

# City of Omaha **Recovery Plan**



## **State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

2021 Report

## City of Omaha

### 2021 Recovery Plan

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## Executive Summary

The City of Omaha is in the planning stages to determine the best use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA Funds). In responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City will focus on recovery, reinvestment, and rebuilding. The first priority is to stabilize government revenues and bring essential City services back to pre-pandemic levels. During the pandemic, the City of Omaha implemented many cost saving measures including hiring and purchasing freezes, reducing hours and staffing, and closing public facilities. The City has since reopened facilities, but is still working to rehire staff and bring service levels up to the standard that citizens expect and deserve. The City must also stabilize revenues as there are several sources that suffered due to business closures and the generalized economic downturn.

Additional priorities include aid to the tourism and hospitality industries, community programs, broadband expansion, affordable housing, violence intervention and prevention programs, and public space improvements. In order to thoroughly explore and understand each of these priorities, the City has established teams to identify and recommend options to best utilize the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) for each of the priorities and determine an appropriate distribution of the SLFRF to each. Plans developed will promote equitable outcomes, engage the community, and produce positive and measurable outcomes. Funding recommendations will be made to Mayor Jean Stothert and the Omaha City Council.

## City of Omaha Priority Areas



## Uses of Funds

The City of Omaha is taking 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. 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.

Citizen feedback is critical to the formation of effective and equitable projects to maximize programmatic impact. There is significant interest and need from many non-profit organizations that serve the Omaha community. Community feedback led to informed priority areas.

To produce efficient outcomes, the City planning teams, each with a focus on one of the identified priority areas, consist of city employees across multiple departments that bring diverse expertise and experience to the project. The City has also created an ARPA administrative team, representing the Finance Department, Law Department, and Mayor's Office. The administrative team is involved in all aspects of ARPA project planning. The City will partner with community organizations and stakeholders throughout the planning and implementation stages and will include their input throughout project development.

### Public Health (EC 1)

The City intends to utilize a portion of the recovery funds for public health purposes. One anticipated use is to improve public spaces. By improving parks and other public spaces, specifically within Qualified Census Tracts, the City will promote active, outdoor activities. Socializing and being active outdoors promotes a healthy lifestyle and provides a safer location than indoor facilities in regard to mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) will support payroll costs for some employees responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes individuals throughout City departments that are working on recovery fund programs and reporting. This also includes the services of a consulting firm that the City anticipates contracting with to aid in administration, management, and compliance with the City's SLFRF allocation.

Mental health services are being explored as an opportunity for use of SLFRF funds, specifically as they relate to and intersect with the City of Omaha Police Department. Douglas County handles many of the physical and mental health initiatives within the City of Omaha, and the City is working with County administration to ensure there is no duplication of efforts. This collaboration will ensure the City is able to make the largest impact possible with the funds received.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Omaha has received FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funding to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to various City departments. This has been vital to protecting employee and citizen health during this time. 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.).

## Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

In order to address the negative economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the City is working on a grant program to assist the tourism and hospitality industry in Omaha. This program will be managed by the City of Omaha Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and will primarily focus on helping the hotel industry. The intent is to provide dollars to local hotels to assist them with recovery needs. Allocations will be based on the number of rooms for qualifying hotels. The City will require recipients to provide documentation of how funds are spent.

Rehiring public sector staff is another priority for the recovery funds. In early 2020, as the pandemic began, measures were taken 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 service level to citizens, it is essential that the City restore staffing to pre-pandemic levels.

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 \$4.7 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 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. These funds have not been deployed into the community at this time, but the funds will support housing stability in the Omaha metropolitan area. The City received approximately \$22.2 million of ERAP1 funds and approximately \$16.9 million of ERAP2 funds. These funds are being used to provide rent and utility support for households earning 80% AMI or less. 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.

## Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3)

The City is developing a community service grant fund to provide services to disproportionately impacted communities. The Stothert administration already prioritizes funding through the City of Omaha budget for programs that respond to the Mayor's overall priorities, including public safety and violent crime prevention and intervention, job training, growth and economic development, and pandemic recovery programs to provide food, utility and rent assistance, small business support, and work readiness. These priorities specifically address underserved and adversely impacted communities within the City of Omaha. The new grant program will provide community service organizations an opportunity to apply for one-time grant dollars. The City will seek proposals from established grant-making community partners to manage these funds and ensure compliance with the qualifications and goals put in place by the City and by the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Utilizing a third party for administration of the fund will provide readily available capacity and infrastructure that the City would otherwise have to duplicate.

