

City of Omaha
Recovery Plan



State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2025 Report

**City of Omaha
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Executive Summary

Since 2021, the City of Omaha has reported to the U.S. government and public on its use of the American Rescue Plan Act Funds, first awarded in 2021 for relief and support in places affected by the historic COVID-19 pandemic.

This 2025 report represents the fifth accounting of how the city has carefully stewarded the program. Omaha Mayor John W. Ewing, Jr., who was elected in May 2025 and took office in June 2025, understands the importance of the ARPA program.

“Not only did the ARPA program help blunt the challenging economic impact of the COVID-19 epidemic,” he said, “but it also provided a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make crucial investments that will benefit Omaha residents for years to come.”

The City of Omaha has executed several projects that are funded with the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. Many of these projects have already been completed. The first priority for the City of Omaha was to stabilize city government by focusing on recovery, reinvestment and rebuilding. This was accomplished through two programs allowed under the guidelines: claiming revenue loss and rehiring city employees up to pre-pandemic levels. By ensuring stability within city government, the citizens have continued to receive the service they expect and deserve. This strategy has ensured that all city services are funded as needed and a revenue shortage did not cause layoffs or reductions in services.

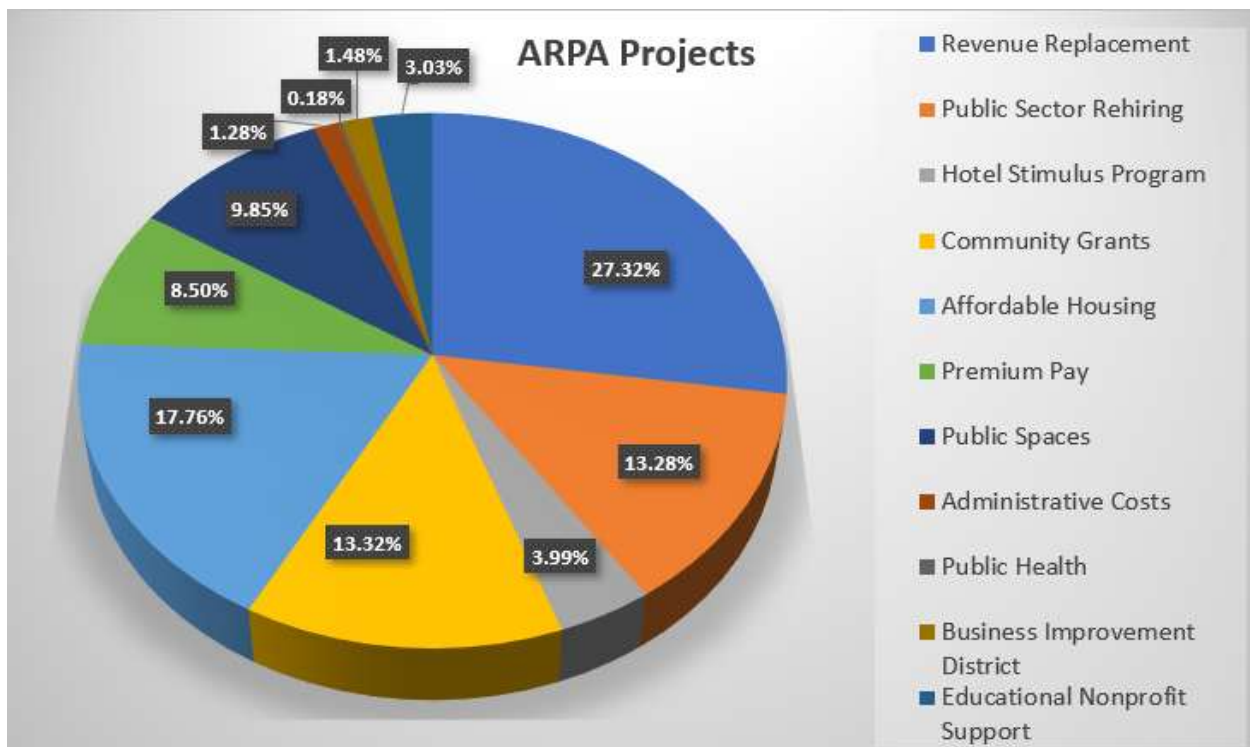
The City has publicly announced several ARPA programs and all funds have been either obligated or expended at this time. The Hotel Stimulus Program (HSP) provided relief to local hotels that were devastated by the pandemic. Many of these hotels were forced to lay off or furlough the majority of their staff. This program was created to support operational needs due to the industry being significantly impacted by the pandemic. Funding allowed the hotels to stabilize and ensure they could remain open and operating as the tourism industry in Omaha relies on a healthy hotel industry.

The ARPA community grants program provided funds for community-based programs that focus on basic needs, community based mental health and behavioral health services, crisis intervention, violence prevention and intervention, and workforce development. This program was intended to stabilize, expand, and enhance programs and services which directly benefit the individuals and communities most affected by the social, economic, and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the Affordable Housing Program, ARPA funds will make new affordable housing units available, preserve and improve the quality of existing housing units, and increase opportunities for homeownership for low to moderate income families. These funds are being maximized to serve as many individuals and families as possible. Investments in community development will create opportunities for jobs in construction and housing-related industries while prioritizing opportunities for small and emerging developers to be part of the creation of affordable housing. The positive ripple effect will be felt not only in disinvested communities but throughout all of Omaha. The City of Omaha leveraged \$20 million in ARPA funding to secure an additional \$20 million in philanthropic contributions to produce and preserve affordable housing throughout the city. Additionally, the city received approval

for \$20 million in HUD Section 108 funds to support the development and preservation of affordable housing within its Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs).

The public spaces program was created based upon feedback received from a citizen survey conducted in 2021. The Omaha parks system experienced a significant increase in traffic during the pandemic due to the need for social distancing. City parks offer citizens space to enjoy time outdoors, improving their mental and physical health, while practicing social distancing precautions. Precipitous use created a need for additional maintenance and improvements to many City of Omaha park and recreation facilities. After a thorough review process, a multi-million dollar parks improvement plan was developed and announced as a use for the ARPA funds. This plan includes a variety of projects all of which are located within or serve individuals that reside in qualified census tracts.



Uses of Funds

The City of Omaha has taken the necessary steps to support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic downturn through the use of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. In 2021, the City solicited and received input from citizens on potential best uses for the funds according to the federal requirements and the greatest community need.

Based on the input received in the 2021 survey and since, the City of Omaha ARPA teams developed projects that met the guidelines and addressed the complex needs created or intensified by the pandemic. The City implemented the use of ARPA planning teams to produce efficient, effective, and equitable outcomes within each identified area of need. Planning teams consist of staff across departments with diverse technical expertise and experience in assigned areas of project development. The City has also created an ARPA administrative team, representing the Finance Department, Law

Department, and Mayor's Office. The administrative team was involved in all aspects of ARPA project planning and continues to monitor ongoing projects and ensure compliance with all reporting requirements.

Public Health (EC 1)

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Omaha received FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funding to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to various City departments. This was vital to protecting employee and citizen health during the pandemic. The City also received other grant dollars to cover some employee costs as they relate to COVID-19 (i.e. overtime for individuals in quarantine, individuals disinfecting public spaces, etc.).

The city utilized some of the federal rescue funds to pay for a part-time individual in early 2022 to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. The city had also utilized some funds to support the purchase of a new air handling unit in the Omaha Douglas Civic Center to ensure clean, safe air is circulated for employees and citizens receiving services in the building.

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

The City of Omaha identified the need to address negative economic impacts with SLFRF funds within our community. As a result, the City developed several programs to help mitigate the effects COVID-19 had on Omaha citizens.

1. The Hotel Stimulus Program (HSP)
2. The Public Space Improvement Plan
3. The Community Grant Program
4. The Affordable Housing Plan
5. Business Improvement District Support
6. Educational Nonprofit Support

The Hotel Stimulus Program was created to reduce the loss in revenue for hotels around Omaha, caused by the restricted and limited travel as a result of COVID-19. In addition, the Public Space Improvement Plan was created to address the needs in many of our facilities around the City of Omaha. Ten parks and facility locations were identified to receive significant quality of life improvements - all of which are located in or serve individuals that reside in a Qualified Census Tract. In addition, the City of Omaha contracted United Way and Omaha Community Foundation to administer, regulate, and disburse funds to Omaha non-profits that experienced significant difficulties throughout the pandemic. Finally, affordable housing has always been a priority for the City of Omaha, but has recently become more crucial due to the increased cost in housing coupled with the negative economic impacts of COVID on individuals and families.

Hotel Stimulus Program

The Mission of the City of Omaha's Convention and Visitors Bureau (OCVB) is to stimulate economic growth by promoting and developing Omaha as an appealing tourism destination. In 2019, 13.4 million visitors traveled to Omaha and spent \$1.4 billion in our community. However, the COVID-19 pandemic created a loss of more than \$343 million in visitor spending in 2020. Hotel revenue in the City of Omaha/Douglas County declined by 51% compared to 2019. Hotels were forced to lay off or furlough the majority of their staff. The pandemic-induced losses in the lodging industry brought demand and revenue in 2020 to below 2010 levels, wiping out more than a decade of growth.

One of the goals of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is to provide aid to tourism, travel, and hospitality industries to help those businesses respond to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. The City of Omaha dedicated \$4,489,600 from the SLFRF/ARPA funds to reimburse operating expenses, specifically, Metropolitan Utility District (MUD) and Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) invoices. Originally, the Hotel Stimulus Program (HSP) was constructed to assist hotels in the safe reopening of their properties, as well as aid in a planned expansion or upgrade delayed due to the pandemic. While the HSP still assists hotels in the safe reopening of their properties, upon release of the final rule which expanded eligible expenses, the City of Omaha altered the program to prioritize operating cost reimbursement. HSP applications were reviewed and approved based on the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Following SLFRF guidelines per the U.S. Department of Treasury, the City of Omaha determined a maximum 68 eligible hotels, ultimately resulting in 46 eligible applicants. Specific allocation amounts varied from hotel to hotel and were determined by Omaha's Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City's ARPA Administrative Team in an amount of \$800.00 per open hotel room, per hotel. In an effort to disburse funds into the community as soon as possible, the City of Omaha reimbursed operational expenses, specifically utility invoices from OPPD and MUD. In that effort, HSP funds have been disbursed to all 46 eligible applications totaling \$4,489,600.00 to date.

Hotels were forced to delay necessary improvements as a result of lost revenue in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. The HSP was the exclusive factor that allowed for hotels to make these necessary improvements to guest rooms with dollars that normally would have been obligated for their water and electricity invoices saving, on average, \$4,949.28 each month for each hotel. Specific uses of these funds differed from hotel to hotel depending on their needs, ranging from general room upgrades to increasing the quality of products offered to customers. Due to increasing costs, hotels were forced to lower order numbers to meet the original dollar amount in some cases. HSP funds allowed them to raise their order number back to par and maintain 100% functionality of products which would not have otherwise been possible to maintain. Overall, the Hotel Stimulus Program helped reduce and mitigate the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on the tourism industry as well as created a direct benefit to tourists and the Omaha tourism industry. This program has officially been completed as of the second quarter of 2023.

