



Ramsey County, Minnesota Recovery Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2025 Report

Executive Summary

Ramsey County, Minnesota received \$106.8 million in ARPA funding, which was expended between 2021 and 2024 to support youth employment and affordable housing, and to fund the provision of county services. This funding offered Ramsey County an opportunity to direct major investments in bold, long-term initiatives like affordable housing, while continuing to provide crucial county services with limited budgets stretched thin by the challenges of providing services during a pandemic. To accomplish this work, the county worked in partnership with other local governments and community organizations, and engaged with community to align our approaches, ensure efficiency, and maximize our results.

Use of Funds

Ramsey County, Minnesota received \$106.8 million in ARPA funds. These funds were allocated as follows:

- Workforce Solutions' Right Track Plus (EC 2.10) invested \$1.1 million in 2021 for an internship program for young people whose jobs were affected by COVID-related shutdowns.
- Deeply Affordable Housing (EC 2.15) invested \$25.6 million to build or renovate housing units in Ramsey County, with an original goal of at least 10% of these units dedicated to low-income families.
- Revenue Replacement (EC 6.1) invested \$80.1 million to reduce funding gaps in public health, workforce, employment educational training, county technology, and provide staffing due to COVID-related increased work volumes.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is a core element of the county's vision to build a vibrant community where all can thrive. It is reflected in our [Countywide Strategic Plan](#) and is a standard part of county operations. We value community voices at every step of the planning, program implementation, and evaluation processes, and engage with community members through groups like Trusted Messengers, the Community Engagement Action Teams, and other community conversations that promote shared community power.

Use of Evidence

Ramsey County is deeply committed to evaluation and evidence-based planning. Our [Open Ramsey County](#) data portal is a dedicated space through which the county disseminates data and shares performance reports with the public, including county residents. Many of these data



sets are updated weekly and most others on a regular basis, to provide a living dialogue that ensures accountability to and promotes engagement with the community.

2025 Project Inventory

a. *Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)*

2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Right Track Plus

Project Identification Number | G111012

Funding amount | \$1,105,589.29

Project Expenditure Category | 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

In 2021, Ramsey County's Workforce Solutions team implemented Right Track Plus in partnership with the City of Saint Paul. This collaboration built on the success of Saint Paul's 2014 Right Track program and worked with residents between the ages 18-24 who were unemployed or underemployed but seeking full-time work. It focused on youth whose jobs were impacted by COVID, such as hospitality, food service, retail sectors, and those with limited education opportunities. This program was completed in 2021; it facilitated internships for 212 youth, who were paired with 94 employment partners.

2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Deeply Affordable Housing

Project Identification Number | G111013

Funding amount | \$25,666,062.00

Project Expenditure Category | 2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Stable and affordable housing is essential to promote health and safety in our communities, to prevent the spread of disease, and to address other social-emotional issues that can increase economic fragility. The evidence base for this project included the [2018 study](#) "Unstable Housing and Caregiver and Child Health in Renter Families" published in the *Pediatrics* journal. This study found that unstable housing circumstances, including homelessness, rent strain, or experiencing multiple moves (more than two in one year) have "demonstrated associations with adverse caregiver and child health status and other household hardships," including food insecurity.¹

Ramsey County has a well-documented shortage of affordable housing, which negatively impacts residents who struggle to find affordable housing options in an increasingly competitive economic environment. To address this issue, Ramsey County invested \$25.7 million in ARPA

¹ Sandel M, Sheward R, Ettinger de Cuba S, et al. Unstable Housing and Caregiver and Child Health in Renter Families. *Pediatrics*. 2018;141(2):e20172199. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29358482/>



funds to build affordable housing units throughout the county. Ramsey County partnered with the City of St. Paul to invest additional ARPA funds to develop new or renovated housing units, which will provide long-term, sustainable housing options.

Since 2021, Ramsey County's Deeply Affordable Housing program has developed 24 housing projects with ARPA funding; these projects have provided 799 new construction units and renovated or preserved 129 existing units that are offered at lower rents. Of these 928 total units, nearly half (417 units) were affordable at 30% of the average median income for the area, and 176 units were connected to supportive housing services.

Dollar Amount allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$ 25,666,062.00

b. Revenue Replacement (EC 6)

6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Identification Number | G111009

Funding amount | \$ 80,121,751.71

Project Expenditure Category| 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Ramsey County lost an estimated \$80 million in revenue due to COVID. These figures were calculated using the GFOA Revenue Loss Calculator and details were provided in the Treasury portal with quarterly expenditure reporting.

Since 2023, Ramsey County shifted from reporting on multiple individual projects created in response to the ARPA funding, to reporting this investment as lost revenue. However, the Ramsey County Board-approved projects initiated by this funding continued, as well as support for our overall operations. Since 2021, ARPA funds have reduced funding gaps in key sectors, provided employment education and training, funded internal staffing shortages due to COVID-related issues, and enhanced county technology to improve service provision and efficiency.

Ramsey County continues to track, evaluate, and monitor all programs that were initiated as ARPA investments to assess their outcomes, and gather feedback on how we do business and provide services to our residents.