The City is considering support for violence prevention and intervention in the community. This may include safety and security improvements in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs), along with funding evidence-based programs to help reduce violent crime, especially those targeting youth.

The City will utilize a portion of the recovery funds to expand and enhance options for affordable housing. The City is in the early planning stages of this program, but the goal is to help populations that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ideas currently under consideration include partnerships with developers and financial entities to build homes, apartments, and other housing alternatives, specifically for neighborhoods within QCTs, and working on a new approach to assist the homeless population within the City of Omaha.

The City is also working on a project to improve public spaces. Public space improvements within QCTs will serve disproportionately impacted communities through outdoor recreation, healthy living, and safe socialization spaces. By providing outdoor public spaces, these funds will help to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and build safer, stronger neighborhoods.

#### **Premium Pay (EC 4)**

The City of Omaha does not have any direct premium pay items included in its initial plan.

#### **Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure (EC 5)**

The City of Omaha is considering broadband expansion to areas where it is currently unavailable or unreliable as a top priority. The majority of these areas are in Qualified Census Tracts and will assist many lower income families with access to broadband. During the pandemic, the City identified the need in these areas as schools began shifting to remote learning. At this time, the City is uncertain if State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) will be the primary source of funding for expanding broadband. The City of Omaha is researching all available funding sources for this type of project. The City understands the need to partner with an organization specializing in broadband in order to facilitate this project. The City of Omaha Information Technology Director will be involved in project management of any broadband expansion project.

#### **Revenue Replacement (EC 6)**

The City of Omaha Finance Department calculated the City's revenue loss for 2020 to be approximately \$23 million according to the "General Revenue" definition and calculation methodology as provided in the Interim Final Rule. The City has calculated the loss using a modified accrual basis and will continue to use that 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 the hardest hit revenues for the City of Omaha in the General Fund. The City plans to utilize revenue loss for general government services.

The most significant City responsibility is public safety, therefore some of the revenue loss funds received will be utilized to cover payroll and benefits for public safety employees. This allows the City to ensure public safety is maintained during this unprecedented time. The City of Omaha will use the remaining revenue loss funds to cover payroll and benefits for other city employees across city departments. Individuals throughout city departments provide essential services to the citizens.

## Promoting equitable outcomes

Although projects are only in the planning stages, promoting equitable outcomes is, and will continue to be, a vital component of all projects as they move forward. The City of Omaha is especially focused on the multitude of ways in which already disadvantaged groups have been most heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to build projects around helping these communities. 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 Interim Final Rule (pg. 5), the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified many social vulnerabilities that have led to disproportionately severe impacts in disadvantaged communities. As the City of Omaha begins to quantify local needs, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds will be targeted to counter these impacts.

Building up and improving the public spaces found in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) is one way the City plans to counter the negative health impacts of the pandemic on disadvantaged communities. The City is considering plans aimed at parks, public plazas, and other public outdoor recreation spaces for improvements. 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 the communities that have been most heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Public spaces will be 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 is thus extremely focused on improving public spaces in order to promote their use.

The City of Omaha is also focused on aiding disadvantaged communities through affordable housing projects. Again, this project is in the planning stages, but a range of possibilities are being considered. 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 considering multiple options, including 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. As with the public space project ideas, the main focus of these affordable housing project ideas will be Qualified Census Tracts to best address housing issues impacting the most disadvantaged communities harmed by the pandemic.