Public Space Improvement Plan

A public space improvement plan was created to address the needs in many of our facilities. This plan includes projects at ten parks/facilities around the City of Omaha. All of these projects are either located in a qualified census tract or primarily serve individuals that reside in one. By improving parks and other public spaces, specifically within QCTs, the City will serve disproportionately impacted communities through outdoor recreation, healthy living, and safe socialization spaces. These funds are helping to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and build safer, stronger neighborhoods.

As was experienced around the county during the pandemic, the City of Omaha facilities also saw an increase in the use of our parks, trails and public outdoor spaces. It became apparent that due to the usage and the need for safe socialization spaces, the City of Omaha needed to invest into parks and facilities within the area. Staff from the parks team spent time analyzing needs, options and allowable uses of ARPA funds to determine the list of improvements across the city that would have the greatest impact for our citizens, specifically those that experienced the most harm from the pandemic.

Community Grant Program

The ARPA Community Grant Program supports nonprofit organizations providing programs and services to disproportionately impacted communities. COVID-19 disproportionately affected historically disadvantaged communities, exacerbating health and economic disparities. To help alleviate the hardships and equity gaps intensified by the pandemic, the City of Omaha allocated \$15 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for community grants.

Based on community feedback and the intersection of highlighted needs with ARPA's federal requirements, the City of Omaha partnered with the Omaha Community Foundation (OCF) and United Way of the Midlands (UWM) to assist in developing and administering the City of Omaha ARPA Community Grant Program.

Mayor Jean Stothert announced that the City's ARPA distribution would include grants for community programs managed by Omaha nonprofit organizations located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), those providing services to program participants living in a QCT, or those demonstrating that the pandemic had a significant adverse health or economic impact on their program participants.

The Stothert administration prioritized funding through the City of Omaha budget for programs that aligned with the Mayor's overall priorities, including public safety, violent crime prevention and intervention, job training, growth and economic development, and pandemic recovery programs. The organizations selected for the Community Grant Program specifically addressed underserved and adversely impacted communities within the City of Omaha, providing food, utility, and rent assistance, small business support, and work readiness.

The \$15 million ARPA grant program, administered by the Omaha Community Foundation (OCF) and United Way of the Midlands (UWM), provided one-time grants to nonprofit community service organizations that had been impacted or disproportionately impacted. OCF and UWM managed these grants and monitored compliance with the goals, objectives, and reporting requirements set by the City of Omaha and the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). Utilizing a third party for fund administration provided readily available capacity and infrastructure that the City would otherwise have had to duplicate.

The ARPA Community Grant Program provided nonprofit community-based organizations with the necessary resources to sustain and grow services that directly responded to the needs of populations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These grants stabilized and expanded key community resource hubs, including food and shelter stabilization programs, workforce development and employment services, mental and behavioral healthcare services, crisis and emergency response services, and youth and family capacity-building programs. The application and selection period was completed during the first and second quarters of 2022. Year one funding was distributed beginning in July 2022, and year two funding was disbursed between July and December 2023 upon reconciliation of year one receipts. The project period of performance for the Community Grant Program was from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2024.

The ARPA Community Grant Program stabilized Omaha nonprofits, enabling them to address the impacts of the pandemic, which were most severe among low-income populations. This included assistance with food, housing, and other needs; employment programs for people with barriers to employment who faced negative economic impacts from the pandemic (such as residents of low-income neighborhoods, minorities, disconnected youth, the unemployed, formerly incarcerated people,

veterans, and people with disabilities); services to provide long-term housing security and housing supports; address educational disparities; provide out-of-school time supports and supervision; and other strategies that offered impacted and disproportionately impacted communities services to address the negative social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

Affordable Housing Program

Through the Affordable Housing Program, ARPA funds will make new affordable housing units available, preserve and improve the quality of existing housing units, and increase opportunities for homeownership for low to moderate income families. These funds will be maximized to serve as many individuals and families as possible. This investment in community development will also create opportunities for jobs in construction and other housing related industries and prioritize opportunities for small and emerging developers to be part of the creation of affordable housing. The positive ripple effect will be felt not only in disinvested communities but throughout all of Omaha. The City of Omaha leveraged \$20 million in ARPA funding to secure an additional \$20 million in philanthropic contributions to produce and preserve affordable housing throughout the city. Additionally, the city received approval for \$20 million in HUD Section 108 funds to support the development and preservation of affordable housing within its Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs).

Considering the ARPA and matching philanthropic funds, the Affordable Housing Program will focus on: Property Owner Preservation and Rehabilitation; Homebuyer Support; Housing Supportive Programs; Pre-development Activities; Development, Preservation, and Gap Financing; and Capacity Building and Operations. These individual programs address a number of negative economic impacts affecting our community including rising construction costs due to materials and labor shortage, rising property values caused by inflation and an aggressive housing market, and providing resources for job creation and capacity building that will lead to more housing construction and therefore more housing options.

These programs will target various areas within the city, not just QCTs. The City developed an interactive mapping tool to support the development & preservation fund in identifying project locations in relation to QCT and access to transportation and employment opportunities.

Other Federal Recovery Funds

The City of Omaha has received grant funding to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic from several Federal recovery sources. Funding sources include CDBG-CV 1 and 3, ESG-CV 1 and 2, HOME-ARP, and ERAP 1 and 2.

The City received approximately \$4.8 million of CDBG-CV1 and CDBG-CV3 funds. Most of the City's CDBG-CV1 funds went toward emergency services such as food delivery, COVID testing, and small business support. Approximately \$1.5 million of these funds focused on rent support. All of the City's CDBG-CV3 funds, approximately \$2 million, focused on rent support.

The City received approximately \$5.6 million of ESG-CV funds. Approximately \$1.5 million of these funds supported temporary emergency non-congregate shelter in the winter of 2020-2021. The remainder went to homeless services such as street outreach, rapid rehousing, and shelter operations.

The City received approximately \$8.1 million of HOME-ARP funds. Two conditional awards totaling \$6 million have been made to permanent supportive housing projects that will create an estimated 38 new

units. Remaining funds are allocated to our HOME consortium and administration expenses. All HOME-ARP funds will provide housing stability for the homeless and near homeless.

The City received approximately \$86.4 million of ERA 1 funds and approximately \$36.1 million of ERA 2 funds. These funds have been used to provide rent and utility support for households earning 80% AMI or less. As allowed by Treasury regulation, the City is utilizing some of the remaining ERA 2 funds for housing stability purposes.

Business Improvement District

This program was created to provide support to Business Improvement Districts in Omaha that are located in or primarily serve individuals in a Qualified Census Tract. This program provided qualified Business Improvement Districts the opportunity to propose projects to the City of Omaha for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The BID Program's strategic priorities are to focus on Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety. This program is providing security and safety support such as lighting improvements in high pedestrian areas. All of these dollars have been awarded and project work is currently underway.

Educational Nonprofit Support

The City of Omaha invested capital support for two educational nonprofits to assist them with acquiring the physical space needed to continue growing their services in the City of Omaha. North Omaha Music and Arts (NOMA) received funds to acquire two buildings. This acquisition provides a designated space to continue services in the Qualified Census Tract community where they are located. Omaha Performing Arts (OPA) has received capital support for their expansion project in order to grow the services they provide to Omaha youth, educators and community members. Use of Recovery Funds in the OPA Campus Expansion Project will address the high demand and the limited capacity with current spaces in place at the Holland Center to centralize and more adequately serve the educational needs of the community.

The City also received approximately \$1.1 million in Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program funds from the Department of Justice. These funds supported the City's immediate response to the coronavirus including direct mitigation and personal protective equipment needs.

Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)

The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) has supported payroll costs for some employees responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Omaha identified several positions to be funded under this category.

- 1) A legal intern hired in 2021 assisted with the creation and implementation of the hotel program. This individual also participated on the ARPA admin team and assisted with interpretation of the SLFRF guidance, creating guidelines for selected projects, along with preparation of reporting documents. This employee was funded through May of 2022.
- 2) A decontamination technician was funded by ARPA for approximately three months in 2022. This individual was mobile and assigned to provide decontamination services for city buildings, as well as police and fire vehicles. Assignments were coordinated by the Safety Inspector in the City of Omaha Human Resources Department and initiated via notification from departments regarding known or suspected contact with a COVID-19 positive case.

- 3) A Parks Planner II was hired to manage the public spaces projects and ensure compliance with required guidance. This position was funded by ARPA through 2024.
- 4) A Housing Manager was hired to coordinate and oversee the use of ARPA funds for the Affordable Housing Program. They will also coordinate and oversee the use of ERA funds provided to the City by the Treasury. This position was funded by ARPA through 2024 and transitioned to city funding in 2025.
- 5) The Mayor's Office hired a Homeless Services Coordinator to coordinate and oversee various government and community initiatives. This individual is responsible for working with key stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy and implement major initiatives to end homelessness. This position was funded by ARPA through 2024 and transitioned to city funding in 2025.
- 6) The Mayor's Office hired a Street Outreach Community Liaison position to assist the Homeless Services Coordinator with providing services to the homeless population in Omaha. This position was funded by ARPA through 2024 and transitioned to city funding in 2025.

Rehiring public sector staff was another priority for the City's use of recovery funds. In early 2020, as the pandemic began, the City proactively took measures to cut costs as the City did not receive a direct allocation of CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) dollars, including a hiring freeze across City departments. To provide a satisfactory level of service to citizens and those doing business with the City of Omaha, it was essential that the City restore staffing to pre-pandemic levels. ARPA funds were used to cover payroll and benefits for the identified eligible positions through 2024 as allowed in the final rule.

Premium Pay (EC 4)

The City of Omaha offered premium pay to all eligible city employees in 2022. The program ran from July 24th through November 12th and paid a maximum of \$3,000 to eligible full-time employees and \$1,500 to eligible part-time or seasonal employees. The program paid \$10/hour for work performed in person during this period up to the maximum amount allowed per pay period and in total.

Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)

The City of Omaha did not utilize funds for sewer or water infrastructure. In the 2021 plan, the city did contemplate designating funds towards broadband expansion. Upon further research, it was decided not to proceed with that program. City technology professionals met with the two major broadband providers in Omaha and it was their understanding that the infrastructure is already in place and updates are not needed. City staff learned of discount programs offered by these providers that are subsidized by the federal government which offers low-cost broadband services. Given this information, it was decided to utilize the recovery funds for other priority projects.

