency needs, mental health and skill building.

OAKLAND COUNTY RECOVERY PLAN

PROJECT INVENTORY AND OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

Project	Allocation	Project Number	Expenditure		Project
			Group	Category	Description
Housing Legal Aid and Assistance MR# 21284 adopted on 06/30/2021	\$2,000,000	100000003459	2	2.5	Project will support the County’s partnership with Lakeshore Legal Aid and the Legal Aid and Defender Association to provide assistance to residents facing eviction and other civil matters related to financial hardship caused by the pandemic. Organizations will assist individuals in need with gaining access to financial assistance available through government and community agencies.
Small Business Recovery and Resilience Business Professional Services Assistance Grant Program MR # 21284 adopted on 06/30/2021	\$2,500,000	100000003460	2	2.9	Project will renew a successful program that was utilized in 2020 to provide support to businesses and non-profits with obtaining professional services (i.e., accountants, attorneys, consultants). This project will utilize business community navigators to provide counseling and assistance to businesses and organizations with technical assistance in obtaining federal, state and local relief resources. Targeted outreach will be made in underserved communities by partnering with organizations with deep roots in those communities.
Unlocking Doors Oakland Program in partnership with Alliance for Housing MR# 21176 adopted on 07/27/2021	\$315,000	100000003512	3	3.11	Project will support the County’s “Unlocking Doors Oakland” program that was established in response to COVID-19 for the purposes of encouraging landlords to rent to homeless persons who lack sufficient credit and rental payment references, or who are otherwise perceived as a high-risk tenant. Under the program, homeless persons who receive a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) with a Homeless Preference or Permanent Supportive Housing through the Alliance for Housing’s special programs are to be eligible. Project funding is earmarked to reimburse the expenses to landlords for damages that exceed the amount covered by a tenant’s security deposits. The project will fund claims made during a tenant’s first eighteen months in housing and claim amounts are capped at a maximum of \$3,000 per tenant.

OAKLAND COUNTY RECOVERY PLAN

PROJECT INVENTORY AND OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

Project	Allocation	Project Number	Expenditure		Project
			Group	Category	Description
Business Community Navigators MR# 21284 adopted on 06/30/2021	\$500,000	100000003461	2	2.9	Project will allow the Economic Development Department to obtain the services of business community navigators to provide counseling and technical assistance to Oakland County businesses and organizations in obtaining federal, state, and local relief resources. The County will target businesses owned and controlled by individuals qualifying as economically and socially disadvantaged.
Arts, Beats, and Eats sponsorship (only \$80K to be expended) MR# 21310 adopted on 08/05/2021	\$125,000	100000003503	2	2.12	Project will promote awareness in cultural diversity in arts, entertainment, and food programming and presentation. The event will be transformational in terms of impact to small business, mental health and celebrating a return to normalcy. In addition, the event, will fund the gate staffing and infrastructure support to support two initiatives: One initiative allocating a portion of admission revenue in partnership with Kroger to support food insecurity and support organizations that deal with hunger and food needs in the community. A second initiative will focus on continuing meaningful support to participating non-profit organizations. Finally, the project will support awareness for the LBGTQ community including possible direct support as developed by engagement conjunction with the LBGTQ community.
TOTAL	\$22,114,000				