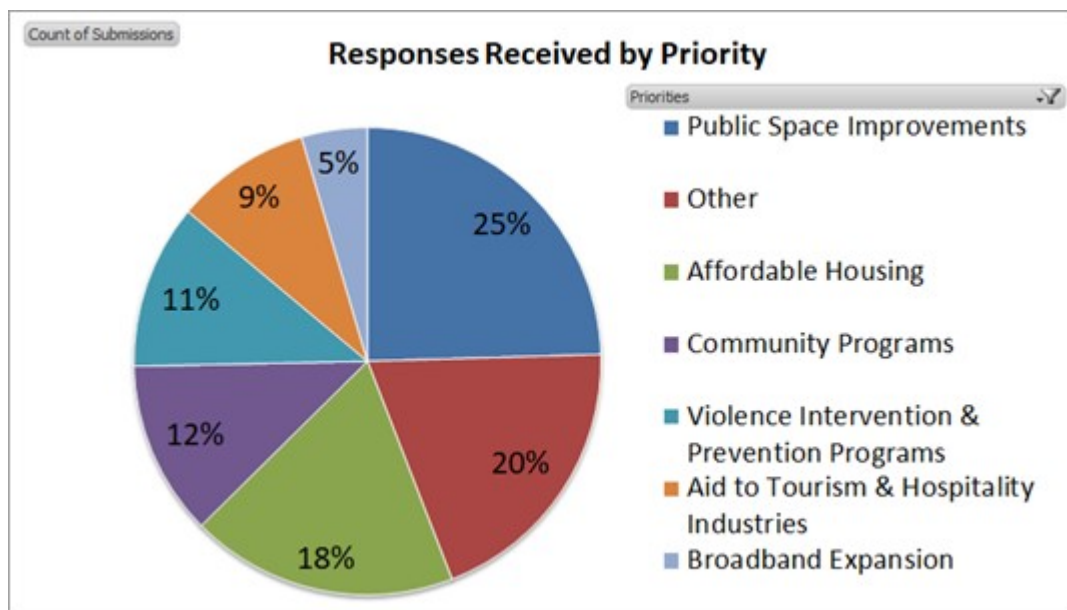


These two project categories are directed at the Negative Economic Impacts (EC2) and Service to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC3) categories specifically. Other projects will also be focused on improving equity throughout the City of Omaha. For example, the City plans to implement a community grant program that will be described on the City's website to create project visibility. As the City continues to identify and begin projects, teams will remain dedicated to considering, striving to create, and working to promote equitable outcomes throughout the community.

## Community Engagement

Beginning in July, 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 20<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mayor Stothert also posted the link to the community feedback form on social media accounts to solicit as much feedback from our citizens as possible. The Mayor's Hotline provided an additional avenue for citizens to call or email and provide input.

The community feedback effort has been successful, informative, and helpful to the efforts in planning the use of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The City received approximately 746 suggestions. The City sorted this feedback into categories. 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.





Mayor Stothert has met with each City Council member to solicit their input about priorities in their districts for spending the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The Council members shared input and general feedback from their constituents.

Stakeholder groups across the Omaha metro have hosted public forums, online meetings, and administered surveys to better understand the most pressing issues within their respective sectors. These groups have produced summary reports which project teams have utilized to inform their approach to each priority. The City's priorities align with the community interests articulated within these forums. The City has also 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 care providers, economic development organizations, and the newly formed Workforce Housing Partners collaborative.

## Labor Practices

The City has not started any projects, but will be 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 will consider project labor agreements; community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and local hiring during both project development and implementation. 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 conducts compliance reviews, investigates contract compliance complaints, assists contractors as needed, and conducts training for all contractors or vendors who receive a contract with the City for business.

## Use of Evidence

The City of Omaha intends to direct State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) resources to community-based programs as well as violence prevention and intervention programs. The City places a strong emphasis on the use of data and evidence in policy making and program development. The City of Omaha is committed to improving the quantity and quality of evidence

about programs and strategies that are effective; integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions; and improving the translation of evidence into practice. The City is contemplating a process for program selection whereby applicants will be required to provide documentation summarizing their level of conformance with SLFRF evidence-based requirements.

The City of Omaha will encourage use of scientific evidence to guide and inform selection of programs and services funded with SLFRF dollars. The City will require sub recipients in these categories to provide evidence-based reporting information. The City will utilize relevant evidence clearinghouses, among other sources, to assess the level of evidence for each intervention and collaborate with partners to identify existing evidence-based models that could be applied. The City of Omaha will encourage applicants for sub grants under the categories of community based programs and violence prevention/intervention to match the service provided to the needs of the target audience, tailoring interventions to the strengths of the population served. Sub grantees will be encouraged to increase motivation and reduce barriers to historically underserved populations accessing services whenever possible.

Omaha is a community with an extensive history of collaboration between local government, state departments, non-profits, and philanthropic organizations. The City of Omaha and Douglas County partner on a diverse range of issues to address the needs of the Omaha metropolitan area. The City and the County will 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 will 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, will be monitored by the City of Omaha Finance Department and Grant Administration Division.

## Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.2	COVID-19 Testing	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)	\$0.00	\$0.00

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.10	Mental Health Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.11	Substance Use Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
1.12	Other Public Health Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.13	Other Economic Support	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.5	Education Assistance: Other	\$0.00	\$0.00

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.9.	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay	\$0.00	\$0.00
4.1	Public Sector Employees	\$0.00	\$0.00
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers	\$0.00	\$0.00
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.13	Drinking water: Source	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.14	Drinking water: Storage	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.17	Broadband: Other projects	\$0.00	\$0.00

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	\$0.00	\$0.00
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	Administrative and Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis	\$0.00	\$0.00
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government	\$0.00	\$0.00
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)	\$0.00	\$0.00

# Project Inventory and Performance Report

## 6663 1.01 Revenue Replacement

### Funding Amount

To be determined

### Project Expenditure Category

6.1 Provision of Government Services

### Project Overview

The City of Omaha Finance Department calculated the revenue loss for 2020 to be approximately \$23 million 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 will continue to be the basis for all revenue loss calculations moving forward. 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 plans to utilize the revenue loss for the provision of government services. The most significant City responsibility is public safety; therefore some of the revenue loss funds received will be utilized to cover payroll and benefits for public safety employees. This allows the City to ensure public safety is maintained during this unprecedented time. The City of Omaha will use the remaining revenue loss funds to cover payroll and benefits for other city employees across city departments. Individuals in all city departments provide essential services to the citizens.

### Output goals

Replacing the revenue lost due to COVID-19 pandemic

### Outcome Goals

Utilizing this replaced revenue to help the City of Omaha recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

### Expenditures

None so far

### Project Status

Not Started

### Project Demographic Distribution

No – Not Targeted Toward Economically Disadvantaged Communities

### Subawards

None



## 6663 1.02 Public Sector Rehire

### Funding Amount

To be determined

### Project Expenditure Category

2.14 Rehiring Public Sector Staff

### Project Overview

The City of Omaha plans to dedicate some of the funds towards rehiring in order to solve a staff deficit caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Output goals

Number of people rehired

### Outcome Goals

Improved public sector efficiency and results as a result of rehiring

### Expenditures

None so far

### Project Status

Not Started

### Project Demographic Distribution

No – Not Targeted Toward Economically Disadvantaged Communities

### Subawards

None

## 6663 1.03 City Personnel

### Funding Amount

To be determined

### Project Expenditure Category

1.9 Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19

### Project Overview

The City of Omaha plans to use funds to pay for city personnel that are directly responding to issues involving COVID-19. These staff members are critical to the City's continued response to the pandemic. This will include the ARPA Administration team employees, who are managing the recovery dollars and projects.

### Output goals

Number of people hired and/or paid for

### Outcome Goals

Increased ability to respond to COVID-19 pandemic

### Expenditures

None so far

### Project Status

Not Started

### Project Demographic Distribution

No – Not Targeted Toward Economically Disadvantaged Communities

### Subawards

None

## 6663 2.01 Hotel Grants

### Funding Amount

To be determined

### Project Expenditure Category

2.11 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

### Project Overview

The City of Omaha Tourism project is aimed at reviving an industry that was tremendously hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic. Direct aid provided to the hotel industry will respond 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.

The City is developing a plan to allow hotels to apply for funds based on the number of guest sleeping rooms at each hotel. These funds will allow 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.

### Output Goals

This will be further refined based upon the programs & services funded in this category.

Number of hotels participating in program

Number of previously delayed facility projects assisted

### Outcome Goals

This will be further refined based upon the programs & services funded in this category.

### Expenditures

None so far

### Project Status

Not Started

### Project Demographic Distribution

No – Not Targeted Toward Economically Disadvantaged Communities

### Subawards

None given yet

## 6663 2.01 Hotel Grants- Continued

### Required Performance Indicators

Number of Workers Enrolled in Sectoral Job Training Programs: 0

Number of Workers Completing Sectoral Job Training Programs: 0

Number of People Participating in Summer Youth Employment Programs: 0

## 6663 2.02 Convention & Visitors Bureau Recovery

### Funding Amount

To be determined

### Project Expenditure Category

2.11 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

### Project Overview

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 the community. The COVID-19 pandemic created a loss of more than \$343 million in visitor spending in 2020.