Revenue Replacement (EC 6)

The City of Omaha Finance Department calculated the City's revenue loss for 2020 to be \$30,762,643, and \$0 for 2021, 2022 and 2023 according to the "General Revenue" definition and calculation methodology as provided in the Final Rule. The City calculated the revenue loss using a modified accrual basis for all years calculated. Sales tax, occupation taxes, restaurant tax, hotel/motel tax, motor vehicle taxes, building permits, vehicle rental taxes and community center revenue were among the hardest hit

revenues for the City of Omaha in the General Fund. The City utilized revenue loss for general government services.

The most significant City responsibility is public safety, therefore the revenue loss funds from 2020 were utilized to cover payroll and benefits for public safety employees. This allowed the City to ensure public safety was maintained during the unprecedented time.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Promoting equitable outcomes has been a vital component in the development of all of these projects. The economic and health impacts of COVID-19 on communities across the nation have fallen most severely on disadvantaged communities. Low-income communities and people of color have faced higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. These groups also have higher rates of unemployment and have been found to lack basic necessities like food and housing. As stated in the Treasury's Final Rule, the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified many social vulnerabilities that have led to disproportionately severe impacts in disadvantaged communities. As the City of Omaha came to understand local needs, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds were targeted to counter these impacts.

The City of Omaha intentionally communicated with the public regarding ARPA programs and strategies. Each program was launched via official Mayoral press conferences and news releases. These announcements are posted to a dedicated webpage on the City of Omaha website and via social media. Prior to obligating ARPA dollars to programs and services, each allocation has been before the Omaha City Council where there was an opportunity for discussion and public comment.

The Hotel Stimulus Program was marketed directly to each eligible hotel in the City's service area. The Convention and Visitors Bureau utilized their network with the local hospitality industry to facilitate a responsive and simplified application process. Assistance to the hotel industry was equitably distributed based upon a formula established by the ARPA team. Each hotel was eligible for a set amount of funding per number of guest rooms.

The ARPA Community Grant Program was marketed to local nonprofits via the City of Omaha, Omaha Community Foundation (OCF), and United Way of the Midlands (UWM) webpages. OCF and UWM conducted direct and electronic mail campaigns to hundreds of eligible agencies, disseminating the grant application information. Additionally, OCF and UWM hosted a series of webinars, posted FAQ's and staffed dedicated email and telephone accounts to aid organizations in their application efforts. Application support was provided in multiple languages to assist those representing some of the most marginalized provider communities within the City. Within the Community Grant Program, nonprofit applicants were required to affirm they: 1) are located within a Qualified Census Tract; 2) primarily serve individuals who reside in a QCT; or 3) are able demonstrate the pandemic had a significant health or economic impact on program participants. Equity was further embedded in the Community Grant Program by intentionally situating a broadly diverse swath of community volunteers on the OCF and UWM selection committees.

Building up and improving the public spaces found in Qualified Census Tracts is one way the City has countered the negative health impacts of the pandemic on disadvantaged communities. The Parks and Recreation Department and ARPA Administrative Team have prioritized ten City parks and facilities and several other public areas for significant upgrades and renovations. By improving public spaces, specifically in Omaha's QCTs, the City of Omaha is improving and promoting healthier, safer activities

and spaces. Outdoor recreation and socialization provides opportunities for physical activity within a space that, being more open, mitigates the spread of COVID-19. Physical activity is important for a healthy lifestyle, and activities within parks and outdoor spaces provide important social opportunities while allowing for safe social distancing. Additionally, public space improvements are highly visible and will be readily available for use by Omaha citizens. By enhancing parks and other public spaces within Omaha's QCTs, the City is delivering visible and accessible improvements directly to communities that have been most heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Public spaces have been vital in addressing the negative impacts of COVID-19 on disadvantaged communities by combining the safety of open spaces that allow for distanced and safe socialization with active recreation promotion. The City of Omaha prioritized improving public spaces in order to promote their use.

The City of Omaha is focused on aiding disadvantaged communities through affordable housing projects. Locally, and across the country, limited access to affordable housing has been further exacerbated as a result of the economic impacts of COVID-19. Low-wage earners and marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted by this shortage. In addressing these pressing issues, the City is building stronger communities through investments in housing and neighborhoods that increase the supply of affordable and high-quality living units, improving access to stable, affordable housing, and direct services aimed at reducing and addressing homelessness. The City of Omaha has partnered with Front Porch Investments (FPI) who is seeking to change the trajectory of an estimated 100,000 housing unit gap by 2040.

The City has prioritized affordable housing projects which improve access to existing public transportation and job centers. The priority of the Affordable Housing strategy is not only to place individuals in quality housing, but to connect them to employment opportunities which will sustain their families and improve their quality of life. The City has made a commitment to create and preserve affordable housing, and support access to affordable housing for renters, homebuyers and homeowners.

More than 1,000 households in Omaha will benefit from the Affordable Housing Program executed by Front Porch Investments (FPI). The positive ripple effect will be felt not only in disinvested communities but throughout all of Omaha. Funds are being used to develop and preserve a variety of rental and for-sale affordable housing options throughout Omaha so that households are not paying more than 30% of their income on housing. As much as possible, the funds will revolve in loan funds designed to continue supporting these activities. ARPA funds will be combined with the private philanthropic match to be used for the following priorities: Preservation and Rehabilitation; Homebuyer Support; Housing Supportive Programs; Predevelopment Activities; Development & Gap Financing and Capacity Building & Operations.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the local economy at unprecedented levels. During Q2 of 2020, the Omaha Metro experienced a stunning 33% decline in GDP, including a shortage in the labor force as well as an increase in unemployment. Studies indicated one-in-four adults had trouble paying their bills, a third dipped into savings or retirement accounts to make ends meet, and one-in-six had to borrow money from friends or family to address food insecurity.

Among lower-income adults in Omaha, a large number indicate having trouble paying their bills since the pandemic started and roughly a third say it is hard for them to make rent or mortgage payments.

Job loss has also been more acute among lower-income adults, and they are less likely to be working now than middle- and upper-income adults who lost their jobs.

Additionally, women, adults under age 30, Black and Hispanic adults, and those without a college degree are among the most likely to have had trouble paying bills, their rent or mortgage, or for medical care. These groups have been especially impacted by higher unemployment rates during the coronavirus recession.

With these COVID-19 impacts in mind, FPI will prioritize applications for projects associated with ARPA funding based on several priorities, including the following: 1) Qualified Census Tracts; 2) Proximity to transit; 3) Proximity to job centers. The complete list of priorities is available [here](#).

The three project priorities stated above are directed at the Negative Economic Impacts (EC2) and Service to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC3) categories specifically. Other projects are also focused on improving equity throughout the City of Omaha, for example, the City's community grant program managed by Omaha Community Foundation and United Way of the Midlands. Project progress is updated on the City of Omaha website as they develop to create project visibility. As the City manages projects, teams will remain dedicated to considering, striving to create, and working to promote equitable outcomes throughout the community.

Community Engagement

In July 2021, the City of Omaha requested community feedback in order to best understand the needs and priorities of the citizens of Omaha relative to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mayor's Office created an online response form that allowed citizens to provide valued suggestions about how they would like to see the relief funds utilized in the community. The form was open from July 20th to August 15th, 2021. The community feedback effort was very successful and informative and was used as a guide for city staff as they developed responsive projects. The main themes that surfaced include affordable housing, broadband expansion, community programs, violence and mental health intervention, aid to tourism and hospitality industries, and public space improvements. The City of Omaha has since announced projects that fall into many of these categories.

The ARPA Administrative Team continues to brief City Council members by providing updates on active city projects.

Stakeholder groups across the Omaha metro hosted public forums, online meetings, and administered surveys to better understand the most pressing issues within their respective sectors. The City received input from many local organizations, including neighborhood associations, Omaha 360 Violence Intervention and Prevention Collaborative, the Mayor's COVID Advisory Board, the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands, United Way of the Midlands, Business Improvement Districts, the Greater Omaha Chamber, utility companies, medical providers, economic development organizations, and the Workforce Housing Partners collaborative.

The City of Omaha ARPA Community Grant Program received 244 applications, totaling over \$70 million in funding requests. Each application underwent a thorough review process to ensure eligibility, completion, alignment with program guidelines, and satisfaction of specific criteria. The community grant award recipients were announced by the Omaha Community Foundation (OCF) and United Way of

the Midlands (UWM) on June 29th. A joint press conference was held, and the awards were posted on the City of Omaha, OCF, and UWM public websites.

Projects funded through the ARPA Community Grant Program underwent a rigorous, community-driven review and decision-making process that was citizen-led and aligned with the specific needs of the communities most negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Each grant review committee was composed of OCF or UWM staff members, one to two city employees, and community members. These community members included current and former participants of OCF Community Interest Funds or UWM Community Investment grant committees, several of whom reside in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs). Committee membership was representative of the diverse mixture of culture and community within the Omaha Metro, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of those most affected by the pandemic were central to the decision-making process.

Applicants were evaluated based on basic program eligibility and whether they outlined allowable programs and expenses under the ARPA legislation. The amount of funding awarded also took into account the following criteria: proposal expands or enhances existing programs; organization has a proven record of success within the focus area; project has significant impact on the community; project has sustainability beyond the grant period; project addresses significant community need related to COVID-19. Consistent with the ARPA guidance, there was a priority in allocating funding for applicant organizations located within and/or serving those within QCTs.

Applications meeting the minimum criteria were forwarded to committee members for review. Each committee member independently scored the applications and submitted scores prior to group discussion. Proposals were ranked based on these initial scores. Each resident-led review team dedicated several hours to group discussions about the individual proposals. The review teams prioritized and allocated funding across the identified priority areas, ensuring that the process was both inclusive and reflective of the unique challenges faced by the most impacted communities.

The Parks Department did a community survey in the spring of 2023 related to the Kountze Park project to ensure that funds are utilized in a way that will most benefit the citizens in the area. The Parks Department sent postcards to 1,816 housing units in an eight-block radius around the park. The postcard was printed in both English and Spanish and encouraged participation in the electronic survey. 437 responses were received along with five phone call responses. The input received was used during the design process to ensure community priorities are addressed. The feedback received expressed a desire for updates across the entire park.

Labor Practices

The City is rigorous in enforcing strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects while also supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. The City of Omaha Code of Ordinances, Section 23-195 indicates the city shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws and labor agreements pertaining to equal employment opportunity and prohibiting discrimination and shall ensure that such equal opportunity be free of political bias.

The City of Omaha has an established Human Rights and Relations (HRR) department. The HRR department actively facilitates a Small and Emerging Business Program. The Small and Emerging Business Program was created to stimulate the growth of small and emerging businesses in Omaha, with

special attention to economic growth in areas having high levels of poverty. It is a race and gender-neutral program. City of Omaha Ordinance No. 35344 §§10-190--10-200.4, the Contract Compliance Ordinance, covers contractors and vendors who do business with the City in the amount of \$10,000 and above. The HRR Contract Compliance Division is responsible for ensuring that contractors and vendors doing business with the City comply with the equal opportunity requirements of the Ordinance. The staff conduct compliance reviews, investigate contract compliance complaints, assist contractors as needed, and conduct training for all contractors or vendors who receive a contract with the City for business.

Use of Evidence

Through the Omaha Community Foundation (OCF) and United Way of the Midlands (UWM), the City of Omaha directed State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to nonprofit agencies executing community-based programs, including violence prevention and intervention initiatives. The City emphasizes the use of data and evidence in evaluating investments. Omaha is committed to improving the quantity and quality of evidence about effective programs and strategies, integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions, and enhancing the translation of evidence into practice. Community Grant Program applicants were required to provide documentation summarizing their conformance with SLFRF evidence-based requirements.

UWM and OCF have distributed \$15 million in ARPA funds over two years through an investment process that leverages best practices in grantmaking to support nonprofit stabilization and recovery efforts. UWM and OCF awarded ARPA grants to nonprofits executing programs that address social and economic disparities in Omaha by supporting basic needs, workforce readiness, and critical prevention and intervention efforts consistent with eligible uses. The community grantmaking process is designed to address the complex and interconnected barriers to opportunity experienced by people in need. These investments foster an integrated and coordinated system of support to help individuals and families attain their full potential.

Content leaders and analytics professionals facilitated the volunteer-led application processes to ensure wise investment of funds. To receive funding, nonprofits were required to complete an application that includes ARPA-specific questions to ensure compliance with ARPA eligibility requirements. Agencies were allowed to submit multiple program applications but could not make duplicate requests for funding. The application included organizational, programmatic, evaluation, and financial components to ensure due diligence. Program activities, collaborations, budgets, and outcomes are reviewed. Preference was given to organizations demonstrating efficiency, impact, collaboration, and integration across priority areas and census tracts. Agencies were required to explain their target population and how they embed equity into operations.

OCF and UWM developed scoring rubrics to evaluate proposals based on best practices. The rubric reflects years of community-driven grantmaking experience. UWM and OCF staff provided applicants with training and technical assistance throughout the application period via webinars, website resources, direct email and phone support, and office hours.

Applications were reviewed by OCF and UWM staff, along with approximately 165 community members and subject matter experts from businesses, nonprofits, and government organizations. This process engages citizens who collaborate to determine how the investments can best meet community needs, including those living in or at risk of poverty and those requesting assistance for the first time due to the

COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers received training and orientation on the parameters of the ARPA guidance and scope of the Community Grant Program. Volunteers are required to disclose conflicts of interest.

Omaha has a rich history of collaboration between local government, state departments, nonprofits, and philanthropic organizations. The City of Omaha and Douglas County partner on various issues to address the needs of the Omaha metropolitan area. The City and the County maintain a collaborative response in monitoring local priorities and addressing needs via available resources.

The City of Omaha Finance Department has established written accounting and grant management procedures. Subrecipient agreements outline the responsibilities of grant partners as indicated in the interim final rule and compliance and reporting supplement. Compliance with subrecipient agreements and the City of Omaha Grants Management Handbook is monitored by the City of Omaha Finance Department and Grant Administration Division.

Performance Report

Each funded project requires the recipient agency to enter into a formal agreement with the City of Omaha. Agreements contain an enumerated scope of work, eligible expenses, terms and conditions, and reporting requirements. The city requires entities receiving funds through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARPA) to provide quarterly reporting to the city so that the data may be included in quarterly updates to the Treasury. This includes the Hotel Stimulus Program (HSP), the Community Grants Program and the Affordable Housing Program.

Projects managed by the City of Omaha Finance Department are primarily calculations related to personnel. These items include the rehiring to pre-pandemic levels project, the premium pay project and the entries to fund six positions (Parks Planner II, Decontamination Technician, Law Intern, Housing Manager, Homeless Services Coordinator, and Street Outreach Community Liaison). Rehiring calculations were calculated bi-weekly by a finance employee using methodology created per the federal guidance and approved by the SLFRF consultant. These calculations were then validated and confirmed by a separate individual, prior to entries being made. Upon the completion of the monthly benefit costs, a journal entry was made for rehiring for each pay period eligible. All entries for directly funded positions were completed quarterly. In addition, premium pay journal entries were calculated bi-weekly through the performance period with data pulled from the City of Omaha payroll system. Revenue loss calculations were typically finalized at the completion of the financial statements and entries for the provision of government services for any loss were entered thereafter.

The Public Space Improvement Plan projects have been managed primarily by City of Omaha Parks staff. Parks Department staff communicate with and provide reporting information quarterly to the ARPA administrative team so data can be included in quarterly reporting to the Treasury Department. The public space improvements committee meets regularly to discuss project progress, ensure activities are executed according to guidelines, and substantiate that project documentation is in order.

Hotel Stimulus Program

In an effort to have the most accurate quarterly reporting, hotels were required to submit a quarterly reporting document to the City by the 15th of each month following quarter end. In regard to reporting obligations, although not necessary, hotels were asked to report on how they spent the money that would have originally been used to pay utility invoices. Each hotel was required to report on the following fields:

- Total award amount
- Total dollar amount claimed this period
- Total dollar amount claimed to date
- Number of full-time equivalent employees
- Percentage of hotel that is fully open for visitors
- Activity description
- Economic impact
- Problems encountered
- Creation of new jobs
- Successes and challenges

Hotel properties were also required to submit a final narrative after all funds had been expended. Funds are considered to be expended when a hotel property provides enough invoices from OPPD or MUD so that they equal their total allocation. For example, if a hotel that has \$200 in operating expenses each month was allocated \$1,000, their funds would be expended in 5 months, requiring two quarterly reports. The final narrative required the hotel to report on the economic impact and provide a brief narrative description of how the assistance provided responded to negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in addition to if there was a creation of any new jobs as well as their successes and challenges. This information was then reviewed by a small team in the City's Finance Department. This project was completed as of the second quarter of 2023.

Community Grants

The Omaha Community Foundation (OCF) and United Way of the Midlands (UWM) maintain responsibility for assisting the City in preparing required reports for the Treasury Department. This includes, but is not limited to the Interim Report, the Project and Expenditure Report, and the Recovery Plan Performance Report. OCF and UWM have agreed to collect and provide the necessary data to the City as enumerated within the Department of the Treasury Compliance and Reporting Guidance: State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, or any other guidance applicable to reporting as it exists and as it may be subsequently updated, amended or supplemented. This data includes, but is not limited to:

- Subrecipient identifying and demographic information (e.g. UEI number and location);
- Award number (e.g. Award number, Contract number, Loan number);
- Award date, type, amount, and description;
- Award payment method (reimbursable or lump sum payment(s));
- Primary place of performance,
- Related project name(s);
- Related project identification number(s)(created by the recipient);
- Period of performance start date;
- Period of performance end date;
- Quarterly obligation amount;

- Quarterly expenditure amount;
- Project(s); and
- Additional programmatic performance indicators for Expenditure Categories

OCF and UWM provide this data to the City each Reporting Period in a timely manner, per Treasury Department requirements. All data is provided to the City at least 15 days before any report is due to the Department of the Treasury. The Reporting Periods are identical to those identified in the Department of Treasury's Guidance. OCF and UWM pass on reporting requirements to grant recipients. This is outlined within the grant agreements with each selected agency.

UWM and OCF are responsible for distributing funding and executing grant agreements that incorporate ongoing financial and programmatic monitoring. Funding levels for each program are approved for two years, pending successful ongoing monitoring. Programs receiving ARPA funds are required to report outcomes based upon the reporting requirements found in the Treasury Compliance Guidance documents. Mid-year reports include performance narrative questions, financial questions, a report on number served and projection for the full year. End-of-year reports include performance narrative, actual financials, demographic reporting, and additional metrics specific to the area of funding. UWM and OCF perform subrecipient monitoring as is necessary to remain in compliance with U.S. Department of Treasury Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Compliance and Reporting Guidance publications.

Consistent with the requirements and guidance provided by the Treasury, programmatic outcome measures focus on the number of individuals served, and the number of services provided. Programs provide the numerical value for these metrics, and a description that allows staff to better understand how each indicator is measured and defined within the context of the work.

UWM and OCF review data to ensure compliance with grant agreements and progress toward community impact. Each program is assigned a liaison to ensure ongoing communication, monitoring and partnership. UWM and OCF utilize metrics and narratives to ensure accountability, and help funded organizations make programmatic changes during the year that will enhance project effectiveness. Failure to meet reporting standards may result in forfeiture and repayment of funds.

UWM and OCF inform the community of programmatic impact through an annual report and financial audit, as well as periodic white papers, website updates, and summaries that reflect learnings and progress toward collaborative goals. Following successful completion of each grant period, UWM and OCF will create an annual report for the City outlining the use and aggregate impact of ARPA funds. A full listing of Community Program grantees can be found on the City of Omaha ARPA page: <https://www.cityofomaha.org/american-rescue-plan-act> as well as in subsequent sections of this report.

Affordable Housing

The Affordable Housing Program has been monitored by the Housing Manager. The Housing Manager reports to the Planning Department and works in conjunction with the Finance Department to ensure reports are submitted in a timely manner. A non-profit organization, Front Porch Investments ("FPI"), acts as a clearing house for all ARPA affordable housing funds and philanthropic funds. FPI is responsible for monitoring and compliance of the funds they are then loaning or granting to support the affordable

housing program. Their monitoring and compliance efforts are described in their Work Plan. The following bullet points are pulled directly from FPI's work plan.

Reporting to FPI

- FPI will collect regular reports on the use and impact of grant funds.
- Impact Development Fund ("IDF") will monitor loans and provide reports to Front Porch throughout the loan term.

Reporting by FPI

- FPI and IDF will request the assistance of Deloitte, who is in partnership with the City, to determine a reporting structure in alignment with Treasury Department guidance.
- FPI and IDF will adhere to all guidelines provided by the US Department of Treasury in order to maintain compliance and reporting for ARPA funding as agreed upon between FPI and the City of Omaha based on Deloitte's recommendations.
- City, FPI, and IDF staff will create an agreed upon format for monthly updates.
- FPI will work with KPMG, and auditor hired by FPI, on all audit related procedures and activities.
- IDF will provide a monthly update on the status of the ARPA funds.
- FPI will provide a monthly update on the amount of private funding distributed.
- FPI will provide any and all required reports to the City on the use of the ARPA funds by December 15, 2026, unless an extension for the use of funds has been approved by the Treasury Department.
- FPI will provide an independent audit of ARPA funding on an annual basis. The audit will be conducted by KPMG LLP.

Assuredly this will continue to evolve as the program evolves.

Project Inventory

Current Projects

6663 6.01: Mandan Park

Funding amount:

\$4,042,171.14

Project Expenditure Category:

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

This can be categorized as a full assessment and evaluation of the functions and potential of the park. This includes between 1-3 miles of new nature/natural surface trails, tree clearing for increased access and viewing through the park (which will enhance security and safety), new playground features, and updated picnic areas for both drop-in and reserved use. A Nature Center to house a new youth summer camp was also constructed for the southeast corner of the property.