The City of Omaha Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has faced challenges similar to tourism departments across the nation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. By investing funds towards the recovery of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Omaha aims to stimulate economic growth by promoting and developing the Omaha metropolitan area as a dynamic tourism community.

### Output Goals

This will be further refined based upon the programs & services funded in this category.

Number of marketing campaigns

### Outcome Goals

This will be further refined based upon the programs & services funded in this category.

### Expenditures

None so far

### Project Status

Not Started

### Project Demographic Distribution

No – Not Targeted Toward Economically Disadvantaged Communities

### Subawards

None given yet

### Required Performance Indicators

Number of Workers Enrolled in Sectoral Job Training Programs: 0

Number of Workers Completing Sectoral Job Training Programs: 0

Number of People Participating in Summer Youth Employment Programs: 0

## 6663 3.01 Community Grants

### Funding Amount:

To be determined

### Project Expenditure Category

2.10 Aid to Nonprofit Organizations

### Project Overview

The City of Omaha has not yet begun this project other than to launch the process of compiling feedback from stakeholders. One of the priorities identified by the Mayor and reinforced throughout the public feedback is investment in Community Programs. In recognition of 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 has identified a broad range of potential services and programs that could benefit the recovery in these communities.

Understanding that basic needs must first be fulfilled before growth and greater progress may occur, the City will target resources in these areas. Community-based programs are in a unique position to effectively deliver services tailored to the cultural and linguistic needs of the populations they serve. The City will prioritize programs and services based upon data and stakeholder feedback. Special attention will be directed toward communities and populations where the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic have been most severe.

The City will likely retain the services of a third-party to manage a grant application and selection process. This entity will also be responsible for post-award reporting and administrative compliance functions. Preliminary plans include partnering with established non-profit organizations capable of making an immediate impact as Omaha recovers from the economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Output Goals

This will be further refined based upon the programs & services funded in this category.

### Outcome Goals

This will be further refined based upon the programs & services funded in this category.

### Expenditures

None so far

### Project Status

Not Started

### Project Demographic Distribution

Yes – Targeted Toward Economically Disadvantaged Communities



### 6663 3.01 Community Grants- Continued

#### Subawards

None given yet

#### Required Performance Indicators

Number of Workers Enrolled in Sectoral Job Training Programs: 0

Number of Workers Completing Sectoral Job Training Programs: 0

Number of People Participating in Summer Youth Employment Programs: 0

## 6663 4.01 Affordable Housing

### Funding Amount

To be determined

### Project Expenditure Category

3.10 Housing Support: Affordable Housing

### Project Overview

The City of Omaha Affordable Housing project is focused on maximizing State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to create more affordable housing options throughout the city. The City is still in the planning stages of this project and is considering multiple viable ideas. These ideas include subsidizing more affordable housing or apartments, making affordable housing more accessible, and working to help the homeless population within Omaha. The City will review recent studies and existing data to quantify the need, assess and identify gaps in the market, and engage local affordable housing leaders to understand current efforts and areas where capacity could be leveraged.

### Output Goals

This will be further refined based upon the projects, programs & services funded in this category.

Number of new units made available

Number of people without a home aided (aiding the homeless)

### Outcome Goals

This will be further refined based upon the projects, programs & services funded in this category.

Number of people/families housed in the new units

Individuals placed in permanent housing

### Expenditures

None so far

### Project Status

Not Started.

### Project Demographic Distribution

Yes – Targeted Toward Economically Disadvantaged Communities

### Subawards

None given yet

### Required Performance Indicators

Number of People or Households Receiving Eviction Prevention Services (Including Legal Representation): 0

Number of Affordable Housing Units Preserved or Developed: 0

## 6663 5.01 Violence Intervention

### Funding Amount

To be determined

### Project Expenditure Category

3.16 Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions

### Project Overview

The City of Omaha recognizes there has been an increase in community violence coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic. Community violence intervention involves focusing on individuals at greatest risk for violence involvement, addressing underlying risk, holding individuals accountable for violent behavior, and eliminating inequities and advancing justice to prevent future violence. In many cases of community violence, those committing harm have histories of violence, prior legal system involvement, frequently have substance use disorders, and come from impoverished or difficult backgrounds. Overwhelmingly, perpetrators of violence have experienced extensive trauma in their own lives. Increased stress, social isolation, decreased access to preventative care, and financial and housing insecurities contribute to increased criminal activity.