There was a measurable increase in the use of Mandan Park during the pandemic. This produced new wear patterns with the use of the nature area and existing equipment. The majority of the equipment was at the end of its use life prior to this project. The addition of a camp in this location is because it is most reminiscent of the camp at Hummel Park and we want to ensure the access for those in the south and central part, most of whom are located in the heart of the census tract, to that kind of experience as well.

The expected completion date for this project is October 2025.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

- Percent of project completed: 90%
- Percent of budget expended: 92%
- Reduction of crime and unlawful activity (Police reporting): This will be evaluated upon completion of the project

Project Demographic Distribution

Disproportionately Impacted: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts

6663 6.02: Fontenelle Park

Funding amount:

\$355,562.58

Project Expenditure Category:

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

The more than 90-year-old pavilion and attached caretaker facility was upgraded and remodeled for both structured programming and event rentals. This included the roof, windows, painting, and interior improvements. A new disc golf course was also established using a portion of the park. Based on projected programming, new nature/natural surface trails will be considered as additional distance as part of the already established hard surface walking paths.

As one of the main rental spaces in this part of the city it was deemed critical to ensure the peak function of the facility and know that access could be year-round. With the additional open space this park provides, the use of this space for disc golf and a nature experience in this part of the city, centered in the census tract, was a strong choice of where to contribute.

The expected completion date for this project is August 2025.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

- Percent of project completed: 70%
- Percent of budget expended: 99%
- Increased use to the pavilion (rentals): 2024-2025 numbers will be low due to the construction period. Increased use is anticipated in future years.
 - 2022- 34 rentals 2023- 30 rentals 2024- 3 rentals
 - 2025- TBD

Project Demographic Distribution

Disproportionately Impacted: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts

6663 6.03: Pipal Park

Funding amount:

\$1,016,900.00

Project Expenditure Category:

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

There was a measurable increase in use during the pandemic that became too much for our restroom and current level of parking to support. Access via the main park road was also a challenge. Using a newly developed park masterplan, a large percentage of the park received upgrades. Phase 1 of this project included removal of old play equipment, removal of existing concrete walls, removal of brick pavers, concrete removal, etc. and the construction of a new playground, site furnishings, concrete walks, concrete picnic table pads, asphalt parking areas, portable toilet enclosure, relocation of existing tunnel, grading, planting, seeding, and related site improvements. Phase 2 of the project will be funded through the parks department in the future and is projected to include a new sprayground, repaving of the park road and additional walking paths. Phase 2 is anticipated to begin in 2026.

We were able to create additional ADA access points with the reconfiguration of space and increase the usability of the playground to be safer and used longer during the year. The barrier free playground is the closest of its kind to people in the census tract. The ARPA piece of this project was completed in July 2024 and project closeout is pending the processing of the final payment.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

- Percent of project completed: 100%
- Percent of budget expended: 99%
- Reduction of crime and unlawful activity (Police reporting):
 - 2020: 4 2021: 5 2022: 7 2023: 1 2024: 3

Project Demographic Distribution

Disproportionately Impacted: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts



6663 6.04: Lynch Park

Funding amount:

\$3,337,357.15

Project Expenditure Category:

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

A park master plan is nearing completion for a full renovation of the park. This was a multiphase project to include a reset of the baseball field, all roads and parking lots, court spaces, existing open-air shelter, and additional open field space. A later phase will include the addition of a playground, spray ground, restroom building, walking trail, and additional parking. A caretaker/maintenance facility is also being conceived.

This park, in the heart of the census tract, has been left behind over the years making it a prime candidate for revitalization with these funds. This area was in need of a space to provide for apartments and neighborhoods surrounding it. The diversity of the various spaces will make this one of the most appealing and broad serving parks in the south part of the city.

The expected completion date for this project is November 2025.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

- Percent of project completed: 90%. The underground site work has slowed the process due to running into unknown underground elements.
- Percent of budget expended: 92%
- Reduction of crime and unlawful activity (Police reporting):
 - 2020: 2 2021: 5 2022: 2 2024: 7

Project Demographic Distribution

Disproportionately Impacted: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts

6663 6.08: Kountze Park

Funding amount:

\$384,920.38

Project Expenditure Category:

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

This park serves a critical need in this part of the city. With the amount of use in the park several features such as the tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball field, and pavilion have dropped below the standard of function. This funding will support updating these areas while creating the safest, best experience for the neighborhood and residents of the neighborhood. This park is critical to supporting this area of the city. There is currently a sizable population of users that need to continue to be supported with improved amenities.

As a result of the community survey conducted in 2023, the parks department planned and designed this project in house. Funds were used to demolish the current pavilion and basketball courts, and install a new open pavilion and basketball court. To complement this work, the City of Omaha funded the addition of a futsal court. ARPA funded project work was completed in July 2025 and project closeout will occur once final payments are processed.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

- Percent of project completed: 100%
- Percent of budget expended: 89%
- Increased use of facility (rentals):
 - At project inception when performance measures were created, it was expected that the new pavilion would serve as a rental space. Upon further evaluation, it was decided that the new open air picnic shelter would be first come first serve where usage will not be tracked. This is a much better fit for the needs of the surrounding community.

Project Demographic Distribution

Disproportionately Impacted: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts

6663 6.12: Martin Luther King Jr Park

Funding amount:

\$81,673.70

Project Expenditure Category:

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

Reset or replace existing pavers and stonework that surround the memorial/statue. This planned project will provide an enhanced community gathering space with a focus on the education components highlighting the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This project began in early July of 2024 and was completed in February of 2025.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

- Percent of project completed: 100%
- Percent of budget expended: 95%
- Reduction of crime and unlawful activity (Police reporting):
 - 2020: 34 2021: 41 2022: 34 2023: 27 2024: 39

Project Demographic Distribution

Disproportionately Impacted: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts



6663 9.03: Business Improvement Districts

Funding amount:

\$1,667,650.34

Project Expenditure Category:

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha created a program to assist local Business Improvement Districts (BID) that are primarily located in or primarily serve individuals that reside in a qualified census tract. Several local BIDs applied for ARPA funds from the City of Omaha for items such as security systems, lighting, safety bollards, sidewalk repairs, etc. The City of Omaha received applications, awarded funds and entered into agreements with contractors. Several of these projects have expected completion dates in the Fall of 2025.

Use of Evidence:

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report:

Number of lighting units installed: 0- Project construction has not yet started

Number of security cameras installed: 0- Project construction has not yet started

Number of beneficiary BID's through this project: 7

Percent of projects complete: 14%

Percent of funding spent: 6%

Completed Projects

6663 1.04: Revenue Replacement

Funding amount:

\$30,762,643.00

Project Expenditure Category:

6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The City of Omaha Finance Department calculated the revenue loss for 2020 according to the “General Revenue” definition and calculation methodology as provided in the Interim Final Rule. This loss was calculated using a modified accrual basis. This was the basis for all revenue loss calculations. Approximately 90% of the City’s losses were in the General Fund. Sales tax, occupation taxes, restaurant tax, hotel/motel tax, motor vehicle taxes, building permits, vehicle rental taxes and community center revenue were among some of the hardest hit revenues for the City of Omaha in the General Fund. The City utilized the revenue loss for the provision of government services. The most significant City responsibility is public safety; therefore, the revenue loss funds received were utilized to cover payroll and benefits for public safety employees. This allowed the City to ensure public safety was maintained during the pandemic period. The City of Omaha only claimed revenue loss for the 2020 fiscal year.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

% of calculated revenue loss to date spent on the provision of government services: 100%

% of revenue loss used to cover Fire Department Payroll & Benefits: 44.6%

% of revenue loss used to cover Police Department Payroll & Benefits: 55.4%

6663 1.05: Public Sector RehireFunding amount:

\$14,947,133.49

Project Expenditure Category:

3.2 Public Sector Workforce: Rehiring Public Sector Staff

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha dedicated some of the funds towards rehiring in order to solve a staff deficit caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rehiring costs were covered by recovery funds through 2024.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

of FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) Rehired: 37

6663 2.01: Hotel Stimulus Program

Funding amount:

\$4,489,600.00

Project Expenditure Category:

2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha Tourism project was aimed at reviving an industry that was tremendously hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic. Direct aid provided to the hotel industry responds to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. Hotel revenue in the City of Omaha/Douglas County declined by 51% in 2020 compared to 2019, and hotels in the community were forced to lay off or furlough the majority of their staff. The pandemic-induced losses in the lodging industry brought demand and revenue in 2020 to below 2010 levels, wiping out more than a decade of growth. In an effort to combat these negative economic impacts, the City of Omaha developed the Hotel Stimulus Program which allowed hotels to apply funds based on the number of guest sleeping rooms at each hotel. These funds allowed hotels to implement COVID-19 mitigation and infection prevention measures and aid in planned expansion or upgrades of hospitality facilities delayed due to the pandemic.

To be more specific, while the City of Omaha has 96 hotels, following US Department of Treasury Guidance, only 68 were deemed to be eligible. The City of Omaha accepted applications from these 68 hotels from January 10, 2022 through February 18, 2022. Each application required a submission of general information such as why the hotel was seeking funding, a detailed budget, proof of an active SAM registration as well as a debarment verification on FAPIIS, an audit certification, a Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting form, and finally a Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification Form W-9. After the review process, which took a little over a month to complete, the City of Omaha developed agreements with the hotels that had to be signed and submitted back to the City within a two-week time frame. The Hotel Stimulus Program (HSP) was designed to assist hotels to ensure the safe and full reopening of hotel properties as well as improve the economic strength of the local hotel industry. Per the Interim Final Rule, hotels would have to spend HSP funds on the implementation of COVID-19 mitigation and infection prevention measures or aid in planned expansion or upgrade of hospitality facilities delayed due to the pandemic. However, upon release of the Final Rule, the City of Omaha chose to alter the program to reimburse the now eligible operational expenses, specifically OPPD and MUD invoices. This alteration to the program helped create simplicity for the applicants, the City of Omaha, and the program as a whole. Hotels were required to submit PDF files of their monthly invoices from OPPD and MUD until the dollar amount submitted was equal to the hotel properties award amount. Each hotel that received ARPA HSP dollars was required to provide quarterly reports until all dollars were considered expended. Dollars were considered expended only when the hotel property had submitted over or equal to their disbursement amount. For example, if a hotel property that was awarded \$30,000 through the Hotel Stimulus Program has submitted \$10,000 worth of operational expenses, then they were required to submit a quarterly report detailing the \$10,000 "claimed".

6663 2.01: Hotel Stimulus Program- Continued

The City of Omaha has officially received all required documentation for the 2022 Hotel Stimulus Program bringing the program to a close. All 46 applicants are in compliance and have fulfilled their obligation to the City of Omaha as outlined per their agreements.

Many hotels reported that the assistance provided by the Hotel Stimulus Program allowed the properties to rehire staff back to pre-pandemic levels ultimately supporting the safe reopening of the hotel properties. Additionally, many hotels went into detail about how, if not for the assistance provided, staff levels would have taken a significantly longer time to return back to pre-pandemic levels. Finally, in some cases hotels chose not to hire additional staff or jobs, but rather use the assistance to hire contractors to make improvements such as installing new heating and air conditioning systems.

Use of Evidence

N/A - Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

- Name of hotel property
- Award Amount
- Percentage of award amount spent
- Status of Completion

Hotel	Award Amount	Percentage of Award Amount Spent
Best Western Old Mill Inn	\$ 57,600.00	100.00%
Best Western Plus Midwest Inn	\$ 79,200.00	100.00%
Cambria Hotels Omaha Downtown	\$ 102,400.00	100.00%
Candlewood Suites Omaha Airport	\$ 65,600.00	100.00%
Comfort Inn Omaha	\$ 62,400.00	100.00%
Comfort Suites Omaha	\$ 52,800.00	100.00%
Courtyard Omaha Aksarben Village	\$ 107,200.00	100.00%
Courtyard Omaha Downtown Old Market Area	\$ 144,800.00	100.00%
Element Omaha Midtown Crossing	\$ 105,600.00	100.00%
Embassy Suites by Hilton Omaha Downtown Old Market	\$ 199,200.00	100.00%
EVEN Hotels Omaha Downtown	\$ 105,600.00	100.00%
Fairfield Inn & Suites Omaha Downtown	\$ 90,400.00	100.00%
Fairfield Inn & Suites Omaha Northwest	\$ 64,800.00	100.00%
Fairfield Inn & Suites Omaha West	\$ 72,000.00	100.00%

6663 2.01: Hotel Stimulus Program- Continued

Hotel	Award Amount	Percentage of Award Amount Spent
Four Points by Sheraton Omaha Midtown	\$ 96,000.00	100.00%
Hampton by Hilton Inn & Suites Omaha - Downtown	\$ 111,200.00	100.00%
Hampton by Hilton Inn Omaha Midtown-Aksarben Area	\$ 82,400.00	100.00%
Hampton by Hilton Inn Omaha West-Lakeside	\$ 88,000.00	100.00%
Hilton Garden Inn Omaha Aksarben Village	\$ 104,800.00	100.00%
Hilton Garden Inn Omaha Downtown Old Market Area	\$ 142,400.00	100.00%
Hilton Garden Inn Omaha West	\$ 95,200.00	100.00%
Hilton Omaha	\$ 480,000.00	100.00%
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Cherry Hills	\$ 67,200.00	100.00%
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Omaha 120th & Maple	\$ 64,000.00	100.00%
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Omaha Downtown - Old Market	\$ 80,000.00	100.00%
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Omaha South - Ralston Arena	\$ 66,400.00	100.00%
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Omaha West	\$ 64,000.00	100.00%
Holiday Inn Omaha Downtown - Waterpark	\$ 91,200.00	100.00%
Home2 Suites by Hilton Omaha West	\$ 84,000.00	100.00%
Homewood Suites by Hilton Omaha Downtown	\$ 98,400.00	100.00%
Hotel Deco	\$ 71,200.00	100.00%
La Quinta Inns & Suites Omaha Southwest	\$ 73,600.00	100.00%
Magnolia Hotel Omaha	\$ 107,200.00	100.00%
Marriott Omaha Downtown At The Capitol District	\$ 266,400.00	100.00%
New Victorian Inn & Suites Omaha	\$ 103,200.00	100.00%
Relax Inn Motel	\$ 24,000.00	100.00%
Residence Inn Omaha Aksarben Village	\$ 94,400.00	100.00%
Residence Inn Omaha Downtown Old Market Area	\$ 121,600.00	100.00%
Residence Inn Omaha West	\$ 86,400.00	100.00%
Satellite Motel	\$ 12,000.00	100.00%
Sleep Inn & Suites Airport Omaha	\$ 72,000.00	100.00%
Staybridge Suites Omaha 80th & Dodge	\$ 81,600.00	100.00%
Staybridge Suites Omaha West	\$ 79,200.00	100.00%
Super 8 Omaha	\$ 58,400.00	100.00%
Townhouse Inn	\$ 32,000.00	100.00%
Travel Inn	\$ 81,600.00	100.00%

Project Demographic Distribution

Impacted: Travel, Tourism or hospitality sectors

6663 3.01: Community Grants

Funding amount:

\$14,400,000.00

Project Expenditure Category:

2.34 Aid to Nonprofit Organizations

Project Overview:

A priority identified by the Mayor and reinforced through public feedback was investment in community programs. Recognizing the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and wellbeing of low-income communities and the importance of mitigating these effects, the City of Omaha identified a range of nonprofit programs and services to aid recovery in these communities. Nonprofit community-based programs are positioned to effectively deliver services tailored to the cultural and linguistic needs of the populations they serve. The City has prioritized programs and services that respond to basic needs, mental and behavioral health, crisis intervention, economic recovery, violence prevention and intervention, and workforce readiness. Consistent with the guidance, special attention was directed toward nonprofits serving communities and populations where the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic have been most severe.

Nonprofits faced significant challenges due to the pandemic's increased demand for services and changing operational needs, as well as declines in revenue sources such as donations and program fees. Nonprofits eligible for assistance are those that experienced negative economic impacts or disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and meet the definition of "nonprofit"—specifically those that are 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax-exempt organizations.

The City entered into agreements with the United Way of the Midlands (UWM) and Omaha Community Foundation (OCF) to manage the Community Grant Program application and selection process. More than 50 Omaha nonprofit agencies received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the grant program created by the City of Omaha. UWM received \$5 million to award to organizations that address basic needs including access to food and shelter, services for persons experiencing homelessness, access to healthcare, behavioral and mental health services, health promotion and education, financial literacy, and family support. OCF received \$10 million to distribute for eligible programs including youth programs, gang prevention and intervention, mental health, crisis response, and assistance to unemployed workers, including workforce readiness training, certification, and employment services.

The funding was required to be used for the program expenses outlined in the project application and in alignment with all local, state, and federal funding guidelines. This includes expanding and/or enhancing existing programs and services; implementing COVID-19 prevention or mitigation measures, such as PPE, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers, or partitions; and mitigating financial hardship.

6663 3.01: Community Grants- Continued

The Community Grant Program equipped nonprofit community-based organizations with essential resources to sustain and expand services that directly address the needs of populations most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These grants were designed to prevent the closure of critical community service hubs, including programs for food and shelter stabilization, workforce development and employment services, mental and behavioral healthcare services, crisis and emergency response services, and youth and family capacity-building programs.

Use of Evidence

Organizations and initiatives awarded grants for community programs were required to adhere to rigorous evidence-based reporting requirements. The Omaha Community Foundation (OCF) and United Way of the Midlands (UWM) systematically collected program data to evaluate the effectiveness of each intervention. They collaborated closely with selected partners to identify evidence-based models that optimized current practices. OCF and UWM mandated that recipients of grants in community-based programs and violence prevention/intervention align their services precisely with the needs of each participant, tailoring interventions to meet the specific strengths and challenges of the populations they serve. Grantees were strongly encouraged to proactively reduce barriers that historically underserved populations face when accessing essential services.

Performance Report

Aid to nonprofits (EC 2.34)

Number of Impacted non-profit organizations

Number of Disproportionately Impacted non-profit organizations

Organization Name	Impacted (I) vs. Disproportionately Impacted (DI)	Program Name	Funding Area	Grant Amount
AIM Institute	I	AIM Institute Accelerated Technical Training	Workforce Development	\$143,945
Bluebird Cultural Initiative	I	REVIVE: Rebuilding and Empowering Voices with Indigenous Values and Education	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$207,376
Boys & Girls Club	DI	Great Futures Program	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$202,890
Carole's House of Hope	I	Transitional Housing and Mental Health Services for Homeless Young Mothers	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$184,961
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Inc.	I	Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Services	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$235,373

6663 3.01: Community Grants- Continued

Organization Name	Impacted (I) vs. Disproportionately Impacted (DI)	Program Name	Funding Area	Grant Amount
Charles Drew Health Center, Inc. (CDHC)	DI	Charles Drew Health Center, Inc. Community Based Crisis Intervention	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$600,000
Child Saving Institute	I	Child Saving Institute Mental Health Services Pediatric & Adolescent Therapy	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$405,262
Completely KIDS	I	Out-of-School Time for Vulnerable Youth	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$460,000
Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim: Reinforcing our Roots, Living our Maya Heritage	DI	Maya Health Initiative: Empowered Women, Healthy Families	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$432,590
Empowerment Network	DI	Omaha 360 & Step-Up	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$358,475
Girls Incorporated Of Omaha	DI	The Girls Inc. Experience	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$414,644
Heart Ministry Center	DI	Fresh Start	Workforce Development	\$335,891
Heartland Family Service (HFS)	DI	Nebraska Family Works (NFW)	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$600,000
Heartland Workforce Solutions	DI	Heartland Workforce Solutions, American Job Center South	Workforce Development	\$600,000
Hope Center	DI	The Hope Employment & Learning Academy	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$100,000

6663 3.01: Community Grants- Continued

Organization Name	Impacted (I) vs. Disproportionately Impacted (DI)	Program Name	Funding Area	Grant Amount
Immigrant Legal Center	I	Legal Services for Survivors of Crime, Violence, and Human Trafficking	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$165,000
inCOMMON Community Development	DI	inCOMMON Youth Program	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$183,626
Kids Can	DI	Mentoring at Kids Can	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$200,000
Latino Center of the Midlands	DI	Siembra Nebraska: Youth internship opportunities in South Omaha	Workforce Development	\$120,302
Legal Aid of Nebraska	I	Providing Legal Services to Families in Crisis	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$186,875
MENTOR Nebraska	I	Success Mentors	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$142,200
Nebraska Methodist Hospital Foundation	I	Methodist Community Counseling Program	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$187,000
North Omaha Area Health	DI	NOAH Mental Health Outreach Program	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$241,275
NorthStar Foundation	DI	NorthStar Student Support Services Program	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$145,000
Ollie Webb Center, Inc.	I	Supported Employment	Workforce Development	\$99,351
Omaha Home for Boys	DI	Branching Out Independent Living	Workforce Development	\$353,675