The City of Omaha plans to invest in evidence-based community violence prevention and intervention programs to prevent violence and mitigate the increase in violence. Many people face challenges and dangers they cannot control like unsafe neighborhoods, discrimination, or trouble affording basic necessities. This can have a negative impact on health and safety throughout life. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these problems for citizens throughout the community. The City plans to invest State and Local Recovery Funds in programs and services that will build positive relationships at home and in the community to reduce these negative impacts.

The City will bolster alternative response initiatives already making a difference in the community. The City will also investigate ways to expand existing violence prevention, intervention, and crisis response models. Successful models currently under consideration include: community outreach and mentorship, violence interruption and crisis management, group violence intervention, hospital-based violence intervention, and individualized wraparound services.

Finally, the City will explore ways that the built environment can reduce violence. The City will consider partnering with Business Improvement Districts, particularly those located within Qualified Census Tracts to improve streetscapes and lighting to create safe, secure neighborhoods. The City will consider enhanced security proposals from neighborhoods experiencing upticks in crime, particularly gang and gun violence.

### Output Goals

This will be further refined based upon the programs & services funded in this category.

### Outcome Goals

This will be further refined based upon the programs & services funded in this category.

## 6663 5.01 Violence Intervention- Continued

### Expenditures

None so far

### Project Status

Not Started

### Project Demographic Distribution

Yes – Targeted Toward Economically Disadvantaged Communities

### Subawards

None given yet

## 6663 5.02 Mental Health Intervention

### Funding Amount

To be determined

### Project Expenditure Category

1.10 Mental Health Services

### Project Overview

The City of Omaha received a number of citizen responses indicating a need for expanded mental health services. The City is gathering additional stakeholder feedback regarding spending in this category. The City will collaborate with Douglas County Administration in establishing a mental health strategy that is data driven, responsive to identified needs, and will not be duplicative of the County's efforts in this area. The City will ensure strategies pursued are trauma-informed, equity-based, and accessible.

### Output Goals

This will be further refined based upon the programs & services funded in this category.

### Outcome Goals

This will be further refined based upon the programs & services funded in this category.

### Expenditures

None so far

### Project Status

Not Started

### Project Demographic Distribution

Yes – Targeted Toward Economically Disadvantaged Communities

### Subawards

None given yet

## 6663 6.01 Public Spaces

### Funding Amount

To be determined

### Project Expenditure Category

1.12 Other Public Health Services

### Project Overview

The City of Omaha is working on a Public Spaces project that is aimed to improve parks and other public areas throughout the City, especially within Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs). This project will serve multiple functions in dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The goals of the project include improving spaces so that people, especially those within QCTs that were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, can have a place to exercise, gather safely, and take part in other outdoor activities. The improvements to the public spaces are aimed at attracting more people to enjoy the City's spaces, while also making needed improvements to these spaces.

### Output Goals

This will be further refined based upon the projects funded in this category.

Number of parks/public spaces being improved

### Outcome Goals

This will be further refined based upon the projects funded in this category.

### Expenditures

None so far

### Project Status

Not Started

### Project Demographic Distribution

Yes – Targeted Toward Economically Disadvantaged Communities

### Subawards

None given yet



## 6663 7.01 Broadband

### Funding Amount:

To be determined

### Project Expenditure Category:

5.17 Broadband: Other projects

### Project Overview

The City of Omaha is focused on improving and expanding broadband throughout the metropolitan area, specifically to areas within Qualified Census Tracts and other areas that lack necessary broadband infrastructure. The City is uncertain if State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) will be the primary source of funding for expanding broadband. The City of Omaha is researching all available funding sources as well as meeting with stakeholders to gather additional information about needs for this project. Should the City invest in this category, the City intends to partner with an organization specializing in broadband in order to facilitate this project

### Output Goals

This will be further refined based upon the projects funded in this category.

### Outcome Goals

This will be further refined based upon the projects funded in this category.

### Expenditures

None so far

### Project Status

Not Started

### Project Demographic Distribution

Yes – Targeted Toward Economically Disadvantaged Communities

### Subawards

None given yet

## 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 non-profit 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 sub recipient 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.