6663 3.01: Community Grants- Continued

Organization Name	Impacted (I) vs. Disproportionately Impacted (DI)	Program Name	Funding Area	Grant Amount
PACE	I	Violence Prevention and Mentoring Program	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$111,879
Partnership 4 Kids	I	Partnership 4 Kids College and Career Readiness Program (CCRP)	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$500,000
Siena Francis House	DI	Miracles Residential Addiction and Treatment Recovery Program	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$151,179
The Bike Union Mentoring Project	DI	The Bike Union Apprentice Program	Workforce Development	\$100,000
The Nebraska Medical Center	I	Encompass Omaha: A Hospital Based Violence Intervention Program	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$297,703
The Simple Foundation (TSF)	DI	Safe Place To Play and Learn	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$388,634
Urban League of Nebraska	DI	Community Coach Enhancement Program at the Urban League	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$293,723
Women's Center for Advancement	I	Safety and Mental Health Services for Victims/Survivors	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$264,875
YouTurn	DI	Make a 180 Against Violence	Crisis Intervention & Violence Prevention	\$186,296
Center for Holistic Development	I	Family Engagement and Resource Connection	Family Support	\$230,861
City Sprouts Inc.	DI	City Sprouts Urban Farming Summer Internship	Food Access	\$200,000
Completely KIDS	DI	Weekend Food Program	Food Access	\$150,000

6663 3.01: Community Grants- Continued

Organization Name	Impacted (I) vs. Disproportionately Impacted (DI)	Program Name	Funding Area	Grant Amount
Completely KIDS	DI	Youth and Family Mental Health Services	Behavioral Health	\$60,000
EASTERN NEBRASKA COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP	DI	ENCAP Support Services	Homeless Prevention	\$95,877.63
Family Housing Advisory Services, Inc.	DI	EITC - Earned Income Tax Coalition	Asset Development	\$160,000
Food Bank for the Heartland	I	Food Access	Food Access	\$215,258.85
Greater Omaha Attendance and Learning Services	DI	Community Navigation Program	Care Coordination	\$70,000
Heartland Family Service	I	Professional Counseling - Behavioral Health	Behavioral Health	\$114,377.15
Heartland Hope Mission	DI	Hunger and Homelessness Prevention Program	Food Access	\$160,000
Intercultural Senior Center	I	Food Pantry for Older Adults	Food Access	\$240,000
KIM FOUNDATION	DI	More Tomorrows	Behavioral Health	\$120,000
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.	DI	LFS Behavioral Health Programs	Behavioral Health	\$193,992.69
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.	DI	Centers for Healthy Families	Family Support	\$40,000
New Visions	DI	Homeless Veteran Services	Homeless Prevention	\$120,000
No More Empty Pots	I	Community Harvest	Food Access	\$250,000
OHB	DI	Clinical Services	Family Support	\$90,000
OHB	DI	Jacobs' Place Transitional Living Program-Crisis Intervention Program	Shelter	\$100,000
OneWorld Community Health Centers, Inc.	DI	Access to Behavioral Health Care	Behavioral Health	\$120,000
OneWorld Community Health Centers, Inc.	DI	Addressing Social Determinants of Health	Care Coordination	\$240,000

6663 3.01: Community Grants- Continued

Organization Name	Impacted (I) vs. Disproportionately Impacted (DI)	Program Name	Funding Area	Grant Amount
OneWorld Community Health Centers, Inc.	DI	Medical Care for Uninsured Adults	Physical Health	\$150,000
OneWorld Community Health Centers, Inc.	DI	Medical Care for Uninsured Children	Physical Health	\$100,000
SANTA MONICA INC	DI	Treatment and Supportive Housing for Nebraska Women with Co-Occurring Disorders	Behavioral Health	\$100,000
Siena Francis House	DI	Case Management Services	Homeless Prevention	\$259,000
Siena Francis House	DI	Emergency Shelter Program	Shelter	\$347,000
Stephen Center, Inc.	DI	Pettigrew Emergency Shelter Program With Case Management	Shelter	\$100,000
The Salvation Army- NE	DI	Material Assistance and Seasonal Services- Omaha and Council Bluffs	Care Coordination	\$72,864
Together Inc of Metropolitan Omaha	DI	Horizons Rapid Rehousing Program	Homeless Prevention	\$150,000
Together Inc of Metropolitan Omaha	DI	Nourish	Food Access	\$100,000
Visiting Nurse Association	I	Maternal Child Community Home Visitation	Family Support	\$113,272
Whispering Roots, Inc	DI	Emergency Food Production and Delivery Program	Food Access	\$200,000
Women's Center for Advancement (WCA)	I	Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Housing Security Program	Shelter	\$78,000
Women's Center for Advancement (WCA)	I	Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Self Sufficiency Services - 18-20	Asset Development	\$57,000

Although not required as part of the Performance Report, organizations were asked to report to OCF and UWM on the impact of the grant funding. OCF and UWM collect data on the number of individuals served, as well as key demographic information of those impacted. The above table represents actual distributions reported by subrecipients, following reallocations from original awards as part of close out monitoring to ensure funds were spent in the timeframe and for the purposes that we required for ARPA. During this closeout process, UWM utilized \$2,496.68 for ARPA agency workshops to support grantees in nonprofit sustainability planning.

6663 3.02: Community Grants Subrecipient Indirect Costs

Funding amount:

\$600,000.00

Project Expenditure Category:

7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview:

Omaha Community Foundation and United Way of the Midlands served as subrecipients to manage the community grants program. This project was set up to track their administrative expenses as set forth in the agreements with the entities. The United Way of the Midlands and Omaha Community Foundation were each entitled to a 4% administrative fee for services provided.

Use of Evidence

N/A

Performance Report

N/A

6663 4.04: Affordable Housing: Predevelopment Activities

Funding amount:

\$1,519,500.00

Project Expenditure Category:

2.23 Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha Affordable Housing projects focus on maximizing State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to create more affordable housing options through the city. Front Porch Investments is serving as a sub recipient to manage these programs. The Predevelopment Activities program will support feasibility assessments, property acquisition, planning, permits and entitlements, demolition, remediation, site preparation, and/or infrastructure improvements to increase affordable and mixed income housing stock by supporting work needed to prepare lots for housing units.

Use of Evidence

N/A

Demographic Distribution

Impacted and/or Disproportionately Impacted population(s) primarily served: Low or moderate income households or populations.

Performance Report

Output measures:

Number and amount of loans made to date: 2 / \$1,519,500

Number and amount of grants made to date: 0

Outcome measure:

Number of sites secured by developers due to services or improvements made to date:

2

Number of affordable housing units that will be supported: 160

6663 4.05: Affordable Housing: Development & Gap Financing

Funding amount:

\$14,680,500.00

Project Expenditure Category:

2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha Affordable Housing projects focus on maximizing State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to create more affordable housing options through the city. Front Porch Investments is serving as a sub recipient to manage these programs. The Development & Gap Financing program may include finance development, finance the gap between what traditional lenders (banks) will loan to housing developers and the construction/rehab costs. These funds increase affordable and mixed income housing stock by increasing financing resources. Construction or preservation costs for new or existing dedicated affordable housing units. These funds were dispersed in four rounds.

Use of Evidence

In April of 2021, Development Strategies, a research firm based in St. Louis, MO, released an assessment of housing affordability, needs and priorities for the Omaha, NE metropolitan area. A collaborative of nine local foundations sponsored the assessment. The assessment recommended five initiatives to address the housing affordability, needs and priorities it identified: preservation fund; development fund; eviction diversion; greenlining fund; policy change. The City's affordable housing programs funded by ARPA funds align with the assessment's recommendations and are based on best practice.

Demographic Distribution

Impacted and/or Disproportionately Impacted population(s) primarily served: Low or moderate income households or populations.

Performance Report

Output measures:

Number and amount of loans made to date: 10 / \$14,680,500

Number and amount of grants made to date: 0 / \$0

Outcome measure:

Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation): 0

Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed: 379

6663 4.06: Affordable Housing: Capacity Building & Operations

Funding amount:

\$3,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category:

2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha Affordable Housing projects focus on maximizing State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to create more affordable housing options through the city. Front Porch Investments is serving as a sub recipient to manage these programs. The Capacity Building & Operations program will support one-time investments in operating funding for nonprofit affordable housing providers who serve households under 80% AMI. Use of funds may include the increased capacity needed to administer current affordable housing programs and adhere to state or federal regulations, launch additional programs for increased access or production of affordable housing, or support of nonprofit-led affordable housing projects

Use of Evidence

N/A

Demographic Distribution

Impacted and/or Disproportionately Impacted population(s) primarily served: Non-profits that experienced a negative economic impact of the pandemic (affordable housing).

Performance Report

Output measures:

Number and amount of loans made to date: 0 / \$0

Number and amount of grants made to date: 14 / \$3,000,000

Outcome measure:

Number of nonprofits served: 14

6663 4.07: Affordable Housing Subrecipient Indirect Costs

Funding amount:

\$800,000.00

Project Expenditure Category:

7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview:

Front Porch Investments serves as a subrecipient to manage the affordable housing program. This project was set up to track their indirect expenses as agreed to in the agreement with the entity.

Use of Evidence

N/A

Performance Report

N/A

6663 5.00: Premium Pay

Funding amount:

\$9,575,692.24

Project Expenditure Category:

4.1 Public Sector Employees

Project Overview:

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allows for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to be used for premium pay to eligible workers. The Final Rule states that premium pay is designed to compensate workers that, by virtue of their employment, were forced to take on additional burdens and make great personal sacrifices as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. City of Omaha employees fall within this group of workers. The City of Omaha provided \$10.00/hour for all full-time employee regularly scheduled hours classified as regular time or limited duty time for the period of July 24, 2022 through November 12, 2022 up to \$3,000. The City of Omaha provided \$10.00/hour for all part-time or seasonal employee regular hours (up to 28/week for part-time and up to 40/week seasonal) or limited duty hours for the period of July 24, 2022 through November 12, 2022 up to \$1,500.

Use of Evidence

N/A

Performance Report

Number of workers served: 3,729

Number of part-time workers that received premium pay: 931

Number of full-time workers that received premium pay: 2,798

6663 6.05: Paxton John Creighton Boulevard Trail

Funding amount:

\$1,186,587.74

Project Expenditure Category:

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

This is one of the few remaining trail sections that are only 8-feet wide. The surface is also showing major wear as a frequently used trail section in the middle of the city. This 2.3-mile section of the trail will be expanded to 10 feet wide and resurfaced with a projected new lifespan of 20 plus years of continued use. This section from Fontenelle Park to Adams Park helps keep several other projects currently under construction, and future trail pieces, strategically connected as part of the city's trail network.

With the growth of housing and activity near the downtown, this project ensures access to other parts of the trail system that other areas of the city already have. New regulations for the building of trails make this current situation out of compliance. Safety of riders and the ability for all users to be provided for is a key issue. Many users of this facility come from the south and east which are areas located in the census tract. These enhancements bring this trail into compliance with the national standards for trail function and maintenance guidelines we adhere to (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration, Rails to Trails Conservancy).

This project was completed in November 2024.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

- Percent of project completed: 100%
- Percent of budget expended: 100%

Project Demographic Distribution

Disproportionately Impacted: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts



6663 6.07: Hitchcock Pool

Funding amount:

\$534,218.75

Project Expenditure Category:

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

The focus of this project was unground piping and operational infrastructure. This allows for a projected 20 years of successful function of the facility. The work included all gutters and grates, caulking and sealing, damaged or decaying pipe, and partial removal of the existing high-dive. A new roof for the main building at the facility was also constructed as part of this project.

Pools are critical features during the summer months for allowing people to cool off and maintain good health and wellness during that time of year. With the return to pre-pandemic numbers, this pool is critical in that cause. This work will reset the pool for another 20+ years of services to residents predominantly from the census tract. This project maintains the current number of pools serving the community and our internal commitment of having a facility within one mile of all Omaha residents.

The ARPA funded piece of this project is complete and the expected completion date for the overall project is July 2025.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

- Percent of project completed: 100%
- Percent of budget expended: 100%
- Percent increase in use of the pool: 2023-2024 pool was under construction
 - 2020: 0 attendees 2021: 11,994 attendees 2022: 20,526 attendees
 - 2023: 0 attendees 2024: 0 attendees 2025: TBD
- Number of individuals enrolled in swim lessons: 2023-2024 numbers will be low due to the construction period. Increased use is anticipated in future years.
 - 2020: 0 participants (COVID) 2021: 53 participants
 - 2022: 75 participants 2023: 0 participants (closed for renovations)
 - 2024: 0 participants (closed for renovations)
 - 2025: TBD

Project Demographic Distribution

Disproportionately Impacted: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts

6663 6.10: Clarkson Park

Funding amount:

\$124,800.00

Project Expenditure Category:

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

This project included a new rubber surface for the playground resurfacing, adding benches around that existing space, increased picnic tables and making minor improvements to the existing shelter. This project was completed in July 2023.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

- Percent of project completed: 100%
- Percent of budget expended: 100%
- Reduction of crime and unlawful activity (Police reporting): Count of offenses in 2 block area around Clarkson
 - 2020: 49 2021: 57 2022: 40 2023: 47 2024: 40

Project Demographic Distribution

Disproportionately Impacted: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts



6663 6.13: Dreamland Park

Funding amount:

\$25,425.00

Project Expenditure Category:

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

This project included the purchase of replacement fountain parts in order to repair the existing water jets. The City of Omaha parks maintenance team installed the replacement parts and repaired the fountains in house in order to cut down on the total project cost. Through the construction process a water line break was discovered and required additional resources to repair. While the ARPA funding piece is complete, the expected completion date for the overall project is Fall 2025.

Use of Evidence

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report

- Percent of project completed: 100% ARPA; 30% overall- new fountain parts to be installed by Fall of 2025
- Percent of budget expended: 100%
- Reduction of crime and unlawful activity (Police reporting):
 - 2020: 33 2021: 62 2022: 28 2023: 22 2024: 26

Project Demographic Distribution

Disproportionately Impacted: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts

6663 7.01: Deloitte Consulting

Funding amount:

\$408,546.25

Project Expenditure Category:

7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview:

Deloitte served as the City of Omaha consultant to ensure that all ARPA funds are spent on eligible items and that all documentation is in order per the guidance.

Use of Evidence

N/A

Performance Report

N/A

6663 7.022: Public Space Improvements- Parks Planner II

Funding amount:

\$260,000.00

Project Expenditure Category:

3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha hired a full-time parks planner II to manage the public space improvement projects funded by ARPA. This was a necessary hire to ensure all of the projects are handled in accordance with the federal guidelines and the work is performed as expected and in a timely and efficient manner. This position was funded by ARPA through 2024.

Use of Evidence:

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report:

N/A

6663 7.023: Housing Manager

Funding amount:

\$330,000.00

Project Expenditure Category:

3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview:

A Housing Manager was hired to coordinate and oversee the use of ARPA funds for the Affordable Housing Program. They will also coordinate and oversee the use of ERA funds provided to the City by the Treasury. This position was funded by ARPA through 2024, and transitioned to city funding for 2025 and beyond.

Use of Evidence:

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report:

N/A

6663 7.024: Homeless Services Coordinator

Funding amount:

\$279,000.00

Project Expenditure Category:

3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview:

The creation of the Homeless Services Coordinator position marked a pivotal step in Omaha's commitment to addressing homelessness comprehensively. This role spearheads the city's strategy to combat homelessness by identifying and bridging gaps in services. The Coordinator collaborates closely with local service providers to assess community needs and adapt responses accordingly, ensuring a responsive and effective approach.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored and exacerbated systemic issues related to homelessness, highlighting the need for comprehensive and resilient support systems to prevent and address homelessness in times of crisis. Central to the role is the coordination, tracking, and enhancement of outcomes aimed at preventing homelessness. By leading the City's Homelessness Task Force, the Coordinator facilitates strategic initiatives and foster partnerships that strengthen the city's capacity to support individuals and families at risk.

The pandemic led to job losses and economic instability, disproportionately affecting low-income individuals and families. Many people who were on the brink of homelessness or living in precarious housing situations lost their jobs or experienced reduced income, making it difficult to afford rent or mortgage payments. With lockdowns and restrictions in place, access to essential services for homeless populations, such as food, healthcare, and social services, became more challenging. Service providers had to adapt their operations and outreach strategies to continue supporting homeless individuals while adhering to public health guidelines.

This initiative leverages available data indicating that coordinated efforts and targeted interventions significantly reduce homelessness rates and improve outcomes for vulnerable populations. The Coordinator plays a critical role in translating these insights into actionable strategies that address both immediate needs and long-term solutions. Moreover, the Coordinator serves as a conduit for community engagement, ensuring that the voices of those affected by homelessness shape policy and service delivery. This approach not only enhances inclusivity but also promotes sustainable solutions rooted in community feedback and best practices. This position was funded by ARPA through 2024, and transitioned to city funding for 2025 and beyond.

Use of Evidence:

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report:

N/A

6663 7.025: Street Outreach Community Liaison

Funding amount:

\$124,000.00

Project Expenditure Category:

3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview:

Amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, deploying a Street Outreach Liaison was essential to bridge critical gaps in support for individuals experiencing homelessness. This role serves as a dedicated point of contact to connect vulnerable individuals with essential services, including healthcare, shelter, and social assistance. By leveraging available data and insights, the Street Outreach Liaison has proactively engaged with homeless populations in our community, addressing immediate needs and fostering pathways to stability.

This initiative aligns with data indicating that targeted street outreach significantly improves outcomes for homeless individuals by ensuring timely access to resources and support. The Street Outreach Liaison works collaboratively with local service providers and community partners to enhance coordination and effectiveness in addressing homelessness during and beyond the pandemic. This approach not only addresses immediate crises but also promotes long-term resilience and empowerment within our community. This position was funded by ARPA through 2024, and transitioned to city funding for 2025 and beyond.

Use of Evidence:

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report:

N/A

6663 7.021: ARPA Admin Employee Costs- Law

Funding amount:

\$35,737.10

Project Expenditure Category:

7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha hired a legal intern on 7/26/2021 to assist with ARPA projects after receiving the first tranche of funds. This individual was 100% dedicated to reading through and understanding the treasury guidance, working through justification documentation for project ideas and serving on the various ARPA project committees. This employee was funded with ARPA dollars through the 5/14/2022 pay period.

Use of Evidence:

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report:

N/A

6663 8.01: Decontamination Technician

Funding amount:

\$11,836.14

Project Expenditure Category:

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

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha hired a part-time Decontamination Technician to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 throughout the workplace. This project covered the Decontamination Technician's hourly wage and benefits to sanitize spaces so that City of Omaha employees had a safe, sanitized work environment to perform their specific job duties. This project covered expenses incurred 2/1/2022 through 5/28/2022.

Use of Evidence:

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report:

Number of government FTEs responding to COVID-19 supported under this authority: 1

6663 9.01: Building Commission Ventilation**Funding amount:**

\$195,000.00

Project Expenditure Category:

1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha provided support to the Omaha Public Building Commission to replace the air handling unit civic center. The civic center is a public building utilized primarily by Douglas County and City of Omaha departments to serve the public. The previous air handling unit was 45 years old and a new one was necessary to provide clean, safe air to areas of the civic center occupied by workers.

Use of Evidence:

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report:

Percent of funding spent: 100%

6663 9.02: North Omaha Music and Arts (NOMA) Building

Funding amount:

\$415,000.00

Project Expenditure Category:

2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha provided funding to NOMA for the purchase of two buildings to deliver music education and programming. NOMA will use the buildings as an educational facility to support musical education for local youth. The buildings will also be used as a performance space. This project is located in a qualified census tract and serves a community that perpetually has one of the highest and low-income households in the City. NOMA will provide both recreation and services (musical education) in an area stricken with educational disparities.

Use of Evidence:

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project- Capital support

Performance Report:

Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs: 0

Percent of funding spent: 100%

6663 9.04: Omaha Performing Arts

Funding amount:

\$3,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category:

2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview:

The City of Omaha supported a campus expansion project for Omaha Performing Arts (OPA). OPA reaches all parts of the community and attracts students from across Nebraska to its extensive education and engagement activities. They bring the arts to diverse populations including K-12 students, low-income households, and the geographically underserved. OPA serves over 100,000 students, teachers and community members through its extensive programs and has seen increased use in its service at its Holland Center facility.

Due to the increased use over recent years, OPA had developed a Campus Expansion Project. Closures from the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted Omaha Performing Arts. Approximately 75% of their income earned revenue from ticket sales, rentals and events ceased during the pandemic. Additionally, fundraising and construction for the Center for Arts Engagement was not able to proceed as the organization had to focus on mitigating the impact of the pandemic. The City provided support for this project to proceed and continue to provide educational support to the youth in the Omaha community.

Use of Evidence:

N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project

Performance Report:

Percent of funding spent: 100%

Civil Rights Compliance

The City of Omaha Grant Administration Division administers several state and federal award programs and distributes funding through sub awards to local units of government and nonprofit agencies. The Grant Administration Division of the Mayor's Office provides management and oversight of the funds as directed by federal and state statutes; Office of Management and Budget (OMB) 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, 2017 Financial Guide; funding agency program guidelines; and related sources.

The City of Omaha Grant Management Handbook sets forth administrative and financial policies and procedures for the City of Omaha and sub recipients of grant funds administered by the City of Omaha Mayor's Office, Grant Administration Division. The Grants Management Handbook provides a section on Standards of Financial Management, Sub recipient and Contractor approval process and agreements, Procurement Standards – to include debarment and suspension, and Civil Rights training. Per Sec. 10-192 of the Omaha, Nebraska Code of Ordinances, all contracts entered into by the City shall incorporate an equal employment opportunity clause. This requirement is passed down to each subrecipient or contractor at any level. The City of Omaha Code of Ordinances, Section 23-195 indicates the city shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws and labor agreements pertaining to equal employment opportunity and prohibiting discrimination and shall ensure that such equal opportunity be free of political bias.